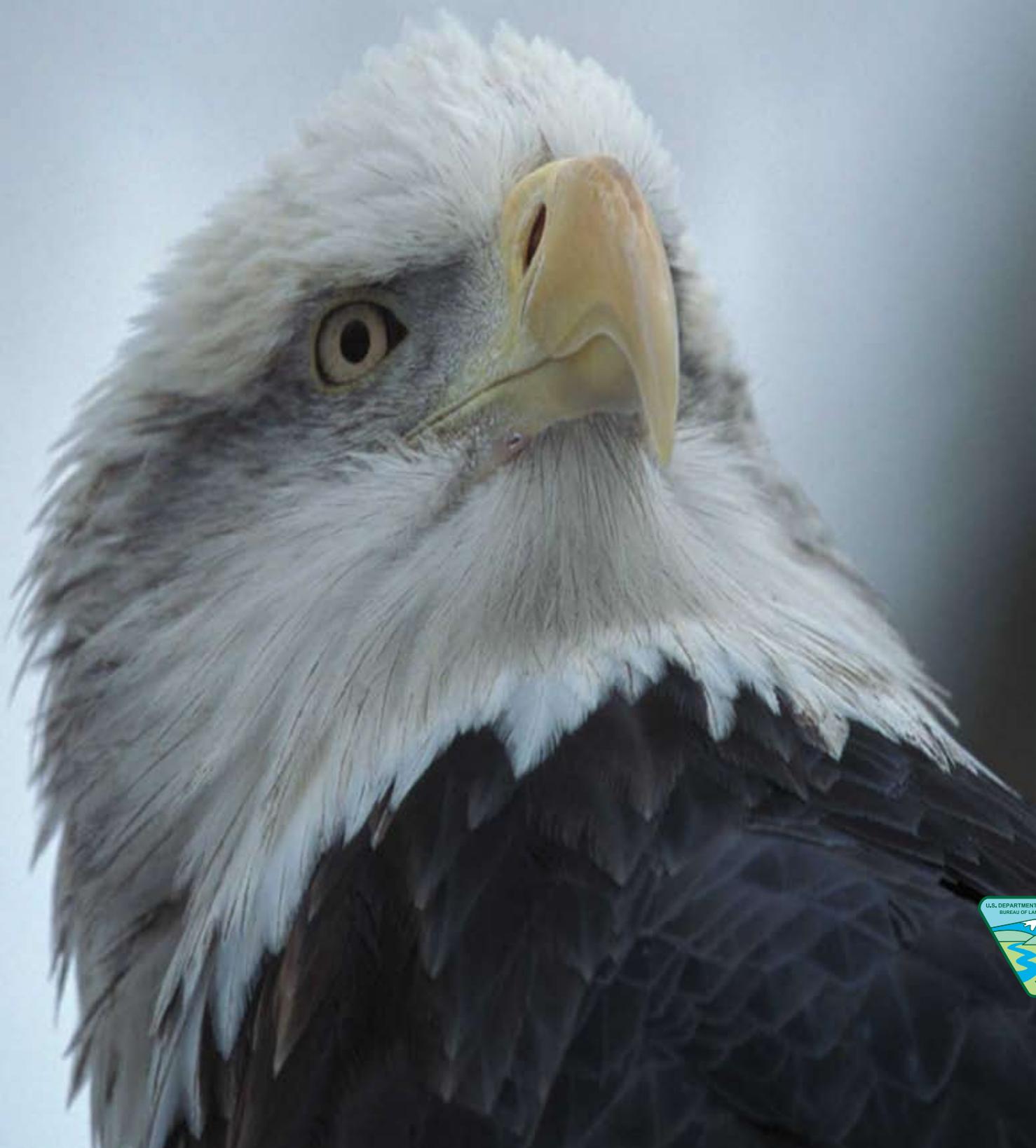


Idaho BLM In Action

December 2008 Edition

Idaho

BLM



From the Washington Office

BLM Finalizes Rules That Could Add Billions of Barrels of Oil to U.S. Supply

Production from domestic resources makes us more secure, less vulnerable to future energy crisis

