



# VANTAGE



FALL  
2008

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## JUPITER INLET, FL DESIGNATED 1ST OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA IN THE EAST

*By Shayne Banks  
Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Jackson Field Office*

On May 8, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (PL 110-229), a bipartisan bundle of 62 individual conservation measures which included the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2007.

This legislation designates the lighthouse and the 126 surrounding acres of sensitive habitat as an Outstanding Natural Area (ONA) within the Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System. The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area is the first Outstanding Natural Area in the Nation on the East Coast. Only two others currently exist: Yaquina Head in Oregon and Piedras Blancas Lighthouse in CA.

According to Bruce Dawson, Jackson Field Manager, "The creation of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area begins an exciting new phase of expanded opportunities for the public and partners".

The purposes of the Outstanding Natural Area are to protect, conserve, and enhance the unique and nationally important historic, natural, cultural, scientific, educational, scenic, and recreational values of the Outstanding Natural Area, including an emphasis on the restoration of native ecological systems.

The Jupiter Inlet Natural Area is a BLM prized asset in Palm Beach County, FL offering a host of educational and interpretive recreational opportunities for the public. This strategic location contains regionally important natural, historic and prehistoric resources, including the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, a host of special status species including a breeding population of scrub jays, and gopher tortoises and imperiled habitats all in an urbanized setting in northern Palm Beach County.

Over the last decade, the Jupiter Inlet Working Group accomplished a great deal at the Jupiter Inlet Natural Area, such as wetland construction, and river slope stabilization following hurricanes.

The Jupiter Inlet Working Group is now in the planning process to develop a long range plan for management of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, which will ensure the continued use and enjoyment by the public today and for generations to come.



STATE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

BLM's Mission

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



BLM's 7 Program Areas

- Fire
- Natural Resources
- General Land Office Records
- Wild Horse & Burro
- Energy & Minerals
- Cadastral Survey
- Lands & Realty

I have been thinking about "governance" in general, but more specifically governance for the Bureau of Land Management Eastern States (BLM-ES) and what it means for us. At its raw definition, governance is the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented). I feel that good governance must be participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, equitable and inclusive, effective and efficient, and follow the rule of law.



I want to share with you the actions our Leadership Team is taking to help us instill good governance for the BLM-ES and set the stage for the organization to grow and prosper.

First, our major decisions are going to follow "Rules of Procedure" so anyone may step in and know how and why we make decisions the way we do in the BLM-ES, such as making personnel or budgetary decisions. We are in the process of developing a binder that will house these Rules of Procedures for each of our major decision areas and then have those binders for each of the members of the BLM-ES Leadership Team. These documents will have yearly reviews and updates to make sure our Rules and Procedures are providing good governance to our organization.

Second, the BLM-ES needs to be business like in order to grow and be ready for the new challenges awaiting us. A business plan is the single most important document for a business because it allows a business to obtain funding, buy-in, and investors to grow the business. Each of our seven major program areas will have business plans in place by October 1, 2008 that will be part of the FY09 Program Development & Budget booklet. Currently, our Cadastral team has a business plan, and Energy and Minerals, along with the Wild Horse and Burro Program, are in the development process. The BLM-ES Leadership Team is charged with creating business plans that include all of the components of good governance.

Third, the Leadership Team has agreed to take a training journey with me that will lead to higher awareness. This training journey began with the Farr and Associates training, "Leadership Dynamics in Practice." The fundamental concept of the Farr training is that knowing one's self is essential for good leadership. Your Leadership Team has asked Farr and Associates to help us evaluate ourselves by developing a questionnaire which our employees will soon receive. This input will help our Leadership Team begin to focus on the areas we do well and improve on the areas where we need to improve our governance. The next step in our training journey will focus on Situational Leadership as we continue to build our foundation to achieve good governance and provide enhanced leadership.



My challenge for each one of us is to apply good governance as we deal with the multitude of issues as stewards of our magnificent BLM lands for the American People.

*Jean Paloma*

**GLO HOLDS 10 YEARS ONLINE CELEBRATION**

*By Holly Fowler  
Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States Office*

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, marked the General Land Office (GLO) Records Website's 10th Anniversary of online access to historic Federal land records. Special tours were offered to the public to celebrate this milestone.



Tour guests view historic records in the BLM-ES vaults

“Having these documents available for ten years has made a huge difference for the public to have easy access to these documents” said Juan Palma, State Director of the Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States (BLM-ES).

The BLM-ES office houses over nine million historic land title documents, and is one of the largest land title offices in the world. During the celebration tour participants were allowed to visit special vaults that protect these precious records, including documents created or signed by historical figures such as Jesse James and Thomas Jefferson.



Juan Palma, BLM-ES State Director, addresses tour crowd

The GLO website is one of the most widely used websites in the Department of the Interior, receiving thousands of clicks every day. The GLO site provides image access to more than three million Federal land title records issued between 1820 and 1908 for the 30 Public Land States. Images of Serial Patents (land titles issued between 1908 and the mid-1960's) have also been added to this website. This site offers researchers a source for information on the initial transfer of land titles from the Federal government to individuals. In addition to verifying title transfer, this information allows the researcher to associate an individual (Patentee, Assignee, Warrantee, Widow, or Heir) with a specific location (Legal Land Description) and time (Issue Date).



Participants watch Kate Marks give a bindery demonstration

The celebration included a reception at the end, where visitors could mingle with the GLO employees, ask questions and meet other BLM-ES representatives who helped make this milestone possible.

