

Northwest Passage Volume 3, Issue 3 – Autumn 2011

Cover

Northwest Passage

blm.gov/or

BLM Oregon/Washington

The Bureau of Land Management Magazine for Oregon and Washington

Autumn 2011

Let It Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!

[Illustration of Youths Enjoying Winter Recreation]

BLM Recycles

[Image of Recycling Symbol]

[Image of BLM Logo]

Op-“Ed”

[Photo of Ed Shepard, State Director, Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management]

[Photo of Silver Falls in Oregon]

Photo by Matt Christenson

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Letter from Edward W. Shepard, State Director, Oregon/Washington, Bureau of Land Management

IT'S HOLIDAY SEASON IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, and we at the BLM send our very best wishes to our friends and families in the communities where we live and serve. At the end of each year, I like to look back and take stock of what we have accomplished over the past 12 months. And not just our accomplishments, but also their costs.

In these challenging economic times, Americans are very interested in how our tax dollars are being spent. Each of us is taking a closer look at what we're getting for our investment. As a taxpayer, I'm right there with you.

Did you know the BLM actually provides a positive return on your tax dollars? And I don't just mean a positive return in terms of our breathtaking recreation sites which see almost eight million(1) visitors annually. I'm also not referring to our protection of America's Great Outdoors. Or even our law enforcement officers and firefighters who may face danger to keep you and your family safe on public lands.

I'm talking about actual dollars. The BLM stimulates more than \$100 billion(2) in the national economy each year while operating on a budget of \$1.1 billion.(3) Here in Oregon and Washington, our economic impact in local economies is more than \$1.3 billion(4) from an annual budget of \$280 million.

That's a nice return on your investment.

Specifically in Oregon and Washington, the BLM generates revenue for the states and counties through grazing and mineral fees, recreation, payments in lieu of taxes, timber sales, and a number of other Federal fund sources. In 2010, the BLM put approximately \$100(5) million into rural Oregon communities hit hardest by the economy. Another \$125 million went to Washington state. And these figures don't count the 2,000(6) employees who live and work locally adding to the multiplier effect on our economy.

When I look back at what the BLM has accomplished in 2011, I feel grateful for the opportunity to have had such a positive impact on our neighbors and communities. At the end of the year, this financial return on our tax dollars feels like the perfect gift.

Happy holidays to you and your family.

Edward W. Shepard State Director Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management

Footnotes

1. 2010 BLM Facts, p. 47
2. on.doi.gov/plvwDM
on.doi.gov/hTluq1
3. on.doi.gov/mSfw4F
4. on.doi.gov/gtdQiV
on.doi.gov/oGsPTH
5. 2010 BLM Facts, p. 6
6. 2010 BLM Facts, p. 2

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Take it Outside!

Volume 3, Issue 3

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Mission:

The BLM’s mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Oregon and Washington, the BLM provides innovative leadership in managing natural resources of the Pacific Northwest.

This Month’s Cover

[Reproduction of Magazine Cover Illustration]

[Illustration of Youths Enjoying Winter Recreation]

Man, I love the holiday season. And you know what I like best? Giving. (Don't go back in time to tell my seven-year-old self. You'll blow his mind.)

There's just something about giving. The feeling is more lasting, more meaningful, and, ultimately, more rewarding. When I give, it's like I'm actually getting something you can't buy.

And that's one thing I love about working for the BLM. From our economic return to local communities to our youth outreach like educating kids about America's Great Outdoors and recognizing well-deserving Boy Scouts for their bravery to some awesome winter recreation on the public lands, the BLM's very mission is all about public service and making a positive impact for our fellow Americans.

Hey, you know what? Forget what I said about my seven-year-old self. If you can build a time machine, tell him. I don't want him to miss a minute of this feeling.

Happy holidays – and hope to see you out there this winter!

– Matt Christenson

Our Contributors

[Six Photos of Contributors on Image of a Cork Board – Erin O'Reilly, Christina Lilienthal, Jeff Clark, Sara Waugh, Trish Hogervorst, Matt Christenson]

1: Northwest Passage has an intern – just like the big magazines! Okay, that's not totally true. But the BLM is incredibly lucky to have intern Erin O'Reilly working in our Public Affairs Office developing terrific written and video content. Inside our current issue, Erin wrote an awesome story about Oregon Boy Scouts boldly quenching a forest fire (Page 14) as well as an overview of BLM Facts, our annual almanac of all things BLM (Page 19). We really appreciate Erin – and that's a fact.

2: Oregon Beavers versus Ducks? In Northwest Passage? Afraid so. Seems their rivalry knows no bounds. And Christina Lilienthal documents how this age-old competition goes back to prehistoric times (Page 10). Read how a chance stop on a road trip led BLM archaeologist John Zancanella to find the oldest beaver teeth of its kind in North America. Sorry, Ducks – you don't have teeth anyway.

3: Cool Halloween costume, Jeff! What's that? It's not a costume? Oops. Well, we better not mess with Jeff right now because he looks pretty stressed. Probably because he's been extra busy inside this issue interviewing the Horse Whisperer (Page 15) and bringing his series about the BLM in the movies (Page 24) to a satisfying dénouement. (That's Hollywood talk for "end.") Plus Jeff took the photos for Sara Waugh's San Juan article. Nice job, Jeff. Roll credits.