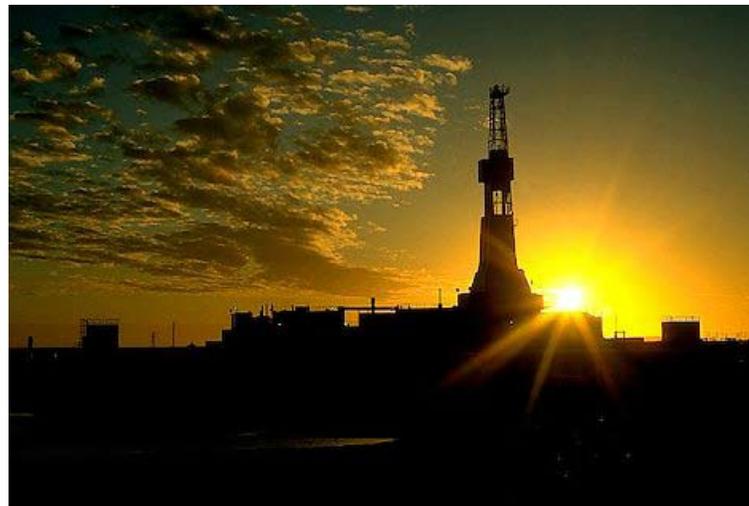
Washington Office - As part of its ongoing effort to increase and diversify America's energy supply, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management today published final regulations to establish a commercial oil shale program that could result in the addition of up to 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil from lands in the Western United States.

In keeping with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, the BLM final regulations provide the critical "rules of the road" on which private investors will rely in determining whether to make future financial commitments to prospective oil shale projects.

"The U.S. needs all types of energy resources, both conventional and renewable, in order to meet our future needs," said Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management at Interior C.

Stephen Allred. "Production from domestic resources makes us more secure and less vulnerable to future energy crises, and increases our security and economic well-being. The tremendous oil shale resources that we have in the U.S., containing several times the oil reserves of Saudi Arabia, can be a vital component of that secure future."

Oil shale is a fine-grained sedimentary rock containing organic matter from which oil may be produced. The regulations provide for a thoughtful, phased approach to oil shale development on public lands in the West.



Commercial development of oil shale will not begin until it is technologically viable, which is not expected for several years. The regulations will provide a basis for decisions, as "rules of the road" for the large investment that will be necessary for industry to develop technologies to extract the resource in an environmentally sound manner. Those investments could exceed \$1 billion.

Before any oil shale leases are issued, additional site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis would be completed on the proposed development. Once a lease is issued, the lessee will also have to obtain all required permits from state and local authorities, under their respective permitting processes, before any operations can begin. Another round of NEPA analysis

would be conducted before any site-specific plans of development are approved. (*....continued*)



[Click here to read the full article.](#)

From the Washington Office

Secretary Kempthorne Receives Interior's Climate Change Task Force Report, Directs Report to Be Posted Online



Kempthorne creates new Climate Change Coordinator position and Climate Change Advisory Council at Interior to help review the report and help the Department prepare adaptation and mitigation responses

Washington Office - Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced that the three draft reports from the Department's Climate Change Task Force would be made available online for the public to review. The Secretary's announcement came during remarks to the National Climate Change and Wildlife Center Workshop at which Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett delivered the keynote address.

Secretary Kempthorne created the Climate Change Task Force in 2007, directing the members to look at how pos-

sible climate changes would affect disaster management, water resource management, and wildlife and habitat management of the lands, wildlife, and resources for which the Department has responsibility and to develop options for management responses to those effects.

The Task Force is made up of three subcommittees - one focused on legal and policy issues; a second on land and water management issues; and a third on climate change scientific issues specifically related to Interior's responsibilities. More than 100 Department of the Interior employees, primarily career staff, participated on the Task Force.

"I am proud of the work of those who took part in the Task Force. More than 100 Interior employees participated on this Task Force, comprising more than 1,000 years of experience. They are biologists, hydrologists, engineers, lawyers, land managers. They work in the field, in our regions, and in Washington," Secretary Kempthorne said. "Through our Climate Change Task Force, we are illuminating our biggest challenges, prioritizing our actions, and coordinating with the USGS and the broader scientific community to identify prudent response strategies."

