

2008 Thanks-for-Giving Volunteer Fest

The evening of November 17, 2008 was a celebration of public lands stewardship, volunteerism and partnerships. Approximately 100 past, present, and potential future volunteers gathered with BLM employees at the Museum of Western Colorado's Whitman Education Center. Attendees represented a diverse range of public land users, including: hikers, motorcyclists, wild horse enthusiasts, mountain bikers, jeepers, archaeologists, recreational shooters, ATV riders, weed warriors and more. After sharing food and conversation, the BLM presented a slideshow celebrating our many and varied volunteers and volunteer projects. Next was an overview of volunteer and partnership contributions, and how the local BLM volunteer program works. **Volunteers and partners contributed nearly 57,000 hours valued at over \$1 million in 2007 and 2008!**

The final segment of the event honored several of the outstanding volunteers, volunteer groups and business partners that made significant contributions to public lands stewardship in 2007 and 2008.

Those recognized included:

- **John Evans – “2007 BLM Colorado Volunteer of the Year” for his ongoing stewardship of recreational shooting opportunities on BLM public lands**
- **Friends of the Mustang – ongoing patrols and monitoring of the Little Bookcliffs wild horse herd**
- **Outstanding Cultural Resources Volunteers**
 - **Joyce Frost – cultural surveys, research and reporting**
 - **Beverly Kolkman - cultural surveys, research and reporting**
- **Outstanding Volunteers in McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area**
 - **Friends of McInnis Canyons NCA – ongoing support of the NCA**
 - **Bobby Evans – photography of volunteer events and Fruita frontcountry “poop patrols”**
 - **Kevin Foote – mountain bike trail design, construction and maintenance; mountain bike patrols**
- **Tamarisk Coalition – volunteer coordination for large-scale tamarisk removal projects**
- **Outstanding Recreation Program Volunteers/Partners**
 - **Hilltop Experiential Learning Project – trail construction and maintenance with crews of at-risk youth**
 - **Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association – trail layout, construction and maintenance; volunteer coordination and leadership**
 - **Western Slope ATV Association – ATV trail patrols, trail construction and maintenance**
 - **Grand Mesa Jeep Club – trail patrols and maintenance**
 - **Western Colorado Congress Trail Hands – trail patrols and maintenance in the Dominguez Canyon area**

- **Virgil and Judy Miller – long-time campground hosts at Mud Springs Campground**
- **Carl Quist – trail layout, construction and maintenance**
- **Jeffery Fleming – Bangs Canyon Trailhead facility maintenance, Rough-Ladder Canyon trail maintenance and patrols**
- **Gil Murillo – 34&C Road shooting area patrols and maintenance**
- **Dean Talbot – 27 ¼ Road shooting range patrols and maintenance**
- **Outstanding Business Partners**
 - **Sportsman’s Warehouse – ongoing donations to support volunteerism at recreational shooting areas**
 - **Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) – ongoing donations and employee volunteerism to support BLM volunteer projects**

Mixed in throughout the night were drawings for prizes donated by local businesses, including: Sportsman’s Warehouse, REI, Grand Valley Magazine, Summit Canyon Mountaineering and Brown’s Cycles.

Special thanks to the Museum of Western Colorado for donating the use of the Whitman Education Center for this event.

Stay tuned for another volunteer appreciation event in November 2009.