4: Summer Seasonal Sensation Sara Waugh! In this photo she's prepping her scope for visitors to the San Juan Islands. From behind the lens they'll see some of the most breathtaking views found on America's public lands – from sea lions to sunsets to snow-peaked mountains in Canada. Sure, it's a bit of a hike to get there, but the San Juan Islands are a treasure not to be missed. So how cool is it that they were Sara's "office" this past summer? And when she's not working for the BLM or sharing her experiences with us (Page 6), she's an award-winning artist. See you next year, Sara!

5: Trish Hogervorst always brings the coolest articles. Inside this issue is her story about an opportunity to get urban kids out of the boring ol' classroom (sorry, teachers) and take a field trip to the awe-inspiring outdoors of Oregon (Page 28) where they learn about the natural environment and gain new skills for college and beyond. Heck, maybe they'll end up working on America's public lands someday.

6: Can you see that hair? Sigh. 15 inches of locks and too many years ago, Matt Christenson played bass in a Spinal Tap cover band. Or something. Anyway, he claims he played at the Viper Room, but that's sort of hard to believe. While putting together this issue, Matt cut out about a million pieces of construction paper to create the wraparound cover. On his own time. During a weekend. (What happened to you, dude?) (Cover)

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Pages 6 – 9

Welcome to My Office: How I Spent My Summer with the BLM

[Photo of Pink Flowers in the Foreground and the San Juan Islands in the Background.]

Near the Canadian border, the San Juan Islands of Washington state served as the BLM “office” for summer staffer Sara Waugh.

Story by Sara Waugh

Photos by Jeff Clark

To my left, the majestic snow-capped Olympic Mountains oversee summer sailboats drifting through the Strait of Juan de Fuca. At my right, calls of Glaucous-winged Gulls hover above the barking harbor seals. I watch as our visitors, witness to it all, inevitably grow silent in awe.

Welcome to my office.

I am part of the BLM’s seasonal staff. My area of expertise is recreation. My locale, the San Juan Islands of Washington state. This past summer I could be found on the southern edge of Iceberg Point, one of four areas managed by the BLM on Lopez Island, a portion of the almost 1,000 acres under the BLM’s purview throughout the archipelago. Here I welcomed visitors by the score to a remote spot so far north we can see our Canadian neighbors.

THE WILD LIFE

In addition to welcoming many vacationers, I also conducted regular marine mammal watches at Iceberg Point. As the name indicates, visitors would join me to observe local marine wildlife of virtually every type. We saw harbor seals and their pups, Steller sea lions, Dall’s porpoises, and even the mighty Minke whale. As a bonus, bald eagles, turkey vultures, great blue herons, and gulls swooped the air above our heads before divebombing down to the water below.

I was constantly inspired by my visitors’ boundless enthusiasm for harbor seals sunning on the rocks below. It was impossible not to feel their infectious energy as I heard joyful exclamations from both young children and senior citizens alike. They all loved to observe the seals through the BLM’s powerful viewing scope and binoculars which I brought to the lookout for their use. It was especially gratifying to see youths from urban environments get the opportunity to connect with nature. The educational outreach program was one of my favorite aspects of my job.

RICH HISTORY

Another of my favorite experiences was to share stories of local history at nearby Watmough Bay, a very popular BLM site on Lopez Island. Both Iceberg Point and Watmough Bay average approximately 1,000 visitors per month during the peak months of July and August. And at Watmough I told the tale of an early settler family who homesteaded this land. In between relaying their exciting experiences, I also

educated everyone on the importance of the bay's marine ecosystem. As a result of these talks, audience members often asked me numerous questions about their public land and its human and natural history. Engaging the public was usually the highlight of my weeks.

PRESERVATION

Visitors to the San Juan Islands are generally very respectful of the land. But no one is perfect. So I spent time beautifying the island picking up litter, reminding folks to leash their dogs, recommending the use of bike racks, and otherwise helping ensure the land was enjoyed by everyone. I was always inspired by the friendly responses I received.

In addition to public outreach, island maintenance was a large part of my job. Brushing back foliage, cutting fallen trees out of trails, removing non-native plants, and replacing sun-faded signs were routine tasks that I enjoyed. And traveling to the outer islands was a special treat where I got to care for the historic lighthouses on Patos Island and Turn Point on Stuart Island. Volunteers often helped me. One great group is the Lopez Island Conservation Corps, a group of energetic high school students who commit to working on projects throughout the summer. And many others pitched in when they were available. I was impressed by our generous volunteers who volunteered their time to help maintain and enhance their public lands.

SO, UNTIL NEXT YEAR...

At the end of a long day, I loved to sit for a moment under my favorite Pacific madrone tree. In the distance, the crashing waves of Rosario Strait accompanied bird songs to play my own private chorus. It all reminded me that the natural world is an amazing and precious gift. I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity to protect this land and share its beauty with our visitors. So I hope you'll drop by my office next summer. You don't need an appointment. It's your public land – you're always welcome.

[Photo of a Snow-Capped Mountain]

From sea to snowcap, boaters around the San Juan Islands have so much to see

[Photo of a Saw Used as a Sign for Iceberg Point at the San Juan Islands]

[Photo of Sara Waugh Hosting Visitors to Iceberg Point]

Sara stands atop Iceberg Point sharing one of the most spectacular views in the world

[image of a QR Code Linking to a Video About Sara Waugh]

Put your smart phone over the QR code to check out a video of Sara in her office!

