

Northwest Passage Volume 2, Issue 2 – Winter 2010

Cover

Northwest Passage

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BLM Oregon/Washington

The Bureau of Land Management Magazine for Oregon and Washington

Winter 2010

Take It Outside!

Taking the Path Less Traveled: Celebrating 10 Years of the National Landscape Conservation System

The Big Payback! BLM Conservation Creates Local Jobs

Mountaintop MacGyver: On a Mission to Clean Up the Land

Islands In The Sound: Visit the San Juans with the BLM's Award-Winning Expert

District Round-Up!

BLM Cartographers!

Greening our Streams!

Conserve, Reuse, Recreate!

[Photo of Mount Hood shot from the BLM's Oregon State Office in Portland]

BLM Recycles

[Image of Recycling Symbol]

[Image of BLM Logo]

Op-“Ed”

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

[Stylized Photo of a Snow-Capped Mountain and Forest]

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

Greetings and welcome to a very special issue of Northwest Passage, the BLM’s magazine for Oregon and Washington. We’re thrilled to celebrate our 10th Anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS).

So what is the NLCS, you say? Well, starting in 2000 the BLM began designating lands and rivers with significant cultural, scientific, historical, and recreational values under a single system to conserve and protect them for current and future generations. And ten years later, the BLM is proud to report that 27 million acres – from moose habitat in Alaska to lava flows in New Mexico – have been brought together as part of the NLCS brand.

Under the BLM’s multiple use mandate, lands designated as part of the NLCS are unique and working landscapes. In addition to their Federal protection, they also reflect historical, ecological, and local values to include such uses as hiking, hunting, and grazing as appropriate.

Continuing our theme of sustaining the public land, our current issue also includes an article on Landscape Level Conservation. This effort finds the BLM working with our stakeholders in Federal, State, and local agencies as well as neighboring landowners and interested citizens to create plans that take into account all the social, economic, and ecological connections between private and public lands.

It's a holistic approach that endeavors to incorporate all factors when managing unique regions for many years to come.

Then we move from the national to the individual view as Norm Maxwell from the BLM's Eugene District gives us a first-person account of hauling his 700th abandoned vehicle off public lands. Folks like Norm are an inspiration to everyone committed to keeping local forests, hiking trails, and grasslands natural and beautiful.

So after hearing about the NLCS and the BLM's efforts to protect the land, you may be asking yourself, "what can I do?" We're glad you've asked! There are a number of opportunities for every American interested in preserving the beauty of his or her own community.

For example, you might want to help clean up your favorite recreation spot during our National Public Lands Day. Or don an "Indiana Jones" hat to help BLM archaeologists record ancient petroglyphs.

No matter where your interests lie, we've got a one-stop answer shop for all your volunteer questions. Just visit us online at [blm.gov/or/volunteers/volunteer\\_projects.php](http://blm.gov/or/volunteers/volunteer_projects.php).

You'll find our online volunteer form as well as an easy link to your local volunteer representative who's dedicated to helping folks get started!

We hope you'll keep learning about NLCS and the BLM's commitment to our public lands – and that you'll join us!

In the meantime, let's check out some great articles and photography. Thanks for reading and see you out there.

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

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Take it Outside!

Volume 2, Issue 2

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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 Photo]

[Photo of Mount Hood shot from the BLM's Oregon State Office in Portland]

Up for a challenge? A really, really big challenge? Good! Can you guess where the photo from our cover was taken? Do you know which recreation site or campground or forest it comes from?

Is that your final answer?

Because this month's cover comes from...wait for it... The BLM's Oregon State Office in Portland, Oregon?!

Yep, Portland!

Even in our most metropolitan city in all of Oregon (but not the Pacific Northwest – we hear there's a slightly bigger burg somewhere in Washington), you can still enjoy a world-class picturesque view.

And while this photo of Mt. Hood comes courtesy of our sister land management agency, the U.S. Forest Service, the BLM also plays an active role on the mountain. Believe it or not, the newly anointed Mt. Hood Wilderness contains a number of BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) parts and locations, including elements of the Fish Creek Wild and Scenic River; the Lower White River Wilderness; the Shellrock Mountain National Recreation Area; and the South Fork Clackamas River Wild and Scenic River.

And heck, as the weather gets warmer and you're thinking about trying out some of these new NLCS lands, the BLM has got a deal for you. Just try our easy-to-use recreation search engine at: [blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/search](http://blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/search)

You can instantly scan every region in Oregon and Washington to find the site that provides your favorite recreation activities! And don't forget that no matter where you are to keep looking at the beauty outside your door...

To learn more about NLCS, visit us online at: [blm.gov/or/resources/nlcs/index.php](http://blm.gov/or/resources/nlcs/index.php)

Our Contributors

[Six Photos of Contributors on Image of a Chalk Board]

1: None of us can believe this is the first official contributor's note for BLM Graphic Designer "Danger" David Garcia. So much of his work has already graced the pages of Northwest Passage that we assumed he'd had a spotlight already. In addition to creating professional graphics and video, David provided our cover photo and inside spread for this issue. And what about his nickname? You mean, "Danger?" Oh, that's just a joke. David isn't really accident prone. Nope. Not at all. (Psst... If Dave asks to give you a ride on his motorcycle? Take the bus instead. You'll thank us later.)

