



THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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1994 BLM SUMMIT – LAKE TAHOE “LET’S MAKE DUST, NOT EAT DUST”

BY CHIP CALAMAIO

BLM NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER 1985-2015

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Even as it was happening, BLM Managers felt that they were part of something historic. Now 30 years later we see that feeling was spot-on.

It started in 1993 when, during his short tenure as BLM Director, Jim Baca committed BLM to the principles of ecosystem management and kicked off a major strategic planning effort. Preliminary information was circulated, but the coffee table buzz was, “What does ecosystem management really mean?”

As this effort was ramping up, Baca asked Deputy Director Denise Meridith, “So when do we get all the managers together to work on this?” “It was a pretty radical idea at the time,” Meridith remembers. “Jim wanted to make a lasting difference and use a from-the-ground-up approach. We changed the course of where BLM was going and we’re still on that course.”

In April 1994, the BLM Summit was held at Incline Village, Nevada, in a hotel on the cold, windswept shores of Lake Tahoe. “I think the location was chosen to make the point that we weren’t just out on some government boondoggle. We were there to do serious work,” recalls Summit Chairman Larry Hamilton.

In addition to 410 BLM managers, more than 100 stakeholders participated in the weeklong event. These stakeholders represented members of state and local governments, environmentalists, recreational users, members of the oil and gas industry, the timber companies, and the media (including the editor of “High Country News,” Ed Marston).

Project Manager Deb Rawhouser remembers, “We even had the track on customer service facilitated by one of our stakeholders. It was the first time our managers all heard the same keynotes, got the same messages, and worked together on BLM’s strategic direction.”

With Baca’s departure, Mike Dombeck had become Acting Director. Dombeck kicked things off with his vision of where BLM should be heading and challenged everyone with his “BLM Vision Pledge Cards.” He emphasized that BLM should be known for quality, reliability, and service, saying that it was time to “get back to basics” and that we should “make dust, not eat dust.” *(continued on page 3)*

The Public Lands Foundation advocates and works for the retention of America’s Public Lands in public hands professionally and sustainably managed for responsible common use and enjoyment.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Mary Jo Rugwell

I hope that spring is finding its way to where you are. Here in southeastern Wyoming, it's a bit of a rollercoaster. Just when you think it is okay for those tulips to bloom, the snow appears yet again and threatens to ruin their beautiful display.

Since my last message, the PLF Board has approved two more Directors-at-Large. Please join me in welcoming Jack Placchi and Scott MacPherson to the Board. Both Jack and Scott reside in Colorado and were recruited by Bob Moore. In addition, I want to acknowledge Nancy Haug for her willingness to take on the task of ensuring that PLF has a presence on social media. In today's world, that is a crucial way to communicate. I greatly appreciate Bob and Nancy for their efforts. We are still working to find someone to lead our membership database and maintenance effort. I hope to have good news on that front in my next column.

While I am in "shout out" mode, I want to acknowledge the efforts of Tim O'Brien and Ray Brady in maintaining the Memorial Wall. Doing so is a tremendous amount of work, but this feature is very important to our members. We could not keep this salute to those who have worked so hard to manage public lands viable without their help.

The fourth BLM Daily article, which addresses the PLF mentoring program, has been written and should be published soon. I have heard that there is interest from BLM employees in participating, so we will keep you posted on this program.

The PLF Board had a good 30-minute call with BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning on February 21. The Board also has another call scheduled for August 1. The Director provided updates on many of the proposed rules that BLM has been finalizing since last year. Many of these are scheduled for release sometime this spring. The Director offered to schedule a follow-up call with the PLF Board when the proposed Conservation Rule is ready to be issued. In addition, Director Stone-Manning said that the vacancy rate for BLM has been reduced by about five percent. I did take the opportunity to extend an invitation to the PLF Annual Meeting scheduled for October 8-9, 2024, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

An introductory call with the new Director of the National Training Center (NTC) will be scheduled soon. It is important for PLF to establish a relationship with the NTC Director so that we can begin the process of organizing the archival materials which are stored there.

With the release of the President's 2025 budget, Don Simpson has taken the lead in preparing written testimony from PLF on BLM's budget proposal for FY 2025. The written testimony was submitted to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on March 27. I appreciate Don taking this task on for us. In addition, Don is coordinating a small group review of the newly released draft Greater Sage-grouse plan. That effort will culminate in a set of comments submitted on behalf of the PLF. I also want to acknowledge the release in February of the PLF 2023 Annual Report which is available on the PLF website. The 2023 Annual Report highlights our advocacy outreach activities during the past year and also provides an overview of our Financial Statement for the year.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas and we will talk to you again soon!

“LET’S MAKE DUST, NOT EAT DUST” *(continued)*

General sessions were held outside in a large vinyl tent that was surrounded by snowbanks and warmed by portable heaters. Former Arizona State Director Elaine Zielinski remembers, “When Secretary Babbitt gave his breakfast keynote speech, it was so cold that we took the tablecloths off and huddled under them to stay warm!”

In addition to the frigid general sessions, managers and stakeholders participated in smaller group sessions to hammer out ways to implement an ecosystem management approach based on the five main summit themes:

- Maintain Healthy Ecosystems.
- Promote Collaborative Leadership.
- Diversify Our Workforce.
- Improve How We Do Business.
- Enhance Customer Service.

A lot of things BLM had been hearing about suddenly became very real.

After the Tahoe session, the Summit team and Phoenix Training Center created “Mini-Summit”

packages complete with videos and exercises. Many states held Mini-Summit events to get their workforce and constituents up to speed on the re-engineered BLM. Hamilton said, “The administration engaged career managers and rewarded them for working with employees and customers in a much more collaborative and professional manner.”

Recommendations from these events were provided to Acting Director Dombeck. As a result, BLM’s “Blueprint for the Future” was released in September 1994. It reflected the five summit themes and detailed the BLM’s future goals.

Now, 30 years later, it is clear that today’s BLM was shaped by the paradigm shifts and the themes that emerged from the 1994 Summit, as reflected by more robust public involvement in the BLM planning process, the demographics of the BLM workforce, modernized business systems, the variety of ways BLM provides customer service, and management of America’s natural resources on a landscape level.

Yes, since the 1994 Summit, BLM has truly made some dust.

PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION GOALS

- Keep lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in public ownership and open to use by the public.
- Support the long-term protection, conservation, and restoration of units of the National Landscape Conservation System, as distinctly unique among the public lands managed by BLM.
- Support multiple use management under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.
- Encourage professionalism by BLM employees.
- Increase the public’s understanding of and support for the proper management of the public lands.