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Pages 10 – 13

Prehistoric Beast

[Illustration of a Beaver Skull]

Introducing...the oldest beaver teeth in America

By Christina Lilienthal

Art by Matt Christenson

On a cool, sunny winter day driving to the John Day Fossil Beds, BLM archaeologist John Zancanella made a routine stop near Dayville, Oregon. John was taking a trip to meet Dr. Josh Samuels – new paleontologist for the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument – and had planned a little extra time to check for fossils along the way.

Zancanella has found a number of fossils in this area – to include an extinct but fairly common beaver named *Dipoides*. But seasonal freezing and thawing of soil in eastern Oregon regularly draws new fossil fragments to surface. So you never know what you might find.

What first struck John was a couple of new teeth lying on the ground. He recognized them as rodent teeth, possibly beaver, but larger than any mountain beaver teeth he'd ever found before. Erosion deteriorates fossils, so John carefully collected and documented these specimens for curation and study. Excited, he got back in his car looking forward to sharing his new discovery with Samuels.

SERENDIPITY

Unbeknownst to Zancanella, Josh Samuels' specialty just happens to be beaver evolution. After brief introductions, they looked at Zancanella's find. Samuels recognized them immediately – the teeth were from a descendant of what is considered to be a "modern" beaver, *Castor*, found in North America today.

A bombardment of questions ensued.

First, where were the teeth found? Zancanella retrieved them between tuffs of hardened volcanic ash, below the youngest and the oldest tuffs. And the volcanic ash around them is datable.

Right away, Samuels realized the significance of these teeth. Based on the age of the neighboring tuffs, he knew Zancanella had unearthed the oldest-known discovery of this type of beaver in North America by nearly 2 million years. That day the two headed right back to the fossil site where Samuels found another sliver matching one of Zancanella's teeth.

MARCH OF THE BEAVERS

The sequence of dateable volcanic rock layers in the John Day Basin allows for the study of climate and evolutionary change in Oregon. Over time, the climate in this area has become cooler and drier, and the habitat has changed from a warm, wet subtropical forest to the shrub steppe it is today. And thanks to data previously captured from this area, these beaver teeth were found in the Rattlesnake Formation which is known to be from about seven million years ago.

Looking back to the past, the earliest “true” beaver as we think of them today comes from Germany about 10 to 12 million years ago. These beavers then spread across Asia and eventually crossed the Bering Land Bridge to North America. Zancanella’s new finding helps resolve when beavers actually arrived in North America and when the two current living species – the North American Castor canadensis and Eurasian Castor fiber – ultimately diverged.

PUTTING FOSSILS TO BED

The National Park Service’s John Day Fossil Beds National Monument (JODA) and the Oregon/Washington BLM are parties to a long-standing and ongoing interagency agreement to jointly manage paleontological resources on Federal lands. The Thomas Condon Paleontology Center at JODA serves as the main repository for specimens and records of paleontological resources found on BLM lands that fall within the scope of collections for the Monument. Each specimen found is carefully collected, identified, cataloged, and stored in environmentally-controlled conditions. The JODA collection preserves animal and plant fossils from the Cenozoic Period, including specimens from the last 50 million years of life on earth.

Paleontologists have been studying the John Day Basin for well over 100 years, but there is still much to learn about Oregon’s past. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument includes many of the best studied sites, but the vast majority of fossil localities are found on adjacent land administered by the BLM. Collaboration between Federal agencies has allowed all scientists to fulfill their mission by preserving important resources for future generations while conducting important scientific research to better understand changes in plants, animals and the environment.

BEAVERS VS. DUCKS?

Over the course of a year, Dr. Joshua Samuels and John Zancanella have co-authored a peer reviewed paper about this discovery that has been published in the current issue of the Journal of Paleontology. They have provided evidence of the oldest documented beaver in North America. Previously, the oldest known records were from Nebraska, California, and northern Oregon – and they only dated to around five million years of age. The “new” fossil teeth found near Dayville, Oregon, are almost identical to living beaver teeth, showing that the animal has changed very little in the last seven million years.

It is fitting that the earliest known beavers in North America have been found in Oregon. Long considered the state animal, the beaver is also the mascot of Oregon State University. Perhaps this will inspire their rivals, University of Oregon, to help John find evidence of a prehistoric duck...

[Photos of Archaeologists Studying Fossils, an Ancient Site, and an Oregon Scenic Byway Road Sign]

Photos above: Dr. Josh Samuels (in red shirt) and John Zancanella examine the discovery on public lands open to anyone taking a drive on Oregon's scenic byway. Opposite page: John Zancanella searches for more archaeological evidence. More info online @ on.doi.gov/peXmCc

Fire! Boy Scouts to the Rescue

By Erin O'Reilly

Art by Matt Christenson

[Image of Forest Fire Along a River]

[Image of a Boy Scout Emblem]

There you are. Rafting down the Deschutes River.

Having a great time. Suddenly, floating around a bend you see a fire raging out of control.

What do you do?

If you're Boy Scout Troop 198 of Washington County, Oregon, you become local heroes.

When the Boy Scouts noticed a cloud of smoke and heard cries of distress, they pulled together to douse the area with water. They used buckets and – how cool is this? – squirt guns. Their quick action helped stop the fire before it could spread to surrounding trees and nearby communities.