2: Campbell! Campbell! Campbell! All right, Michael.... You just returned from successfully climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. What are you going to do now? Oh. You're going to listen to Slayer's latest album over a freshly brewed cup of coffee from Stumptown? Hmm. No, no...that's cool. We just kinda thought you might want to write something new for Northwest Passage. Wait, you did!? You had us going, you ol' trickster. Michael writes about all the fantastic new maps created by the BLM's own talented cartographers (Page 24). And next time you see Michael, ask him why this vegetarian had to trade his pants for a goat when he was in Africa. We're kinda curious too...

3: We're thrilled to welcome another published author to the ranks of Northwest Passage! Norm Maxwell hails from the BLM's Eugene District where he hauls abandoned vehicles off public lands in between creating some of the best writing this side of Kerouac. In honor of his 700th abandoned vehicle (Page 12), Norm gave us a first-person account of what it takes to drag away a '63 Shasta travel trailer replete with the entire Steven Seagal film collection – on VHS, natch.

4: Hey, want to adopt a wild horse? Tara Martinak is your expert! And now after helming a previous article about the BLM's mustang adoption program, Tara is back with a timely feature about Landscape Level Conservation (Page 8). And in chronicling the BLM's partnership with public and private stakeholders working together on a more holistic approach to protecting the public lands, Tara uncovered how the BLM's efforts toward conservation are also creating jobs and putting money into local economies!

5: Former (un)official ambassador to Rarotonga and member of the exclusive Federal Witness Protection Program, Randy Eardley wrote about the BLM's 10th Anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System (Page 20). Fittingly, when asked about his background, Randy became highly secretive. BLM experience? Firefighting. Hobbies? Occasional musician, woodworker, and canoe captain. Background? Checkered. Writing? Sublime. (Okay, we added the last one...)

6: It's always a pleasure to type the name, "Cheyne Newin Necog Bemo Sewin Von Rossbach." Isn't that a cool name? We sure think so. And it belongs to an even cooler person. This issue Cheyne brings us

news from Washington's coast where the BLM manages public lands on the San Juan Islands (Page 26).  
Serving as his Virgil crossing the Puget Sound is the BLM's award-winning educator Nick Teague.

## Greening Our Streams

Question: Why is the BLM putting logs back into streams?

Answer: To Improve ecosystem health.

Story by Scott Stoffel

Photos by Rob Roninger

[Photo of a helicopter carrying a log to drop into a stream]

[Photo of a healthy stream with well-placed logs in the middle of it]

The waters of a Klamath River tributary can be seen moving slower than they have for 100 years thanks to 54 log structures inserted into a three-mile section of Spencer Creek northwest of Keno, Oregon, near the border with California.

This improvement in ecosystem function is a result of the BLM's efforts to reestablish the stream's original make-up of sinuosity, channel complexity, and gravel accumulations. By slowing down this stream, the creek's natural habitat may see subsequent increases to the population and distribution of aquatic species.

In 1995, the BLM created a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to jointly develop the Spencer Creek Watershed Analysis and evaluate the stream's physical condition. Their investigation revealed the creek's capacity to support a healthy fishery which had degraded over time due to a reduction in naturally occurring logs in the stream.

The significant role large woody debris plays in stream ecosystem health has been misunderstood in the past. This was evident throughout the 20th Century when logs were actively removed from streams for utilization as lumber as well as to prevent flooding and erosion.

As a result, a significant number of trees had been removed in and around the creek's channel, leaving unnaturally low levels of logs within the streambed. And without these natural barriers to maintain a proper level of gravel in the stream, the water saw a decline in the quality of pools and cover that fish normally use for resting, holding, and rearing necessary to spawning their young.

Today, however, the multiple environmental benefits derived from leaving this material in watersheds are better understood. Large woody debris provides shelter for stream inhabitants, traps organic materials that serve as a food source for algae and invertebrates, and generates pools of deep water that provide a home for fish.

Equipped with this knowledge, the BLM prepared the Spencer Creek Restoration Treatments Assessment in 2004. The intent of this planning document was to improve a significant section – over six miles total – of Spencer Creek by: (1) increasing channel roughness to provide a diversity of aquatic habitats, (2) retaining and increasing spawning habitat, (3) creating low-velocity holding and rearing habitat for juvenile fish, and (4) enhancing pool complexity and cover. The addition of woody debris into this section of Spencer Creek was identified as the primary means for achieving these objectives.

The most recent phase of the Spencer Creek Helicopter Log Placement Project was implemented in October 2009. The services of Columbia Helicopters Incorporated, a leading expert on stream restoration in the Pacific Northwest, were contracted to place the 54 log structures. These structures were created from 220 logs salvaged from timber sales from the BLM and JWTR, a private timber company. The individual logs weighed up to 14,000 pounds each and ranged from 10 to 51 inches in diameter and 10 to 70 feet in length.

The total project cost is estimated at \$145,000. The BLM provided a majority of funding and participated in all planning and contracting activities. The BLM's contracting officer's representative was on site to oversee project execution. Additionally, the USFWS participated in the same capacity as the BLM, and JWTR contributed towards contractor expenses and in-kind labor.

The outcome of this restoration project will continue to be examined over the next several years. Spencer Creek's aquatic habitat will be monitored to determine how it has been impacted by the log structures' presence. Surveys will be conducted to measure the project's effects upon native fish and amphibians, including Klamath River redband trout, Klamath small-scale suckers, lampreys, and Pacific giant salamanders. Knowledge gained from this effort will be used as the foundation for designing, implementing, and managing future stream restoration activities.

Dispatches

The Big Payback

Landscape Level Conservation, A Partnership-Based Success

[Photo of a plateau of east Oregon]

Story by Tara Martinak

Photos by Matt Christenson

Landscape level conservation is no longer just a big idea, too complicated to comprehend. It's here and now and more important than ever.

