

Idaho BLM In Action

August 2008 Edition

Idaho

BLM



Murphy Complex Fire Area

From the Washington Office

BLM Soil Scientists Contribute to National Exhibition at Smithsonian Museum

BLM recognizes the vital role of soils in the health and sustainability of America's public lands

Washington Office - The significance of soil and the history of its management are highlighted in a new national exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. The BLM is a collaborator with the Smithsonian and numerous other organizations in the support, promotion and design of the new exhibition, called "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil." The 5,000-square-foot exhibition recently opened to the public and will be featured at the natural history museum, located on 10th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., for 18 months. After this period, the exhibition is expected to travel to 10 museums across the country, through the year 2013, under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

"Dig It!" features a monolith, or soil profile showing the layers formed in the soil, of the state soil for each of the 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. The state soils were designated based on their special significance to the economy of the particular states. The monoliths for Scobey (the Montana state soil) and Orovada (the Nevada state soil) were collected on BLM land. Many of the other state soils in the West occur extensively on BLM lands as well. "Dig It" also includes models, interactive displays and videos demonstrating water, nutrient and gas movement in soils, soil formation and the importance of soils in people's daily lives. The exhibition illustrates how healthy soils are linked to human health, economic strength, environmental health and food security, and how human activities affect soils. BLM employees Bill Ypsilantis, Jim Renthal, Rob Roudabush and Jack Hamby were instrumental in providing resources for those portions of the exhibit featuring soil management on public lands.

The BLM recognizes the vital role of soils in the health and sustainability of America's public lands. The BLM's commitment to effective stewardship of the nation's soil resources is demonstrated in its work to reduce accelerated erosion, maintain healthy native plant and animal communities, and to complete a comprehensive soil survey on public land. The BLM is joining with other Federal partners, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, to classify and interpret the baseline soil information that is a measure of the potential for all land uses.

Smithsonian Institute Website

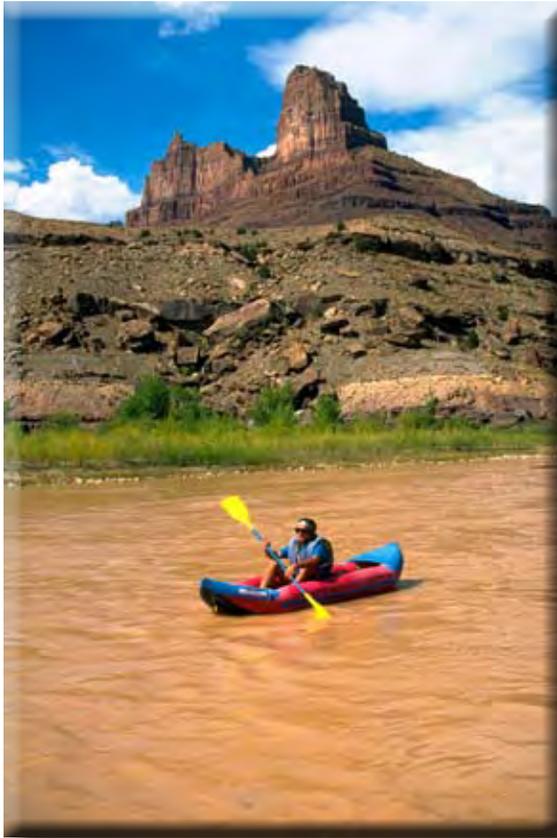


From the Washington Office

Upgraded BLM Image Library Offers Views of American West

One of the most popular internet resources, helps people visualize and promote landscapes managed by BLM

Washington Office - The Bureau of Land Management has launched an enhanced online image library that combines thousands of digital photographs of landscapes and historical images of the American West.



The BLM Image Library, available through the BLM Website at <http://photos.blm.gov>, contains more than 60,000 images of public lands, mostly in 12 Western states, including Alaska. A special collection maintained by the BLM's National Operations Center includes 3,600 historical photos dating back to the early surveys of the West.

Users are able to search state and national collections by keyword or descriptions, then download images in a variety of sizes. A "shopping cart" feature allows users to collect a number of images and then download all in a compressed folder.

The BLM Image Library was established in 2001 and went on to become a popular resource used for publications, presentations, Websites and news stories. The system has been upgraded and enhanced to work within the BLM's redesigned Website. A large collection of images from the BLM-California State Office nearly doubled the size of the library to 64,000 images.

Among the images are thousands of illustrations of areas managed by the BLM, including National Monuments, National Conservation Areas and popular recreation areas. The collection also includes spectacular images of the agency's vast landscape resources, as well as images of multiple uses and resources managed by the BLM, including livestock grazing, mineral development, energy production, wild horses and burros, wildfire and cultural sites.