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LANDS PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE AWARD

TECHNICAL/OPERATIONAL CATEGORY GUS WARR

The Public Lands Foundation is proud to present the 2023 Outstanding Public Lands Professional Employee Award in the Technical/Operational category to Gus Warr, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Office.

Under the direction of Mr. Warr, the Wild Horse and Burro Program in the State of Utah has seen many successes in horse and burro well-being, as well as conservation and management of the rangelands. Experience and technical expertise have been the resounding attributes shaping a daily program of compassion for the animals and a deep commitment to managing healthy public lands.

While serving on the National Wild Horse and Burro Strategic Planning Team, Mr. Warr identified solutions and offered recommendations to the Bureau Director to improve rangeland health and the management of on-range wild horse and burro populations.

Under media and public scrutiny, Gus Warr has built a reputation as a highly respected and sensitive leader focusing on animal welfare all the while managing the rangelands. Gus represents the Bureau locally and nationally, improving relationships with partners, animal welfare groups and members of the public while communicating with the national media.

Through planning and implementation of Appropriate Management Level (AML) herd reduction methods of birth control and off-range corral and pasture contracts, Gus has provided alternatives to over-use of the rangelands.

During a gather, communication is paramount, and the leadership Gus demonstrates is outstanding. BLM leadership, law enforcement, and the wild horse and burro team, work together for the safety of the general public, keeping all well-informed.

As incident commander of dozens of complex and successful operations to gather animals in excess of appropriate management levels, Gus would guide the team to face the opposition with respect and integrity. This improved relations and cooperation with more accurate information delivered to the public. Additionally, Gus is instrumental in training the next generation of specialists.

Gus has made, and continues to make, a significant difference. When people think of the successes of

the wild horse and burro program in BLM Utah, the first name that often comes to their mind is Gus Warr.

Because of his commitment to public land management, the Public Lands Foundation recognizes Gus Warr with its Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award in the Technical/Operational category for 2023.



Presentation of Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award to Gus Warr – l to r: Joe Mendez, BLM Utah Associate State Director, Gus Warr, BLM Utah WH&B Specialist, and Greg Sheehan, BLM Utah State Director

LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARD

COLORADO CANYONS ASSOCIATION

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) presents the Colorado Canyons Association with its 2023 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation. The PLF grants this recognition to honor private citizens and organizations that work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include, in whole or in part, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

The Colorado Canyons Association (CCA) works in three National Conservation Areas (NCAs) managed by BLM in western Colorado, McInnis Canyons, Dominguez-Escalante, and Gunnison Gorge. These landscapes are connected by the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers.

The CCA contributes significantly to BLM's youth education, volunteer, and river restoration programs. Since they serve a true cross-section of students in Delta, Montrose, and Mesa Counties, where over 30 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-cost lunches, they are getting many kids into the NCAs who otherwise might not have the opportunity. Over 2,000 youth each year learn a STEM-based outdoor curriculum that meets Colorado Academic Standards. Over 1,300 students have participated in field trips, educational offerings, and raft trips. Cottonwood Days youth education event at Gunnison Gorge NCA reaches 400 sixth-grade students annually. The CCA has organized and provided volunteer educators for Cottonwood Days, which has been held annually since 2009 along the banks of the Gunnison River.

Over 600 community members have participated in hikes, lectures, and educational outings, including Leave No Trace education. The CCA has contributed over 1,300 hours of volunteer time for river cleanups, riparian monitoring, monitoring and cleaning trails, citizen science projects, and youth education.

They have been instrumental in the Grand Junction BLM offices pursuing Gold Standard within the Leave No Trace organization. The offices and related NCAs are second in the nation of all BLM sites to attain this distinction. They have organized virtual volunteer lecturers and delivered three virtual educational community presentations for the Life Science Lecture Series as well as a Dark Skies Webinar. The CCA has helped BLM begin the process of having Gunnison Gorge NCA certified as a Dark Sky Place by the International Dark Sky Association, and they have co-hosted an interpretive night sky tour there.



Presentation of Landscape Stewardship Award to Colorado Canyons Association – l to r: Tom Allen, PLF Colorado, Chris Herrman, Colorado Canyons Association.

They have also organized volunteers for the Sieber Fire rehabilitation, sagebrush seed collection, grow out, and replanting effort.

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present the Colorado Canyons Association with its 2023 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

The Public Lands Foundation is accepting nominations of a private citizen(s) or group(s) who deserve to be recognized for their sustained contributions at a landscape scale to the conservation and management of public lands administered by BLM. PLF members, partner organizations, and BLM employees are encouraged to submit nominations for the PLF Landscape Stewardship Award by July 15, 2024.

The BLM has a variety of land use plans and projects that are intended to address the use, allocation, and improvement of the public lands administered by BLM. Organizations and individuals outside of government are often the catalysts for demonstrating effective approaches for achieving good stewardship of these lands and resources. Good stewardship may be defined as an ethic that embodies cooperative planning and management of resources by agencies, organizations, communities, and others actively engaged to prevent loss of resources and facilitate their improvement in the interest of long-term sustainability. The PLF Landscape Stewardship Award honors the work done by private citizens/groups who work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on a landscape scale that includes, in whole or in part, lands administered by BLM. The focus on landscapes is intended to be broad in nature versus small-scale, local, project-oriented efforts.

The organizations, groups and individuals typically envisioned for this award are those who took a leadership role to address landscape-scale issues. Emphasis is on individual local citizens or groups comprised of people who are typically all-volunteer without paid staff. A good example would be a coalition of individuals or citizen groups joining together to address issues within a certain landscape to bring about improved stewardship.

The nomination form and guidelines for the Landscape Stewardship Award can be found on the PLF website at publicland.org under the "Programs" and "Awards" link. Please send nominations by July 15, 2024, by email to dmari@publicland.org

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

The Public Lands Foundation is seeking nominations for its 2024 Lifetime Service Award. Every

year the PLF honors one or two individuals for their lifetime career achievements. Any career BLM employee is eligible, regardless of job, grade, profession, etc. Nominees should be retirees who had a career that lasted at least 30 years with at least 20 years having been with BLM. The award can be granted posthumously.