**EASTERN STATES RECOGNIZED AS A “START! FIT-FRIENDLY COMPANY”**

*By Bill Forbes  
Acting Safety Manager, BLM - Eastern States Office*

At the June all employees meeting, the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office (BLM-ES) was recognized as a Fit-Friendly Company by Sara Huntsman, of the American Heart Association.



Shirlean Beshir, Lavona Smith, Josie Gyurik, State Director Juan Palma, Sara Huntsman and Bill Forbes Showcase new award.

The American Heart Association’s national movement encourages everyone and their employers to create a culture of physical activity and health to live longer, heart-healthier lives through walking. This program recognizes the employers who champion the health of their employees by creating physical activities programs within the workplace.

In December of last year, Acting State Director Barron Bail signed a program pledge card, which demonstrated his commitment to support employee wellness and to encourage employee participation in this program. Since then, the State Office has offered evening aerobics, walking clubs, and use of the U.S. Custom’s exercise equipment for employees.

The BLM-ES Office is one of a few Federal Agencies in the Washington, DC Area that has received this award.

## JACKSON FIELD OFFICE MAKES A SPLASH

By Arlene Lenoir

Management Assistant, BLM - Jackson Field Office

The Jackson Field Office presented an exhibit on the Earth's Water Distribution at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual WaterFest on June 21st at the Ross Barnett Reservoir near Jackson, MS. Lars Johnson, Arlene Lenoir, John Sullivan and Grace Guess represented BLM.

The event featured educational activities, exhibits, water quality demonstrations, and plenty of water and fun. *Waterfest* was sponsored by Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, Rankin County Board of Supervisors, Central MS Resource Conservation and Development Council and the Mill Creek Watershed Implementation Team. It was funded by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

The partners included The Bureau of Land Management, Jackson Audubon Society, Jackson Sail and Power Squadron, Jackson Yacht Club, Keep MS Beautiful, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Mississippi Wildlife Federation, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Northwest Rankin High School, and Project Learning Tree.



BLM representatives showcase information at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *WaterFest*.



Students register and collect information at the event.

### JACKSON HOT SHOTS ARE FIRED UP ON EARTH DAY

By Shayne Banks  
Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Jackson Field Office

As part of Earth Day 2008, the Jackson Field Office sponsored a "hands-on" booth at the Jamie Fowler Boyll State Park in Jackson, MS. Several hundred students from inner-city schools in Jackson participated. With the onset of summer and a drought in the area, the primary topic at the BLM booth was how to be Firewise. Employees handed out brochures and pamphlets, which contain practical and useful information on how to protect people, property and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire.



Children pose with Shayne Banks at the BLM's Fireswise display.

The presentation was interactive and fun, and without a doubt, the hit of the day was trying on the Jackson Hotshot pack test gear. Students put on an official Jackson Hotshot hardhat and a pack test vest, complete with 45 pounds of iron weights sewn in. Comments from students ranged from, "that's really heavy" to, "they have to walk how far?" to "can I try?" Staff also fielded questions about fire management practices and general BLM program questions.

The Jackson Field Office hosts many Firewise booths each year throughout the southeastern United States. "The chance of a catastrophic wildland fire in the highly populated southeast continues to grow as this area continues to suffer from drought conditions. It is extremely important that Firewise information be disseminated to as many households as possible," said Bruce Dawson, Jackson Field Office Manager. "We are making a commitment to ensure that as many communities as possible get good, sound advice."



Photo by Greg Jensen

Student tries on training equipment from the Jackson Hotshots

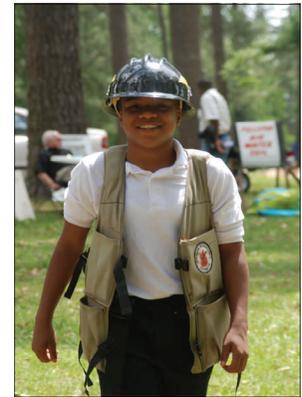


Photo by Shayne Banks

### VOLUNTEERS TAKE A HIKE ON NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

By Holly Fowler  
Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States Office

Since 1993, National Trails Day® (NTD) has grown to inspire many thousands of people to enjoy trails on the same day nationwide. The Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States (BLM-ES) offered many different activities on June 7, 2008 to celebrate NTD at their Lower Potomac Field Station in Lorton, VA.



space for recreation, environmental education, Natural Resources management.

Activities such as corridor clearing and pruning on the Meadowood trail, trail construction, and a 3 mile hike on the property were just a few ways volunteers and staff got involved in this national event.

The Meadowood Recreation Area was acquired on October 18, 2001 by the BLM-ES. This 800 acre recreation site provides open

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Volunteers register and are given National Trails Day T-Shirts



## LOCAL STUDENTS GET HOOKED AT KIDS FISHING DAY

By Ashley Davidson  
Public Affairs Intern, BLM – Eastern States Office

The warm clear weather made for the perfect afternoon for students, teachers, and volunteers at the 2008 annual National Fishing and Boating Week Youth Fishing Event on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Throughout the day, kids surrounded the pond, consistently peering over the edge to locate the fish they were so desperately trying to catch. And each time a child discovered a fish hiding among the algae in the murky water, a smile and big eyes followed by a pointing index finger and waving arms signaled to the surrounding people that the child had found a fish.