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"We're thrilled to have the Image Library back online," said Jeff Krauss, the Chief of the BLM's Public Affairs Division. "It has been one of the BLM's most popular Internet resources for graphic artists, educators, Web designers and news organizations. It will be a big help for people to visualize and promote the great landscapes we manage."

Many of the images in the BLM Image Library are considered public domain. They may be used in print and electronic publications without further authorization from the BLM. However, users are asked to give photographic credit to the Bureau of Land Management.

Public Land News and Actions

Idaho and Nevada Resource Advisory Councils Tour Proposed China Mountain Wind Power Project

Proposed project area covers BLM-managed land in Jarbidge field office

Jarbidge Field Office - It was a breezy day for a tour, giving participants a glimpse of the wind resources available on China Mountain. It is this wind resource that a subsidiary of Renewable Energy Systems America Developments, China Mountain Wind LLC, would like to tap into for one of the largest wind power projects ever proposed for public land.

The meeting was designed to give Twin Falls District and Northeastern Nevada Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members an overview of the proposed project and a tour of the area depicted to have one of the best wind resources in Idaho (according to wind testing site maps displayed by China Mountain LLC).

BLM has begun initial public scoping for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The China Mountain Wind Power project proposes to develop an approximately 425 megawatt (MW) wind energy facility consisting of up to 185 turbines on approximately 30,700 acres in the Jarbidge Foothills. Each wind turbine would have a capacity between 2.3 and 3.0 MW. The entire project would generate enough power to supply energy to about 185,000 homes.

The proposed project area includes: approximately 15,300 acres of public land administered by the BLM Jarbidge Field Office; 4,700 acres of public lands administered by BLM Wells Field Office; 2,000 acres of land managed by the State of Idaho; and 8,700 acres of private land in Idaho.



This was the first time RAC members from Idaho and Nevada have met. Many wildlife habitat, cultural and recreational issues will be studied during the environmental analysis. For now, many of the RAC members will wait and see what happens before determining an appropriate recommendation for the BLM.

Public Land News and Actions

Twin Falls District Hosts Idaho BLM Director Tom Dyer for All Employees Meeting

Dyer speaks about the future of BLM Idaho, congratulates employees for hard work and determination



Twin Falls District Office - The Twin Falls District recently brought nearly all of the 186 permanent and temporary employees together for a meeting in the Snake River Canyon Centennial Park in Twin Falls. Following a safety awards presentation and the swearing in of new Law Enforcement Ranger Richard Lloyd, State Director Tom Dyer was on-hand to speak about the future of BLM in Idaho, and to congratulate the employees for their hard work and determination in the face of challenging litigation and overwhelming workloads. Dyer spent time answering questions and listening to suggestions from the staff.

Judy Thom, College of Southern Idaho Human Resource Specialist and stress management counselor, also spoke to the staff about managing stress in today's workplace.

Employees reported the meeting to be a success – particularly enjoying the chance to be together and see staff from other field offices in a location that allowed them the opportunity to enjoy Idaho's beautiful outdoors.



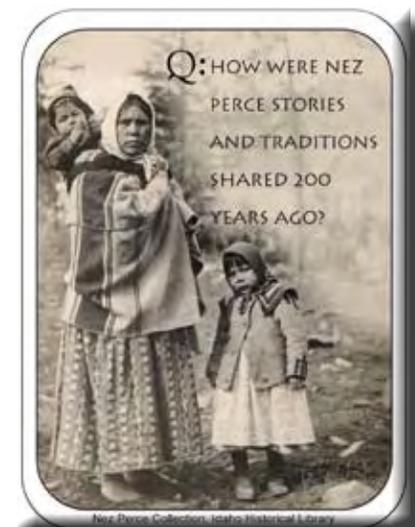
Nez Perce Tribe Quiz Cards Created by BLM for Public Distribution

Cards address aspects of archeology, natural history and hazards of abandoned mine lands

Cottonwood Field Office - The development of a set of interpretive question/answer quiz cards was orchestrated by Idaho BLM Cottonwood FO Archeologist David Sisson. The cards address Nez Perce Tribal life before the Nez Perce War of 1877; various aspects of archeology; and natural history and hazards of abandoned mine sites – all of which may be encountered when enjoying our public lands.

Sisson used a unique partnership to develop this 24-card set, which involved students from the Prairie Elementary Fourth Grade classes in Cottonwood, ID; the cultural department of the Nez Perce Tribe; and staff/students from the Oregon State University Department of Anthropology. Once the initial text was developed, Sisson involved BLM staff to edit the material to appeal to a wide audience. Graphics for the cards were developed from historic and recent photographs and from original artwork by the elementary students and BLM archeologist Matthew Werle and BLM Idaho State Office Visual Information Specialist Antonia Hedrick.

These are available at no cost to the public and will be used at school programs and for special events, such as the county fair. They will be stocked at the local chamber of commerce and other local businesses.