Recipients of this prestigious award are those who have demonstrated exceptional performance in furthering the management of public lands, inspiring public and employee participation, and providing leadership that "made a difference". Full criteria for nomination can be found on the PLF website at publicland.org under the "Programs" and "Awards" link. The award is normally presented at the PLF Annual Meeting, which this year will be held in Las Vegas, on October 8-9.

Nominations are welcome from any source including BLM employees, PLF members, interest groups, and local and state government officials. Lifetime Service Award nominations are due by July 15, 2024, and should be submitted to Maggie Wyatt, Lifetime Service Award Committee Chair, at 51booklover@gmail.com. Questions about the award can be directed to Maggie at 435-260-2922.

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LAND PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

One of the goals of the Public Lands Foundation is to recognize and publicize BLM employee professionalism in public land management. We believe it is important the general public understand the dedication and integrity BLM employees bring to their jobs each day. If our public lands are to be managed for future generations, it is imperative our career professionals be publicly recognized and respected for their outstanding contributions to public land management. **Outstanding employees deserve recognition.**

To achieve this objective, the PLF has established two Professional Awards, one for Managerial/ Administrative employees and one for Technical (Resources)/ Operational disciplines. This will be the 34th year the PLF has given these national awards to active or recently active employees who have demonstrated outstanding professional performance during the past three years. These awards are focused on recent accomplishments, rather than a career of service with BLM which dedication is instead recognized with the PLF Lifetime Service Award.

We invite you to identify, no later than July 15, 2024, those individual(s) that, in your opinion, are deserving of these prestigious awards. Full criteria for nomination for the awards can be found on the PLF website at www.publicland.org. Go to "Programs" and "Awards" on the website for further information on the awards and nomination process. An optional digital photo may be included for our use. Send nominations to Jim Currivan at jimc38@yahoo.com. Questions about the awards can be directed to Jim at 775-385-4699.

The PLF Awards Committee will review all nominations, select awardees, and secure concurrence from the PLF President. An appropriate Awards Ceremony will be scheduled and announced later.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Public Lands Foundation in February released its 2023 Annual Report. The Annual Report is available on the PLF website at publicland.org. The Annual Report highlights the Advocacy work of the PLF during 2023. Advocacy outreach activities during the year included written testimony provided to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on the BLM Fiscal Year 2024 proposed budget; engagement with Congress, BLM and the Department on mining law reform initiatives; comments on BLM solar and wind energy proposed regulations; comments on BLM conservation proposed regulations; comments on the BLM Recreation Blueprint strategy; and comments on BLM oil and gas proposed regulations. The Annual Report also included a President's Message to members of the PLF and partners that support the work of the PLF. The 2023 Annual Meeting was held in Cheyenne, WY on September 25-26. A major action item from the Annual Meeting was approval by the PLF Board of an update to the PLF Goals to reflect the importance and value of the BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) of public lands. The PLF Goals were updated to read: "We aim to support the long-term protection, conservation, and restoration of units of the NLCS as



distinctly unique among the public lands managed by the BLM." The Annual Report also highlighted the two George Lea Founder's Scholarships awarded to Amaris Shammaa from Texas Tech University and Tiffany Mar from University of California, Berkeley, in 2023. And finally, the Annual Report provided an overview of the Financial Statement for the Public Lands Foundation.

BLM PUBLIC ROOM

Stamped My Last Mining Claim
Walking through those large glass doors –
Wondered what's this office for?

Was told the name is Public Room –
Kind of laughed but didn't assume.

All those cowboys standing around –
Most with grins, some with frowns.

Dirty boots, hats on wide –
Pistols loaded, strapped on sides.

Miners, Surveyors, Ranchers galore –
Working the Public Room was never a bore.

Hard to believe but it's true –
These are the doors I actually walked through.

32 years flew by in a flash –
Memories I'll cherish and they'll last.

Things have changed and so have I –
Now it's time to say goodbye.

Thanks for the memories, Arizona BLM.

~Tina Marie Salo Coladonato
PLF Arizona

Editor: Tina Coladonato recently retired after 32 years of service with BLM in Arizona working in the Public Room. Tina remembers that the BLM public rooms used to be the hub and lifeline of each office; but times have changed and now visitors will be greeted with automated recordings, downloading of apps, and prompts to push a number to speak with a "live person". She recently joined the PLF and has provided this poem to share with other PLF members.

FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON

40 YEARS OF SUPPORT

BY MADELINE BEN-SHOHAM

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON

Editor: There are over 80 local place-based “Friends” organizations that support the work of BLM on the public lands. This concept, like the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) was part of Bruce Babbitt’s vision in 1996 for a successful system of protected BLM lands for the next century. We are highlighting the Friends of Red Rock Canyon in this edition of the Monitor since this organization supports BLM in the management of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area near Las Vegas, Nevada, which is the location for the PLF Annual Meeting in October 2024. More than 3.5 million people visit the 200,000 acre Red Rock Canyon NCA each year and the Friends of Red Rock Canyon make these visitor experiences better.

Nestled within the expanse of the Mojave Desert in southern Nevada lies a natural wonderland



of breathtaking beauty and ecological diversity: Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Spread across approximately 200,000 acres, Red Rock Canyon boasts a myriad of outdoor recreational opportunities, including a 13-mile

scenic drive, miles of hiking trails, rock climbing, horseback riding, mountain biking, road biking, picnic areas, nature observing, and a visitor center with indoor and outdoor exhibits.

Located just 17 miles west of the Las Vegas Strip, the area attracts over three million visitors each year. Given the high volume of visitors and the relatively small staff, it should come as no surprise that the BLM Rangers at Red Rock Canyon are faced with numerous challenges in maintaining the area’s ecological integrity, protecting its cultural sites, and preserving its natural splendor.

Enter Friends of Red Rock Canyon (FRIENDS), whose mission is to promote the preservation and

enhancement of the National Conservation Area through volunteerism, philanthropy, and education. As a committed partner to Red Rock Canyon for 40 years, FRIENDS holds the distinction of being the oldest “Friends” group among the members of the Conservation Lands Foundation.

Established in 1984, FRIENDS has continued through the decades to play a vital role in supporting a wide range of conservation initiatives and community outreach efforts. To date, FRIENDS has contributed over \$2.8 million in direct financial aid to support Red Rock Canyon. These funds have gone towards ongoing BLM programs such as trail maintenance, tortoise habitat support, cultural resource preservation, wilderness waste clean-up, invasive plant removal, and graffiti removal. The funds have also contributed to special projects over the years such as the Cottonwood Recreational Area Management Plan and the restoration of the Calico Hills and Moenkopi Trails.