The Kids Fishing Day occurred Monday, June 2, 2008 at Constitution Gardens pond on the National Mall, where approximately 300 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders from surrounding areas in Maryland and the District of Columbia attended this outdoor environmental learning experience. The Kids Fishing and Boating Day event is part of the Secretary's, "Take It Outdoors" initiative to support kids learning about the environment. The event teaches students fishing and boating safety, fishing procedures, and team work. The enthusiasm the kids showed throughout the day is hope that children are becoming more inspired to participate in outdoor activities. Inner-city children are not always provided the same benefits for experiencing the outdoors; however this event shows that even in the most inner part of a city a person can create a fun outdoor experience.

The kids had a full day of activities starting with an introductory ceremony, where dignitaries' from diverse organizations encouraged the kids to learn about the great outdoors and to catch a fish. This was followed by safety instructions, fishing activities, a catered lunch, and a reptile show. While the kids waited patiently for fish to bite, they gazed curiously at their surroundings. Random geese fights in the middle of the pond captured their attention as they sat on the large rocks or grass that circled the water. During the reptile show, the kids huddled under the trees for shade. They stood in awe as various pythons were taken out of their covered crates. The irony of the large python's name Itty Bitty, got them all laughing.

"The kids are having so much fun they don't even realize how much they're actually learning. The kids really enjoyed themselves and just being able to see the smiles on their faces when they're fishing is satisfaction enough," said Juan Palma, BLM-ES State Director.

The fun-filled event would not have been as successful as it was without the help from the numerous organizations that provided volunteers. The Bureau of Land Management, along with other organizations such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, D.C. Department of the Environment, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Bureau of Reclamation, Trout Unlimited, and C.A.S.T. for Kids all provided the event with committee members.

The stories these kids can share with their friends and families about the Kids Fishing Day event will provide them with a lasting appreciation for the environment. Janea Johnson, age 10, from John Eaton Elementary School summarized the day by saying, "I like winding in because it makes a funny noise, plus its fun. I learned when the bober goes down you caught a fish!" The youth fishing and boating event is a day that creates memories these kids will keep with them for the rest of their lives.



Right and Left : Two lucky students and their fish!

Below: BLM Staff at KFD



National Trails Day ...continued from page 5

Besides the Meadowood Recreation Area, Mason Neck peninsula, approximately 18 miles south of Washington, D.C., is also the site of Gunston Hall - historic home of George Mason IV, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights. Public lands open for recreation on Mason Neck include the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Mason Neck State Park, and Pohick Bay Regional Park. Cooperative management of this rural area provides recreational activities while protecting natural resources. Habitat is provided for migratory and resident waterfowl, bald eagle nesting, feeding, and roosting, and enhancement of species diversity for a variety of wildlife, including blue heron, wood ducks, screech owls, bluebirds, and tree frogs. Approximately 6,600 acres of land are in public ownership on Mason Neck.

America's 200,000 miles of trails, including those at Meadowood, allow access to the natural world for recreation, education, exploration, solitude, inspiration, and much more. Trails lead to good physical and mental health by providing us with a chance to breathe fresh air, get hearts pumping, and escape from stresses.

The Staff at Meadowood also took this opportunity to present awards to outstanding volunteers for their commitment to BLM and achieving over 500 hours of service.



Juan Palma, BLM-ES State Director, presents Tim Cox of Nanjemoy, MD & Jeff Duncan of Fairfax Station, VA their volunteer awards



### ATTENDEES AIM TO STRIKE IT RICH AT OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE

By Ashley Davidson  
Public Affairs Intern, BLM – Eastern States Office



Participants raise their numbers in the competitive bidding process

The competitive atmosphere among the crowd of people who gathered in the BLM-ES conference room on June 19, 2008 made for a successful oil and gas lease sale. The competitive auction began with several opening statements from representatives of BLM-ES, including State Director Juan Palma. Honored guests from Washington, DC at the sale included Janet Lin, Chief of Staff for the Director's Office, and Johanna Munson, Special Assistant for the Director's Office.

After completion of the sale, 83 parcels of subsurface land which consisted of over 36,000 acres in AL, AR, KY, LA, and MS were sold. Over \$700,000.00 was brought in from the sale, in which 100 percent of available parcels were sold. Each State where leasing occurs receives 25 – 50 percent of the bonus bid, rental, and royalty revenues from the oil and gas leases each quarter.



## WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST TRAPS BEAR IN MISSISSIPPI

By Shayne Banks

Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Jackson Field Office

In a partnership effort with the MS Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP), Alison McCartney, Jackson Field Office (JFO) Wildlife Biologist, was invited to help catch a young black bear that had been observed near a local hunting club in Lauderdale County, MS. Alison will be conducting bear surveys in AR and trapping this bear was a great training exercise.

In late May 2008, Alison, Brad Young, Bear Biologist for the MDWFP, and Brandel Russel, the man who initially spotted the bear, visited the site where the bear had been observed. Tracks were soon located. A trap was placed on the property with donuts placed within the trap as bait. The next morning when the trap was checked, they found that the bear had taken the bait. The bear was tranquilized and taken out of the trap. Standard measurements such as weight and overall dimensions were taken. The bear was marked with two ear tags and a microchip tag was placed under the skin for future identification. The bear was also outfitted with a radio-collar. This collar will allow researchers to locate the bear at a later date using radio-telemetry equipment. In approximately one year, this bear will be relocated and trapped to replace the radio-collar. GPS information will be downloaded from the collar, which will enable researchers to identify exactly where the bear has been over the course of the last year. Alison said, "this was a great opportunity for me. Getting to assist in trapping this bear was amazing, and the experience will definitely come in handy as I search for bears in AR."