So when it comes to organizing plans that take into account all the social, economic, and ecological connections between private and public lands, landscape level conservation is of vital importance and growing popular interest.

In fact, a quick Google search retrieves over a million pages from authors around the world who are either planning or implementing large-scale conservation projects that focus on protecting and preserving land across all physical and administrative boundaries.

So what's the BLM doing about landscape level conservation?

[Photo of Mount Steens in the BLM's Burns District]

[Photo of a country road under a blue sky]

[photo of a rusty old wagon wheel]

Enter the Five Creeks Rangeland Restoration Project in the BLM's Burns District in southeast Oregon...

On the north side of nearby Steens Mountain, an ambitious ecosystem restoration effort is currently underway. The Five Creeks project covers nearly 75,000 acres of public and private land. Its goals are to restore sagebrush steppe and riparian plant communities and to create conditions to protect natural wildlife, wild horses, fish, and livestock.

Five Creeks is the culmination of 6 private landowners/permittees, 5 cooperating agencies, 4 strutting birds, 3 main concerns over juniper expansion on our rangelands, 2 eager project leads, and 1 need for action. (If you didn't already catch it, sage-grouse are the "strutting birds." And while they do exist in the project area, I shamelessly referenced them solely to keep the song in order. ("What? No Partridge in a Pear Tree?" – Ed.)

## WORKING THE LAND...

Lisa Grant, project co-lead, states, “Juniper expansion on our rangelands is adversely affecting forage availability, soil stability, and overall watershed health.” So taking inspiration from previous successes in treating juniper with natural and prescribed fire, the BLM already had a management mechanism in place to address this issue, although at a much smaller scale. Next came the wager for support from project area landowners and permittees. Fortunately their cooperation came easy thanks to all the informed participants who understand the seriousness of juniper expansion as well as support the use of fire to treat the problem.

Permittees and landowners have stepped forward to allow the use of their private roads for access to the project area by BLM officials. More importantly, they are generously adjusting their operations for several years to provide the necessary rest from livestock grazing prior to and following prescribed burns.

Additional partners – the Harney Soil and Watershed Conservation District and the Harney County Watershed Council – have been working closely with the private landowners to apply for and acquire grant monies through the State of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to fund portions of the project such as juniper cutting on private land. The U.S. Geological Service and the Agricultural Research Service are conducting an investigation within the project area as well. And the results of all these studies allow the BLM to adjust implementation techniques and be most successful in achieving resource objectives for this and future projects.

Fellow project co-lead Lindsay Davies says that “The Five Creeks project would not have been possible without our partners. Together we’ve completed Phases I and II, which include 16,000 acres of mechanical juniper treatment, 21,876 acres of prescribed fire treatment, 14 miles of stream/riparian juniper treatments, 3,761 acres of post-prescribed fire aerial seeding, and 21 acres of noxious weed treatments.”

## ...AND PUTTING AMERICA TO WORK.

In addition to bringing all the partners together and creating a healthy landscape for thousands of acres, the Five Creeks project is also creating jobs and putting money into the local economy. Davies added, “In three years, more than \$2 million from a variety of sources has been spent on the Five Creeks project. BLM program funding, OWEB, the Burns Interagency Fire Zone, the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and private contributors have all played an important role in our success.”

A project of this magnitude and success will likely inspire other regions to follow suit. Better environment. More jobs. The bottom line is perhaps best described by private landowner and Five Creeks partner Fred Otley: “It’s really pretty simple. Landscape level conservation is a win-win situation, so ‘why’ isn’t really important here. Maybe ‘why not’ is a better question?”

For more information on landscape level conservation, please contact the BLM’s Burns District at (541) 573-4400.

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Lost & Found

One BLM employee's mission to clean up abandoned vehicles from public lands – one '67 Ford Fairlane at a time...

As Told By Norm Maxwell

[Photo of a junked vehicle abandoned in a field with the words "lost & found" spray painted on the hood]

Right before Thanksgiving Day 2009, I removed my 700th piece of junk from Federal lands.

Someone abandoned a 1963 Shasta travel trailer in the woods of the BLM's Eugene District. I found this (past-)vintage vehicle amidst an amazing array of household trash, black & white television sets, and soggy cartons of VCR tapes. (Oh, and in case he's looking for it, I found the remnants of Steven Seagal's movie career next to a holiday collection of Peanuts.)

I was amazed by a TV antenna set precariously high in a rotten stump to allow a viewer (or many viewers?) to watch any of the five televisions. Or perhaps all five sets at once? In any event, I figured this might have been a deer hunter's campsite.

Yes, sir. That's good country livin'.

As I sleuthed further, I found that this old Shasta trailer was so overfull that it couldn't be slept in, cooked in, or even occupied in any way.

A backwoods Grey Gardens for the Convoy set, if you will.

Though this impromptu landfill was far from the beaten path, some passersby stumbled upon it only to dump new trash and search vainly for valuables. The license plate was grossly expired. The trailer had no tail lights. The door fell off years ago only to be replaced with a heavy black canvas curtain. I knew without even having to check that the registered owner had sold the trailer to someone else who didn't bother to change the title. The owner simply left tons of mushy, rusting garbage in the woods and walked away.

Our BLM District in Eugene, Oregon, previously contracted wrecking removal with local companies. But a BLM employee still had to meet the pros and lead them out to the site. And that BLM employee was me. So once this region became a popular dumping ground, it made more sense for us to start the BLM's own wrecking business. And thus the BLM's organic abandoned vehicle removal was soon handled in house by yours truly.

