

For America's Heritage

THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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BLM EXPERIENCED SERVICES PROGRAM NEW SOLUTIONS PROJECT IN NEVADA

BY RON MOBLEY, BLM NEVADA STATE OFFICE; NANCY HAUG, ESP
ENROLLEE; MICHAEL HOLBERT, ESP ENROLLEE

When the Bureau of Land Management has unusual or unexpected projects, they sometimes need to look outside the organization for the expertise needed to fill workforce gaps to accomplish these projects. This was the case in 2023 when BLM Nevada's Special Legislation Program partnered with National Experienced Workforce Solutions (NEW Solutions) tapping into their cadre of seasoned workers, known as enrollees, through BLM's Experienced Services Program (ESP).

Looking for experience in collaboration and project management, BLM brought in two retired BLM employees and PLF members, Nancy Haug and Michael Holbert, as ESP enrollees, to get the job done. With nearly seven decades of combined experience as resource professionals and Federal decision makers and expertise working with partners, Haug and Holbert formed a team to facilitate, document, and synthesize data from listening sessions with partners and staff throughout Nevada and northeastern California.

To better understand the project and its context, it helps to look back at Las Vegas' history. While many imagine a Las Vegas full of blinking neon lights, constant dinging of slot machines, and musicians on brightly lit stages, others know the region for spectacular landscapes enticing residents and visitors alike to explore red rock canyons or camp under the expansive night sky. Whether for the lights or jobs or the welcoming open space surrounding the city that never sleeps, people have moved to the Las Vegas Valley in droves over the last several decades, creating a need for more recreational opportunities and the services expected within local communities.

Foreseeing the need for growth, in 1998, Congress passed the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). This gave BLM authority to sell public land surrounding Las Vegas to fund new parks, trails, and natural areas; acquire environmentally sensitive lands; conserve and restore habitat; reduce hazardous fuels; and build amenities such as visitor centers and campgrounds. While the concept of SNPLMA may seem simple—sell public land and fund public works—implementation is complicated and requires extensive collaboration and coordination among Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments. Recognizing that the program's success is primarily attributed to strong partnerships, and that the program must constantly evolve and improve, SNPLMA's Executive

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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 you had a lovely holiday season with family and friends. We spent the holidays at my son's lovely home in northern Virginia with family. I wish you all health and happiness in 2025.

I want to begin the New Year by encouraging you to join me in reaffirming our commitment to the PLF's

advocacy mission. There are significant challenges for public lands and BLM on the horizon. There are a myriad of ways that you can help the PLF. The most important way is to continue your membership in the organization and to encourage others to join us. If you have the resources to do more, please feel free to contact one of the members of our Executive Committee to see what other opportunities exist.

We have been closely monitoring a filing by the State of Utah with the Supreme Court challenging the legality of Federal ownership of lands in the West. Ray Brady authored an excellent Issue Paper on the Court filing which has been placed in a prominent place on our website. We have also engaged in some preliminary discussions with the Foundation for America's Public Lands and other public land advocacy groups regarding this issue. An update on the petition to the Supreme Court is provided in this edition of the *Monitor*, and we are happy to report that **the Supreme Court has denied the State's petition by issuing a decision that "the motion for leave to file a bill of complaint is denied"**.

We are continuing our partnership efforts with the Department of the Interior Federal Credit Union and NEW Solutions to recruit new members to the PLF. We are having some success in getting

new members through these avenues which is certainly encouraging.

Last year, we sent out a survey asking members if they would be interested in participating in an "All Member" Zoom call in the first quarter of 2025. We will be working to set up this call and will likely schedule it for late February or March. As of right now, I believe the primary topic for the call will center on additional ideas for recruitment and retention of members. We will send out the details via an e-Blast to all members in the next few weeks.

With the advent of a new administration, the PLF has been working diligently to update our library of Issue Papers. In addition, we have written a succinct Transition Paper for the incoming administration which has been sent to the BLM employees who will be working with President Trump's landing team. We have also offered to do an in-person briefing, but have not yet received any response. I want to acknowledge the work of Don Simpson and the team led by Ed Roberson in getting this very important work accomplished.

Our annual Board election was completed in December. All Directors-at-Large and State Representatives were successfully re-elected. In addition, we have one new Director-at-Large. Please join me in welcoming Chuck Hunt to the PLF Board. We still have State Representative Board member vacancies in New Mexico and Nevada. If you are interested in serving in either of these roles, please contact me.

This issue of the *Monitor* and future issues will contain articles from both NEW Solutions and a variety of Friends groups who assist BLM in the management of some amazing landscapes. There is also an article that highlights the "Lands to Love" campaign of the Foundation for America's Public Lands. Don't miss these interesting articles!

Take care and I will talk to you again soon.

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

BLM ESP/NEW SOLUTIONS *(continued)*

Committee reached out to these partners for their perspectives, thoughts, and recommendations about how to improve the program.

NEW Solutions enrollees Haug and Holbert held listening sessions with SNPLMA's 55 partners and over 30 BLM staff during the summer and fall of 2023. Through these sessions, held in-person and virtually, the team collected and organized recommendations focused on improving and updating SNPLMA's Strategic Plan (2019) and Implementation Agreement (2018). In the summer of 2024, information and feedback from these listening sessions was synthesized and shared with the Executive Committee and Partners Working Group to develop an action plan to update SNPLMA's guiding documents and improve communications among the partners and staff in 2025.

Today, 26 years after SNPLMA was enacted, more than \$4 billion in public land sales in the Las Vegas Valley have helped fund the State's education program, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, and over 1,500 projects across Nevada and the Lake Tahoe Basin benefiting public land visitors and Nevadans. Through SNPLMA, the landscape and partnerships in Nevada have forever changed and through BLM's unique partnership with NEW Solutions, not only does BLM benefit from the talents and expertise of experienced, retired BLM employees, but these professionals continue to make a difference for the Federal agency and public they served for decades.