In October 2011, the BLM in Oregon and Washington recognized the boys for their bravery. State Director Edward W. Shepard said, "If it wasn't for the keen eyes of Troop 198, we may have had an unexpected wildfire on our hands" to an applauding audience of families and friends. "Their quick thinking helped to save taxpayers thousands of dollars," added BLM Prineville District Manager Deborah Henderson-Norton.

Connecting youths to America's Great Outdoors has long been a goal for the BLM. Troop 198 is an outstanding example of how this bond to our public lands inspires the youth of today to become caretakers for the future.

[Photo of Elsa Sinclair and a Horse Inset Into a Leather Book Cover]

story, photos, and design by jeff clark

[Photos of Elsa Sinclair Training Wild Horses]

Elsa Sinclair leans against a bay mare gently pushing it to a new location. Words are not spoken, but communication is definitely taking place. She stoops down and in one fluid motion has the horse's hoof and foreleg in the air bending the knee and then placing the hoof on the ground before moving to the next. All these moves are part of Elsa's new routine with Myrnah, a three-year-old mustang who is only two weeks removed from the wild in Oregon.

Training horses and teaching horsemanship are nothing new for Elsa, a founding member of the Plumb Pond Equine Sanctuary on San Juan Island in Washington. She works extensively with the cooperative of students and horses at the sanctuary and also teaches throughout the greater Northwest. In addition to working with domesticated horses, Elsa has also adopted and trained a number of mustangs. But Myrnah is different. Elsa has established a special training method and a one-year timeline for her.

"In this project I'm working with Myrnah who is new to people to see what we can do in one year without any tools of reinforcement. No ropes, no sticks, and no pens," Elsa says. "Now obviously I have to have big fences here, but I never push her into them and I always give her an exit route."

For this project, Elsa needed a horse unexposed to humans so a wild steed made sense. Plus she's adopted mustangs before, and they are her favorite horses to work with and ride.

"I got my first mustang about five years ago, and she ended up being pregnant so I got a foal about five months later. It's been an incredible experience. So of course I wanted to do it again." Then when Elsa found herself at last year's Oregon State Fair, she had her eye on a wild horse up for adoption at the BLM booth and corral. She continues, "I said listen, if anybody else comes and wants the grey filly you have for adoption, then she goes to them because I have too many horses. Nobody did. So on the last day of the fair - I only had 10 minutes to load the horses in order to make the ferry home - if the filly didn't hop right into the trailer I wouldn't be able to take her. And she jumped right in."

Elsa looks over at a few of her horses walking freely. She says, "Over the next few months working with my now domestic mustangs, I came up the idea of taking a mustang directly off the range, and training her for one year with no tools - just body language - to see if we can work cooperatively while learning and growing in a human-equine partnership."

Elsa acknowledges there have been trainers throughout history who have done what she is attempting. However, she knows of none who have done so without the use of tools to dominate at any stage of the process. And certainly the process has not been documented.

“For the next year I will be posting once a week on my blog to document Myrna’s and my progress in this collaborative journey. The process is going to be filmed for a documentary to be made after the year is over as well. It should be a fascinating project,” Elsa says as she gently pets Myrna’s head. “It’s already been pretty amazing watching her work cooperatively with me. Her choice, no force involved.”

To follow Elsa’s project you can read her blog at <http://equineclarity.wordpress.com>

To learn more about the BLM wild horse adoption program and to see horses available for adoption, please visit <http://on.doi.gov/uMB6rv>

Or just place your smartphone on our QR code to meet Elsa in a video and see more online links.

[Image of QR Code Between Two Pointing Hands]

I wonder how much of Oregon is public land managed by the BLM... (see p. 3)*

It's all in...BLM Facts Oregon & Washington

By Erin O'Reilly

Did you know almost eight million people recreated on Oregon and Washington's public lands last year? Or how the BLM stimulates more than \$100 billion to the national economy each year? It's true.

If you haven't checked out the latest edition of BLM Facts, you're missing out on an annual almanac of all the amazing things happening on your public lands.

BLM Facts is chock full o' color maps, photos, facts and figures, and all sorts of user-friendly information that help to tell the story of America's Great Outdoors. From cultural sites to timber sales and even wild horses and burros, it's all here.

By picking up a copy or checking out our e-book version (special jetpack edition coming soon), you can explore all the different BLM programs in Oregon and Washington.

But wait, there's more?! Yep, there's always more... To find out what, pick up the latest issue of BLM Facts and see all the amazing resources located right in your very own backyard.

Read your free e-book of this year's BLM Facts and all back editions. They're online at <http://on.doi.gov/q7QSfx>*

[Illustration of a Hiker Overlooking Forests and Mountains]

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District Round-Up

Welcome to news from the BLM in Oregon & Washington!

[Illustrated Map of Oregon & Washington with all ten Districts Identified]

Your BLM Districts are “All Over the Map!”

Burns, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/burns

- The Burns District is a valuable partner in one of the greatest – and arguably toughest – 10K races in Oregon: the Steens Rim Run & Walk. Held annually on Steens Mountain, this year’s race brought record participants and finishers. Over 260 men and women signed up for the high elevation climb with 244 showing up at the starting line to finish the race. The youngest racer to cross the tape was 6-year-old Hunter Kemper. The oldest, Marie Jetley, set a new record in the women’s run in the 70+ age group. Come run above the clouds at the 30th anniversary Steens Rim Run on August 4, 2012! Visit www.steensrimrun.com for more information.