The Reports include more than 80 options on how the Department could prepare and respond to climatic changes on the lands it manages. The report does not include budgetary, regulatory, legislative, or policy commitments, but instead provides the Secretary of the Interior, both now and in the future, with potential ideas to help fulfill the mission of the Department across changing landscapes. (...continued)



[Click here to read the full news release.](#)

Public Land News and Actions

Bruneau Field Office Permittee Receives BLM National Stewardship Award

“Stewardship means providing for my family and taking care of the lands for them”

Boise District Office - In fall 2008, BLM Director Jim Caswell presented Bruneau permittee Chris Black, of Joseph Black & Sons, with the 2008 Individual Rangeland Stewardship Award at the National Public Lands Council meeting in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Black was recognized for his dedication to improvements in rangeland conditions and productivity over the past 15 years. The improvements have resulted in healthy riparian conditions associated with springs and streams that have benefited wildlife habitat for sage-grouse, spotted frogs and other wildlife.



Black said, “Stewardship to me means providing for my family and taking care of the lands for them.” His efforts have inspired others with an attainable vision of healthy landscapes and influenced other permittees to establish their own monitoring of sensitive areas.

This award allows the BLM to recognize the accomplishments of permittees/lessees and other partners involved with public rangeland management that have demonstrated good public land stewardship through maintenance or improvement in rangeland conditions, use of beneficial management practices, and efforts to collaborate and cooperate with other users of public lands.



Idaho BLM Employees Clean-Up Boise Foothills Public Lands

Clean-up draws positive media attention from Boise community

Idaho State Office - About 60 BLM employees and managers from the Boise area, including Idaho State Director Tom Dyer and Associate State Director Peter Ditton, participated in the voluntary cleanup effort.

Beginning at the Lower Halls Gulch Parking Lot, employees divided up into groups and cleaned up trash along several trails. Glass bottles, car parts, cans, water bottles, noxious weeds and broken glass were collected and removed. The event was followed by a morale-boosting afternoon barbecue at Municipal Park, complete with volleyball and a three-legged burlap sack race.

KBCI Television, the CBS affiliate in Boise, aired positive news coverage of this event.

Public Land News and Actions

Birds Radio-Tagged in Southwestern Idaho to Identify Potential Impacts of Wind Farms and Transmission Lines



Birds being trapped and outfitted as a cooperative effort between BLM, IDF&G and Boise NF

Boise District Office - Red Tail, Merlin and Cooper's hawks are being caught and outfitted with radio tags under a Challenge Cost Share-funded (CCS) project. This cooperative effort is being undertaken by the BLM Boise District, the Idaho Department of Fish & Game and the Boise National Forest. The birds are being trapped and outfitted with radio tags at two different sites. One site is Cinnabar Mountain, located southeast of Marsing, ID in the BLM Owyhee FO. The other site is on West Mountain, located a couple miles south of Cascade, ID in the Boise National Forest. After the birds are radio-tagged, they are followed by ground crews and by plane to track their migration routes. This provides the agencies with better information about potential impacts to these birds from wind farm proposals and new transmission lines that could affect the birds during migration.



BLM Closes Abandoned Mine Adits with Bat Gate Culverts in Owyhee County

Continuing abandoned mine cleanups are essential to protect the public and BLM

Idaho State Office - The Idaho BLM Boise District recently closed another abandoned mine adit near War Eagle Mountain in Owyhee County. A bat gate culvert was installed at the entrance that allows access to abandoned mine shaft by bats while providing protection from the potential danger of a person falling into the shafts. Seven adits located in Owyhee County were closed in FY08 and another nine are scheduled for closure in FY09.

Idaho Abandoned Mine Lands Coordinator, Steve Moore, stresses the importance of mine cleanups. Moore said, "We are having success in closing dangerous mine openings on public lands in the Owyhees and elsewhere on public lands in Idaho. Given the increase in ATV use, our continuing program is essential to protect the public and BLM from these liabilities."



Public Land News and Actions

Public Lands Foundation Recognizes “Framing our Community” Organization

Non-profit organization partners with BLM Cottonwood FO to restore forests and watersheds

Cottonwood Field Office - Public Lands Foundation (PLF) representative Ed Spang recently presented the 2008 Landscape Stewardship group award to Framing Our Community, a non-profit organization from Elk City, Idaho. The PLF recognized Framing Our Community (FOC) for their numerous contributions toward developing federal and non-federal partnerships as well as developing and implementing on-the-ground training and techniques involving forest restoration, fuels reduction and defensible space programs.