So after locating my latest dump site, it was a snap to load up Ol' No. 700 on the tiltbed trailer with a rear facing winch. My 700th large-scale removal. No problem.

## THE BLM WRECKING CREW

For a number of years, scrap prices had bottomed out. So it was simply easier for folks to engage in “recreational dumping” by towing their dead car out into the woods rather than transport a heap to the steel yard for chump change. Unfortunately for the public, many of these dumped vehicles quickly become targets (literally) for folks with shootin’ irons. And like ants at a picnic, once we found one piece of junk on BLM lands, it would often lead to more.

But as the price of scrap steel went up, so did the cost/benefit ratio of dumping a heap worth scrap value – which reduced the number of abandoned vehicles. But travel trailers are still more trouble than they’re worth...so they continue to wind up in the woods.

## MAKING CRIME PAY

I learned this business from my predecessor when I inherited his “other duties as assigned” in the used and abandoned car business. I discovered that his method of dealing with abandoned vehicles was to utilize a parade of road maintenance heavy equipment once or twice a year and haul the heaps in dump trucks.

When I took over, I trained Oregon’s DMV to allow me to write my own paper for abandoned vehicles. There was some initial foot dragging at the beginning. But once I established the procedure, operations went smoothly, and the local steel yard was very happy to accept worn-out automobiles. And our proceeds go into an account earmarked for cleaning up public lands.

Travel trailers are another matter. But I worked out a partnership with the county jail. A crew at the county landfill dismantles the trailers I haul. Then I come back for the frame and bring it to the steel yard. Convert scrap to money. Money gets put in account to pay for cleaning up public lands.

Win-win.

## YEE-HAW! (IS THAT THE GENERAL LEE?)

Sometimes an illegal dumper manages to cause their abandoned vehicle to roll down the hill while reenacting a favorite scene from The Dukes of Hazzard. In these cases, I utilize Echo Company from the 162nd Infantry Regiment with the Oregon National Guard. These hearty folks bring out their five-ton wrecker to haul junk off the public lands. In addition to cleaning up the environment, the National Guard soldiers enjoy getting out in the woods and practicing a little engineering extrication. As a former Guardsman myself, I know how things work in the military and am able to effectively communicate with Warrant Officer Barnaby and the rest of his gang. And at the end of the day, the BLM gets cleaner public lands and the soldiers enjoy some additional training.

Well...maybe “enjoy” is too strong a word.

## WHAT WOULD MACGYVER DO?

These days the National Guard has been pretty busy with other missions. So I've been working mostly solo. I can manage smaller cars found closer to the road with my own field expedient high lead system. That's just a fancy way of saying I "Macgyver" my winch line to hoist abandoned vehicles with my own truck shifted into 4 Low. To be honest, I prefer a smaller truck as my prime mover even though some may think that bigger is better. A short wheel base makes it easier to turn the outfit around on small landings.

When I use a bigger vehicle, our 18 foot tilt bed trailer is my main rig. It was originally designed to haul classic automobiles to the car show. Now it carries long-abandoned Ford Fairlanes and Airstream trailers. I've gotten this one to work harder than its builders ever envisioned. My personal best so far is a 25-foot Winnebago. Even I have to admit that this one may have come close to the absolute limit. I've also cut a full-sized school bus into three pieces just to haul it out of the woods. Cars, pickups, campers, boats, motorhomes, trailers...the difficult we'll move at once.

The impossible just takes a little longer.

[Three Photos in Post Card Style of Author Norm Maxwell Standing in Front of Abandoned Vehicles He Hauled From Public Lands]

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District Round-Up

From: District Round-Up

To: You

Welcome to News from all the BLM Districts in Oregon and Washington!

Please join us for an update on all of our community happenings!

[Image of an Envelope]

[Image of Postcard]

[Image of an Arrow]

[Photo of a Traffic Light]

[Photo of a Walking Path Sign]

Burns, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/burns](http://blm.gov/or/districts/burns)

- The Burns District recently sold 1.5 million board feet as part of the Rudy timber sale. Much credit is due to the State of Oregon Economic and Community Development Department and Harney Soil and Water Conservation District who assisted to secure grant funding for five unemployed residents of Harney County and one Oregon Department of Forestry staff member to work the sale layout and timber marking. These extra workers allowed the sale to be offered two years ahead of schedule - all the while complementing the BLM's Otis Mountain Fuels Management Project which is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). This effort will increase forest health, reduce hazardous fuels, and provide a source of biomass fuel for eastern Oregon – all the while providing and maintaining local jobs and generating funds for the local economy.

- The Burns District won a top honor for their generous participation in the 2009 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Burns was awarded the Pacific Northwest Region's Chair Award for their total contributions and number of contributors. Their 2009 increase was nearly five times that of the previous year. CFC Coordinator Candy Harmon and Burns District Manager Kenny McDaniel accepted the award at a ceremony on January 27.

[Photo of a BLM Employee Marking a Tree for Sale]

Coos Bay, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay](http://blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay)

- Kathy Westenskow was selected as the new Myrtlewood Field Manager. As Field Manager, Westenskow is responsible for management of approximately 126,000 acres of public land in the southern half of the Coos Bay District. Westenskow assumes her new position with a great deal of past natural resource work experience, including her most recent position as an Assistant Field Manager on the BLM Coos Bay District. She began her BLM career in 1991 as a student intern, before becoming a wildlife biologist and natural resource specialist. “Kathy is very experienced in managing the complex forest management issues in western Oregon,” said Mark Johnson, Coos Bay District Manager.