Friends of Red Rock Canyon—Ash Springs graffiti removal. FRIENDS photo



Friends of Red Rock Canyon—Trails maintenance. FRIENDS photo

FRIENDS initially began as a small group of dedicated citizens who, at the request of BLM, came together to protect this scenic jewel of southern Nevada. In 1984, Red Rock Canyon was not yet a designated National Conservation Area (though it did have some Federal protections), and the

first FRIENDS members served as much-needed stewards of the land as the area became more popular and attracted visitors from all over the world.

In 1990, Red Rock Canyon received its NCA designation – the first in Nevada. FRIENDS members grew in numbers, and the organization continued with its mission to protect the land, primarily through volunteerism. In fact, FRIENDS has provided \$87 million in equivalent volunteer hours to maintain Red Rock Canyon. The volunteer program today is as robust as ever, and FRIENDS now partners directly with BLM to maintain this effort by having a volunteer coordinator support the efforts of the BLM volunteer coordinator.

FRIENDS volunteers not only contribute to the ongoing and special BLM programs mentioned above, they also help staff the NCA visitor center information desk (which receives 750,000 visitors per year), assist with Naturalization ceremonies, serve as trail ambassadors, lead educational hikes, and support many other FRIENDS initiatives.

From its early days as a hands-on local volunteer group, FRIENDS has grown to over 300 members from all over the country (and beyond!). The organization manages a dynamic website, digital newsletter, and an active social media presence, providing visitors and potential volunteers with up-to-date information on events, activities, and conservation efforts within Red Rock Canyon.

Through collaborative partnerships with local schools, law enforcement agencies, and youth organizations, FRIENDS provides opportunities for individuals from all backgrounds to experience the wonder of Red Rock Canyon firsthand, inspiring a lifelong commitment to conservation and environmental stewardship. One such partnership is with local Title I schools, where FRIENDS provides school bus grants to ensure that these students are able to gain access to the natural beauty of the area regardless of economic circumstances. Many of these children have never been hiking.

FRIENDS is thrilled to be celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. There is much to be proud of, and there is so much more to come, including a community campaign to install more security cameras at Red Rock Canyon parking lots, rebuilding



Friends of Red Rock Canyon volunteers. FRIENDS photo

of Lost Creek Boardwalk, working with Trail Access Project to make certain trails adaptable for those with different abilities, funding a Recreation Area Management Plan in the La Made Foothills area of the NCA, and a re-launch of the BLM’s Artist in Residence program.

Through its unwavering dedication, steadfast commitment, and tireless advocacy, FRIENDS ensures that Red Rock Canyon will remain a cherished sanctuary

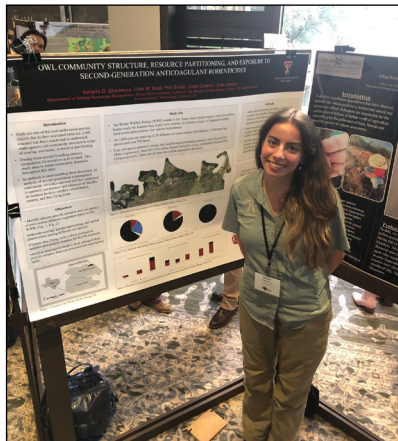
for wildlife, a protected resource for cultural and archeological sites, a haven for outdoor enthusiasts, and a source of inspiration for generations to come.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

BY AMARIS SHAMMAA

Editor: Amaris Shammaa received a PLF Scholarship in 2023 and attended the PLF Annual Meeting in Wyoming in September. Amaris is currently in a master-level program in Wildlife, Aquatic, and Wildlands Science Management at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX.

It has been a long time since we have spoken, and I wanted to give the PLF an update on my whereabouts! Since the last time we spoke I have gone on to begin research and fieldwork down on the Gulf coast with the Welder Wildlife Foundation. I work at night doing owl surveys, so my hours are all over the place, but it makes it all worth it when I get to experience an owl silently flying over me in the middle of the night! I've only been down here since January and have been enjoying it so far! In February, I presented a poster at the Texas Wildlife Society annual conference on my study.



Amaris Shammaa
Texas Tech University

Overall, I am very blessed to be where I am at. It has come with a lot of challenges, but I am confident that I will continue to learn and become more of an expert in the field with each day.

I hope the PLF family is doing well. It was so great to meet everyone in person at the PLF Annual Meeting in Wyoming in 2023. I hope we continue to keep in touch!

STUDENT CONGRESS

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

OCTOBER 7 – 10, 2024

The sixth biennial Student Congress will be held October 7 – 10, 2024 in Las Vegas, Nevada and will focus this year on the Transition to Renewable Energy on Public Lands. Once again, the PLF is partnering with the Andrus Center for Public Policy at Boise State University and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) to host the forum.

The Congress is an opportunity for college students who might not otherwise be exposed to public land management and provides the Federal agencies with a valuable youth perspective on public land issues. The Student Congress “recruitment” team is currently reviewing 58 applications from 37 colleges and universities across the Nation and expects to make selections in April for participation in this year’s session.

The Student Congress is free for participants. PLF member support is critical to the Student Congress program! If you would like to support the 2024 Student Congress you can donate on the PLF website where you can also find more information on the event. For further information on the Student Congress feel free to contact Jenna Whitlock at jwhitlock@publicland.org or Mike Ferguson at mferguson@publicland.org

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION?

Please help us keep our records current and ensure we have your current e-mail address on file.
Message us at info@publicland.org

2024 PLF ANNUAL MEETING – LAS VEGAS, NEVADA OCTOBER 8 – 9, 2024

Las Vegas is calling you. This year's Annual Meeting will be held at The Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 8 and 9, 2024.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will include a Board of Directors meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 8. A barbeque will be held on Tuesday evening at the Red Rock Campground, Kit Fox Site, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It is located at 3293 Moenkopi Road, west of Las Vegas, approximately 15 miles / 22 minutes from The Orleans Hotel and Casino. **Famous Dave's** will be catering the barbeque on October 8, which includes Georgia chopped pork, barbequed chicken, hot link sausages, Wilbur beans, potato salad, and buns/muffins. Water, sodas, beer and wine also will be available.