A certificate presented to FOC cited their numerous accomplishments, “FOC has helped with forest and watershed restoration in partnership with the BLM Cottonwood Field Office, including accomplishments in BLM’s fuels, forestry, riparian and fisheries programs. It supported local industry and provided educational outreach through the local school. Through its defensible space treatments on private property, it saved many homes during the Poe Cabin Fire in 2007. Over the past five years, FOC has committed substantial time and effort to forest and watershed restoration in partnership with the BLM Cottonwood Field Office.”



Greatest Number of Bald Eagles Recorded for First Week of December Since 1974

88 birds return to northern Idaho, lowest number of reported spawning kokanee salmon also reported



Coeur d’Alene District Office - The recent count of 88 birds is the greatest number ever recorded for the first week of December since the BLM’s Coeur d’Alene FO began counting in 1974. “We need another 69 birds to surpass our previous all-time record of 156 in 2004,” said Wildlife Biologist Scott Robinson. With the lowest reported number of spawning Kokanee Salmon in Lake Coeur d’Alene, the big questions now are, “How long will the birds stay with us, and will we have enough eagles to show people during this year’s Annual Watch Week from December 26 to January 1?”

View spectacular photos of the eagles online recently featured in the Spokesman Review.

Public Land News and Actions

BLM, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe Plant Willows in Area Destroyed by Murphy Complex Fire

Willows provide essential ecological diversity, provide wildlife habitat and improved water quality



Twin Falls District Office - In November 2008, a 16-person crew from the Shoshone-Paiute Fire Department traveled to Dorsey Creek to plant willows. The riparian vegetation and all willows along Dorsey Creek were destroyed by the Murphy Complex Fire. Originally, BLM had hoped to plant about 2,100 willows, but the crew exceeded all expectations and planted about 3,250 willows in two days.

Willows are an essential component of the riparian ecosystems in the Great Basin. Among other things, willows provide for ecological diversity within the plant community and tend to prevent the stream from down-cutting or cutting a straight channel. Willows also have a dense root matrix which can effectively trap and filter sediment, thus improving water quality. Willows, along with the entire riparian area, can act as a sponge by

absorbing floodwaters, which are then released more slowly over a period of time, minimizing flood damage and sustaining higher water flows later in the year. These willows will provide additional wildlife habitat and improved water quality for the burned area facilitating recovery.

Shoshone-Paiute Fire Chief Brent Hunter said, “the crew is excited about the work and hopes to participate in future planting projects with BLM.”

The Twin Falls District BLM recently purchased 10,600 Wyoming big sagebrush seedlings from members of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes for use in stabilizing and rehabilitating public lands affected by last year’s Murphy Complex fires.

“The crew is excited about the work and hopes to participate in future planting projects with BLM.” - Shoshone-Paiute Fire Chief Brent Hunter



Public Land News and Actions

Idaho Wilderness Study Areas Website and Brochure Complete

Information provides the public with visitor tips and recreational opportunities in WSAs throughout Idaho



Idaho State Office - Idaho's Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) Website is now complete. It contains comprehensive descriptions of all WSAs in Idaho. It includes an informative online brochure, entitled *Experiencing Your Wilderness Study Areas*, that provides the public visitor tips and information on activities that can take place in WSAs. This project was a statewide effort, with special thanks to State Recreation Lead Robin Fehlau and Writer/Editor Krista Moore; District Recreation Planners and Specialists; and District Public Affairs Specialists.

Visit the BLM WSA website



Upper Snake FO Partners with University of Idaho Graduate Students

Students study conservation social science to increase BLM's understanding of recreation use

Upper Snake Field Office - The Idaho BLM Upper Snake FO has partnered with University of Idaho graduate students studying conservation social science to increase BLM's understanding of how and why recreationists value and use public lands.

In late October, students facilitated public meetings hosted by BLM in Idaho Falls and Pocatello. More than 90 participants attended to provide feedback on recreational activities on public land. The information exchange is part of collaborative effort between the University of Idaho and the BLM to update the Upper Snake's RMP.