[Photo of a Sunset Over Coos Bay]

Eugene, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/eugene](http://blm.gov/or/districts/eugene)

- The Eugene District bid a fond farewell to our long-standing “mouthpiece” (and valued contributor to Northwest Passage and other BLM publications), “Ranger” Doug Huntington. After more than 30 years of service with the BLM – 20 as the Eugene Public Affairs Officer – Doug’s BLM Family gathered for a fitting send-off at the Oregon Horse Center. Doug was feted with tasty BBQ, an amazing video, the BLM Band, an original Lee Lauritzen painting, and many kind words.
- Speaking of retirements, Eugene as a whole lost over 180 years of service at the end of 2009 with the retirements of John Hackbarth, Larry Larson, Jerry Crostek, Emily Rice, and Wayne Elliott.

[Photo of BLM Public Affairs Specialist Doug Huntington Riding His Horse]

Youth in Nature!

Lakeview, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview](http://blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview)

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding is being used to monitor Sage-grouse activity across 325,000 acres of shrub-steppe grassland. Initiated last September, this study will establish baseline sage-grouse habitat data for consideration by the BLM when reviewing wind energy development proposals.
- For the past 15 years, the Nevada State Museum and the Lakeview District have collaborated to create exhibits, sort museum collections, and perform radiocarbon dating of archaeological findings. Together, they’ve educated the public on the important role everyone plays in preserving and protecting our cultural heritage. Most recently, the two organizations joined forces to bring the Rock Art Perspectives: Pictographs and Petroglyphs exhibit to Carson City, Nevada. This was done to underscore the impact early Native American rock carvings and paintings have had upon present-day archaeologists, photographers, and artists. During the Rock Art Perspectives opening reception held on January 21, the Lakeview District’s partnership with the Nevada State Museum was formally honored. Michael Fisher, Director of the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs, presented Archaeologist Bill Cannon with an award plaque “In recognition of the BLM Lakeview District’s Partnership in Preservation, Research and Education.” Upon acceptance of the award, Bill Cannon stated “It’s a tremendous honor to have the

Lakeview District's efforts acknowledged. It has been a privilege to work with the Nevada State Museum since 1995."

[Photo of BLM Archaeologist Bill Cannon Holding the BLM's Award]

Medford, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/medford](http://blm.gov/or/districts/medford)

- Medford will install a commercial-sized solar grid system with 250 or more photovoltaic panels for the Medford Interagency Office (MIO). This ARRA project will help create and maintain local jobs, reduce the BLM's carbon footprint by using renewable energy, and support alternative energy technology development.

[Photo of Medford's Beautiful Meadow Near Butte Falls]

Continues on next page

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Prineville, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/Prineville](http://blm.gov/or/districts/Prineville)

- In 2002, Native American Pictographs at the BLM's Badlands east of Bend, Oregon were vandalized by unknown individuals. Several ancient art pieces were destroyed completely. The Prineville District quickly took steps to rehabilitate the site by hiring a professional conservator who was assisted by the Archaeological Society of Central Oregon (ASCO). During the process of rehabilitation, they discovered that many more images existed than were previously reported. Over the next several years, the Prineville District – with substantial assistance from ASCO – documented the entire suite of pictographs by producing a scale map of individual panels located throughout the site. Each panel was numbered, photographed, and drawn to scale. And as a happy coda, the Badlands have since been designated as a Wilderness!

[Photo of the BLM's Badlands in the Prineville District]

Roseburg, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg](http://blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg)

- Volunteers recently planted over 2,500 willow poles in an area known as Soggy Bottoms located in the North Bank Habitat Management Area. The project was the culmination of a multi-year habitat restoration project to benefit the hairy popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys hirtus*), a special status plant species. This work was also to improve hydrologic conditions in the area. During the pole planting, over 80 hours of work were donated by 22 volunteers from the Oregon Hunter's Association, and the National Wild Turkey Foundation. A tremendous amount of work was completed in a short amount of time, and the Roseburg District plans to make this willow pole planting an annual event in the future.

[Photo of Volunteers Working Hard to Plant 2,500 Willow Poles at Soggy Bottoms Located in the North Bank Habitat Management Area]

Salem, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/salem](http://blm.gov/or/districts/salem)

- Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in Newport has a new manager. Timothy Fisher brings 23 years of Federal public lands experience to the Salem District. He previously served as the director of the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center. Fisher will be redeveloping the 15-year-old management plan for Yaquina which encompasses 100 acres that include the lighthouse, an interpretive center, and surrounding area.

[Photo of New Yaquina Head ONA Manager Timothy Fisher]

- Also in the Salem District, members of the Chemeketan friends celebrated their 62nd birthdays by signing up for Senior Access Passes. These passes provide them access to Federal recreation areas to include National Parks and BLM-administered recreation sites throughout the country. The Chemeketans were founded in 1928 and boast a current roster of 700 members. Their primary activity is day hiking but they also enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bicycle rides, canoeing, mountain climbing, and more! We hope they enjoy and get great use out of their new passes visiting BLM lands!