PLF members can learn more about NEW Solutions and the BLM Experienced Services Program at newsolutions.org/programs/esp-program-blm.

FOUNDATION FOR AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS

The Foundation for America's Public Lands was established by Congress in 2017, but was not formally launched by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland until January 2022. Until 2022, BLM was the only major Federal land management agency without an affiliated Foundation support organization. The Foundation's mission includes raising private funding that can be matched by Federal appropriations to help the Bureau address public land management issues across the 245 million acres of public land managed by BLM. The Public Lands Foundation will collaborate with the Foundation for America's Public Lands where we have mutual interests and continue our advocacy efforts for BLM and the sustainable management of the public lands.



The Foundation in 2024 launched a public awareness campaign, "**Lands to Love**", to help spotlight the amazing people, places and cultures that make the public lands and waters so unique. The "**Lands to Love**" campaign will feature 20 inaugural BLM-managed locations—including photos and videos to drive engagement, personal stories to create heartfelt connections, and behind-the-scenes places not to miss. This is a chance to shine the spotlight on the diversity of our public lands and waters, and the BLM caretakers watching over them each day. The Campaign will also feature a grant program, the Lands to Love Catalyst Fund, designed to help community partners working with BLM leverage existing funds, and expand their work through a capital boost from the Foundation. The Foundation is working together with BLM to identify the right partners, and will also encourage local communities to nominate the public lands and waters they love that could benefit from, or be improved, with additional financial support.

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STATE OF UTAH PETITION TO SUPREME COURT

****COURT DENIES PETITION****

The State of Utah on August 20, 2024 filed a petition with the Supreme Court of the United States asserting that the perpetual Federal retention of 18.5 million acres of “unappropriated” public land in Utah is unconstitutional. On December 4, 2024 the State submitted a supplemental filing with the Court that appeared to provide more flexibility for the disposal of public lands. The State of Utah is seeking a judgment from the Supreme Court that would order the United States to begin the process of complying with the asserted obligation to dispose of these lands. The BLM manages some 23 million acres of public land in Utah. The State has identified 18.5 million acres of “unappropriated” public lands that include lands that have not been “formally reserved for any specific purpose, such as a national park or national conservation area, or being used to execute any of the BLM’s constitutionally enumerated powers”. On October 22, 2024, several other States, including the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Mississippi, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, South Carolina, Texas, and Wyoming filed briefs with the Supreme Court urging the court not only to agree to hear the case but to ultimately side with the State of Utah.

On November 21, 2024, the Department of Justice filed a brief with the Court that disputes the assertions of the State of Utah, concludes that the petition lacks merit, and that the Constitution clearly allows the Federal government to control the public lands. The Ute Indian Tribe in Utah filed a brief with the Court on November 21, 2024,

in support of the Federal government and argues that removing Federal ownership of the public lands could endanger tribal jurisdiction over reservation lands. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance on December 18, 2024, filed a lawsuit in state District Court asserting that the Governor and State Attorney General violated the State Constitution by filing the original petition with the Supreme Court, since the State Constitution forever disclaimed all right, title, and interests to the unappropriated public lands lying within its boundaries.

Although the State is attempting to invoke the Court’s jurisdiction over disputes between the States, the Court on January 13, 2025 denied the State’s petition by issuing a decision that “the motion for leave to file a bill of complaint is denied”.

In the views of the PLF, any departure from the legal precedents and history regarding the ownership of public lands would have had a significant impact on the future management of some 245 million acres of public lands managed by BLM for all Americans. These impacts would include the management of not only the 18.5 million acres of “unappropriated” public lands in Utah, but also an estimated 144 million acres of “unappropriated” public lands throughout the West and an additional 66 million acres of “unappropriated” public land in Alaska. The PLF will closely monitor any other actions on this case. The PLF has also posted a Position Statement on the PLF website, disputing the assertions of the State regarding the ownership of “unappropriated” public lands.



Public Lands, Utah (BLM photo)

HENRI R. BISSON PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION SERVICE AWARD GEORGE M. STONE, JR.

The Public Lands Foundation presents to George M. Stone, Jr. the Henri R. Bisson Public Lands Foundation Service Award in recognition of his sustained service and selfless contributions to furthering the mission and objectives of the Public Lands Foundation.



Mary Jo Rugwell (PLF President) presents award to George Stone in Virginia. (PLF photo)

George Stone has been a member of the Public Lands Foundation for more than 15 years. During the past 10 years, George's dedication and contribution to the PLF in leading its Information Technology activities has been outstanding. George's tireless efforts at modernizing the PLF's communication strategies and improving PLF's website and social media presence have expanded and improved PLF's image immensely.

George gave significant assistance to officers and an executive director in setting up new e-mail accounts. He introduced new people to the PLF website, committee structures, mail groups, and the address book.

He provided outstanding assistance to PLF Board members on e-mail issues and digital resources. He fielded questions received at the PLF's address and directed requests to appropriate parties. He coordinated the transmittal of e-mail blasts to the PLF members and others. He posted to the PLF website news developments, planned events, position statements and awards. He led PLF's Facebook posting. All said, George's modernization and information technology contributions were remarkable.

George Stone's organizational contributions were very significant. He provided strong support to requests from any PLF officer, Board member, committee member, or member-at-large for information. He was a constant and open communicator. He tracked Combined Federal Campaign contributions made to the PLF and coordinated with the PLF Treasurer on that income. He provided major support to updating the PLF membership database. He expanded the PLF website to include voting, donations, and member sign-up capabilities. He chaired a working group to evaluate and report on the PLF Board of Directors and committee structure. He researched other Federal retiree associations, looking for insights on how their operations and member recruitment techniques could benefit PLF operations. He provided significant assistance to the team in preparing the PLF first annual report in 2021.