To gather recreational input, professors developed a public input strategy to collect the necessary information. One component included conducting a dozen small group meetings over a two-day period. Professors made student participation in the project a course requirement. Throughout the fall semester, students were prepped for meetings. Students received information about the BLM and the project, read materials on facilitation and conducted a dry run of the meeting with undergraduate students on the Moscow campus.



Public Land News and Actions

Salmon FO Participates in Sacajawea Center Heritage Days

Educational stations include gold panning, local history, Shoshone-Bannock culture

Salmon Field Office - Idaho BLM Salmon FO staff recently assisted in four days of environmental and cultural interpretation and education at Sacajawea Center Heritage Days in Salmon. During the first two days, all Salmon School District 1st through 8th graders participated at six educational stations.

The station themes ranged from gold panning (Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation), to local history (Lemhi County Historical Museum), to Shoshone-Bannock culture (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes). The days also included a Native American flute concert and a Dutch oven luncheon.

After the luncheon, Salmon City Mayor John Miller thanked BLM for its continued support to the Sacajawea Center and the City of Salmon. Miller also presented the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' representative with a plaque, recognizing their signature on the MOU and their increased support and presence at the Sacajawea Center. Following the recognition ceremony, approximately 50 Native American dancers participated in a pow-wow.



Environmental Education

Local Fifth-Grade Students Participate in Annual Salmon-Steelhead Days

BLM partners with IDFG to teach students about unique fish, habitat through hands-on activities

Idaho State Office - Idaho Salmon and Steelhead Days (ISSD), a special event for Idaho fifth graders, is hosted annually at Idaho Fish and Game Headquarters in Boise. It celebrates the uniqueness of salmon and steelhead. In 2008, about 1,800 students from 60 classes and 30 schools throughout southern Idaho participated.

BLM employee Jessica Gardetto volunteered at the event. Gardetto said, "It's so crucial to make sure Idaho's children connect with nature and understand our environment. Salmon-Steelhead Days provides a wonderful opportunity for kids to get hands-on experience and to learn about the importance of salmon and steelhead in Idaho's ecosystems."



"It's crucial to make sure Idaho's children connect with nature and understand our environment." - Jessica Gardetto, BLM Public Affairs ISSD volunteer

The event consists of three days dedicated to the students and one evening set aside for a salmon barbecue that is open to the general public. Students participate in fun hands-on activities while learning about these unique fish, their habitat and the past and present relationship between humans and salmon. Fun is a key element of the activities.

Idaho Salmon & Steelhead Days is non-commercial, non-profit and non-politically oriented. A partnership of agencies, organizations, businesses and corporations finance, plan and execute the event.



Environmental Education

“Owl Hoot – Take it Outside” Program Draws Large Crowd at Coeur d’Alene Blackwell Island

BLM, audubon society and IDFG representatives provide info on adaptations, habitat, food, nesting styles of raptors

Coeur d’Alene District Office - A multi-generational crowd of 137 people recently gathered at the pavilion along the shores of the Spokane River at the BLM Coeur d’Alene District’s Blackwell Island Recreation Site. The group gathered to listen to and speak with four presenters and their special guests – eight owls. The evening of entertainment and education was organized and funded through a *Take it Outside* grant, which was prepared by Coeur d’Alene BLM Environmental Education Specialist Beth Paragamian.



Paragamian said, “We had a wonderful turnout for the first time that we held the “Owl Hoot”. Many people have asked if we would do it as an annual event, since they enjoyed it so much. They want to return with their friends and neighbors. I am sure that we will have the program again next year and see whooooo will come”.

Paragamian, along with Jane Cantwell from the Birds of Prey Northwest Raptor Rescue group and representatives of the Coeur d’Alene Audubon Society and Idaho Fish and Game, provided information about characteristics of raptors; adaptations of owls; habitat and food requirements; and nesting styles and variations between the owls. The owls represented were two Western Screech owls, one Long-eared owl, two Short-eared owls (male and female), a Barred owl and two Great Horned owls.