Public Land News and Actions

BLM Hosts Annual “Bite-High” Tour on Historic Minidoka Allotment

Second-generation permittee family participates in tour

BLM Twin Falls District Office – Each spring, the BLM Burley Field Office and Upper Snake Field Office host what has become known as the “Bite-High Tour” with the sheep permittees. The tour’s purpose is to determine a spring turnout date. The tour was aptly named because as soon as the grass is bite-high, the permittees are anxious to turnout their sheep. Thus begins the interesting dynamic of competitive camaraderie between the permittees. By turnout time, permittees jockey for position to capture the best spot where the sheep will spend their first night prior to beginning the long trek across the desert on opening day. From the beginning, the herders lead their sheep to the best available forage throughout the 90-mile journey.

“My son tells me he wants to be a sheep herder like his dad and that makes it all worth it...” – Rochelle Oxarango



The Minidoka Allotment carries a unique piece of Idaho history. For nearly a dozen permittees, it’s one of the few remaining allotments still managed as a large pasture with no range improvements. True to its past, it has no fences or water trough developments. The allotment is 99,461 acres, of which 95,421 acres are on public land managed by the BLM and 4,040 acres on state lands managed by the Idaho Department of Lands.

The area around the Minidoka Allotment is purported to have been grazed by sheep since before the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. It is located about three miles north of Minidoka, Idaho, passing through both Minidoka and Blaine counties. It contains historic use areas where the sheep can trail onto the BLM Idaho Falls District in the

spring and back to the BLM Twin Falls District in the fall. In 2000, portions of the allotment were added to the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.

Second generation sheep rancher Robert Oxarango and his wife Rochelle employ Peruvian herders, several of whom have been with the Oxarangos for years. These skilled herders, with their herding instincts, mellow demeanor and knowledge of the Minidoka allotment, prove invaluable, particularly when it comes to sheep weigh-out time in August.

Operating the Oxarango’s outfit takes tremendous heart, determination and fortitude. It’s hard, but rewarding work, a tradition that the Oxarango’s hope to one day pass along to their children. “New challenges face us each year it seems, but when my son tells me all he wants to do is grow up to be a sheep rancher just like his Dad, that makes it all worth it,” said Rochelle Oxarango.

The hopes and dreams of this working ranch family and the unique history of the Minidoka allotment will be featured in an upcoming issue of “Southern Idaho Living” magazine.

Public Land News and Actions

Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission Hosts “After the Flames” Tour



Twin Falls District BLM staff makes presentations at site of murphy complex fire

Twin Falls District Office - The Murphy Complex “After the Flames” tour attracted nearly 80 people for a day of learning about sagebrush ecosystems and fire. Many of the tour attendees were Idaho Department of Fish & Game volunteers who had collected sagebrush seed earlier in the year along with ranchers, Resource Advisory Council members, county commissioners, and University of Idaho and agency staff.

Twin Falls District BLM staff played a key role throughout the tour as they gave presentations about the Murphy Complex, fuel break management and green strip maintenance, fire rehabilitation and natural fire recovery.

At the end of the day, tour participants walked away with a better understanding of the challenges brought on by the ever increasing size of fires in the west, and the resources available to public land managers before, during and after these fires.



Historic Gilmore Townsite Panels Installed with Help of Volunteers

Panels educate visitors on gilmore and pittsburgh railroad, lead silver mines of region

In 2004, BLM and the Lemhi County Museum entered into a partnership project to further explore the history and educate the public of the history of the Gilmore Townsite, the Gilmore and Pittsburgh Railroad, and the lead silver mines of the region. Gilmore is located approximately 70 miles southeast of Salmon.

The project included the development of on-site panels which would interpret the history of regional mining and community development in the townsite of Gilmore. The Idaho State Office designed the six display panels, Dr. Hope Benedict developed the text and the Historical Society and private donors contributed photos. The display panels were installed at Gilmore on August 2, 2008 with the help of volunteers.

In addition to the interpretive panels, there is a traveling exhibit and a permanent exhibit in the museum. The traveling exhibit is now in the Leadore Community Center and will be on exhibit this fall in the Salmon School District and, later in the year, at the Brooklyn School.



Public Land News and Actions

BLM Helps Make Wild Horse and Burro Adoption a Big Success

45 animals adopted at event including 38 horses and 7 burros

Upper Snake Field Office – A wild horse and burro (WH&B) adoption was recently held at the Rigby, Idaho rodeo grounds. Attendance was high all three days in spite of the stormy weather, and a total of 45 animals were adopted (38 horses and 7 burros).

The majority of adopters were from the Rigby area, with the furthest traveling about 30 miles to the adoption. Several of the horses were adopted for more than the \$125 minimum bid and the highest bid went for \$375.