According to Brad Young, this is the first documented black bear on record for Lauderdale County. The bear was a sub-adult male and probably wandered over from AL. Black bears are listed as a threatened species in MS under the Endangered Species Act. There are approximately 100 records of black bears in MS and their numbers are climbing every year.



Alison McCartney with the adolescent black bear caught in Lauderdale County, Mississippi

### MEADOWOOD TAKES NEW STRIDES ON TRAILS

By Holly Fowler  
Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Eastern States Office



Washed out trail at LPFS

The Lower Potomac Field Station (LPFS), at Lorton, VA has been improving their trail system with the help of SAFTEA, and Jeff McCusker, an Outdoor Recreation Planner at Meadowood. Jeff submitted a proposal to obtain grant money to fix several of Meadowoods' trails, and was awarded several thousand dollars to help complete this project.

The LPFS employees have also taken steps to further their education on new and innovative trail building techniques. Students, volunteers, staff and a total 8 different agencies have attended information and instructional classes on trail building, which the LPFS hosted. Since the classes started, the LPFS has planned for new and improved trails and is getting close to completing several of them with the help of newly purchased trail building machines. The use of these new trail machines made this daunting task possible. This was illustrated during their training week, as they were able to build 2,400 linear feet of new trail, connecting the east and west sides of the property. BLM staff and key volunteers were trained on a variety of machines during the week-long training.

The old trails were very wide and had erosion problems, which staff at the LPFS are trying to remedy by putting in drainage features to sustain trails, and reshape the surface so the trails are not easily washed away. Big wind storms have also blocked parts of the trail due to fallen trees, and employees have spent many hours clearing these trails. The newly designed trails will provide for a much more intimate trail than currently offered, in turn heightening the trail experience of hikers, trail runners, and equestrians with higher skill levels.

Accomplishments of the LPFS trail system include:

- Surfaced a total of 1,000 linear feet of the Meadowood Trail, widened portions of this trail, and replaced a culvert with a new 12 foot bridge.
- Raised an 80 foot long section of the Thompson Creek Trail to improve drainage.
- Rehabilitated 400 linear feet of the Mustang Trail that was severely damaged in several spring rain events. This involved installing rolling dips to drain the trail, cleaning out runoff ditches, and bringing washed out trail surface materials onto the surface and reshaping it to provide for drainage.
- Construction of a 750 foot section of the realigned portion of the Meadowood Trail on the West parcel, as part of an Eagle Scout project, an AmeriCorps project, and a trail demonstration workshop on National Trails Day.



Constructing and resurfacing trails



### REQUESTS FOR LAND PATENTS AT EASTERN STATES

By Jennifer Spencer  
Land Law Examiner, BLM - Eastern States Office

The Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States Office (BLM-ES) is the largest land title record repository in the world. More than 5 million title documents are stored and maintained in vaults at the BLM-ES office in Springfield, VA. Every day we furnish certified copies of land patents that may be needed as proof of land or mineral title ownership. In thousands of cases, this is needed more than a century after the original transfer from Federal to private ownership has been made. Most requests for copies come from genealogists seeking information about their ancestors. Individuals and firms involved in real estate and mineral exploration and development find these records essential to knowing whether or not the United States owns the land, or if mineral rights were reserved to the Federal government when the United States conveyed title to the land. About half of the records are available on-line at [www.glorecode.blm.gov](http://www.glorecode.blm.gov), the others can be researched by contacting the BLM-ES.

## INTERN GOES WILD OVER MUSTANGS AND BURROS

By Emma Rinehart

Administrative Assistant, BLM - Milwaukee Field Office

I am a student in the Horse Management program at Michigan State University, completing an internship with the Bureau of Land Management in Milwaukee. It was quite a nerve-racking experience to move from my home State of MI to an entirely unknown area and begin a new job with the United States government. However, two months into a three month internship, it feels like home, thanks to the warmth and friendliness of the people in the office.



Emma educates children about the origin of mustangs

My work with the Bureau has been with the Wild Horse and Burro team. Most of our time is spent in the office in downtown Milwaukee, where we handle all of the paperwork for the horses and adopters. They interact constantly with the public, from answering questions about our program and procedures for curious inquirers, to completing phone compliances where recent adopters are able to let us know about any problems or questions they might have. I was also able to become familiar with WHBIS (Wild Horse and Burro Information System), which allows us to track a horse from the time it is captured and entered into the system, until it is titled and thus transferred from government property to private ownership. This system also provides information such as physical description and freemark numbers regarding herd and State information. Part of the work in WI is also

done at one of our facilities in Mequon, where we care for the horses and burros that are available for adoption by appointment in the summer. I also took part in a few interviews for local newspapers that were interested in the procedures for adopting, and the mustangs available at Mequon.

About once a month we travel to adoption sites throughout the northeastern United States. I really enjoy the adoptions because I am able to interact with the public on a more personal level, helping them decide which horse they'd like to take home or informing them of the facts and requirements so that they can be prepared to adopt at a later date. Besides assisting the adopters, I helped with both the office paperwork and sorting the horses in the pens, and was able to get a taste of the many different aspects that go into making an adoption a success.