Idaho Governor Otter Recognizes Members of Idaho Youth Conservation Corps

Youth Corps creates employment and stewardship opportunities for youth to enhance Idaho’s natural resources

Boise District Office - Idaho Governor C. L. “Butch” Otter recently presented five young people with certificates and a letter of congratulations for their successful completion of six weeks of outdoor work on several different pilot conservation and stewardship-related projects on the Boise District BLM lands. The five young people were members of the Idaho Youth Conservation Corps (YCC).

The cooperative effort was achieved by a team of individuals, including BLM’s Boise District and the Idaho Department of Labor. During FY 2008, the group of at-risk youth worked on bio-control, trash dumping, trail rehabilitation/signage and stream stabilization/riparian work.

The Idaho YCC is a young program (implemented in summer 2008). Ben Phillips, founder of Idaho YCC said he “hopes to expand the program statewide by 2009.” The national YCC has been instrumental in introducing young Americans to conservation opportunities since the program was established in 1971. The program’s main objective was to take young adults from different social, economic, racial, cultural and gender backgrounds and place them in an environment where they could cultivate work, social, and educational skills.

More information on the National YCC Program



BLM Community Outreach

Idaho Falls District BLM Hosts National Public Lands Day (NPLD) Events

BLM cooperates with community volunteers to clean-up Idaho public lands

Idaho Falls District Office - Pocatello FO hosted an event at Hawkins Reservoir. Over 30 participants, including scouts (with their respective parents and siblings) from the Pocatello Girl Scouts Troop and the McCammon/Arimo Boy Scouts Troops volunteered to help maintain/improve some of the existing facilities. Activities included painting nine picnic shelters, repairing damaged boat docks, painting parking barriers and general site clean-up.

Challis FO sponsored its 5th consecutive NPLD event this year at the recently constructed Lost River Access Trail. The event drew a wide variety of volunteers from the town of Mackay (including both the current and former mayor), the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, a family from the Boise area and BLM employees and their families.

Overall 26 volunteers donated 183 hours of labor to help construct 350 feet of jack-leg fence around the parking area, install a trailhead kiosk, build a rock retaining wall and install three benches along the trail.



Upper Snake Field Office hosted a NPLD event at the St. Anthony Sand Dunes. Over 370 BYU-Idaho students and family members joined 15 local sand dune enthusiasts in an effort to clean-up litter and debris adjacent to the Red Road that cuts through the Sand Dunes complex. Using sand sifters and gloves, the volunteers attacked old fire pits and other high-use areas to collect over 3,000 pounds of pallet nails, unburned wood, litter and debris from a 1.5-mile area along the road and at the Nine Mile access area. Volunteers also constructed a 20-foot vehicle barrier across an illegal route entering the sand dunes. This year's event was the largest NPLD gathering ever at the dunes. The volunteers contributed over 1,100 hours of work, saving the BLM over \$22,000.

Volunteers contributed over 1,000 volunteer hours, saving the BLM over \$22,000 and over 6,000 pounds of garbage was collected...

The Upper Snake FO also hosted an event at Wolf Flats on the South Fork of the Snake River. This project was focused on Wolf Flats, a dispersed camping area. Although it took place on a rainy day one week after the official National Public Lands Day, there was still a turnout of 65 volunteers. Plenty of garbage was removed from this area. Between both Upper Snake FO projects, over 6,000 pounds of garbage was collected.



BLM Community Outreach

BLM Law Enforcement Participates in Annual “Shop with a Cop” in Mountain Home

Lloyd and Herrera help twin girls spend a \$75 gift certificate

Twin Falls District Office - Twin Falls District Ranger Rich Lloyd and Boise District Ranger Moises Herrera represented the Idaho Chapter of Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) at the annual Shop with a Cop in Mountain Home, Idaho, on December 6. Rangers Lloyd and Herrera were paired with young twin girls at the event that started with a free McDonalds breakfast for the kids at Mountain Home Junior High School. They used a \$75 gift card from Wal-Mart to buy the young girls presents for Christmas that they otherwise would not have been able to afford. Seven local law enforcement agencies and military branches participated in buying gifts for 114 local children. The kids also had the chance to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, Smokey the Bear and McGruff the Crime Dog.



