



BLM NEWS RELEASE

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THE BLM PRESENTS 2010 NATIONAL AWARDS TO VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE “MAKING A DIFFERENCE” ON PUBLIC LANDS

Four individuals, two groups, one couple, and a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employee each received the prestigious BLM “Making a Difference” National Volunteer Award for their public service contributions at a May 5, 2010, ceremony at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. The volunteers honored (with the locations of their volunteer work) were:

- **KHRYSTYL BEST**, Fisherman’s Bend Recreation Site, OR; and **CHUCK FRAZIER**, Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, OR
- **JOHN SCHEURING**, Ironwood Forest National Monument, AZ
- **PIEDRAS BLANCAS LIGHT STATION OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA’S VOLUNTEERS**, CA
- **MATT DILLON**, Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range, MT
- **RED ROCK CANYON CULTURAL RESOURCE TEAM**, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, NV
- **PAT AND CHUCK WILLIAMS**, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, NV
- **NOËL STEPHENS**, California Desert District Office, CA, was the winning BLM employee.

This year, for the first time, fully half of the award winners were acknowledged for work on sites within the BLM’s National Landscape Conservation System, celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2010.

The featured speaker was BLM Director Bob Abbey, who expressed his appreciation for the hard work that BLM volunteers put into helping the agency fulfill its challenging multiple-use mission: “The BLM is grateful for the assistance of such interested citizens, who believe in our mission, who love the public lands, and who are willing to volunteer their time and energy in a spirit of cooperation. Their efforts support President Obama’s newly-established America’s Great Outdoors Initiative, which directs the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to take a leadership role in engaging with partners to benefit our nation’s ‘outdoor legacy.’”

The Director spoke with each winner individually, and posed for photos with all. Additional speakers included Jim Murkin, Deputy Director of the BLM’s Office of the National Landscape Conservation System and Community Partnerships, and BLM Associate State Directors for States that had winners.

Those honored this year were recognized for achievements ranging from weed eradication to wild horse tracking, from rock art documentation to enhancement of elk habitat. Thousands of BLM volunteers make significant contributions on America’s 253 million acres of public lands each year, performing numerous functions in every aspect of public land management. Many of these jobs, such as campground management and trail repair, would simply not get done without

volunteer support. In 2009 alone, for example, BLM volunteers donated approximately 1.1 million hours of service, equivalent to the work of more than 600 full-time employees.

Each year since 1996, the BLM has honored the most exceptional of these volunteers, as well as BLM employees who work with volunteers, through its “Making a Difference” National Volunteer Awards program. This program supports the President’s emphasis on community service, and is also part of the “Take Pride in America” initiative.

Additional information about the BLM’s volunteer program is available online at:

<http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/res/Volunteer.html>

The Oregon/Washington BLM’s 2010 “Making a Difference” honorees are profiled in the paragraphs below.

The BLM manages more land – 253 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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OREGON AND WASHINGTON VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE “MAKING A DIFFERENCE” ON PUBLIC LANDS



KHRYSTYL BEST, FISHERMAN’S BEND RECREATION SITE, OR: As a volunteer for the BLM’s Cascade Resource Area, Khrystyl Best performs office manager/volunteer coordinator duties at the Fishermen’s Bend Campground. She coordinates check-ins for campers, ensures that campsites are clean and ready for use, collects site fees and interagency passes, coordinates firewood sales, tracks visitor use data, and performs data entry. In 2009, Khrystyl initiated and supervised the in-house manufacturing of vehicle vouchers (hang tags) for all overnight camping facilities, saving the BLM approximately \$2,000 in printing costs. In addition to her office duties, Khrystyl assists in supervising a large number of volunteers and campground hosts at the various developed recreation sites within the Cascade Recreation Zone. She tracks and reports volunteer hours, assists with recruiting volunteers/camp hosts, conducts reference checks, schedules and participates in the volunteer interview process, and trains volunteers/camp hosts in office and park duties. Khrystyl is also the recreation site’s Environmental Education Program Lead, offering visitors classes in areas ranging from basic outdoor survival to tree and plant identification.

CHUCK FRAZIER, DEAN CREEK ELK VIEWING AREA, OR: Chuck Frazier is a long-term volunteer at Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, a site that receives an average of 500,000 visitors each year. In coordination with BLM partner organizations, Chuck has helped to implement and oversee maintenance, outreach, and environmental education program efforts at the site. In 2009 alone, he assisted youth corps and inmate crews with noxious weed removal and assisted with fee collections. He also regularly mowed an eight-acre lawn, cleaned restrooms, picked up trash, made repairs, built fences, removed graffiti, and hauled literally tons of garbage to the local dump. Chuck regularly participates in community activities such as National Public Lands Day volunteer projects and local beach cleanups, and has assisted the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation at its Dean Creek annual meeting.