Recently I accompanied Steve Meyer, a Wild Horse and Burro specialist in our office, on a public outreach visit to a Christian children's camp called Shekinah Ranch. This beautiful PA camp conveniently housed a group of girls attending a horse camp that week, so we paid them a visit to educate them about mustangs. We started off with a presentation about the history of the mustang and explained where different breeds of horses came from, and how they were left behind during the Civil War.

*Continued on page 11...*



Emma and her last adoption with the Milwaukee Horse Crew



Children gather around to hear wild mustang stories

*Wild horse and burro intern... continued from page 10*

We also told them about how the horses are gathered and prepared for adoptions, and of course, how to go about adopting one. The girls were a great audience, showing interest and asking lots of questions. Each one was able to take home mementos which included pens, magnets, books, and posters that they had Steve and I sign. After everyone got their goodies, they broke up into smaller groups and Steve saddled up Sam, his 6-year-old mustang that he takes as a mascot to show that if handled properly, mustangs can be every bit as gentle and trustworthy as a domestic horse. Sam was very well behaved while he got rubbed and scratched by everyone. While the girls asked more questions, they were able to see and hold a brand that is used to apply the unique freemark to every mustang's neck (which is used for identification purposes). It was a very rewarding experience for me to be able to see this group of horse-crazy girls, who reminded me so much of myself in my younger days, become so interested in mustangs, which have become a living symbol of our nation's past. We left with sad good-byes and a standing invitation to return.

My experience with the BLM has been very enjoyable and rewarding. I was exposed to a whole new side of the horse industry that I really didn't know much about, and in doing so, I've not only learned about a fascinating breed of horses, but I have met some of the most welcoming horsemen there are. I have been awed by the rugged beauty and intelligence of the American mustang, and have seen countless success stories where people have found their dream horse for any discipline they can imagine, from dressage to cutting to endurance riding. From my coworkers both in Milwaukee and throughout the BLM, to volunteers at adoptions, I have only met warm and generous people who are more than happy to answer millions of questions from a curious intern.

## GIRL SCOUTS AND BLM STRIKE GOLD!

*By Pam Duncan,  
BLM volunteer and Girl Scout Advisor*



Girl Scouts begin to build deer enclosure

Despite the rigorous demands of being high school seniors, three local Girl Scouts earned their Gold Awards, the highest and most prestigious award in Girl Scouting, with projects at BLM's Meadowood Special Recreation Area in VA during the past year. Partnering with Meadowood SRMA staff, Lauren McPherson, Amy McCormack, and Paige Freeman looked for projects that would not only satisfy the requirements of the Gold Award, but would give back to their community in unique ways.

Lauren worked closely with Jeff McCusker, Recreation Specialist, at the Lower Potomac Field Station (LPFS) to explore various bench designs that not only would be functional and comfortable, but also would blend into the natural surroundings on the Wood Thrush Trail. Because several of Lauren's benches were earmarked for a new accessible trail, her research included a review of the

American Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines for accessible benches. Once Lauren decided on a design, she developed a detailed materials list and a cost estimate for the benches followed by a volunteer work schedule to build and install the benches. Lauren's project exercised her planning, organization, leadership and communication skills and provided several new experiences such as cost estimating, woodworking, and supervising adults. The benches, each located in a unique spot, provide restful places for hikers and horseback riders to stop and enjoy the view.



Girl Scout troop works together to complete enclosure design.

When Jinx Fox, LPFS Natural Resources Specialist, first spoke with Amy about the possibility of building a deer enclosure, Amy's first question was "What's a deer enclosure?" As soon as she realized that a deer enclosure would provide a structured way to measure the effects of deer on forests, Amy decided that it was just the project for her. A deer enclosure consists of a high, deer-proof fence which keeps deer from grazing or browsing in a designated study area. Amy conducted extensive internet research, looking for design ideas and study methodologies, and carefully studied the deer enclosures at the neighboring Great Marsh Trail. Amy's project, which took more than 155 volunteer hours to complete, used her planning, organization, leadership and communication skills as well as her math skills to develop the study area and documentation materials. Amy's deer enclosure is visible from the Thompson Creek Trail at Meadowood. In addition to the deer enclosure itself, Amy designed interpretative materials that educate the public and provide an opportunity for individuals to collect and analyze data themselves.

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### AMERICAS LIVING LEGENDS ADOPTED TO GOOD HOMES

By Ashley Davidson  
Public Affairs Intern, BLM – Eastern States Office



A line forms early in the morning at the adoption

Hundreds of people gathered on the crowded grounds in an attempt to view wild mustangs and burros available for adoption. Kids and adults alike eagerly swarmed around the wild horse and burro pens looking for the horse of their dreams.

Throughout three weekends in June and July, the Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States (BLM-ES) held wild horse and burro adoptions in several States to find good homes for these remarkable animals. People traveled from all over the country to attend the adoptions. The adoptions were located in Florence, AL on June 28, New Freedom, PA July 11 - 13, and Archdale, NC July 18 - 20. Over 75 wild horses and burros were adopted to good homes at these events.



Robin Rivello with her mustang



Susan Meyers poses with her mustang

Since the Wild Horse and Burro program began in 1973, over 214,000 animals have been adopted nationwide. The increase in the wild horse and burro population on western public rangelands will create over competition for food and water that could cause these wonderful animals to starve to death. Damage to western public rangelands is already occurring because of the population increase. However, with more successful adoptions like these, the BLM-ES hopes to maintain a balance between these animals and the resources available to sustain them.