Gus Warr from the BLM Utah State Office and his team from across Utah brought 47 horses and 10 burros to the Rigby rodeo grounds and put on a great event with help from members of the Upper Snake Field Office. There were four demonstrations by Mario Johnson, a professional horse trainer from Georgetown, Idaho who is currently one of a select number of trainers in the “Wyoming Mustang Challenge” competition. His experience and skill in working wild mustangs showed as he was able to get the horses haltered and ground worked calmly in a round pen. Johnson was able to pick up the feet on one horse and put a leg over his back after three hours!



The public was there from dawn until dusk, and the adoption crew put in long days. In all, the adoption was largely successful, both in terms of the number of animals adopted, public contacts and outreach.

Big thanks go to Warr and the Utah folks for the success of this event. The Utah WH&B team is hoping to return to the area for another adoption next year.

Public Land News and Actions

Volunteers Join BLM, IDF&G to Build Wildlife-Friendly Fence in Jarbidge River Canyon

Barbed-wire fence lay directly in path of migrating deer and elk populations

Jarbidge Field Office - It is rare to find people who enjoy building fence, and rarer still to recruit volunteers to do arduous work on a beautiful Saturday afternoon in June. However, this wasn't the case for the Jarbidge Field Office and Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDF&G).

For the first time, a joint volunteer fence building project was developed; BLM supplied the fence building materials and IDF&G worked with BLM to recruit volunteers for the project. The targeted fence was a concern for BLM – a five strand barbed wire running along the eastern edge of the Jarbidge River Canyon—lying directly in the path of migrating deer and elk.

Volunteers removed three strands of barbed wire, replaced one strand with smooth wire, lowered the wire and replaced several wood posts with steel – creating a much more wildlife-friendly fence.

Close to 20 people worked on the project, including IDF&G Reservists and staff, BLM staff and an interested couple from the community. Despite the challenging nature of the work, those involved were pleased with the volunteer turnout and look forward to making more fence projects volunteer friendly.



Challis Field Office Employees Take Strides to Conserve Energy

Thirty-percent of challis field office employees bike commute to work

Challis Field Office - Challis BLM Field Office employees have recently chosen to take the national energy crisis into their own hands. Over the last five years, a steady increase from five- to thirty-percent of the Challis Field Office employees have decided to regularly ride their bikes to work. The Field Office has about 20 full-time employees.



Ken Gardner, Challis FO geologist, is passionate about energy conservation around the office. According to Gardner, “Energy conservation is now a critical issue since the world consumes 31 billion barrels of petroleum each year, and most of the major oil fields are, or may soon be, in decline. The world population continues to increase exponentially, and countries such as China and India have had large increases in petroleum consumption. Consequently, there is no realistic probability of bringing new oil supplies into production sufficient to maintain the current world petroleum production, much less increase the production.”

Public Land News and Actions

BLM Botanist, Boise State Horticulture Program Partner to Create Firewise Garden

New garden provides fire-resistant landscaping for wildland urban interface area

Idaho State Office - As part of Idaho Wildfire Prevention Week, BLM botanist Roger Rosentreter and Boise State University horticulture student Brett Van Paepeghem were available at Boise's Firewise Garden to talk about firewise landscaping and fire-resistant plants. Rosentreter provided a tour through the garden, where he discussed the viability of native and drought-resistant landscaping and the importance of firewise plants.

"Design your landscape to defend your home"

Every year, more homes burn because of wildfires. In 2007, over 5,400 homes and buildings were lost to wildfires nation-wide, many of which could have been saved if the homeowners had used firewise techniques

around their homes. Rosentreter discussed the garden's role in showcasing fire and drought-resistant landscaping and how homeowners can utilize the plants to increase their homes' survivability during a wildfire. Wildland fire prevention specialists were also available to discuss firewise principles and wildland fires in southwest Idaho.

The garden, located just north of the Idaho Botanical Garden next to the Old Idaho Penitentiary, stemmed from a project started by Rosentreter three years ago. Rosentreter was working on a fire-resistant plant database for wildland urban interface areas in the Northern Great Basin habitat, and he wanted to test the feasibility of the plants on his list.

"I wanted to assemble a comprehensive plant list people could use to create fire-resistant landscaping around their homes, but I wanted to make sure that the plants could flourish in Great Basin habitats, like the climate of the Boise area," Rosentreter explained.

Rosentreter formed a partnership with Boise State's Horticulture program. Boise State Horticulture students planted the garden and are currently managing and maintaining it. Rosentreter studies how well the plants grow in this climate, how much water they need and how fire-resistant they are. Rosentreter then uses the data from the garden to update the plant list.

Informational kiosks located throughout the garden provide tips on landscaping, such as where firewise plants should be located in order to increase a home's chances of surviving a wildfire.

The garden was installed in spring 2008 and is open to the public.