On Wednesday morning, October 9, there will be a general meeting open to the public. The theme for this meeting is **Recreation and National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Management**. A PLF Board and Member meeting will be held on Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. It will be followed by a 6:00 p.m. no host bar and a banquet starting at 7:00 p.m. The banquet will be served buffet style and will include: a salad bar; entrees of salmon, London Broil, and grilled chicken; red potatoes, wild rice pilaf, a selection of vegetables, and desserts. After dinner, we will have our annual Remembering BLM speaker, awards presentations, and our silent auction and raffle.

The **silent auction and raffle** on Wednesday evening helps support the George Lea Founder's Scholarship Program where we give two awards of \$5,000 every year to deserving students in natural resource fields. Tim and Phyllis O'Brien are in-charge of this year's silent auction and raffle. We ask that those of you mailing donated items for the silent auction and raffle to please send them to Tim and Phyllis, so that they receive them by October 1, 2024. Their address is: 6277 Galileo Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89149-1385. If you are attending the meeting, your donation can be brought to the meeting, but please provide Tim and Phyllis, in advance, a description of what you are donating, how it will be delivered, and if possible, the item's worth and a suggested minimum bid. Questions regarding the silent auction or raffle can be directed to Tim at tobrien@publicland.org

Tuesday and Wednesday lunches will be on your own.



Red Rock Canyon NCA, Las Vegas.
BLM photo

ACCOMMODATIONS

To accommodate those of you who would like to enjoy Las Vegas a little longer, we have reserved a few rooms from October 5 through October 12, 2024. This also provides an opportunity to attend the last day of the 2024 John Freemuth Student Congress, on October 10, when the students will be presenting their recommendations on “A Climate Change-Driven Transition To Renewable Energy.” If you intend to participate in the Student Congress closeout on October 10, please let Beau McClure know so that arrangements can be made for your attendance.

DATE	ROOM BLOCK	NET ROOM RATE	COMMENTS
Oct. 5, 2024 Sunday	5	\$95.00	
Oct. 6, 2024 Monday	5	\$50.00	
Oct. 7, 2024 Tuesday	15	\$50.00	Arrival day for Board Meeting attendees
Oct. 8, 2024 Wednesday	25	\$50.00	Board of Directors Meeting
Oct. 9, 2024 Thursday	25	\$50.00	General Meeting & PLF Board & Member Meeting
Oct. 10, 2024 Friday	5	\$65.00	Student Congress Closeout
Oct. 11, 2024 Saturday	5	\$150.00	
Oct. 12, 2024 Sunday	5	\$150.00	

All rooms have either one king bed or two queen beds. Only non-smoking rooms are available.

ROOM RATES – All rates are net, per room, per night, allowing for single or double occupancy. Any Deluxe rooms requiring triple or quadruple occupancy will be surcharged \$20.00 per additional person, per room, per night plus tax. (Children age 15 and under, in the same room with parents in existing bedding, are free). All rates are subject to a Clark County room tax, currently 13 percent.

RESORT FEE – The hotel has a **mandatory \$38.99 plus tax**, per room, per day, Resort Fee, which is in addition to the room and tax charges. Benefits include in-room Wi-Fi, access to the Fitness Center, in-room coffee, in-room safe, unlimited local and 800 calls as well as free Wi-Fi in the Java Vegas Coffee Shop and High-Speed internet Access in the Business Center.

CHECK-IN/CHECK-OUT – Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. Check-out time is at 11:00 a.m. At Check-In, all guests will be required to post a valid credit card to secure their individual room accounts and to cover an additional \$100.00 security / damage deposit for standard guest rooms.

FREE PARKING is available, both on surface and in the garage. Valet parking is also free with Service Charge at customer discretion.

HOTEL RESERVATION PROCEDURES – The deadline for making room reservations is **September 9, 2024**. You are encouraged to book your hotel reservations through the PLF website or online using the following Passkey link: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50725137>

You may also call the Hotel’s Room Reservation Department direct at 1-800-675-3267, and **identify yourself as a member of the Public Lands Foundation with Reservation ID: PLFJ24C**. Without this reservation ID, you will not receive the special rate shown above and may be advised the hotel is sold out.

RV CAMPGROUNDS – There are a number of RV campgrounds available in the area, including the BLM Red Rock Canyon Campground, RV Park at Circus Circus, and LVM Resort4 near the Silverton Resort.

PLF MEETING REGISTRATION – Please register before the Early Registration Deadline of September 9, 2024. The Registration Form and information for the PLF meeting can be found on the PLF website at www.publicland.org. The Registration Form is also included in this edition of the Monitor. If you have any questions, please contact Beau McClure by email at vpops@publicland.org, or by phone at (623) 587-7883.

**REGISTRATION FORM—PLF ANNUAL MEETING
THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
OCTOBER 8 & 9, 2024**

DATE	EVENT	NO. OF PEOPLE	PER PERSON	TOTAL COST
	Early Registration (received by September 9, 2024)		\$75.00	
	No Fee for Spouse Registration*			
	Late Registration (received after September 9, 2024)		\$85.00	
Tuesday, Oct. 8	Board of Directors' Meeting (please indicate attendance)			
Tuesday, Oct. 8	Evening Barbecue at Red Rock Campground, Kit Fox Site		\$25.00	
Wednesday, Oct. 9	Morning General Meeting (please indicate attendance)			
Wednesday, Oct. 9	Afternoon Board/PLF Member Meeting (please indicate attendance)			
Wednesday, Oct. 9	Evening Dinner Buffet		\$72.00	
	Remittance Total			

Please Print Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Please indicate any dietary needs such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, allergies, special needs: _____

Please register on-line by **September 9, 2024**, or print this Registration Form and mail it along with your check made payable to the **“Public Lands Foundation”** to Beau McClure, 6510 W. Lucia Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85083-7406 by **September 9, 2024**. If you have questions, please contact Beau by telephone at 623-587-7883 or by e-mail at vpops@publicland.org.

* Spouses not attending the general meeting do not need to pay the registration fee.

BLM FY 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

On March 11, 2024, as part of the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, BLM submitted to Congress a proposed budget of \$1.6 billion to support the management of public lands. This is an increase of \$26.7 million above the 2024 continuing resolution level. The budget request would support an estimated 9,881 full-time equivalent positions in 2025. The PLF reviewed and prepared written testimony on the proposed budget, which was provided to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on March 27.