### NOKESVILLE HORSE SOCIETY MOONLIGHTS AT MEADOWOOD

By Faye Brewster  
Trail Ride Director- Nokesville Horse Society



The Nokesville Horse Society's monthly trail ride took place Saturday night, August 16, at the Bureau of Land Management's Meadowood Special Recreation Area located on Mason Neck in Lorton, VA. For you night watchers, that was a bright night with a full moon. The weather was perfect and the grounds more than adequate for the 12 plus riders and horses. The moonlight ride lasted approximately two hours.



The ride started at about 7 pm from the Mustang Trailhead. Jinx Fox, Natural Resource Specialist, was our point of contact from the Bureau of Land Management, who graciously stayed to lock down the area when we left. We started the ride on a large field surrounded by woods. Riders then passed through the woods opening into a marsh land area surrounding a pond. One trail, aptly named the Chicken Coop Trail, contains a small "chicken coop" horse jump, enjoyed by most of the riders. The trails there are very well groomed and in the moonlight we could easily see the trail in front of us. We looped the Meadowood Recreation Area twice, opting for the thrill of riding in the dark woods dimly lit by the bright moonlight. It brought very fond memories for the many riders who remembered youthful nights on horseback! The Nokesville Horse Society thanks the Bureau of Land Management for allowing us to enjoy these beautiful grounds!

## STUDENTS TAKE IT OUTSIDE AT MEADOWOOD

By Theresa Jefferson

Environmental Education Specialist, BLM - Lower Potomac Field Station

Recent activities have kept the Lower Potomac Field Office busy this year. On July 24, 2008 the Greater Washington Urban League, Inc. students participated in a full day camp at Meadowood, near Lorton, VA. The United Horsemen's Association spent the morning teaching Washington, D.C. urban youth about horses. Students finished their horse lesson by learning how to ride. Students participated in a soil presentation by a local Soil Scientist who taught them the importance of soil. Students also learned about habitat while on the trails and finished the afternoon with "Pathways to Fishing".

On June 23 and 24 CampFire USA held summer environmental enrichment day camps at Meadowood, teaching local students about the environment. The following activities were conducted by BLM staff and trained Campfire Counselors: "Urban Leave No Trace" tent demonstration, fishing, a habitat hike on the WoodThrush Trail and a soil presentation by a local Soil Scientist. Campfire USA also brought the "Young Neighbors", a volunteer group from WI and NC to assist with the students.

The George Washington Carver Outdoor School Inc. hosted several Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) overnight camps this summer. WOW introduces urban youth ranging from 8-12 years old to the wonders of outdoor recreation and the importance of protecting the environment. Students from Washington, DC camped at Catocin Mountain Park in Thurmont, MD next to Camp David, and Prince William Forest in Triangle, VA. The National Park Service waived the site fees as part of the MOU between the agencies. Students spent their time hiking, star gazing, story telling, team building and just enjoying nature.



Students listen intently to instructors as they give demonstrations



## LIGHTING THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE OF PLUM AND PILOT ISLANDS

By Carol Grundman

Realty Specialist, BLM - Milwaukee Field Office

The ever present "lights" on Plum and Pilot Islands that have guided maritime travelers through treacherous Lake Michigan waters along "Death Door's Passage" for over 200 years have a new future within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Management of these islands transferred from the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) through hard work and dedication of the Bureau of Land Management -Eastern States (BLM-ES), Milwaukee Field Office. With common goals for the protection of unique island ecosystems and historic lighthouse structures, the BLM-ES worked with the USCG, FWS, and community groups to preserve these resources for future generations.

The Milwaukee Field Office staff joined the USCG and FWS in celebrating the transfer of these lands on May 16, 2008. The ceremony took place under beautiful blue skies along the southern shore of Washington Island, with the historic lighthouse structures on Plum Island clearly in view for all 160 attendees for the day's events.

A large tent on the grounds of the historic Washington Island Ferry Dock at Detroit Harbor provided shade for the attendees. Participants were greeted by the music of the Twin Hill String Band and were treated to a fantastic buffet lunch provided by the Friends of Plum and Pilot Island.



Left to right: Mark Storzer, Capt. Bruce Jones, Patti Meyers, and Charlie Woolie hold print of original survey plat

...Continued on page 15

## VIRGINIA'S FIRST INTERNET-ADOPTED WILD MUSTANG, A MAGIC SPELL

By Melanie Jackson,  
Wild Horse Adopter, Front Royal, VA

I began dreaming about adopting a mustang in 1992 when I first saw an ad in a horse magazine that urged me to "Ride the Legend. Adopt a Wild Mustang." I called the 800 number in the ad and received a BLM brochure, titled "So You'd Like to Adopt." It described the adoption requirements, including the 6 foot high corral with an attached shelter, and a stock trailer with a door that swings open to the side to pick up the horse.



Melanie Jackson lets children pet Magic Spell

In 1998 this dream came true when I participated in the first BLM internet adoption. When I saw Magic Spell's picture posted on the adoption website, his eyes captivated me. I knew that this little sorrel yearling with the unique white blaze was special-- the right horse for me.