BLM Community Outreach

Local Students Help BLM River Ranger Clean-Up Public Beaches Along Lower Salmon River

'Salmon Surfers' patrol beaches, remove rocks, pick up trash and driftwood

Cottonwood Field Office - A group of local students recently spent the day as junior "River Rangers" for the BLM. The group of kids from the "Kids Klub" were approached by the BLM to participate in an educational "Salmon Surfer river trip." Ten students, along with Kids Club lead teacher Kristi Keeler and Kids Klub Americorps volunteer Miranda Roach, accompanied BLM River Ranger Evan Worthington.

Worthington led the group down an 11-mile stretch of the Lower Salmon River, made possible by a federal grant for the "Take it Outside: Children and Nature Initiative." Worthington taught the "Leave No Trace" philosophy, river etiquette, and safety measures to the group.



"The program encourages children and families to spend more time outdoors on public lands, and develop stewardship of the public lands," Worthington emphasized. "Through this grant the children had an opportunity to patrol and clean up the beaches and see what happens when trash is left on them."

The students enjoyed the class II and III rapids and short hikes to see ancient pictographs and remnants of a Chinese pit house built in the 1800's. The students learned what they can do to for the river: "Love it and leave it clean."



Twin Falls District Hosts BLM booth at the Twin Falls County Fair

Excellent opportunity to interface with the public, provide information about BLM's programs and services

Twin Falls District Office - Twin Falls District Staff from wildlife, realty, fire prevention, range, fuels, administration, planning, and public affairs all chipped in to staff a booth at the Twin Falls County Fair. This year, Fire Information Specialist Sky Buffat ordered and customized a new "Plinko!" game for visitors to the booth.

Nearly 3,000 fair-goers visited the booth over the course of the six-day Fair. Some of the hot topics of discussion included fire updates for the East Slide Rock Ridge fire, energy projects proposed for the Twin Falls District and noxious weeds in Idaho.

Twin Falls District BLM Public Affairs Specialist Heather Tiel-Nelson said, "Hosting a booth at the Fair in Twin Falls County provides us with an excellent opportunity to interface with the general public, and provide information about BLM's programs and services.

It's interesting to see the perceptions of BLM and the work we do - some have a very clear understanding and some are more curious."



BLM Community Outreach

Successful Combined Federal Campaign Potluck and Silent Auction Held in Coeur d'Alene FO

Total of \$6,336 raised by silent auction towards local and national charities



Coeur d'Alene Field Office - A total of \$6,336 was raised from the silent auction of 27 items donated by BLM and Forest Service employees in Coeur d'Alene, ID. With employees' generously opening their hearts and pocketbooks to pledge money toward their favorite CFC charities, this year's total ended on a high note, raising \$1,400 more than last year's 2007 auction.

To kick off the CFC Campaign Cathy Larson from the Post Falls Food Bank and Amanda Miller from the Dirne Community Health Center in Coeur d'Alene provided information to employees about their local organizations. Employees donned Halloween costumes and competed for the "best costume" award, enjoyed a potluck lunch and bid on silent auction items. The silent auction winners completed pledge forms for donations to their favorite charities. Additional CFC contributions are expected soon.



Idaho Falls District Fire Education Specialists Teach Fire Ecology to Local Students

Students participate in "burned area scavenger hunt" at site of 2008 meadow creek fire

Idaho Falls District Office - Idaho Falls District fire education specialists spent the last day of a two-week fire ecology unit with local fourth graders. All three fourth grade teachers from AH Bush Elementary in Idaho Falls have been teaching fire ecology.

In November, the group participated in a field visit to the 2008 Meadow Creek Fire. Idaho Falls District fire education specialists led the group of youngsters through a Burned Area Scavenger Hunt. The students had a positive experience, many claiming that "this was the best fieldtrip."

The fieldtrip was coupled with various other fire-related activities and lessons that engaged not only the students' minds, but also involved their parents. Teachers assigned several tasks that involved parental guidance and help at home.

The Burned Area Scavenger Hunt pinpointed the idea that fire can be and is good for plant and animal life. Fire can create an environment where plant and animal life actually thrive rather than the all-too-often assumed myth that fire kills and plant and animal life die off,



Fire and Aviation

Australian Wildland Fire Specialist Visits Boise District BLM Facilities

Specialist discusses similarities and differences between wildland fire response in Australia and US

Boise District Office - Chris Ainsworth, executive officer of the Risk and Emergency Management Education Centre (RAENEC) and a project consultant to Swinburne University, recently visited the Boise Interagency Dispatch Center.