As an all-volunteer organization, the PLF relies heavily on people like George Stone to bring their expertise and dedication to improving the organization. For years, George worked tirelessly to support and improve the PLF's IT activities. George's dedication to the PLF in leading the IT activities and his many contributions in the operational area benefited the entire PLF organization, its Board, the Executive Committee, and the PLF membership-at-large. George generously shared his expertise, ideas, and good humor. George is, like Henri Bisson, someone who generously gave his time and commitment to modernize the PLF. The PLF is stronger because of George's contributions.

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LANDS PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE AWARD

LANCE OKESON – BLM BOISE DISTRICT

The Public Lands Foundation is proud to present the 2024 Outstanding Public Lands Professional Employee Award in the Technical/Operational category to Lance Okeson, BLM Boise District Fuels Assistant Fire Management Officer.



Nancy Haug (PLF) and John Ruhs (PLF) present award to Lance Okeson in Boise, Idaho. (PLF photo)

Mr. Okeson's position as the Assistant Fire Management Officer for the Fuels program in the Boise District has enabled him to develop a broad and nuanced vision for the role that fuel breaks could play in addressing the challenge of altered fire regimes throughout the western U.S. Mr. Okeson not only became an advocate for the presence of fuel breaks on a scale heretofore not seen, but he also began to advocate a vision for what fuel breaks fundamentally are and innovative ways that fuel breaks can be put in place.

Mr. Okeson was the driving force behind several fuelbreak projects, including 1) the Tipanook Fuelbreak

Project that proved the concept that the low-growing plant called forage kochia could be introduced in swaths of land and serve as an effective fuelbreak; 2) the Tri-State Fuelbreak Project, which proved the effectiveness of large-scale interconnected fuel breaks on a regional scale; and 3) the Soda Fuelbreak Project, which was the first time BLM Idaho implemented targeted grazing on a large scale that demonstrated that livestock grazing could be managed temporally and spatially to achieve strategic reductions in fuel loads in designated corridors, which in effect became fuel breaks.

In bringing these projects from the conceptual stage to implementation, Mr. Okeson has demonstrated unparalleled managerial ability. His influence mobilized natural resource specialists to work toward a common goal and to navigate through the various Federal administrative processes inherent in public land management planning.

Mr. Okeson's career has served as an example to younger BLM employees and demonstrated that a focus on fuels management is not merely a subset of fire management but rather one that can make a difference in entire ecosystems and economies for decades. Mr. Okeson's vision and work have embodied the concepts of public land stewardship, as opposed to merely managing programs.

Mr. Okeson's innovative approaches, collaborative spirit, and numerous achievements have had a profound, sustained and far-reaching impact across the northern expanse of the Great Basin.

Because of his commitment to public land management, the Public Lands Foundation recognizes Lance Okeson with its Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award in the Technical/Operational category for 2024.

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LANDS PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE AWARD

GREG MILLER – BLM CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT

The Public Lands Foundation is proud to present the 2024 Outstanding Public Lands Professional Employee Award in the Managerial/Operational Category to Greg Miller, BLM California Desert District Associate District Manager.

Greg Miller has served BLM for over 37 years; the last 15 years have been with the California Desert District, a very complex organization managing nearly 11 million acres of public lands near one of the largest population centers in the Nation, serving over 23 million people who use public lands in a variety of ways, with often competing demands.

Pursuant to the Energy Act of 2020, Greg stood up the original Renewable Energy Coordination Office in the Bureau and led BLM from the California Desert District. Through his efforts, Greg guided the team to implement improved coordination among agencies and helped to avoid potential conflicts and bottlenecks, identified best practices, accelerated information sharing and promoted efficient and timely reviews to support agency decision-making. As a result, Greg and his team permitted the first large scale solar project on public lands and permitted over five gigawatts of renewable energy. Through his leadership and guidance, the renewable energy program he assembled was replicated nationwide. And, Greg continues to be a valuable and sought out resource and expert on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

When large utility scale renewable energy projects began to dominate the desert landscape, Greg responded by taking decisive action using the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to focus BLM efforts on non speculative applications. Greg's approach received push back from industry, but by front loading agency due diligence, BLM was

successful in eliminating or re-siting projects that posed undue degradation to public lands.



Thomas Zale (PLF) presents award to Greg Miller.
(PLF photo)

Greg has always nurtured relationships and led with compassion and understanding. His “employee first” mentality creates a sociologically safe workplace for his employees to fail, learn, and ultimately succeed. He has mentored countless aspiring leaders and dedicated his time and political capital to help ensure their success. He routinely makes himself available for the national mentoring program and opened his office to impromptu mentoring sessions.

Because of his commitment to public land management, the Public Lands Foundation recognizes Greg Miller with its Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award in the Managerial/Administrative category for 2024.