Once part of a band of wild horses roaming the desert in the northeast corner of NV, Magic was both frightened and quite wild when I first got him home. But I had a gentling plan and I worked with him every day faithfully in the round pen. Within a month, he was standing on a lead line so our vet could tranquilize him and geld him. By two months he was accepting a grooming routine, would tolerate wearing a snaffle bit tied to his halter for an hour a day, and he accepted a cinched up cloth saddle pad and followed my leading cues, even with stirrups dangling as he trotted around the pen.

I waited (as recommended by vets) until he was 42 months old to ride him to be certain his knees had closed. But because I had worked with him daily, he never bucked. At first, I rode out behind the local riding stable's trail rides in VA's Shenandoah River State Park. I wanted Magic to learn trail etiquette and I didn't want to be out on a trail riding a green horse by myself.

As a 5-year-old, I entered Magic in the American Mustang and Burro Association's 2002 show at the DE State Fairgrounds, mainly as a training exercise. But I was thrilled when Magic took second place in trail, barrel racing and pole bending novice classes and third in a halter class.

Magic is both social and intelligent. He loves attention and people. In 2003 he was a big hit as "mustang ambassador" at Central VA's Burn Camp, a two-week camping program hosted by VA's firefighters to provide educational and entertaining experiences for children traumatized by burns. For many of these children, it was the first time they had been in the presence of a horse, let alone wild mustang.



I have also taken him and a small portable corral, to senior centers and nursing homes for pet therapy visits. I talk with the seniors about the mustang adoption program and how I got Magic. Then he performs his tricks for the seniors—he bows, shakes hands and backs up on verbal commands. The seniors reward him with carrot and apple treats.



Melanie and Magic Spell enjoy a trail ride

In the spring of 2007, at age 10, I asked friends and relatives to sponsor Magic and I on a 25-mile ride to raise funds for Meals on Wheels in the Shenandoah Valley. Magic completed the ride in 5 hours and raised \$1,743. As we begin our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary together in 2008, Magic and I share another accomplishment—together we have traversed over 1,500 miles on trails in PA, VA, WV, and TN.

Each time I take Magic out for a trail ride, I marvel at how lucky I am to have adopted the perfect partner. I truly "ride the western legend."

*Girl Scouts Strike Gold....Continued from page 11*

Paige's idea to develop a "hands on" environmental awareness patch program for young children was music to the ears of Theresa Jefferson, Environmental Education Specialist at the LPFS. Paige's challenge was to find fun and exciting ways to present the information while holding the children's attention. Paige's approach was to develop a colorful activity booklet full of facts about the environment and to host a workshop full of "hands on" activities for the children, such as making clouds and worm pins, creating leaf rubbings, playing animal charades and planting flowers with a spoon. Paige's project tapped skills such as brainstorming, planning, organizing, designing, leading by example and communicating effectively with a variety of age groups.

All three of these Gold Award projects add wonderful, new dimensions to the public's experiences at Meadowood. Not only can visitors hike and ride the trails, they now can also sit and gaze at wildlife across a busy meadow or pond, participate in a study about the effects of deer on forests, and increase children's awareness of the delicate balance between nature, man, and the environment.

Lauren, Amy and Paige, who will attend Christopher Newport, the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech this fall, are all "shining" examples of how Girl Scouts helps girls grow strong! They truly exemplify the Girl Scout service and work ethics and have provided greatly increased opportunities for public enjoyment of Meadowood and its resources.

## MISSISSIPPI STUDENTS GET A JUMP ON ENVIROMENTAL EDUCATION DAY

By Shayne Banks

Public Affairs Specialist, BLM - Jackson Field Office



Summer in Mississippi, makes you think of hot, humid days, bugs and more bugs, and kids at summer camp. At Piney Woods School, a historically black boarding school located south of Jackson, several hundred students attended a summer enrichment program. Part of this program was called "Environmental Education Day," and the BLM Jackson Field Office (JFO) was asked to participate.



JFO has a longstanding partnership with Piney Woods School and we try to participate every year on Environmental Education Day. This year JFO worked with approximately 75 students ranging in age from 9 to 16 years old. Our focus was on the Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) program. The students were transported to the BLM holding facility located on the 1,000 acre Piney Woods Campus. Once on site, the students learned all about the WH&B program, the Jackson Hotshots and they had the opportunity to get hands-on experience with a real, live horse. For many of the students this was their first time to ever be close to a horse. Shayne Banks, public affairs for JFO, fielded many questions from the students from, "what do they eat?" to "how do I get off?" At the end of the day the kids were excited to have learned all about the wonders of wild horses. These students now have a better appreciation for wild horses and their fragile environment.

For many students, this was the first time they had the opportunity to interact with a mustang

*Plum and Pilot Islands...Continued from page 13*

The ceremony began with representatives from BLM, FWS, and USCG addressing the audience of lighthouse enthusiasts and preservationists from around Wisconsin and the bordering states as they acknowledged the significant contributions that these islands have made to maritime travel and commerce, wildlife habitat, and our nation's history. Tim Sweet, President of the Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands, charted a new direction for the future of the islands' historic structures. In partnership with the FWS, they plan to restore the lighthouses to their former glory and place in maritime history. Rich Langan, Field Representative from Congressman Steve Kagan's office, and WI Secretary of State, Doug LaFollette, affirmed governmental support for the transfer, and Patti Meyer, Refuge Manager, offered closing remarks for the day's festivities. Mark Storzer, BLM Milwaukee Field Manager, concluded the ceremony with the presentation of a commemorative print of the original survey plat for Plum and Pilot Islands to the Deputy Regional Director of the FWS, Charlie Wooley.