Spokane, Washington: [blm.gov/or/districts/spokane](http://blm.gov/or/districts/spokane)

- The Spokane District participated in the Washington Arid Lands Initiative Workshop in Wenatchee, Washington. The goal of the initiative was to develop and implement a coordinated strategy for the conservation of Washington's shrub-steppe habitats, ecosystems, and communities. Core members of the initiative include the BLM, several state agencies, and The Nature Conservancy along with local land owners, users, and Native American Tribes.
- The Spokane District's Chris Shafer was featured on a Spokane Community College advertisement describing his journey from a job in steel production to his current career as a Rangeland Management Specialist. Chris's story can be read online at: [www.ccs.spokane.edu/Promotions/Find-your-field-at-CCS.aspx](http://www.ccs.spokane.edu/Promotions/Find-your-field-at-CCS.aspx)

[Photo of Lopez Island in BLM's Spokane District]

Vale, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/vale](http://blm.gov/or/districts/vale)

- Vale District said good-bye to former District Manager Dave Henderson and welcomed new District Manager Don Gonzalez! Don will be responsible for management of 5.1 million acres of BLM lands in eastern Oregon and southeast Washington. He was previously the Natural Resources Staff Officer for the Colville National Forest in Colville, Washington. Don has over 30 years of broad-based experience in natural resource management and has demonstrated effective leadership in a variety of roles including Natural Resources Staff Officer, Acting District Manager, Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor, Ecosystem Planning and Monitoring Staff, and District Ranger.
- In the spirit of conservation, the Vale District worked with the Department of the Interior Transportation Subsidy Program to establish a shuttle that helps employees carpool to and from work every day. It's been a win-win situation with employees saving money while the transit company

establishes a new rural route to Vale – and the environment is benefiting from reduced pollution! New District Manager Don Gonzalez was heard to remark on his first day of riding the shuttle, “I felt like I should be asking my Mom for lunch money.”

[Photo of an Antelope in the BLM’s Vale District]

[Photo of Road Sign Star]

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

Your Oregon & Washington BLM Districts

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Public Lands Live

[Image of the State of Oregon]

Oregon is For Loves (of Public Lands!)

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

The National Landscape Conservation System Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

Story by Randy Eardley, National Interagency Fire Center

Photos by Scott Batchelar, David Garcia & BLM Staff

[Photo of NLCS Lands]

[Photo of a Lighthouse]

Rewind.

Years ago, my son was about eight years old when he saw his first whale. He was hanging pretty close to me as we explored the Yaquina Head lighthouse in the BLM's Salem District. Then we saw it. There, down in the surf just below. A massive, beautiful grey creature repeatedly surfaced, blew a spout of water, and then disappeared for a few minutes as it lunched on the local fare. The Yaquina Head Natural Area is a frequent stopover for grey whales moving along the coast – and it isn't the only place to see unspoiled magic.

Rewind Further.

I was barely 21, a young and budding explorer and a seasonal employee for a Federal agency in central Oregon. On a three-day weekend with two companions, I explored the John Day River by kayak. I don't recall the exact put-in or take-out but it was along a corridor now dubbed as Wild and Scenic. What I do recall clearly is jaw-dropping scenery and rock formations like I'd never before seen.

Continues

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Those were two very different experiences. Two special times. Two uniquely wonderful places. And both sites would later become components of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) in Oregon.

Ten years ago the BLM began identifying such areas across the nation for their significant cultural, scientific, historical, and recreational values and preserving them for current and future generations.

Today, 886 areas covering 27 million acres as diverse as the Alaska tundra and the Colorado canyonlands bear the NLCS brand.

For citizens in the Northwest, NLCS areas include the Cascade–Siskiyou National Monument, the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, and the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area. Additional NLCS sites comprise eight wilderness areas in Oregon and one in Washington, one National Scenic Trail and two National Historic Trails in Oregon and one National Scenic Trail in Washington, and a combined total of 88 wilderness study areas. Oregon also is home to 25 wild and scenic rivers (four times more than any other state), the famed National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in eastern Oregon, and much more.

But many people don't know these areas by their NLCS designation. They do, however, know the land. In fact, it may take Congressional or Presidential action to preserve these areas with the NLCS brand, but it's the local individuals, groups, and organizations who have been the driving force behind those actions. They are the people who experience these areas and treasure them for the many diverse offerings they provide.

Conserving, protecting, and restoring such treasured areas will continue as the NLCS mission into the next 10 years and beyond. Just as it did in its first decade, maintaining and adding to the current list of exceptional landscapes will require continued interest and partnership with citizens and stakeholder groups.

End.

At press time, we found a growing number of events celebrating the 10th Anniversary of NLCS coming up this year throughout Oregon & Washington!

The BLM's Prineville District will hold a dedication ceremony in June for the Badlands and Spring Basin Wilderness Areas. Then later this summer, Lakeview, Oregon, will hold its own celebration for the Upper Klamath River receiving both NLCS and Wild and Scenic River designations.

Plus there will be NLCS-curated exhibits at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Burns, Oregon, and at the Yaquina Head Lighthouse in the BLM's Salem District. And in the fall we'll see multiple National Public Lands Days across Medford, Oregon – all of which will be dedicated to celebrating and increasing awareness around the 10th Anniversary of NLCS.

To learn about additional upcoming events in your area, drop by our webpage at [blm.gov/or](http://blm.gov/or).

You can also contact us for additional info through this magazine at: [or\\_northwest\\_passage@blm.gov](mailto:or_northwest_passage@blm.gov).

NWP

[Photo of NLCS Lands – Rivers, Plant Life, Mountains, Recreation Enthusiasts, and Dunes]

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Pioneers

Where the Heck is New Princeton, Oregon?\*

\*[Hint: It's in southeast Oregon.]

[Images of Maps of the States of Oregon and Washington]

Folding a map isn't always the easiest job in the world...