Public Land News and Actions

St. Anthony Sand Dunes Entrance Station Dedicated to Former Employee

Leffel was the ultimate example of a public servant whose friendly personality radiated to anyone he met

Upper Snake Field Office - The Upper Snake Field Office is re-naming and dedicating the entrance station at the Egin Lakes Access Recreation Site at the St. Anthony Sand Dunes in honor of Joe Leffel, who

was tragically killed in a rafting accident in Canada on June 18, 2008.

The dedication was held at the entrance station to Egin Lakes on Friday, August 8, 2008.



“Joe Leffel was the ultimate example of a public servant providing quality visitor services to the public,” explains Outdoor Recreation Planner Bill Boggs with the Upper Snake Field Office. “Joe worked for the BLM’s Upper Snake Field Office as the lead recreation technician at the St. Anthony Sand Dunes, where he dedicated his ability to providing quality and safe recreation experiences to the public. He was vital to the day-to-day operations at Egin Lakes Campground and other areas at the dunes. Joe’s outgoing and friendly personality radiated to anyone he met and worked with, regardless of whether they were a general visitor, law enforcement personnel or a contractor. Joe was an ambassador for the BLM and a friend to all, and he will be sorely missed.”



New Twin Falls District Ranger Sworn-In By Idaho State Director Tom Dyer

Lloyd’s experience with resource protection, knowledge of fish and wildlife habitat will be great asset to the team

Twin Falls District Office - On June 18, 2008 Idaho BLM Law Enforcement (LE) welcomed Richard Lloyd, the newest Law Enforcement Ranger addition of the Twin Falls District’s LE team. The ceremony took place during the Twin Falls District all-employees meeting at a park in the Snake River Canyon. The Oath of Office was administered by State Director Tom Dyer. Lloyd’s wife Christy performed the honors of pinning Richard while their daughters Brittany and Megan watched. Several of Idaho’s LE Rangers also attended the ceremony.



“Richard’s experience with resource protection and knowledge of fish and wildlife habitat will be a great asset to the Twin Falls District law enforcement team,” said Twin Falls District Law Enforcement Ranger Lisa Schutzberger.

Ranger Lloyd comes to BLM after serving five years as a Park Ranger with the US Army Corps of Engineers in eastern Washington and 4.5 years with the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a Law Enforcement Ranger in Yuma, Arizona and Klamath Basin, California/Oregon.

Public Land News and Actions

Seventy-Five Riders Join Governor Butch Otter on Summer Trail Ride

Participants experience land management issues on the ground

Salmon Field Office - The Governor's Trail Ride was held on the Muleshoe Allotment of the Salmon Field Office on August 7, 2008. In addition to Idaho Governor Otter and his wife, the Governor of Nevada also attended. A lively discussion took place during and after the ride. Given the many multiple use issues and challenges taking place on the Mule Shoe allotment, the importance of effective communication and commitment to strong working relationships and the health of the land was emphasized. Topics of interest on the ride included Lewis & Clark, livestock management, noxious weed control, riparian management, brucellosis, sage grouse and wolves. Participants found that there is no better way to communicate about issues and understand other perspectives better than to experience those issues first-hand, on the ground.

BLM was represented by Idaho State Director Tom Dyer, Idaho Falls District Manager Joe Kraayenbrink, Salmon Field Manager Steve Hartmann and members of his staff.



BLM Recreation Planner Leads Gooding High Envirothon Team to National Competition

Kids learn to innovate, design and plan unique land management strategies aimed at resolving environmental problems

Shoshone Field Office - Idaho BLM Shoshone FO Recreation Planner David Freiberg and his wife Becky took the Gooding High School Envirothon team to the National Competition in Flagstaff, AZ during the last week of July. After a grueling week of study and testing, the team came out in 10th place out of 54 total competitors, earning \$1,000 scholarships for each student, plus other gifts from Canon Corporation, Envirothon's primary sponsor.



The Envirothon Competition consists of five study areas including wildlife, soils, aquatics, forestry and a current event. This year's current event topic was "Recreation Impacts to Natural Resources." Students spend six days learning from experts and testing the material before they develop and deliver a major presentation to a panel of judges. In order to be invited to the national-level competition, teams must first win their state or provincial competitions.

According to Freiberg, "These kids put in so much time and effort to win the state event. For them to move on to win a scholarship at Nationals is a real victory. They

learned to innovate, design and plan unique land management strategies aimed at resolving specific environmental problems while helping both people and resources."