The BLM indicates that the FY 2025 proposed budget will expand the commitment to address the climate crisis, accelerate responsible renewable energy development on public lands, create jobs for the remediation and reclamation of lands, and advance environmental justice and partnership efforts. The FY 2025 proposed budget includes an increase of \$23.0 million in the Wild Horse and Burro Management program, a \$4.4 million increase in the Wildlife Habitat Management program, a \$5.9 million increase in the Recreation Resources Management program, a \$12.1 million increase in the Renewable Energy program, a \$3.6 million increase in the Oil and Gas program, a \$4.2 million increase in management of National Conservation Lands, and a \$3.0 million increase in the Mining Law Administration program. In addition, BLM estimates that \$125.7 million in deferred maintenance will be addressed with its 2025 requested Great American Outdoors Act Landscape Restoration Fund projects.

Editors Note: *The BLM WH&B proposed budget for FY 2025 is \$170.9 million, an increase of \$23 million over the 2024 CR level. In March 2024 BLM released an updated assessment of wild horse and burro populations on the public lands. This latest assessment estimates there were 73,520 wild horses and burros on the public lands. This was 9,363 fewer animals than had been estimated in 2023 and marks the third year of decline since 2020. However, this estimated population still remains nearly three times the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the public lands and population numbers will continue to grow at rates of between 18 and 25 percent per year without further controls. The BLM reported that over the past year, 11,784 animals were removed from the public lands for possible adoption and that 7,887 animals were sold, transferred, or adopted. A total of 4,237 fertility*

control vaccine treatments were administered between 2020 and 2023, up from the 2,606 treatments conducted between 2016 and 2019.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FUNDING

The BLM on February 8, 2024 announced the release of \$41.0 million in funding to support 74 ecosystem restoration projects on the public lands. This is the third investment of ecosystem restoration funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which was passed by Congress in November 2021. The first two BLM investments from this program totaled about \$61.5 million and were announced in 2022 and 2023. The PLF previously reported on ecosystem and BLM landscape restoration projects in the Summer and Fall editions of the *Monitor*.

About half of the recently released funds, or some \$20.5 million, are allocated for 26 projects under the Good Neighbor Authority to collaborate with Tribal and State governments to do restoration work on lands across multiple jurisdictions. Half of the funding, or some \$22 million, is also directed to BLM Restoration Landscape projects, including the Sagebrush Keystone Initiative to restore core landscapes in sagebrush ecosystems. Other initiatives include \$9.4 million to restore abandoned mine lands, \$6.3 million for the BLM National Seed Strategy, \$1.8 million for recreation site and public access improvements, and \$862,000 for invasive weeds management.



Upper Salmon River Restoration Project, ID. BLM photo

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE



Photo by Ray Brady

The PLF continues to monitor Congressional legislation, rulemaking activities, and Executive Orders pertaining to the Department of the Interior, BLM, and public lands management. The PLF, as an advocacy organization for the public lands, is actively engaged in providing our perspectives on a wide range of issues including the annual BLM appropriations, any program oversight hearings, proposed amendments to FLPMA and other major statutes affecting public lands management, and proposed regulations regarding BLM resource programs. Reviewing legislation and proposed rules and preparing comments and testimony, when appropriate, is an important part of our advocacy work. We update our Position Statements and Letters and Testimony webpages on our website under the “Advocacy” link and provide legislative and regulatory updates in the *Monitor* on significant actions.

MINING LAW REFORM – 1872 MINING LAW

STATUS: A Federal Register Notice announcing formation of a Mining Law Reform Interagency Working Group was published March 31, 2022. The Department on September 12, 2023 released the Final Report from the Interagency Working Group. Senator Heinrich (NM) introduced S.1742 on May 18, 2023 and Senator Cortez Masto (NV) introduced S.1281 on April 25, 2023 to address mining law reforms.

SUMMARY: The Department Report from the Interagency Working Group included some 65 recommendations for improving the mining law program, although many of those recommendations would require Congressional action. S.1742, the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act, would establish a royalty of five percent to eight percent of gross income for hardrock minerals production from mining claims on Federal land, establish a new permitting process for exploration and mining, enact environmental and reclamation reforms to protect special areas from mining, and establish a funding source for remediation of legacy hardrock mining pollution. S.1281, the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act, would expand the rights of mining claimants to include various ancillary activities and facilities required to conduct operations related to mining operations, with or without the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit. *Interior has opposed the provisions of S.1281.*

PLF POSITION: The PLF on April 24, 2022 provided the Interagency Working Group a copy of a Position Statement on recommendations for amendments to the 1872 Mining Law. The PLF and the National

Association of Forest Service Retirees on August 29, 2022 provided joint supplemental comments on the hardrock abandoned mine lands (AML) program in response to a Departmental request for comments. The PLF on March 24, 2023 signed onto a joint letter, with several other organizations, to both Senate and House Appropriations Committees to provide funding of \$287 million as a budget line item in the FY 2024 appropriations bills for the Section 40704 abandoned hardrock mine reclamation program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The PLF on March 24, 2023, forwarded to the Interagency Working Group a copy of comments prepared by Bob Anderson on the Small Miners mining claim assessment waiver program. The PLF provided a followup letter to Interior, BLM and the OIG on December 15, 2023 requesting the BLM proceed ahead with the promulgation of regulations to eliminate the discretionary Small Miners waiver program. The PLF will continue to track mining law reform initiatives and provide comments as appropriate.

SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY REGULATIONS – 43 CFR 2800

STATUS: On June 16, 2023, BLM published a Proposed Rule for solar and wind energy right-of-way authorizations on the public lands under the 43 CFR 2800 regulations. *The BLM on April 11, 2024 announced the release of the Final Rule. The BLM on January 17, 2024 announced the release of a Draft Programmatic Solar Energy EIS to help streamline and accelerate solar energy development on public lands in the 11 western states. This EIS would replace the existing 2012 Western Solar Plan which only covered six western states.*

SUMMARY: The Final Rule adjusts rental fees for solar and wind energy authorizations, provides BLM with more flexibility in processing applications for solar and wind energy development in designated leasing areas, and updates criteria on prioritizing solar and wind energy right-of-way applications.

PLF POSITION: The PLF submitted comments on the Proposed Rule to BLM on August 9, 2023. Those comments are posted on the PLF website.