FRIENDS OF POMPEYS PILLAR

BY CHRISTIAN COPPEDGE, PRESIDENT – FRIENDS OF POMPEYS PILLAR

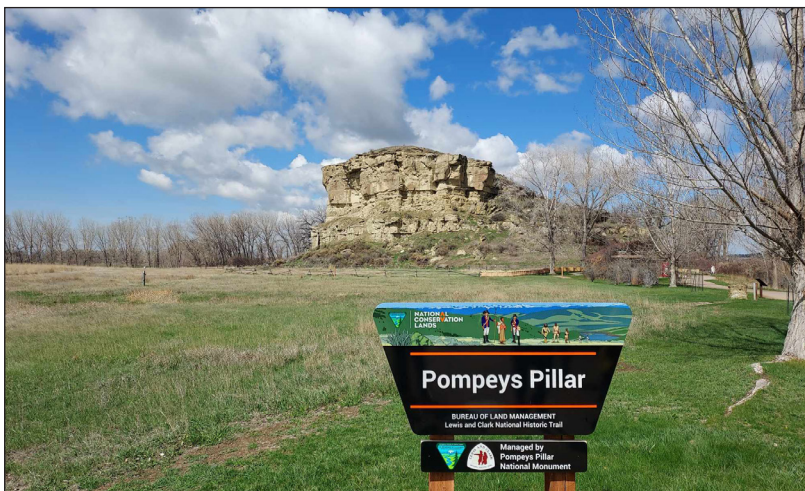
Editor: *There are over 80 local place-based “Friends” organizations that support the work of BLM on the public lands. This concept, like the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) was part of Bruce Babbitt’s vision in 1996 for a successful system of protected BLM lands for the next century. In this edition of the Monitor we are highlighting the Friends of Pompeys Pillar in Montana. This friends group supports BLM in the management of the Pompeys Pillar National Monument adjacent to the Yellowstone River in Montana, which was established by Presidential Proclamation in 2001. More than 20,000 people visit the 51 acre National Monument each year and the Friends of Pompeys Pillar make these visitor experiences better.*

On the southern bank of the Yellowstone River in Montana lies a geological wonder. A large sandstone outcrop looms one hundred and twenty feet over the gently rolling prairie. This stark, rocky spire also marks a natural ford – a shallow point in the river where humans and animals could cross with relative ease. Given the uniqueness of this tower and the vital river crossing nearby, this site proved a significant crossroads of human activity for thousands of years. While the tower has gone by many names, today it is called Pompeys Pillar.

Pompeys Pillar is a significant landmark and religious site for countless generations of Native Americans. Numerous rock art remnants relate to the ancient use and spiritual significance of the site. Archaeological surveys of the Pillar and the surrounding area indicate that it was a commonly used campsite by indigenous groups as evidenced by the presence of bison remains, stone tool fragments, and other human-made debris. Pompeys Pillar lies at the heart of the Crow people’s historic lands. The Crow call it “The Mountain Lion’s Lodge”.

In the early 1800s, white explorers passed by Pompeys Pillar on their journeys to the West. Francois Larocque, a French-Canadian fur trader traveling with a group of Crow Indians in 1805, made note of the rock art on the Pillar: “... a whitish perpendicular rock on which was sketch with red soil a battle between three people on horseback and three others on foot.” The region’s most famous explorer and the one by whom Pompeys Pillar was named, was Captain William Clark of the Corps of Discovery. Captain Clark, Sacagawea, her infant son Jean Baptist (affectionately nicknamed “Pompey”), and eleven men travelled down the Yellowstone River on their return trip home. On July 25, 1806, Clark

halted their journey to climb the Pillar and observe the land from its high vantage. Clark described his experience of carving his iconic signature in his journal: “The natives have engraved on the face of the rock the figures of animals ... near which I marked my name and the day of the month & year.” The signature has been painstakingly preserved and it exists today as one of the few remaining pieces of physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark Expedition along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



Pompeys Pillar National Monument
(Friends of Pompeys Pillar photo)

Today, Pompeys Pillar attracts more than 20,000 visitors each year. Pompeys Pillar National Monument comprises 51 acres of public land with numerous amenities including an interpretive center, paved and natural walking paths, river access points, day camping sites, and a wooden boardwalk leading to Clark's signature. Every year people the world over flock to the Pillar to celebrate the Corps of Discovery, Native American history, and explore the area along the Yellowstone River.

The Friends of Pompeys Pillar is the local partner organization for Pompeys Pillar National Monument.



Pompeys Pillar National Monument grounds and Interpretive Center (*BLM photo*)

The history of the Friends organization dates to the late 1980s when the Pompeys Pillar Preservation Committee, an organized group of dedicated volunteers, sought designation and protection of Pompeys Pillar and the immediate surrounding area as public lands. The Pillar was owned by Don and Stella Foote, who had worked to establish the site as a National Historic Landmark in 1965 and maintain access for the public. About two decades later, the Foote family could no longer afford the liability of keeping the site open to the public due to the heavy increase in visitation. Through the efforts of the Pompeys Pillar Preservation Committee, BLM in 1991 was able to acquire the site and surrounding land for preservation and protection. The Preservation Committee was also incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization called the Pompeys Pillar Historical Association and focused its efforts towards designating Pompeys

Pillar a National Monument. After almost a decade of work, the site was designated a National Monument in January 2001. The Historical Association, in partnership with BLM, began a fund raising campaign for a new interpretive center at the National Monument, which was completed in 2006, just in time for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration. In July 2006, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, the Historical Association, and Yellowstone County, hosted a multi-day Bicentennial event celebrating William Clark and the Corps of Discovery on the Yellowstone River.

In 2013, the Pompeys Pillar Historical Association changed its name to the Friends of Pompeys Pillar to better reflect its relationship with BLM and Pompeys Pillar National Monument and is the Monument's strongest local partner and supporter. The Friends organization's aim is to preserve and protect the National Monument through special projects, education, interpretation, and support to BLM in management of the Monument. The Friends supports BLM and the Monument by recruiting and coordinating volunteers, operating a store at the Interpretive Center, fund raising for special projects, and organizing special events. Special events featured at the Monument include Signature Day, held on July 25 each year, to celebrate the day that William Clark carved his famous signature on Pompeys Pillar.



Volunteer provides tour for crew of the USS Billings.
(*Friends of Pompeys Pillar photo*)

Native American Heritage Day, launched in May 2024, was very successful and celebrated local indigenous peoples. Every September, the Friends of Pompeys Pillar organize and hold an annual event called "Rock the Run" to raise money to help fund

special projects and encourage visitation and recreation at the Monument. The Friends also sponsor speaker programs every summer at the Monument that are free to all visitors.