Public Land News and Actions

Idaho BLM Recognizes Participants of the Oregon-California Trail Preservation

Preserving this trail is an integral part of preserving the heritage of the American west

Idaho State Office- If you want to see the route that changed the American West forever, all you have to do is drive east of Boise, Idaho past the small riverside town of Glens Ferry, to public land stewarded by the Bureau of Land Management. There, amidst the rolling hills and wide open skies, a diminutive dirt trail crosses the vast rangeland. The Oregon National Historic Trail does not look like much; it resembles just another dirt road snaking its way into an endless sea of sagebrush. However, once you realize the importance of this unassuming path and how it began the transformation that brought Washington, California, Nevada, Utah and Idaho into the United States of America, you

begin to see it as the essential route people used to cross the arid western basin over 150 years ago. Much of the trail was initially used by Native Americans, and over 500,000 emigrants used it to lead them to their futures in the rugged west.



“It’s very interesting, you can still see the wagon ruts in some places along the Oregon-California trail,” said Susan Giannettino, BLM Deputy State Director. “Seeing the tracks makes you think about how arduous their journey must have been, and about how amazing it is that these people endured such a trek. Preserving this trail is an integral part of preserving the heritage of the American West,” Giannettino added.

For this reason, Idaho and Oregon Bureau of Land Management archeologists and BLM managers have been working to preserve the Oregon-California trail. They have worked with the Oregon California Trails Association (OCTA) in their efforts to protect the trail

and educate the public about its historical value and the importance of its preservation. Recently, on August 6, Idaho and Oregon BLM employees participated in the OTCA National Convention Banquet at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa, Idaho to recognize Oregon-California trail conservation efforts.

At the awards ceremony, BLM Deputy State Director Susan Giannettino presented awards from the BLM to recognize the hard work and dedication of several Oregon-California trail preservationists. Three BLM archeologists were also honored with “2008 Friend of the Oregon-California Trail Awards” from the OCTA; Jeff Ross, BLM Jarbidge Field Office Archeologist and Dick Hill, BLM Upper Snake Field Office archeologist and archeologist Mary Oman from the Baker City field office in Baker City, Oregon. All three archeologists received awards for their Oregon Trail preservation and enhancement work.

Giannettino said, “The Oregon trail has so much historical significance for the west. It’s important to recognize individuals who have worked hard to preserve the trails for future generations.”

Abandoned Mine Lands- Stay Out, Stay Alive

BLM Launches New FAST Campaign Partnership Initiative to Eradicate Unsafe Abandoned Mine Land Features

Unsafe abandoned mines lands present major safety concerns to public

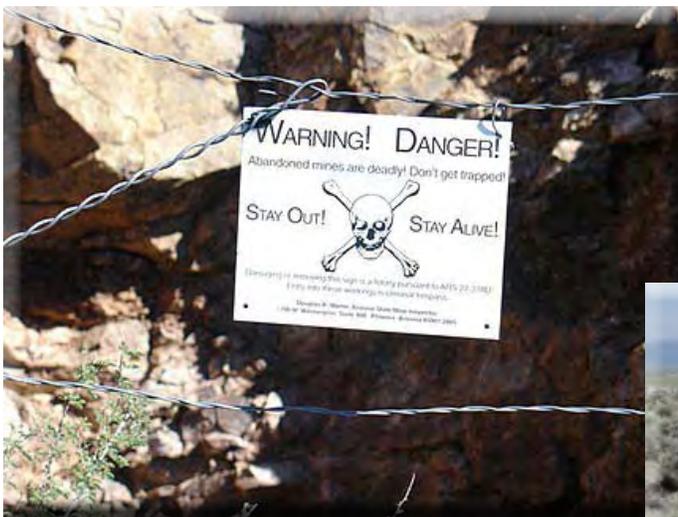
Idaho State Office - Approximately 29 people die each year due to accidents involving mine land features, many of them on abandoned mine lands (AML).

Idaho AML Coordinator Steve Moore said, "Mine areas are often a patchwork of complex land ownerships - making coordination and partnerships a necessity for conducting mine closures to protect the public."

A significant amount of these fatalities occur on private and public lands in the Southwest. At one time, these abandoned mine lands were considered remote, but due to urban sprawl and the increased ability of the public to access these sites accidents continue to occur. Many of these features are known to the public, though not reported to officials. Other times an abandoned mine feature is discovered by accident.

As the largest land manager in the west, the BLM has a responsibility to ensure safety on these lands, but cannot do it alone. To expedite the elimination of these legacy mine hazards, the BLM is proposing a partnership initiative with mine claimants, landowners, the mining industry, recreational user groups and non-government organizations to eradicate unsafe abandoned mine land features.

The plan will specifically target AML sites located in the southwest desert states. While the FAST Campaign is in the early stages, state agencies in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah have expressed interest and support.



Abandoned Mine Lands- Stay Out, Stay Alive

BLM Abandoned Mine Land Closure Team Averts Potential Hazards in Twin Falls District

Adit closures avert hazardous situation, protect local recreational hanggliders

Salmon Field Office and Idaho Falls District Office - As the follow-up to the October 2007 detonation of explosives at the Silver Star Queens Mine near Bellevue, ID, Shoshone FO Environmental Protection Specialist Tim Fuller and a team recently worked to backfill an open pit. Since the original dynamite detonation in Fall 2007 didn't collapse the hole as expected, the team sealed off the adit and closed an open vertical shaft about 150 yards above the adit. To backfill, the team re-filled the hole with the material dug out of it.