[Photo of Steens Mountain near Burns, Oregon]

The top of Steens Mountain!

- Mustangs from the Kiger and Riddle Mountain Herd Management Areas in southeast Oregon were part of an adoption event this fall. No other horse in America is quite like the Kiger Mustang. Most wild horses are of mixed influence and characteristics, but the Kiger Mustangs possess many characteristics of the original Spanish Mustang. For more information on future adoption events, and/or to view photos of horses available for adoption, please visit www.blm.gov/adoptahorse

Coos Bay, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay

- It’s a winning streak! The Coos Bay District received the American Fisheries’ Society Riparian Challenge Award for their 2010 Partnership Watershed Restoration Projects. With private, state and Federal partners, over 1350 logs, 5 boulder structures, 50 cubic yards of spawning gravel was placed within 20 stream miles to improve stream habitat.

- The Dean Creek Youth Corps, comprised of youth from the Reedsport and Coos Bay communities, recently completed restoration and maintenance work at the O.H. Hinsdale Rhododendron garden. The Youth Corps was commissioned as part of the District’s efforts to implement the national Youth Initiative and employ youth from ages 16-25.

[Photo of American Youths Improving the Public Lands]

American youths are hard at work on their public lands

Eugene, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/eugene

- Since our last update, the Eugene District's Road Maintenance folks have been busy! They replaced 72 cross drains and chip sealed 36 miles of roads. Not to be left behind, the Tyrrell Seed Orchard sprouted a new addition – a brand-new seed laboratory which will hold all conifer seeds for the BLM in western Oregon.

- But it hasn't been all work and no play! Eugene also celebrated Bohemia Mining Days in Cottage Grove, working with the U.S. Forest Service at the event. Thousands flocked to Bohemia for their four-day festival.

Lakeview, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview

- The Lakeview District along with the Fremont-Winema National Forest is partnering with the Lake County Library to bring bilingual natural resource story times to the youth of Lake County. A number of interagency publications are also being translated into Spanish. Multimedia material, books and audio products are being purchased to introduce youth to natural resources through bilingual means and will be made available to check out at the Lake County Library.

[Photo of Sandra Castro Holding Publications She'll Translate Into Spanish]

Sandra Castro holds publications she is translating into Spanish

- In September, BLM Law Enforcement with the assistance of the Klamath, Jackson, and Lake County Sheriff's offices as well as Immigration Customs Enforcement and the Jackson County SWAT Team raided a marijuana grow operation in the Lakeview District. Officers took two suspects into custody and eradicated over 4,200 plants from the Klamath River Canyon area near Keno, Oregon.

Medford, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/medford

- The Medford District provided summer jobs for 109 youth on six different youth crews. Almost 41,000 hours were spent on important projects like building trails, restoring ecosystems, improving recreation facilities, and creating fuel breaks. Youth from Americorps, Jackson County Job Council, Josephine County Job Council, Jefferson Youth Conservation Corps, Northwest Youth Corps, and the Student Conservation Association participated and worked at least two weeks on the Medford District. Great job!

[Photo of a Medford Recreation Facility]

Young Americans make important improvements to local recreation facilities

Continues on next page

More great news from the BLM in Oregon & Washington!

Prineville, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/Prineville

- The Prineville District recently implemented the Cline Buttes Recreation Area Plan with the Heart of Oregon Youth Corps supported by the BLM's youth initiative funding. Fence removal and construction, sign installation, rehabilitation of unwanted trail routes, and construction of new routes have been

completed. The Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) portion of the Cline Buttes Recreation Area south of State Highway 126 and west of Barr Road has seen a newly developed trailhead at North Barr Road. A new Maston Trailhead is under development to provide parking for horse trailers and single vehicles – plus a restroom and small picnic area. The signing of seasonal trails in the Fryrear and Dry Canyon areas and the relocation of fencing to help manage motorized and non-motorized uses in the north and south ends of Barr Road are making a difference in this urban interface area between Bend, Sisters, and Redmond. In addition, vegetation management projects are being planned near the Eagle Crest Resort community to reduce wildfire risk and improve old-growth juniper woodlands.

[Photo of Workers Installing a Fence]

New fencing near Cline Buttes

Roseburg, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg

- Cycle Oregon visited the Roseburg District this year by traveling along the BLM-managed Back-Country Byway of Cow Creek on their journey from the town of Sutherlin to the coast and back again. To make sure the cyclists had the best scenery possible, the Roseburg District held what will now be known as the annual Lenny Dour Backcountry Byway cleanup. This cleanup was carried out as part of National Public Lands Day and saw BLM staff remove over 400 pounds of trash, several tires, a dishwasher, and one rat-gnawed mattress. Thanks to the efforts of our Recreation Maintenance team, the day use area that served as a water station for Cycle Oregon had clean facilities and landscaping for our cycling visitors.
- The Roseburg District's South River Resource Area conducted stream restoration work in Thompson, Muns, and Chasm Creek. Over 400 logs and 500 boulders were placed to mimic natural disturbances and historic conditions. The restoration efforts this year are the result of extensive planning, coordinating, and partnership work with the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and resource specialists within the Roseburg District. "The placed logs and boulders serve as habitat features for both juvenile and adult salmon which will aid in the overall recovery of a threatened species."