Regularly scheduled events offer recreational and educational opportunities during the summer season. Star Parties occur each month between May and September, in partnership with Montana State University and the Yellowstone Valley Astronomy Association, for visitors to explore the night sky. Interpretive volunteers provide guided tours and educational programs daily.

For the 2024 summer season, the Friends secured a traveling exhibit titled the "Corps of Diversity" that highlighted the members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition whose unique talents and skills contributed to the success of the Expedition. The Friends of Pompeys Pillar will continue its unwavering support to BLM and Pompeys Pillar National Monument, prepare for and meet new challenges as they arise, and mobilize efforts to promote this unique natural, cultural, and historic treasure for current and future generations.



Volunteers and Rangers erect tipi on Monument grounds.
(Friends of Pompeys Pillar photo)

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.

PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION GLENDON E. COLLINS ARCHIVES

BY CONNIE STONE, PLF ARCHIVES MANAGER

Have you ever wondered how BLM acquired and protected your favorite natural wonders? Or why so many environmental laws came out of the 1960s and 1970s? Who were the past heroes of your particular program or office? How has the BLM workforce changed through the decades? And who the heck was Johnny Horizon?

Answers to these and other questions can be found in the PLF Glendon E. Collins Archives, which preserve a unique collection of materials related to the history of BLM and the management of public lands and resources. The archives currently contain nearly 2,000 items including paper documents, newsletters, personal memoirs, photos, maps, books, and videos. Some items have rare historical value, such as antique land patents and out-of-print publications like the “Range Rider” newsletter series.

The Archives are stored at the BLM’s National Training Center (NTC) in Phoenix, in accordance with a formal Memorandum of Understanding. Our storage area also houses the organizational and historical files of the Public Lands Foundation, as well as computer equipment to manage three associated databases, which are organized by BLM’s subject-function (resource and administrative) codes, states, and offices. The collection is maintained by volunteers from the PLF’s Arizona Chapter.



BLM National Training Center, Phoenix, AZ (BLM Photo)

Established by the PLF in 1992, the archives collection has been renamed the PLF Glendon E. Collins

Archives, to honor the dedication of Glen Collins, who managed the Archives for many years. These archive materials preserve important knowledge and are available by appointment to researchers. The Archives provide a resource for historical research, training to support NTC programs, and public education. The PLF has also assisted the BLM Library in finding items to cover gaps in its collections and files. The Archives offer information relating to programs, policies, events, offices, leadership, and personnel. For example, Dr. James Skillen used our sources in preparing his book on the history and role of the BLM: *The Nation’s Largest Landlord: The Bureau of Land Management in the American West*.

The Archives recently were inaccessible for a few years, due to the pandemic and the remodeling of the NTC facilities. It’s been a huge effort to get everything unpacked and reorganized, but we are making progress. The BLM has expressed interest in using the Archives as a resource for upcoming events that will commemorate the history of BLM and the Nation. To that end, BLM has assisted with the digitizing of our paper files. The PLF website has a listing of the items in the Archives, and we intend to continue progress in making the materials available online.

DONATING ITEMS TO THE PLF ARCHIVES

We welcome donations to the PLF Archives, but have limited space, so we need to be selective. In general, we don’t need items that are already available online on government websites, in BLM or public libraries, or the National Archives. We also have limited space for basic reference books, unless they relate specifically to the history of BLM.

We do however encourage donations of the following types of items.

- Personal memoirs, oral histories, correspondence, and recollections of involvement in important programs or events.
- Photos of people, programs, landscapes, and events, preferably labeled as to who, what, when, and where.

- Articles or studies relating to specific events, programs, and legislation. This could include scholarly theses or dissertations that are not readily available elsewhere.
- Unique historical or commemorative items from special programs or events.

The following types of donations are discouraged or may not be consistent with our mission and space constraints.

- Materials that are retained as part of official case files, or are available through other archives or libraries.
- Instruction Memoranda and other official documents available on BLM websites.
- Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments.
- Training manuals.
- Technical manuals for specific resource programs
- Personal commemorative items, such as plaques, awards, and certificates that relate to a specific individual.

Donations can be sent to the PLF Archives, Bureau of Land Management, National Training Center, 9828 N. 31st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85051. You can contact the archives manager, Connie Stone, through the PLF website or at airedog2@cox.net.

GEORGE LEA FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP

One of the most important advocacy programs the PLF engages in each year is the awarding of two \$5,000 scholarships to students who are pursuing a course of study in the natural resources field. The PLF continues to request donations to support the George Lea Founder's Scholarship Fund. We hope our members and other supporters of the PLF will respond to the call for donations to help the PLF continue this important program. Donations in any amount would be greatly appreciated and can be made either online or by check. Please ensure that you earmark your donation for the Scholarship Fund and thank you in advance for your consideration!



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 through e-mail to PLF members and are available on the PLF website.

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 web pages on our website under the “Advocacy” link and provide legislative and regulatory updates in the *Monitor* on significant actions.

GRAZING REGULATIONS/LEGISLATION

STATUS: The BLM in August 2023 announced the suspension of work on the update of grazing regulations (43 CFR Part 4100) and instead focus efforts on implementing management changes to the grazing program through policy updates and internal guidance to BLM Field Offices. That work is still pending. *Bills were introduced but not passed in the last session of Congress that would provide ranchers greater flexibility in managing grazing operations on the public lands.*

SUMMARY: Key features of previously proposed legislation include expanding and formalizing the 2018 BLM Pilot Program to offer increased flexibility to grazing permittees on the public lands.

PLF POSITION: The PLF on June 18, 2020 co-signed a collaborative letter with other organizations to

BLM providing comments on proposed revisions to the grazing regulations and in May 2023 updated a Livestock Grazing Position Statement which is posted on the PLF website. The PLF will continue to track the development of updated grazing program policies and guidance and provide comments as appropriate on legislative initiatives.