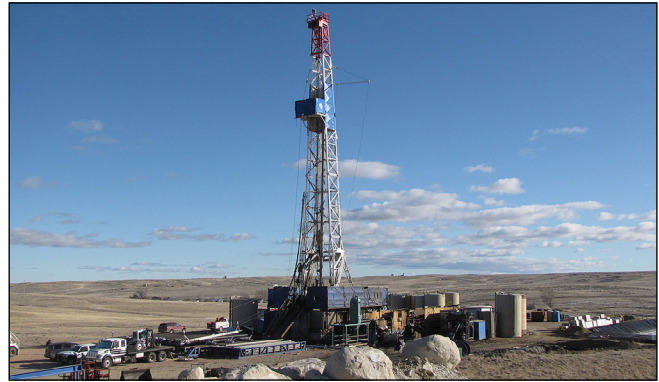
Silver State Solar, NV BLM photo

OIL AND GAS REGULATIONS – 43 CFR 3100

STATUS: The BLM on July 24, 2023 published a Proposed Rule to revise the oil and gas leasing regulations to reflect provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The BLM on April 12, 2024 announced release of the Final Oil and Gas Leasing Rule. On March 27 BLM also announced the release of the Final Rule on Oil and Gas Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation (43 CFR Parts 3160 and 3170). The Proposed Waste Prevention rule had been published on November 30, 2022.

SUMMARY: The Final Oil and Gas Leasing Rule updates the BLM onshore oil and gas leasing regulations to codify new provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and implement reforms from the Interior Report on the Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Program (November 2021). The Final Rule increases royalty rates to 16.67 percent, increases rental rates to \$15 per acre, increases minimum lease bids to \$10 per acre, eliminates non-competitive leasing, reduces the non operational period for idle wells to four years, increases minimum lease bonds to \$150,000, increases minimum statewide bonds to \$500,000, eliminates nationwide bonds, and includes other provisions to ensure responsible oil and gas leasing and development on the public lands. The Final Waste Prevention Rule aims to reduce the waste of natural gas from venting, flaring, and leaks during oil and gas production activities on both Federal and Indian leases.

PLF POSITION: The PLF submitted comments on the Proposed Leasing Rule to BLM on September 8, 2023. Those comments are posted on the PLF website.



Oil and Gas Drill Rig – WY BLM photo

CONSERVATION REGULATIONS – 43 CFR 1600 AND 6100

STATUS: The BLM on March 30, 2023 published a Proposed Rule on Conservation and Landscape Health under the 43 CFR 1600 and 6100 regulations for public review and comment. On April 18, 2024 BLM announced the release of the Final Public Lands Rule, which includes provisions for the issuance of restoration leases and mitigation leases to support restoration and mitigation projects on the public lands.

SUMMARY: The Final Rule supports the principles of multiple use and sustained yield in the management of the public lands, restore degraded habitat, and apply land health standards to all BLM-managed public lands. This rule incorporates climate resiliency and restoration through conservation and preservation in the management of the public lands pursuant to FLPMA and other relevant authorities. This rule within 43 CFR 6000, which includes Conservation and Preservation, revises existing regulations to prioritize designating and protecting Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and provides an over arching framework for multiple BLM programs to promote ecosystem resilience on the public lands. The Rule also provides for the use of “restoration and mitigation leases” to support mitigation efforts and promote the protection and restoration of public lands.

PLF POSITION: The PLF submitted comments on the Proposed Rule to BLM on June 15, 2023 and those comments are posted on the PLF website.

BLM LEADERSHIP

The BLM on March 13, 2024 announced the establishment of two Deputy Director positions in the BLM Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C. Michael Nedd, the current Deputy Director



Michael Nedd, Deputy Director Administration and Programs



Karen Kelleher, Deputy Director State Programs

Deputy Director for State Operations, Kelleher will oversee the 12 BLM State Directors and be responsible for managing and directing BLM state operations. Her role will be integral to formulating

of Operations, will transition to the role of Deputy Director for Administration and Programs, and Karen Kelleher, the current BLM Idaho State Director, will assume the position of Deputy Director for State Operations. Nada Culver will continue in her position as Principal Deputy Director. As Deputy Director for Administration and Programs, Nedd will oversee Headquarters offices, including the BLM budget formulation, law enforcement and fire program offices, as well as oversight of national policy and programs. As

and implementing BLM policies and programs at the state and regional levels.

With the continued changes in the leadership positions of the BLM, we would like to provide an update on the current Leadership of the BLM, including the State Directors that provide the day-to-day on-the-ground management for the public lands. The following are the current Deputy Directors and the State Directors for each of the BLM State Offices:

Director	Tracy Stone-Manning
Principle Deputy Director	Nada Culver
Deputy Director, Programs & Admin	Michael Nedd
Deputy. Director, State Operations	Karen Kelleher
Alaska State Office	Steven Cohn
Arizona State Office	Raymond Suazo
California State Office	Gordon Toevs (<i>Acting</i>)
Colorado State Office	Doug Vilsack
Eastern States Office	Mitchell Leverette
Idaho State Office	June Shoemaker (<i>Acting</i>)
Montana State Office	Sonya Germann
Nevada State Office	Jon Raby
New Mexico State Office	Melanie Barnes
OR/WA State Office	Barry Bushue
Utah State Office	Greg Sheehan
Wyoming State Office	Andrew Archuleta

ELECTRONIC MAILING ONLY

The PLF has gone to an all digital distribution of the quarterly *Monitor* newsletter to save on printing and mailing costs of our newsletter. All editions of the *Monitor* are distributed electronically to PLF members and are available on the PLF website.

IN MEMORIAM

Dean Raymond Crabbs on March 15, 2024, in Etna, WY. Dean was a graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in Forestry. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He spent his career as a law enforcement officer with the FBI and later worked at BLM in Alaska as the Special Agent in Charge for the law enforcement program in Alaska. He retired in 1995.

Donald (Don) Heinze on August 16, 2023, in Albuquerque, NM. Don earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Chico State College and a Masters degree from the University of Nevada with a major in Range Science. Shortly thereafter he began his career with BLM as a Range Conservationist in Nevada, California, and Montana, and later as a botanist with the BLM State office in Billings, Montana. While in Billings, he was the founder and first president of the Artemisia Chapter of the Montana Native Plant Society. Following retirement in 1995, Don continued his interest in botany by volunteering to lead Native Plant Society hikes, helping to restore natural habitats, and authoring numerous books and articles about native plants and invasive species in Oregon and New Mexico.

Roy Seidel Jackson in February 2024, in Salmon, ID. Roy served in the U.S. Navy, Naval Reserve, and the Army National Guard and after his active duty graduated from college with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife. He joined BLM after graduating and became a Range Conservationist. He retired from BLM in September 1994 as District Manager in the Salmon District.