Ainsworth toured the Boise District BLM Yard, including engines, heavy equipment and command vehicles. During the tour, he discussed similarities and differences between wildland fire response and equipment in Australia and the United States.

Fire Management Office Andy Delmas said, "Mr. Ainsworth was very passionate about fireline safety, and the role of fireline supervisors. We discussed our approach to fireline supervision, and how we maintain span of control during complex incidents, and although we use a very similar approach it was very interesting to hear the Australian perspective."

Discussion participants included Delmas, Fire Operations Supervisor Todd Floyd, Dispatch Center Manager Stephany Church and Fire Mitigation Specialist Bob Narus.



Coeur d'Alene BLM Wildlife Biologist Recognized for Preventing Potential Aviation Incident

Robinson's attention to detail and quick, decisive action contributed to safe outcome



Coeur d'Alene Field Office - Coeur d'Alene FO wildlife biologist Scott Robinson, was recently recognized for averting a potential helicopter incident while on fire assignment in Montana. On assignment as Helibase Manager, Robinson was assisting with helicopter landings and take-offs at the Seeley Lake airport in 2007.

Shortly after Montana's Governor and members of the media were loaded onto the helicopter, Robinson and the Aircraft Base Radio Operator immediately recognized that the pilot forgot to untie the main rotor blade from the stinger on the helicopter's tail boom. They alerted the pilot and averted a potential accident.

According to Robinson, "If the pilot had started the engine and cranked the rotors while they were securely tied down, the aircraft would have been damaged and the passengers may have incurred injuries." Robinson summed up the event by stating, "Being observant of unsafe events is part of our jobs. I'm just glad we noticed this and nothing bad happened."

Robinson received an "AIRWARD" plaque from the USDA Forest Service in recognition of professional performance to prevent an aviation mishap. His award states, "...Your attention to detail, as well as your quick, decisive action contributed to a safe outcome."

BLM Employees in the Spotlight

National Award Presented to Cottonwood FO Archeologist For Excellence in Interpretation

Prestigious award recognizes exceptional work with partners, communities to create experiences for public land users

Coeur d'Alene District Office – David Sisson, Archaeologist for the BLM Coeur d'Alene District was awarded the BLM's 2008 Gold Award for "Excellence in Interpretation and Environmental Education." Sisson, a 29-year BLM veteran stationed in Cottonwood, ID, was selected from a slate of nominees by a review panel comprised of BLM staff and partner-group representatives.

According to Gary Cooper, BLM's Coeur d'Alene District Manager, "This prestigious award recognizes David's exceptional work with partners and communities to create interpretive and educational experiences and materials for public lands users. His accomplishments in 2008 highlight these partnership efforts involving local schools, the Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon State University, and many other organizations."

Examples of Sisson's 2008 accomplishments include Nez Perce Quiz Cards, Lower Salmon River Cultural Resources Website, and an Oregon State University cost-share archeological project.



Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Grants Special Recognition to BLM Shoshone Recreation Planner

Award recognizes Freiberg's involvement in real-world land management, cutting-edge science and technology program



Shoshone Field Office - Shoshone FO Outdoor Recreation Planner David Freiberg and his wife Becky were recently presented the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District's "Special Recognition Award." The prize was awarded for Becky's work as Program Administrator of Southern Idaho Biocontrol, also known as the "Bug Crew," and for David and Becky's work as advisors with the Idaho Envirothon program.

A partner of BLM, the "Bug Crew" employs students and supervisors to distribute, monitor and harvest bio-control agents which feed on and kill noxious weed infestations on both public and private land.

Designed to foster cooperation and teamwork, five-member envirothon teams are tested on their basic knowledge in topic areas (forestry, soils/land use, wildlife, aquatic ecology) and must apply that knowledge to solve real-life problems.

David said, "Problem solving and teamwork are skills that will enhance the participants' ability to take leadership roles after high school or college, no matter what their chosen field or career. This program involves kids in real-world land management, cutting-edge science and technology, and get the kids outside and away from the refrigerator and the X-box."