OUTDOOR RECREATION ACT

STATUS: The U.S. House on April 9, 2024 approved the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act (H.R.6492). *The Senate companion bill, America’s Outdoor Recreation Act (S.873), was approved by the Senate on December 19, 2024 and the President signed the bill on January 4, 2025.*

SUMMARY: The EXPLORE Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation that aims to enhance recreation access and revamp outdoor recreation opportunities on the public lands. Key provisions of the Act support gateway communities, modernizes technology at recreation facilities, streamlines the permitting process, provides resources to combat park overcrowding, enhances accessibility for individuals with disabilities, promotes recreation for service members and veterans, protects rock-climbing areas and encourages the creation of long-distance bike trails, enhances access, and modernizes and restores campgrounds.

PLF POSITION: *The PLF did not take a position on the bill but will track future implementation of the legislation by BLM.*



Livestock grazing on the public lands (BLM photo)

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE EIS

STATUS: The BLM on November 8, 2024 released the Final Resource Management Plan Amendment and EIS for management of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on the public lands.

SUMMARY: The Final EIS will amend 76 BLM Resource Management Plans across the range of Greater sage-grouse and analyzes six alternatives for adjusting specific habitat management actions on BLM-managed public lands.



Greater Sage-Grouse (BLM photo)

Alternative 1 is a continuation of current management actions under RMPs as amended in 2015. Alternative 2 is a continuation of management actions under RMPs as amended in 2019. Alternative 3 represents the most restrictions on resource uses to preserve Greater sage-grouse habitat on some 69.2 million acres of Priority Habitat Management Areas on BLM administered surface lands. Alternative 4 updates habitat management area boundaries and management actions based on updated information and science that has become available since 2015 and 2019. Alternative 5 (the BLM preferred alternative) considers other potential alignments of habitat management areas and associated management actions to try and balance Greater sage-grouse conservation with other public land uses. Alternative 5 identifies 34.8 million acres of Priority Habitat Management Areas and 23.7 million acres of General Habitat Management Areas for rangewide management actions on BLM administered surface lands. Alternative 6 is the same as Alternative 5, but with the addition of ACECs.

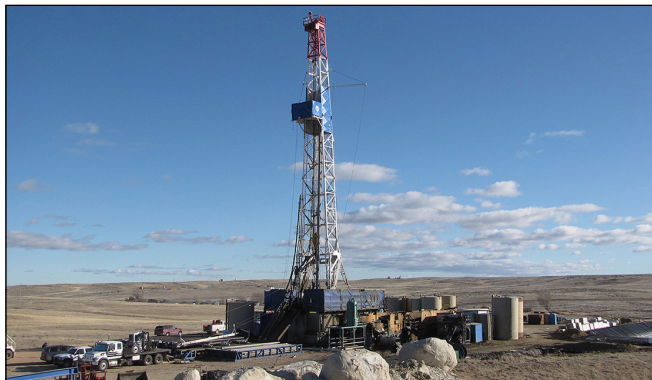
PLF POSITION: The PLF submitted comments on the Draft Greater Sage-Grouse EIS and Plan Amendment on June 10, 2024. Those comments are posted on the PLF website.

OIL AND GAS REGULATIONS 43 CFR PART 3100

STATUS: The BLM on March 27, 2024 announced the release of the Final Methane Rule, or Oil and Gas Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation Rule (43 CFR Parts 3160 and 3170). On April 24, 2024, the States of North Dakota, Montana, Texas, and Wyoming filed a Complaint in U.S. District Court to vacate the Final Rule and seek a decision that the Final Rule is unlawful. On May 10, 2024, the State of Utah joined the Complaint. The States assert that the Rule violates the Clean Air Act, which reserves the control of air emissions to the EPA and the States, and exceeds BLM's authority under the Mineral Leasing Act and the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act. The U.S. District Court of North Dakota on September 12, 2024 issued a decision to grant a Preliminary Injunction in the case and halted implementation of the Final Methane Rule in North Dakota, Texas, Utah, Montana and Wyoming. The Court ruled that the regulation represents a significant impingement of States' rights and targets an area that is already regulated by the Clean Air Act and State laws. The BLM on April 12, 2024 announced release of the Final Oil and Gas Leasing Rule to reflect provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. On May 14, 2024, Senator Daines (MT) introduced a Congressional Review resolution (S.J. Res. 78) to overturn the Leasing Rule provisions under the authority of the Congressional Review Act. That action is pending.

SUMMARY: The Final Methane or 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. 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 Leasing 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 nonoperational 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.

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 (PLANNING) AND 6100 (ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE)

STATUS: The BLM on April 18, 2024 announced the release of the Final Public Lands (Conservation and Landscape Health) Rule under the 43 CFR 1600 and 6100 regulations. The BLM Director on August 8, 2024, announced that a Federal Advisory Committee will be established to engage the public in implementation of the Public Lands Rule and that BLM released a set of initial guidance documents to support consistent implementation of the Rule across the BLM State and Field Offices. The initial guidance documents released on August 8 include a Restoration Prioritization and Planning IM, Watershed Condition Assessment IM, Land Health Standards IM, Restoration and Mitigation Leasing IM, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Manual, Inventory and Monitoring of Ecological Resources Manual, and Land Use Planning Requirements IB. The BLM on October 18 announced a call for nominations for the 15-member Advisory Committee.