The team also worked on nearby McCoy mine near Hailey, where an adit had collapsed and was affecting the road used to access the area above the mine. The area is a popular location for recreational hanggliders. The team successfully made the area safe again for recreationists by repairing the road and filling the collapsed adit.

Fuller said, "This was a straight-forward solution to a potentially nasty problem and was an accident waiting to happen. The team did a great job on both projects and had the opportunity to work with a very experienced crew."



The team included the Idaho Falls District AML Closure Team (made up of personnel from Salmon and Idaho Falls offices) and consisted of Physical Scientist Phil Barbarick, Lead Engineering Equipment Operator Corky Torrey and Equipment Operators Jim Tarkalson and Kevin Storms. The project was overseen by ISO AML Program Lead Steve Moore.

Moore said, "This is a great example of how Idaho has been pro-active in addressing mine hazards in close proximity to populated places and areas of easy public access and recreation."

BLM Community Outreach

Idaho BLM and Partners Sponsor Statewide 'Free Fishing Day' Activities

IDFG and BLM team up with community volunteers to teach fishing skills to new anglers

Idaho Falls District Office and Cottonwood Field Office - Many "Free Fishing Day" events recently took place across the state in conjunction with Fishing Week. At many of the events, BLM and Fish and Game personnel were on-hand to answer questions and help beginning anglers learn about terminal tackle, casting/fishing techniques and fish identification.



Idaho BLM Cottonwood Field Office recently cooperated with Idaho Fish & Game, Nez Perce National Forest, Wilkins Family and Grangeville Lions Club members in the sponsorship of the Annual Free Fishing Derby activity at Wilkins pond, approximately 5 miles southwest of Grangeville. The event was a huge success in which 67 participants ages 1 to 12 reeled in 109 fish, ranging from 8 to 21 inches. Prizes were awarded for largest fish, smallest fish and best cast. Craig Johnson, Cottonwood Field Office fisheries biologist, said

“The weather was great and all participants had fun at the 20th anniversary of the annual free fishing day event that was co-sponsored by partners at Wilkins Pond.”

Sixty boys and girls between the ages of 1 and 16 participated in the annual Challis Fishing Derby during the Free Fishing Day at Blue Mountain Pond. Challis Field Office along with over 40 adults, including parents and grandparents, accompanied the derby participants. Kids who caught a tagged fish during the derby won a \$50 savings bond donated by local businesses.



Salmon Field Office held their 15th Annual Kids Fishing Derby despite the cool temperatures and brief rain showers at Kids Creek Park pond near Salmon, ID. This annual fishing derby had another big turnout with the participation of 88 boys and girls between the ages of 1 and 16.

Also during the week, Idaho Fish & Game teamed up with Pocatello Field Office to host a free fishing day at BLM's Hawkins Reservoir south of Pocatello.

BLM would like to thank all the volunteers from the above listed agencies, groups and participants of the extravaganza for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout this week. We hope to see everyone next year!

BLM Community Outreach

Upper Snake FO Employees Teach Cub Scouts Leave No Trace Principles

Scouts learn how to be stewards of public lands, learn outdoor ethics



Upper Snake Field Office - The Idaho BLM Upper Snake FO recently presented a *Leave No Trace* presentation to cub scouts in Idaho Falls. Over 150 scouts participated throughout the afternoon in a workshop designed to teach the seven principles of Leave No Trace. A short verbal lesson on outdoor ethics was followed by a relay race designed to demonstrate the principles.

“It is important for kids to learn how to reduce their impacts to the environment,” says Upper Snake FO Outdoor Recreation Planner Shannon Bassista. “But more importantly, they need to have fun while learning, and that is where the Leave No Trace relay race comes in.”

The activity was fun for the scouts and helped them learn ways to be better stewards of the land. The demand for Leave No Trace training by Upper Snake FO recreation staff has increased this year. Presentations have been tailored for multiple activities and age levels.

View the story on KIDK Channel 3



Cottonwood FO/Oregon State University Archeological Partnership Project Presented to Public

Posters and on-site tours describe need for project, BLM management responsibilities

Cottonwood Field Office - Oregon State University, under the direction of Dr. Loren Davis, recently completed field work under a challenge cost share agreement to perform archeological excavations on American Bar, a significant site that is eroding along the Salmon River. The site dates to at least 6,700 and 8,300 years old. Additional work in 2008 recovered significant data that was within inches of eroding out of six-foot tall vertical bank created by a bulldozer in 1974. Data will be analyzed in 2009.