The ceremony for Plum and Pilot Islands celebrated many years of work that brought together a divergent group of people who shared a common vision. Through these partnerships, the "lights" and resources on Plum and Pilot Islands will be preserved for future generations. The celebration ended with the unique opportunity to board a chartered boat for a guided tour of Plum Island.



**HUMAN RESOURCES  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
FORMED AT BLM-EASTERN STATES**

The Human Resources Development Committee (HRDC) was established in the fall of 2007 as an advisory committee to the State Director and the BLM- Eastern States (BLM-ES) Leadership Team (ES LT) to help promote effective human resource programs and to serve as a clearing house for employee concerns. Their goal is to help enhance and improve job satisfaction, opportunity, and morale through developing programs that will benefit our employees.

HRDC members from left to right:

Ian Glander, Cindy Kahn, Juan Palma, Arlene Lenoir, Pam Taylor, Pam Mozina, Kimberly Reed Holly Fowler, Carol Grundman, and Jim Engstrom

The Jackson and Milwaukie Field Offices, Lower Potomac Field Station, and each State Office Division have two representatives on the committee that serve a two year term. The Human Resources Officer and the Equal Employment Officer Manager serve as non-voting advisory members on the committee that is chaired by Arlene Lenoir from the Jackson Field Office. Meetings are held monthly on the second Monday of the month.

**Looking back over the year**

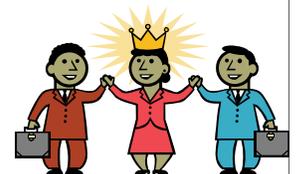
HRDC has had a very successful beginning and here are several highlights from our first year include:



- The HRDC Charter was accepted and approved in September 2007
- With contributions from employees, HRDC reviewed and provided comment to the (ESLT) on three primary programs: Mentoring, Knowledge Management, and Leadership Succession
- HRDC contributed to the 2007 winter celebrations at each office site
- The Peer-to-Peer Awards Program was established
- HRDC participated in early discussions for new informational classes specific to BLM-ES that would potentially be offered every several years to new employees
- The HRDC web page is under development
- Assist Human Resources to promote BLM-ES as a great location to live and work
- An Educational Award Program has been approved to help BLM-ES employees fund educational opportunities

**Peer to Peer Awards**

Congratulations to those individuals who received a Peer to Peer Award this year, and to those employees who made the effort to recognize their peers for their outstanding contribution. There is still time to take to recognize a fellow worker.



**What's Next**



With much more work ahead, HRDC looks forwards to continuing to bring benefits and services to Eastern States. Future topics of interest to employees have included new employee orientation, tele-commuting, and improved statewide communication. All comments and suggestions, are welcome and everyone is encouraged to participate in developing programs of value that will further individual and organizational goals in BLM-ES.

**HRDC Committee Members**

Jackson Field Office	Arlene Lenoir and Pam Taylor
Lower Potomac Field Station	Theresa Jefferson and Vacant
Milwaukee Field Office	Carol Grundman and Jim Engstrom
Natural Resources	Cindy Kahn and Shirlee Gilmore
Business Resources	Kimberly Reed and Pam Mozina
State Director/External Affairs	Vacant and Holly Fowler

## 10 WAYS TO GO GREEN AT WORK

### Be bright about light

Artificial lighting accounts for 44 percent of the electricity use in office buildings. Make it a habit to turn off the lights when you're leaving any room for 15 minutes or more and utilize natural light when you can

### Maximize computer efficiency

Computers in the business sector unnecessarily waste \$1 billion worth of electricity a year. Make it a habit to turn off your computer—and the power strip it's plugged into—when you leave for the day

### Print smarter

The average U.S. office worker goes through 10,000 sheets of copy paper a year. Make it a habit to print on both sides or to use the back side of old documents for faxes, scrap paper, or drafts. Avoid color printing and print in draft mode whenever feasible

### Go paperless when possible

Make it a habit to think before you print: could this be read or stored online instead?

### Ramp up your recycling

Make it a habit to recycle everything your company collects. Just about any kind of paper you would encounter in an office, including fax paper, envelopes, and junk mail, can be recycled

### Close the loop

Make it a policy to purchase office supplies and furniture made from recycled materials

### Watch what (and how) you eat

Make it a habit to bring your own mug and dishware for those meals you eat at the office

### Rethink your travel

Make it a habit to take the train, bus, or subway when feasible instead of a rental car when traveling on business

### Reconsider your commute

Make it a habit to carpool, bike, or take transit to work, and/or telecommute when possible. If you need to drive occasionally, consider joining a car-sharing service like Zipcar ([www.zipcar.com](http://www.zipcar.com)) and Flexcar ([www.flexcar.com](http://www.flexcar.com)). These are great alternatives to owning your own wheels

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or visit our website at [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)

*Writer/Editor/Graphic Design: Holly Fowler*

BLM-ES  
Lower Potomac Field Station  
10406 Gunston Road  
Lorton, Virginia 22079

BLM-ES  
Jackson Field Office  
411 Briarwood Dr. Suite 404  
Jackson, Mississippi 39206

BLM-ES  
Milwaukee Field Office  
626 East Wisconsin Ave. Suite 200  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202