[Photo of Cyclists from Cycle Oregon Taking a Break Near Roseburg, Oregon]

Cycle Oregon visits Roseburg!

Salem, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/salem

- During the month of July, the Cascades Resource Area recreation program employed around 55 youths per week at the Marmot and Sandy Ridge projects, as well as at the South Zone Fishermen's Bend complex. Salem is thrilled to support the BLM's initiative to employ young Americans while also helping build new bonds to our natural resources.
- Close to Portland, a new mountain biking trail in the Sandy Ridge Trail System, Quid Pro Flow, opened for public use. Approximately 125 riders attended the opening. BLM recreation staff, trail builders from the International Mountain Biking Association and local youth crews attended the event. The new trail

complements existing trails within the system and features innovative building techniques like stone pitching and road to trail conversion.

[Photo of Off-Road Rider on the Sandy Ridge Trail System]

The Salem District's Zach Jarrett zooms up a trail at the new Quid Pro Flow

Spokane, Washington: blm.gov/or/districts/spokane

- One of Spokane's 2011 highlights was Root Day, a celebration of "first roots," traditional foods that continue to be collected and prepared by many Native American peoples of the region. This annual event is organized and conducted with the Spokane Tribe and community groups and affiliated organizations on BLM-administered lands in eastern Washington. This year approximately 300 people, including youths from the Spokane Reservation, at-risk Native American youth groups, and other interested organizations participated in the event. Root Day provides an opportunity for Native American youths to learn and participate in traditional root gathering practices with their elders. The ceremony also fosters trust and cooperation among the members of the tribes, affiliated organizations, and the BLM.

[Photo of Visitors to the 2011 Root Day]

All ages enjoyed the 2011 Root Day

Vale, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/vale

- The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center offered a number of pioneer-style activities and frontier crafts for families with youngsters and holiday visitors looking for an alternative to shopping on the day after Thanksgiving. Activities included making beeswax candles, colorful leaf rubbings, and rice cake bird feeders. There was also a scavenger hunt plus classic American games like Jackstraws and Simon Says along with traditional Native American games like Tasiha Unpi (Catching Deer Bones with a Needle). Episodes from the video series Pioneer Life for Children was shown throughout the day to include "The Pioneer Journey Westward" and "Daily Pioneer Life." And frontier toys show and tell demonstrations were popular with visitors of all ages!

Plus daily updates at Facebook and Twitter!

Two times before you have felt the exhilaration, known the drama, lived the action, but this is the one you've been waiting for.

BLM on Film: The Final Chapter

By Jeff Clark

[Many Images of Film Reels, VHS and DVD Boxes, and Still Photos]

Why do good things always come in three? (Um, Godfather 3?) Today we screen our third and final installment of "BLM on Film," and this edition promises to have more drama, more action, and more romance than ever before.

Okay, maybe we're getting a little carried away with the whole movie theme, but it's amazing how often Hollywood pays tribute to the photogenic quality of your public lands in Oregon and Washington. And so, to bring "BLM on Film" to closure as a trilogy (perfect, let's learn from Star Wars), we feature four films shot on location in Oregon.

[Image of a QR Code]

Matt, up against deadline. Giving you my notebook. Took a photo of my draft – see top left corner. – Jeff

p.s. Put your smartphone over my QR Code...

Hopefully this makes sense. Would you mind editing the article and doing something with my photos?

[Image of VHS Box from *The River Wild*]

Partially Shot on Rogue River

[Image of VHS Box from *The Postman*]

Shot Near Bend

Type and use for conclusion. So if you'd like to see some beautiful public lands given the Hollywood treatment, check out these films. Better yet, get out and visit the sites in person. Don't forget your camera so you can get photos and video of your friends and family walking in the footsteps of John Wayne, Meryl Streep, and Clint Eastwood.

And as you watch movies, take a closer look at the scenery on screen. These stunning vistas and beautiful forests, majestic rivers, and fantastic white-capped mountains may be your very own public lands.

I'm sure you can fix all this during editing and layout. Thanks – you're the best!

Meet Bob Abbey

Preserving our public lands, protecting America's wild horses, & giving a little career advice to a young guitar picker named Jimmy Buffett

Interview by Michael Campbell

[Photo of Bob Abbey in a Forest]

Since our last issue, *Northwest Passage's* Michael Campbell had an opportunity to sit down with BLM Director Bob Abbey. "Previously, we chatted with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar," says Campbell. "And pretty soon folks in Oregon and Washington started asking us when we'd talk to the BLM's national director."

In their conversation, Bob Abbey looked back on his 34 years of public service to share some insights into where the BLM has been – and where it's headed. Not to mention a story from Abbey's early days on the University of Southern Mississippi campus where he had a few ideas for the future singer of "Margaritaville" and "Cheeseburgers in Paradise."

Northwest Passage (NWP): So, it turns out there's apparently a lot of very famous people to come from the University of Southern Mississippi: Jimmy Buffett, the Grand Ole Opry's Nan Kelly...

BLM Director Bob Abbey (BA): (Laughs) I did not know Nan Kelly was from the University of Southern Mississippi.

NWP: Yes, also University of Texas football coach Mac Brown and Hall of Fame punter Ray Guy.

BA: Ray Guy. Yep. I went to school with Ray Guy.