A component designed into the project was public interpretation conducted by Dr. Davis and his graduate students. Dr. Davis prepared three posters for the public and conducted on-site tours to describe the need for the project and the BLM management responsibilities. About 160 people were given this presentation over a five-week period from June 16 - July 17 in a remote area only accessible by four-wheel drive vehicles or rafts. These people represented 23 states and the District of Columbia. Three foreign countries – the United Kingdom, France and Austria – were also represented by visitors.

Fire and Aviation

BLM Twin Falls District Hosts Chena Hot Shot Crew from Alaska

Crew made up of 20 specialized firefighters, “best of best” in battling terrain and fire behavior

Shoshone Field Office – The Chena (CHEE-NA) Hot Shot Crew from Alaska is in the lower 48, hosted by the BLM Twin Falls District Fire and Aviation Program. Since 1997, the Twin Falls District has become the home unit for the Alaska crew when their own fire season is over at the beginning of July.

The crew has been on two assignments in California, worked on the Martin Canyon Fuels Project (west of Bellevue) and is currently working on the South Barker Fire Use area in the Sawtooths.

“It’s a good deal for both us and them,” Chena Superintendent Chris Marabetta said. “It provides the Western states with another Hot Shot crew when their season is the busiest, and it lets us keep working longer than we’d be able to at home.”

The Chena Hot Shots are one of 110 Type One hand crews in the United States. The crew is made up of 20 specialized and experienced firefighters. They are considered the “best of the best” in battling terrain and fire behavior that other resources can’t.

The BLM is able to host the crew through severity funding, money that is handed down to individual fire programs from the national level and based on the threat of wildfires in each area. For the past 11 years, this funding has allowed the Twin Falls District to welcome the Chena crew into the lower 48 states to fight fires in the West.

Although the crew considers Twin Falls District their home unit for now, they rarely fight fire there. They are used most often in steep terrain or on large fire incidents. As a national resource, they can be ordered whenever and wherever they are needed. The crew works a maximum 14 days and then takes are allowed two “rest and relaxation” days.

The Hot Shots also help BLM locally. The crew often takes on engine crew members for two-week details, giving them training and experience they wouldn’t get in the Twin Falls District. They also conduct project work for the BLM fuels organization, falling and piling trees as part of on-going regeneration efforts in difficult terrain. The BLM provides the Chena Hot Shots with vehicles and a tool shed and maintains and stores two crew buggies used by the crew.

“During the heat of fire season, there is always a need for as many resources as possible,” BLM Fire Management Officer Chris Simonson said. “This agreement with the Chena Hot Shots is another small way we can help the national fire effort, bringing them to where it’s more cost effective to put them to work.”

The crew is scheduled to head home in late September.

See the news story on KMVT Channel 11, Twin Falls, July 10, 2008



BLM Employees in the Spotlight

Idaho BLM Welcomes Two New Faces to Bruneau and Owyhee Field Offices

New management brings diversity of experience to the Boise District

Boise District Office - After an extensive review of applicants, the Boise District is pleased to announce the selections of the Bruneau and Owyhee Field Managers. Both new employees will report to the Boise District mid-October.

Bruneau Field Office – Arnie Pike

Currently the Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist in the Jarbidge Field Office, Twin Falls District, Arnie brings a wealth of diverse range and natural resource experience to the job (not to mention his wry sense of humor). He has worked at the field and district office levels in Idaho and Montana, including a stint at the Montana State Office. Pike is an alumnus of Montana State University in Agriculture with a Range emphasis and says “BLM is a great rewarding career with plenty of challenges to keep it interesting.” Arnie and his wife Joyce Andrus is looking forward to their move to the Boise area.



Owyhee Field Office – Buddy Green



Currently in Buffalo, Wyoming, Buddy is the Assistant Field Manager for resources. Green has also worked as a Rangeland Management Specialist in Gunnison, Colorado; Lander, Wyoming, as well as Las Cruces, New Mexico. Green's other varied permanent and seasonal experience includes jobs with BLM, the Forest Service and three National Parks between Texas and Colorado. He graduated from Colorado State University with a B.S. in Rangeland Ecology.

Buddy and his wife Adena have been married for 32 years and have two sons, Dr. Michael Green, DVM and his wife Kelly of Fremont, California, and Kevin. Kevin is beginning his junior year at Montana State University majoring in Agricultural Education. Adena has accepted a new position in Adrian, Oregon as the Owyhee Watershed Council Coordinator.

Buddy enjoys family, fly fishing, sports in general and is looking forward to his new role in BLM but admits, “Since accepting our positions, Adena and I found out we are going to be grandparents and that trumps just about everything.” Green's reporting date in the Owyhee Field Office is October 12, 2008.

The Boise District is pleased with the outcome of our selection process and would like to thank all of the panel members who assisted us with this effort. Employees feel fortunate to have these quality individuals join the Boise District.