...but finding a map just got a whole lot easier!

Story by Michael Campbell

Maps Provided by Jim Rounds and BLM Staff

It may be hard for some people to fathom, but maps, both in tablet and paper form existed long before Google Earth™ ever hit the scene – or for that matter the BLM.

In fact some of the oldest known maps are Babylonian clay tablets from about 2300 B.C. So while it's true that the BLM has only been producing maps and cartographic work over the last two centuries, the agency has gained, shall we say, some experience in this field.

The BLM's mapping unit has been publishing maps, brochures, and graphic support for management plans, public recreation sites, and other public land-related activities. And without tooting our horn too much, we can say that from a cadastral survey perspective, a cartographic perspective, and well, probably quite a few other perspectives, the BLM sure knows how to make maps.

**TAKE THAT GOOGLE EARTH™!**

Following this rich and well-worn tradition, the BLM has recently (re)produced some terrific wall-size maps showcasing the vast array of both Oregon and Washington public lands. These maps are a significant update to versions that were created in 1994. And not only do these maps highlight some pretty spectacular spots, but they also put a spotlight on some of our newest spectacular NLCS sites like the Spring Basin Wilderness, the Badlands Wilderness, and the Soda Mountain Wilderness.

These maps are at the 1:500,000 scale and contain all new Federal surface management designations and updated base data information. For those of you who caught some z's during the fractions lesson in 9th grade algebra, a "map scale" is the representation between distance on the map and distance on the ground. A map scale usually is given as a fraction or a ratio: 1/500,000 or 1:500,000. This means that one inch on a map equals 500,000 inches – or approximately 8 miles – on the ground.

Make sense?

Good.

Now let's move on to trigonometry.

#### CONJUNCTION JUNCTION

Just kidding... But we didn't stop there. Oh no... In addition to this newly anointed map, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service have pooled their resources to jointly produce maps about Oregon and Washington recreation areas and amenities. What this means in practical terms is that visitors now need fewer maps to have full coverage of lands and resources for both agencies. Less clutter in your glovebox, and you can more easily find the coolest fishing spots throughout the region.

Plus, during these challenging economic times, we're looking for opportunities to save money every chance we get. The new Pacific Northwest Recreation Map Series is but one example of cooperation between the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service that leverages our skills and resources to save production costs by reducing overlap and gaining economies of scale. So instead of 35 recreation maps, you'll only need 27 to cover all of Oregon and Washington!

So whether you're looking to climb Ironside Mountain or you're just looking for a nice spot to hike near Portland, these maps are for you. Now where the heck is New Princeton? Lemme get out my map and see...

Islands in the Sound

The BLM's Only Island Resident Takes the Silver!

Award-Winning Educator, Gregario "Nick" Teague, joins us from the BLM's most unique islands to chat about recreation, community, and inspiring today's youth to explore the outdoors!

Story by Cheyne Rossbach

[Photo of a Purple Flower in the Foreground of the Puget Sound on a Blue Sunny Day]

Photo by Doug McCutchen

[Photo of a Lighthouse at Dusk]

Photo BY Richard Bailey

For five years, Nick Teague, an Outdoor Recreation Planner for the BLM's Spokane District, has lived and worked in the San Juan Islands, an archipelago off the coast of northwest Washington State in the heart of the Salish Sea.

And this fall, Nick was awarded the BLM's 2009 Silver Award for Excellence in Interpretation or Environmental Education.

Every year a review panel comprised of both BLM staff and representatives from its partner organizations – to include the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) – identifies three individuals who demonstrate "Excellence" as interpreters and educators. This panel recognizes talented individuals who foster partnerships and work to enhance public appreciation and knowledge for our natural and cultural resources.

Nick was highly praised for "fostering cohesive, citizen-based stewardship in the San Juan Islands." And he received further accolades for his integral part in the development of the San Juan Islands Experiential Education Outdoor Classroom for island youth.

So in honor of Nick's well-deserved Silver Award, we spoke with him to learn more about his work with the island community. And in talking with us, Nick communicated his firm belief that "The Public is out there waiting. Introduce yourself and manifest something beautiful!"

INTERVIEW

Northwest Passage (NWP): How long have you worked in the San Juan Islands?

Nick Teague (NT): Five incredible years. I left the Salem District in September 2004 to perform a one-month assignment. I felt like I was taking a very huge "leap of faith," leaving my full time position,

friends, and family in the hopes that the Spokane District would support a new approach to how they were represented and engaged with the local communities of the San Juan Islands.

NWP: What has local community support been like – both in the past and as it stands today?

NT: In the past, the community support has been pretty localized specifically with Lopez Island. The Lopez community has and continues to be highly supportive of the BLM. More recently, other communities have demonstrated their support and endorsement of the BLM as a neighbor and important partner regarding the bigger picture of this ecoregion. I believe what has changed most is our Spokane District's approach to how we directly engage with these communities.

NWP: What are some of the unique resources the BLM is responsible for managing in the San Juan Islands?

NT: This really has to be one of my favorite questions. There are many unique resources the BLM is responsible for managing in the San Juan Islands: a distinguished historic lighthouse, rich cultural areas, rare plant communities, diverse recreation opportunities, and it just keeps going. Yet, what really sets the San Juan's apart from all other areas is this archipelago ecosystem found nowhere else in the Pacific ocean. Nowhere in the BLM do we have rocks, islands, and resources that match this level of intrigue, character, and special attributes.

NWP: What are some of the local organizations and their specific interests? How have you bridged those varying interests in your work?