NWP: Some guy named Brett Favre, yourself. So what's in the water down there that you think would generate such star power and such a significant group of alumni?

BA: Well, I think every school and every university produces their share of people who have contributed back in some way to society and have represented their institutions well. You know, I look back on my days at the University of Southern Mississippi. It was a University that had at that time around thirteen thousand students, a lot of social change in the Deep South, an opportunity for us, in the end, to contribute to some of that change.

BA: Now, quick story about Jimmy Buffett. When I was a freshman, Jimmy Buffett had graduated the semester before I came on as a freshman. But he was still hanging around the campus, and I remember going to the cafeteria on a daily basis during the fall semester at Southern Miss and there would be this person sitting on a bench and playing a guitar and singing. And I would often pass this individual

routinely, and I used to think, “Wow, this guy really needs to get a job.” That person turned out to be Jimmy Buffett.

NWP: Very funny.

BA: He went on and got a job.

NWP: Are there any leadership qualities, traits, or devices that you employed in your career early on that you have since dropped or altered?

BA: The most important lesson that I learned early, early on – whether it’s with the state parks or just in our personal lives – I think a lot of our successes are built upon relationships. That you have to have a relationship in place before you can move forward and pursue common goals.

And that’s been a lesson that I learned during my days in the fraternity at University of Southern Mississippi. It’s the lessons that I learned as part of my short career with the state parks. It’s certainly a lesson that I have learned in my career in the Bureau of Land Management. Again, one of the things that I have routinely said, and I truly believe this – as a nation, as citizens of this United States, we have a lot more in common than we have differences.

Unfortunately we can allow our differences to get in the way of moving forward and pursuing our common goals. We have got to change that as we move forward in pursuit of our common goals. We ought to continue to have a dialogue on our differences and to work towards resolving those differences. But sometimes this is not going to be accomplished overnight.

And let’s move forward with the actions that are necessary to benefit the largest number of people that we serve and to stay focused. That’s the other thing I think we as a Bureau of Land Management are challenged with.

What does the American public need from us as stewards of these public lands? We need to remain focused. We need to continue to pursue those things that we are accomplishing at the same time picking up and addressing some of the new challenges that we are facing on a daily basis.

NWP: Where do you see the future of the BLM’s wild horse program heading?

BA: A lot of emotion comes with what people believe is necessary to protect our heritage and to make sure that these icons of America remain on these public lands. The Bureau of Land Management is committed to making sure that we have healthy and viable numbers of wild horses remaining on public lands certainly through not only in our lifetime but for generations to come.

I think the criticism that we hear from time to time is the misinformation campaigns portraying the Bureau as being anti-horse and having some sort of goal to remove all horses from the public lands.

But in reality, our goal is to make sure that these horses remain on these public lands. And in order to do so, they have to be managed. That includes maintaining a sustainable number of horses out there and to protect the resources that are the habitat that all species of wildlife are dependent upon and

sometimes competing to get. So it is about sustainability, it's about managing for numbers, and it's about managing healthy rangelands. If we have healthy rangelands we will have healthy species for many or most wildlife, including wild horses.

Whether we will ever get to a common understanding or a general agreement I don't know. But I do think that's one of our most important programs. We have to maintain our focus and use the best available science and do a better job of communicating to all constituencies whom we serve about what it is that we are trying to accomplish and how we are taking steps to meet those goals which I hope are common among all of us.

But it's going to require changing some of the ways that we do business. For example, fertility control is going to have to be the primary tool that we use versus just gathering and holding the horses because we can't afford that. So fertility control is going to have to be the primary tool that we use.

NWP: I know you had the opportunity to come out to Oregon and Washington a couple of times. What's been the spot that you have been most impressed with visually, aesthetically, and from a recreation standpoint? What's the one place that you thought, "Boy, I have got to get back there."

BA: Well, you've got some tremendous resources in Oregon and Washington. The Pacific Northwest is one of the most beautiful areas in the United States. You know every region has its beauty. Every region has its importance. The Pacific Northwest has some outstanding resources whether it's wild and scenic rivers, lighthouses, or forests. You have a diversity of resources in that state that many states don't have, and, generally speaking, I think the BLM is doing a tremendous job there managing those resources in the way the public would like to see those resources managed.

But I'm kind of a river guy. I enjoy being on the river. I enjoy water recreation. I live on a lake down in Mississippi when I'm not in Washington, D.C. because I like water resources. And you in Oregon are blessed with some water resources whether it's bays or the ocean or rivers.

So every opportunity that I have in my spare time – and, quite frankly, I have little spare time today – I would like to be on the rivers.

NWP: One last question. What's the one place, anywhere in the U.S., where you and your family absolutely love to go to time and time again to either camp or recreate? What's that special place where you love to return?

BA: Well, again it goes back to both my wife and I enjoying canoeing. We have been on some of the rivers that the Bureau of Land Management is fortunate to manage on the behalf of the public. We have also participated in wild water rafting. But rather than pay a contractor to do rafting, we prefer to do our own canoeing. In some of those Class II and III rapids we can use our canoe and get out there.

So it's not necessarily the one place that we'd go back to, it's the one activity that we go back to and to different places. So it's an opportunity for us to catch up on our personal lives when we are out doing that kind of activity together instead of with a larger group.