Considerable controversy has surrounded the intent of this Rule. *Congressman John Curtis (R-Utah) introduced legislation in the last session of Congress that would rescind the Rule and also filed a Resolution pursuant to the Congressional Review Act to void the Rule. Senator John Barrasso (R-Wyoming) also introduced legislation in the last session of Congress and announced his intent to use the Congressional Review Act to void the Rule.*

Congressman Ryan Zinke (R-Montana) added a rider to the Interior FY 2025 appropriations bill to suspend the Rule, although it was not included in the Continuing Resolution approved by Congress. The States of Utah and Wyoming on June 18, 2024 filed suit in U.S. District Court of Utah challenging the adequacy of NEPA review in issuance of the Final Rule. The States of North Dakota, Idaho and Montana filed a suit on June 21, 2024. A coalition of energy, mining, ranching and farming groups on July 12, 2024 filed a suit in U.S. District Court of Wyoming asserting that the Final Rule exceeds the authority of FLPMA. On July 25, 2024, the Conservation Lands Foundation, The Wilderness Society, and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance filed a Motion to Intervene in the U.S. District Court of Utah to defend BLM in the lawsuit against the Rule. These conservation groups also on September 19, 2024, filed a Motion to Intervene in the U.S. District Court of North Dakota. The Department of Justice on August 1 and September 6, 2024 filed motions with the Courts to dismiss the claims by the States for a preliminary injunction in the case.

SUMMARY: The Final Rule supports the principles of multiple use and sustained yield in the management of the public lands, restoration of degraded habitat, and applies 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 Final Rule also includes provisions that allow a BLM State Director to place temporary management restrictions on “nominated” ACECs until land use management plans are completed for ACEC areas. 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 the BLM on June 15, 2023 and those comments are posted on the PLF website.

BLM LEADERSHIP

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

Director	Jon Raby (<i>Acting</i>)
Principle Deputy Director	Vacant
Deputy Director, Programs & Admin	Michael Nedd
Deputy Director, State Operations	Karen Kelleher
Alaska State Office	Erika Reed (<i>Acting</i>)
Arizona State Office	Raymond Suazo
California State Office	Joe Stout
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	Matt Preston (<i>Acting</i>)
Wyoming State Office	Andrew Archuleta

I HATE E-MAIL SPAM

Several of our PLF members have reported problems with receipt of PLF e-mail messages and /or receipt of the electronic version of the quarterly *Monitor* newsletter. It appears these problems are the result of e-mail addresses that have not been updated or the result of e-mail SPAM filters that some PLF members may be using to screen potential SPAM messages. **To ensure our records and contact information are current please provide any updates of your e-mail address by messaging us at info@publicland.org or by sending to Scott MacPherson at smacpherson@publicland.org.**



Some PLF members may also be using SPAM filters to move unwanted e-mail messages to their SPAM, Trash, or Junk e-mail folders or automatically deleting and removing messages as if they were never there. Some members have even used some types of SPAM filters that completely block all e-mail unless they have personally approved only specific senders to be delivered to their e-mail inbox. These types of e-mail eliminators may sound like a good idea, but they may also block e-mail lists that you have already joined like the PLF membership database that includes your e-mail address. The PLF now sends the quarterly *Monitor* newsletter and other important membership information using your e-mail address.

There is no right or wrong way to control potential SPAM, but limiting your junk e-mail does come with pitfalls based on your understanding of the power of SPAM filters. It is all too common that legitimate mail, including possibly PLF mail, gets swept into the Trash or permanently deleted with the slightest misunderstood filtering word. Be careful in your use of SPAM filters and perhaps instead of choosing to permanently delete the e-mail, simply put it in your Trash folder and periodically check your Trash folder for PLF mail or other important e-mail. Bottom line with filtering your incoming e-mail: be careful, test your filtering rules, and double check the results often to make sure things are not slipping through to the dark side.

INTERIOR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

PLF MEMBERSHIP

Since 2017, the Interior Federal Credit Union and PLF have supported one another's missions. The Credit Union currently offers membership to employees and their families, members, and volunteers of the PLF. Recently, the Credit Union expanded the partnership to support PLF programs, including the George Lea Founder's Scholarship and the John Freemuth Student Congress. The Credit Union makes a yearly donation to PLF and allows individuals in search of membership eligibility a way to join both the Credit Union and PLF. The PLF added 10 new members to our membership rolls since September 2024 under this new partnership effort.

The Interior Federal Credit Union is the official credit union for Department of the Interior employees, contractors, support groups, volunteers, and their families supporting the financial needs specific to these individuals and the work they support. Join the Interior Federal Credit Union if you are not already a member and learn how you can earn \$250 with a new credit card! Already a member but have a relative or co-worker that could benefit from the Credit Union's services? Refer them and you could both earn \$50.

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



STRENGTH. STEWARDSHIP. COMMUNITY.

IN MEMORIAM

Francis “Fran” Roy Cherry Jr. on November 13, 2024, in Highland, UT. Fran earned a degree in Zoology from Brigham Young University and a Master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin. He began his 40-year career with BLM in 1967 as a Natural Resources Specialist in Vernal, UT and was promoted to Area Manager in 1970. His other assignments included Regional Planner in the Colorado State Office, Branch Chief for Solid Minerals in the Headquarters Office, District Manager in Roswell, Associate State Director in Montana, and Alaska State Director. He retired as the BLM Deputy Director for Operations in Washington, D.C. in 2007. He was presented with the PLF Lifetime Service Award in 2023.



Fran Cherry

Paul Lance on November 27, 2024, in Fountain Hills, AZ. Paul had a career in BLM working in information technology in the Denver Service Center, the Arizona State Office, and the Washington, D.C. headquarters office.