NT: Outside of the Federal, state and county agencies, the non-profit sector makes up a strong percentage of the partner participation effort. We work closely with Keepers of the Patos Light, Washington Lightkeepers Association, and the Turn Point Lighthouse Preservation Society. These folks, as you can probably already tell, share a deep appreciation for the Maritime History and Culture of the area. Each of these Lighthouse groups are 501(c)3 non-profits. And on Lopez Island, we work very closely with the Lopez Island Conservation Corps, a non-profit organization connecting local youth with the outdoors in a service-oriented, educational, skill training program. This past summer the Lopez Island Conservation Corps received the Take Pride In America National Award in the Youth Group Division.

NWP: Speaking of awards, how does it feel to receive the Silver Award for Excellence in Interpretation or Environmental Education?

NT: While I was on stage listening to Bob Abbey, Director of the BLM, describing accomplishments in the San Juan Islands, I was filled with an immense amount of pride to represent the whole Spokane District and as an ambassador for the BLM. I was mostly inspired to work even harder continuing to share with others the wonders of the natural world and the BLM mission and story.

[Continues]

[Image of Nick Teague Educating Youths at the San Juan Islands]

[Continues From Previous Page]

NWP: What is the San Juan Island Experiential Education Outdoor Classroom? How did it come about?

NT: The San Juan Islands Experiential Education Outdoor Classroom came about through the request of partners including local schools seeking a creative outlet and place for outdoor learning. Experiential education is a foundational component of the classroom with activities designed to engage folks with their surroundings. Working with established partners, the San Juan Islands Experiential Education Outdoor Classroom provides the setting and facilitates self-discovery and fosters a broader understanding of natural world systems and interconnected relationships

NWP: Looking to the future, what would you like to see happen in the San Juan Islands as far as public lands are concerned?

NT: I would like to see folks connected to the land in a way that fosters stewardship, participation, and direct engagement. I would like to see more “ah-ha moments” when folks deeply connect to the wonders of the natural world. I would also like to see the work of the BLM here in the San Juan Islands demonstrate leadership, empowerment, and begin the foundation for a legacy of significance and contributions which even our seventh generation children will enjoy and be proud of.

NWP: What advice would you give to other resource specialists looking to foster and develop community-based partnerships and public involvement?

NT: My advice to other resource specialists would be this: be open, honest, and sincere. Partnerships are relationships. Relationships are about sharing, communicating, trust, and respect. Often the biggest thing which I believe holds us, the Feds, back is our inability to give up a little control. They are out there waiting. Introduce yourself and manifest something beautiful.

NWP: Describe yourself in five words or less.

NT: Motivated, inspired, dreamer, believer, and artist.

[NWP]

[Two Photos of the San Juan Islands]

#### SIDEBAR

THE BLM’S SPOKANE DISTRICT manages over 800 acres of public lands in the San Juan Islands, an archipelago in northwest Washington State, in the heart of the Salish Sea.

These rocks and islands are home to unique cultural and natural resources and are extremely popular recreation destinations for everyone from their close-by neighbors to international vacationers.

The BLM manages two historic lighthouse properties on Patos and Stuart Islands as well as numerous natural areas – some of which are designated as ACECs (Area of Critical Environmental Concern).

Management of these lands and resources brings together a number of cooperative agreements and working partnerships with more than 60 other agencies, interest groups, organizations, and Native American tribes.

The San Juan Islands are also species-rich and ecologically unique. Their diversity of wildlife reflects the variety of habitats found in the islands: grasslands and old-growth forests, marshes and freshwater lakes, spruce bogs and camas meadows, gravel beaches and rocky coastlines, and the encompassing ocean.

Additionally, the San Juans are well-known for their special status species habitat which houses a range of sea and land animals.

The islands are home to over 100 bald eagle nesting territories and 20 peregrine falcon aeries. Uncommon endemic species include the rare Island Marble Butterfly and Shaw Island vole. And in the ocean, marine mammals such as orca, sea lion, and harbor seal thrive in abundant numbers.

With such a variety of ecological, cultural, and recreational opportunities, it's no wonder the San Juan Islands receive so many visitors each year. To learn more about this unique destination, please visit: [blm.gov/or/districts/spokane](http://blm.gov/or/districts/spokane).

[Map of San Juan Islands]

Want your own copy of this map? Contact us at [or\\_spokane\\_mail@blm.gov](mailto:or_spokane_mail@blm.gov)!

## BackCountry

So what is this National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) that's celebrating its 10th Anniversary?

What?

The NLCS is a system of special areas and sites under the BLM's care that are known and preserved for their exceptional values. They include wilderness areas, interpretive sites, wild and scenic rivers, national scenic and historic trails, and more. Oregon and Washington are chock-full of these areas – and you can read more about them on page 20 inside this very issue!

Where?

NLCS lands are found across the country. Nationally, 887 areas covering more than 27 million acres bear the NLCS designation. They includes more than 6,000 miles of scenic and historic trails; 2,400 miles of wild and scenic rivers; 16 national monuments; 21 national conservation areas; more than 20 million acres of wilderness and wilderness study areas; and much more.

Head out and enjoy your public lands — this map will give you some hints on where to get started.

These special areas are yours, so please be a good steward of this legacy. And keep an eye out for opportunities to get involved in supporting and participating in expanding the NLCS to include the areas you cherish most!

[Photo of Steens Mountain in the BLM's Burns District]

[Image of a Map of the State of Oregon Identifying NLCS Areas]

Photo of Steens Mountain by Matt Christenson