The Greatest Classroom on Earth

Story by Trish Hogervorst

Photos by Dale Waddell

Near Portland, the BLM's Salem District manages the Wildwood Recreation Site just west of Mt. Hood and home to Cascade Streamwatch, an internationally-recognized environmental education program. For the past 18 years, the BLM has partnered here with Wolfree, a Portland-based nonprofit organization dedicated to improving science education and opportunities for local youths.

By combining classroom time with hands-on project-based learning in America's Great Outdoors, Wolfree and the BLM provide urban Portland students with an intensive program focusing on Oregon's forests and watersheds. Each year some 3,000 to 5,000 youths benefit from this intensive program that serves to make them more competitive for college, careers, and citizenry.

America's Youths Head Outdoors to Learn Science in the Natural Laboratory

[Images of Youths Studying Science in America's Great Outdoors]

EYES OPEN WILD

Oregon Youth? Meet Science. Science? Meet Oregon Youth. Now let's take this party to the woods...

A partnership between the BLM and Wolfree – a non-profit helping youths become our nation's next scientists through educational outreach – has found a model that marries the theoretical knowledge of a classroom with the practical skills of the real world. Through this partnership, thousands of inner city Portland youths have traveled down woody trails to study Mount Hood's clear mountain streams, lush forests, and vital wildlife. And these studies not only get these young people out of the classroom and into nature providing a welcome change of scenery – but they've also transformed many students' futures.

Since 1994 Wolfree has built a reputation for supporting communities in both the Portland area and the outlying communities of central Oregon. "Our focus is on underserved rural and urban communities," says Wolfree Executive Director Dale Waddell. For Portland area youth, field studies are frequently carried out at BLM sites like Cascade Streamwatch at the Wildwood Recreation Site and the Larch Mountain Environmental Education Site near the town of Corbett, Oregon.

For the last seven years, Wolfree has worked closely with Marshall and Jefferson High Schools – two of Portland's traditionally underserved secondary schools. Wolfree's Science in the Forest Project provides a basic framework of forestry skills and scientific inquiry. "Major investments by extraordinary teachers and numerous outside organizations have helped students make significant academic gains in math, reading, and science," says Waddell.

FLY LIKE A SQUIRREL

One example of these natural research projects is an award-winning study on Northern flying squirrels carried out at the BLM's Wildwood Recreation Site. In 2005, Jill Semlick and her science students at Pauling Academy of Integrated Sciences on the Marshall campus used Wolftree's Science in the Forest Project to develop a testable question: What type of forests supports Northern flying squirrels?

The elusive Northern flying squirrel only comes out at night. It is found in forests across North America and is famous for its flat tail and furry membrane between front and rear legs that allow it to fly through the air.

Local students spent days in remote parts of Wildwood using peanut butter seed balls in live traps to capture and study the squirrels. Youths learned to use a Global Position Satellite (GPS) mapping device to establish a grid center and count the number and types of trees in the area. They then catalogued all the plant and animal species they could find. Because Northern flying squirrels are strictly nocturnal, the students even got to spend an overnight at Wildwood to observe the squirrels when they are most active.

At the end of each school year, students formally presented their scientific data and conclusions to peers, teachers, mentors, and members of their community. "The presentations are the culmination of a rigorous student-led project involving science inquiry, applied science, and the use of technology," said Waddell. And the entire presentation process teaches more than just science. Students are required to plan, organize, work in teams, and communicate effectively.

Over four years of this project, the class became experts on Northern flying squirrels in the region. And this project is just one of the many conducted by Wolftree and their partners on BLM-managed public lands.

10,000 GOOD REASONS

"There are...scores of students who have gone on to achieve great things," says Wolftree's Waddell. In fact, just last year he was contacted by Jefferson High School biology teacher Stephanie Pringle who shared with him, "One of my students...decided to do a research project after a Wolftree science teacher brought in beaver scent glands and after reading a book called Lilly Pond about a beaver colony that was observed for 4 years. Her project later won first place in the animal science category of the Portland Public Schools Science Expo, and she was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to OSU!"

The benefits of rigorous scientific study in a practical environment aren't limited to grants. They also demonstrate regular, quantifiable results in students' academic abilities statewide. "At Marshall High School, students went from 22 percent exceeding state science and math performance levels in 2003, to 65 percent of students exceeding science and math performance levels in 2007. That is an over 40 percent gain," states Waddell.

Though the Marshall High School campus closed this past spring, the momentum that began there and at Jefferson continues undaunted. Corbett High School has launched a similar study of Northern flying

squirrels at the BLM's Larch Mountain Environmental Education Site. Additionally, students at Jefferson and Sandy High Schools have set up a similar study on the beaver and river rat.

Whether these students continue studying science or choose to pursue other academic or vocational pursuits, they'll be able to use their experiences applying theoretical learning in a practical environment to whatever they choose to do. And just like the flying squirrel, the sky's the limit.

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Bigfoot Captured

[Illustration of a Person Discovering Bigfoot in a Snowy Forest]

[Image of a QR Code]

Does the BLM really have a photo of Bigfoot? Or is that just an internet rumor? Psst...after allegedly receiving a shadowy photo from a mysterious sources deep in the Roseburg forests, BLM researchers went in search of Sasquatch. Did they find the cryptozoological marvel? Only one way to find out: bit.ly/tWKsdB (or use your smartphone to open our QR code.)