Kit Muller on December 6, 2024, in Washington, D.C. Kit was born and raised in Montana. He did his undergraduate work in Social Anthropology at Harvard University and his graduate work in Economics and Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. He worked for BLM for over 30 years, primarily in the Washington, D.C. headquarters office, and was the BLM Strategic Planner and Initiatives Coordinator. He guided and coordinated the BLM’s efforts to systematically understand and address landscape-scale changes on the public lands including climate change, wildland fire, invasive species, urban growth and industrial development, and was instrumental in the development of BLM mitigation strategies. In 2015, Kit was awarded the Department of the Interior Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his strategic landscape-scale planning policies, development of Rapid Ecoregional Assessment (REA) methodologies, and mitigation work on the public lands. Prior to working for BLM, Kit worked as a Congressional staffer, for the State of California, and for a number of national and regional non-governmental organizations. *If you would like to send any memories or stories of Kit to the family, please provide to Jenna Whitlock at jenna.whitlock@gmail.com.*

Jeannette Parker on September 18, 2012, in Ennis, TX. Jeannette was a Navy WAVE, a civil service secretary, and an office manager for the BLM in Arizona.

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.*



Emigrant National Historic Trail – WY (BLM photo)

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		Gregg and Mary Simmons		

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

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**, the **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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UTAH DISINFORMATION

For decades, Utah has been at the epicenter of a well-funded, well-organized effort to transfer the public lands, owned by all Americans, into State ownership that could then be a model for other states to follow. In 2010, Utah legislators passed HB143 Eminent Domain Authority based on the Enclave Clause of the U.S. Constitution, despite their legal counsel informing them that HB143 was unconstitutional. In 2012, Utah passed HB148 Transfer of Public Lands Act, despite being informed that based on the Property Clause and the Supremacy Clause in the U.S. Constitution, the law was unconstitutional. HB 148 demanded the United States transfer title to about 30 million acres of Federal public land and the resources they contain into State property. In 2015, the Utah Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands hired an out-of-state legal team whose task was to “evaluate alternative legal theories that Utah may use in court to attempt to gain ownership or control of the public lands with[in] its borders.” And the list goes on, using disinformation to construct a false narrative, now believed by millions of Americans and their elected representatives in the western United States, that it is unconstitutional for the Federal government to own public land and that the land in question was both promised at statehood, but also originally belonged to the state.

Recently, a landmark lawsuit challenging Federal control over millions of acres of “unappropriated” America’s public land in Utah was filed by the Office of the Governor, Utah Senate, Utah House of Representatives, and the Utah Attorney General. This lawsuit and its partner marketing campaign *Stand for Our Land - Let Utah Manage Utah Land* contain all the hallmarks of a disinformation campaign designed to gaslight the American public and their elected representatives at all levels of government into believing the false narrative that the lands in question originally belonged to Utah, which they did not. Utah’s public land lawsuit is without merit. The *Stand for Our Land - Let Utah Manage Utah Land* campaign is based on false statements that are easily fact-checked. However, if Utah’s well-funded, well-organized multi-state strategy publicity stunt lawsuit and equally flawed *Stand for Our Land* campaign go unchallenged in the market of public opinion, the theft of America’s public land by a handful of people in power could quickly become

a reality. Every member of Congress must be told the truth behind Utah’s false narrative.

If you care about America’s public land and continued access to it, whether you are a family living in Iowa who vacations out West or a 4-wheel drive enthusiast living in a western state, you need to make sure you understand the ramifications of not speaking up on behalf of YOUR Public Lands and then ensure YOUR Representatives to both Houses of Congress know that YOU DO NOT WANT America’s PUBLIC LANDS TRANSFERRED. Because once YOUR public land is transferred into State and private ownership, you will never get it back.

Carey Dabney
Moab, Utah

AMARGOSA BASIN MONUMENT CAMPAIGN, CALIFORNIA

The Amargosa Basin and associated BLM-managed public lands lie between the Death Valley National Park and the Mojave National Preserve in southern California. Many of the resources in the Amargosa Basin, such as its endangered flora and fauna, geology, and human history, are equally as rich as its protected neighbors but historically the Amargosa had very little legal protection.

However, over the last fifteen years, local residents, working together with environmental groups, Tribes and legislative representatives, have been successful in changing the land status of this area from unprotected to protected through different units of the BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). This shift is especially important for the future of the Amargosa Basin and its surrounding ecosystems since the Amargosa provides a corridor for flora and fauna between the Death Valley National Park and the Mojave Preserve. As a result of this added protection these larger ecosystems are not fragmented and connectivity for plants and wildlife is maintained. In addition, these land status changes have provided a higher level of stewardship including a more thorough interpretation of the resources for visitors and residents. But the Amargosa Basin has an additional resource that the Death Valley National Park and the Mojave National Preserve are lacking: a river runs through it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *(continued)*

The Amargosa River often is called the crown jewel of the Mojave Desert because of its beauty and abundant resources. It also is called the “hide and seek” river because much of its journey is underground, sporadically popping up and sustaining lush desert spring ecosystems that support many unique plants and animal species that are found nowhere else in the world. The rich riparian resources that support a wide variety of plant and animal life also attracted early man to its banks as evidenced by its archaeological resources. Since time immemorial the Newe and the Nuwuvi people have been caretakers of these lands and have enriched the area because of their meaningful history and culture. In 1829 Antonio Armijo established the Old Spanish Trail, bringing a constant flow of visitors into the Amargosa region and in 2002 this trail was recognized as part of the National Trail System.

In the last ten years, because of growing threats to the area that threaten its water, it became clear once again to the community, and to those that love the region, that a new land status change was needed to protect the area and the associated public lands for future generations. As a way of meeting these challenges the Friends of the Amargosa Basin was incorporated in December 2020 with the primary purpose of changing the land status of the area to a National Monument designation. Now four years later the Friends of the Amargosa Basin has created a strong foundation of support for a Monument designation. The Amargosa Basin already has many designated units of the NLCS, a Wild and Scenic River, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, a National Historic Trail and is part of the BLM-managed California Desert Conservation Area. It makes sense to take the next step and designate it as a National Monument, a step that would honor the land and its people.

Susan Sorrells, President
Friends of the Amargosa Basin
Shoshone, California

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.



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