Raymond Keith Jorgensen on December 25, 2023, in McCall, ID. Ray attended the University of Wyoming and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. He worked for BLM for almost 30 years with assignments in Wyoming, Nevada, and Idaho. He worked in the wildland fire program for much of his career with BLM but was also involved in the first management plan for what was later to become the Red Rocks Canyon NCA area near Las Vegas, NV. He retired from the BLM in 1987.

Eugene John Leone on March 12, 2024, in Sheridan, WY. Gene was a U.S. Army veteran and served two tours of duty in Vietnam and later enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He graduated from Long Beach State University with a Bachelor's degree in Earth Science. He worked for BLM in Worland, WY and when he retired he embarked on a career as a substitute teacher in the Washakie County School District.

Henry "Hank" K. Noldan on February 21, 2024, in Wilmington, NC. Hank graduated from the University of Syracuse with a Masters degree in Forestry. He began his career with BLM in 1959 as a forester. He worked in Oregon, Montana, and South Dakota. In Alaska, he worked in the Trans Alaska Pipeline Office preparing impact statements and overseeing permitting. In Washington, D.C. he continued his work on the pipeline and became the Chief of Offshore Resources. He retired after 34 years of Federal service. Hank was also a talented singer, who studied at the Syracuse Conservatory of Music, and performed before the Syracuse Philharmonic, Seventh Army Symphony and Winged Victory Chorus in Europe, Syracuse Inter-City Opera, and Billings Symphony. While working in Dillon, MT he was known as the "tenor in the timber".

Frank Shields on January 26, 2024, in Scottsdale, AZ. Frank served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, graduated from Colorado State University, and had a long career with BLM.

Sarita S. Tucker on March 29, 2023, in Cheyenne, WY. Sarita was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force with 20 years of service. After her military service, she worked for BLM from 2001 to 2008 in Wyoming in the Wild Horse Adoption Program. She also attended Park University and earned a degree in Business with a minor in Economics. She later returned to the U.S. Air Force and WY National Guard as a Logistics Readiness and Mobility Coordinator until her retirement.

The PLF is committed to never forgetting the dedicated employees of BLM who have left us. We do so on our website's Memorial Wall and by publishing names of those who passed away in the *Monitor*. If you have a death to report, please e-mail us at obits@publicland.org, preferably with a link to or copy of an obituary. You can rely on the PLF to keep you informed of topical news on the public PLF Facebook page, our website, other social media sites, and the *Monitor* newsletter.

Note: Putting together the Memoriam list in the Monitor and maintaining the Memorial Wall on the PLF website takes a lot of work by PLF volunteers. If you find errors, or if you know of something we may have missed, we apologize, and will correct the record. If you have concerns, please let Ray Brady know at rbrady@publicland.org.

DONATIONS*

MEMORIAL DONATIONS			SCHOLARSHIP FUND		
RECEIVED FROM			IN MEMORY OF		
Carolyn Droscher			Jack Belmain	Mary Bellesi	Carolyn Droscher
			James Kor		George Lea
			Pete Pederson	L.J. Porter	Bob Schneider
Mike Ford			Mike Taylor		
David Mari			Barry Ashworth	Gregg and Mary Simmons	
L.J. Porter			James Roger Kor		
Bob Schneider			Barry Ashworth		
GENERAL FUND			MEMBERSHIP DUES ABOVE \$50.00		
			CONTRIBUTING MEMBER		
Carolyn Droscher	Nancy Haug	David Mari	Mike Blymyer	Nancy Haug	John Husband
			Ann Hutchinson	Jim May	Lonna O'Neal
Courtney Lyons-Garcia	Maya Tims		James Ramakka	Teri Raml	Linda Rundell
			Renee Snyder	Carl Zulick	
Ewing Family Foundation			SPONSORING MEMBER		
Gregg and Mary Simmons			Ted Hudson		
STUDENT CONGRESS					
National Association of Forest Service Retirees					

Reminder: The PLF is a benefiting non-profit organization under the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Customers with a Kroger rewards card can register and designate the Public Lands Foundation (number DN597) on their rewards card account and purchases will benefit the PLF. Participants just swipe their registered Kroger rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count. We would like to get more members to participate in this program and generate more donations to the PLF. Just 20 households could potentially generate some \$1,000 per year of donations to the PLF.

The PLF continues to request donations to support the George Lea Founder's Scholarship fund. We hope members will make a special contribution to the scholarship fund. The PLF awarded two \$5,000 scholarships in 2023 to deserving students. The fund needs to be replenished to be able to continue to offer these scholarships each year.

You can make a designated donation by credit card on our website at www.publicland.org, or by check sent to the Public Lands Foundation, P.O. Box 7226, Arlington, VA 22207. In your transmittal, please make sure to mention if your donation is for the **PLF General Fund**, **George Lea Founder's Scholarship**, or the **Student Congress Fund**. Remember, if you are making a donation in memory of someone who has passed away, you can designate your donation to go to one of these funds. The PLF has also established a **PLF Endowment Fund** to support the long-term purposes and mission of the organization. The PLF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. Your donations are tax-deductible to the maximum extent permitted under the law.

* This list reflects donations received during the period of January 1 through March 31, 2024. Donations received after this period will be reported in the next edition of the Monitor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Monitor* is what we make it and we encourage you to provide Letters to the Editor or provide other reviews and comments on articles included in your newsletter. It is important to hear from our membership, and if you like something or don't like something, let us know. If you do send an e-mail to the Editor, don't be surprised if it winds up as a Letter to the Editor in the next edition of the *Monitor*. Please provide your comments to rbrady@publicland.org. Comments should be limited to no more than 500 words in length. In addition, members are encouraged to use the bod@publicland.org e-mail address to communicate with the PLF Board.

The *Monitor* generally reflects ongoing PLF activities, events, updates, awards, and information on former BLM employees. We encourage articles and discussions of issues by posting quality content that also provides a positive exposure of the goals, objectives, and mission of the PLF. However, we need to take some precautions when posting information to the newsletter and other forms of social media to ensure appropriate rules of behavior. In keeping a positive experience for our members, we reserve the right to publish only comments, photos, and other material deemed appropriate by the PLF. We intend on maintaining a friendly and professional tone in the articles in the *Monitor* and any Letters to the Editor.

PLF MEMBERSHIP

PLF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____
Date _____
Amount Enclosed _____

PLF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular\$50
Contributing\$100
Sponsoring\$200
Patron.....\$500



THE PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION IS A TAX EXEMPT 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION