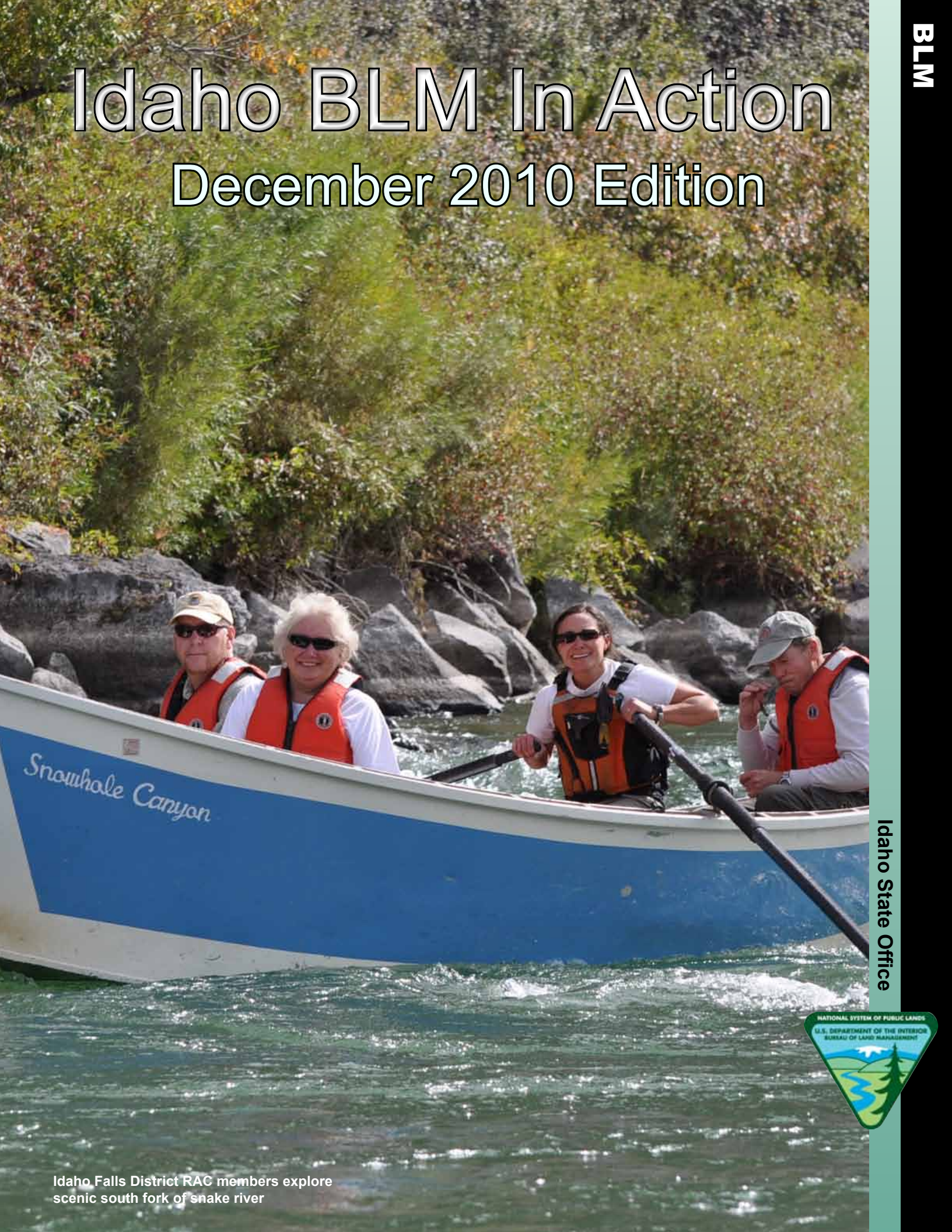


# Idaho BLM In Action

## December 2010 Edition



Idaho State Office



Idaho Falls District RAC members explore scenic south fork of snake river

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## Honored BLM Employees

### Idaho Employees Recognized for Exceptional Public Service in National Award Ceremony

BLM Director Bob Abbey presented the first-ever BLM Director's Awards to agency employees for exceptional public service in Washington, DC.

"These awards recognize outstanding leadership, dedicated stewardship, successful collaborative efforts, and innovative approaches that are making the Bureau of Land Management the premier natural and cultural resources management agency in the Department of the Interior," said Abbey. "People are the BLM's most valuable asset, and these awardees set superior examples for all of us to follow."

During this ceremony, Jeff Christenson, recreation planner

from the Challis Field Office, was presented the Director's Award for Spirit of Service. The award recognizes Jeff's high standards of excellence, dedication and continual hard work.

Jeff manages a recreation program that draws 100,000 visitors each year and encompasses 14 developed recreation sites, 7 wilderness study areas and 120 river miles.

His extensive community involvement outside of the field office serves people throughout the area. Whether participating in a local trails group, umpiring Little League games, or promoting fundraisers for local Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Christenson epitomizes the spirit of public service.

During the ceremony, Abbey also recognized the Wild Horse

and Burro Communications Team with the Team Accomplishment Award.

The Wild Horse and Burro Communications Team was created to provide much-needed supplemental communications support to the Wild Horse and Burro Program. Team members regularly travel to often remote areas where wild horse and burro gathers are scheduled to occur. There they provide invaluable assistance to the local BLM field offices, helping out with all aspects of communications – before, during, and after the gather.

Idaho public affairs specialists Heather Tiel-Nelson and Jessica Gardetto both served important roles as members of this wild horse and burro team.



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- Bob Abbey**

## Honored BLM Employees

### Two from Idaho Receive National Recognition for Seeds of Success Partnership

BLM Idaho State Office biological technician Susan Filkins and botanist Roger Rosentreter are two Idaho employees who have been nationally recognized with a “Partners in Conservation” Award for their outstanding contributions to the *Seeds of Success* Partnership and their national wildland seed collection program.

The award was presented “for extraordinary contribution to

helping ensure that our treasured landscapes and their iconic species, in light of altered climates, are preserved for future generations of Americans.”

This partnership is connecting with organizations around the country to collect and preserve native plant diversity. Led by the BLM working under the umbrella of Congress’s National Native Plant Materials Development Program, *Seeds of Success* began in 2000 and today represents a strong multi-million dollar partnership of Federal and non-Federal organizations.

The *Seeds of Success* Partnership is now a nationwide network of 39 partners hosting 65 seed collecting teams. Collectively, those involved in the program have collected over 9,000 wildland native seed collections representing more than 3,000 species for restoration and research on the sagebrush steppe.

“These extraordinary contributions by the *Seeds of Success* Program will help to ensure that our treasured landscapes and their iconic species, in light of altered climates, are preserved for future generations of Americans.”



# BLM In Your Community

## BLM Fire and Law Enforcement Participate in Mountain Home Community Appreciation Day

BLM Boise and Twin Falls District Law Enforcement Rangers Moises Herrera and Rich Lloyd partnered with several other local fire and law enforcement agencies to assist the Mountain Home Police Department. The various groups cooperated to focus on education of local citizens about fire danger and the role played by resource management and BLM.

Herrera enjoyed his time helping out in the community. He said, "This was a great learning experience for the Mountain Home residents, and a perfect opportunity for BLM to reach out to the parents and kids that have not had the time to visit one of our BLM offices."

Other participating agencies included the Mountain Home Volunteer Rural Fire Department, Mountain Home Fire, Life Flight, Mountain Home Airforce EMT, Elmore County Sheriff and Ambulance, and Boise National Forest.



## BLM Fire Prevention Staff Participate in Community Night Out

Fire prevention staff participated in community night out down at the Idaho Falls Greenbelt. Children of all ages were allowed to spin the "Smokey Fire Prevention Wheel" and answer a fire safety question. If the child answered correctly, they were able to pick out a prize. Smokey Bear made a surprise appearance and handed out frisbees to people attending the event.

"It's great exposure for our prevention program," stated Karen Roybal, fire prevention technician. "We get to teach the kids simple fire principles and they get to meet Smokey Bear."



## Idaho Falls District BLM Firefighters Help "Fill the Boot"

Local Idaho Falls District BLM firefighters assisted Blackfoot firefighters in their efforts to "fill the boot" for children with muscular dystrophy. Firefighters stood on the street and collected monetary donations from individuals driving through town.

Muscular dystrophy is a group of disorders that involve muscle weakness and loss of muscle tissue that gets progressively worse over time.

The "Fill the Boot" campaign proceeds are given to the Muscular Dystrophy Association and are used to send children to muscular dystrophy camp each summer and to purchase equipment such as wheel chairs and walkers for victims of the disease.

## Volunteering on Your Public Lands

### Interagency Cooperation Responsible for Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Tree Removal on the Bruneau River

Eleven employees from the BLM Idaho State Office and Boise District Office assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in removal of about 100 invasive trees. The work was done cooperatively to improve riparian habitat along the Bruneau River at Hot Springs Creek.

Two invasive species, salt cedar and russian olive, were targeted for this project. These two water-loving tree species contribute to riparian habitat degradation. They use plenty of water, support few native insects and are not palatable to deer or elk. Native willows and dogwoods will recover as these exotic trees are removed. Although this type of project is labor-intensive and

time-consuming, it pays off big in native habitat restoration.

BLM botanist Susan Filkins was happy to participate in this important day.

“Tackling invasive trees takes a lot of determination. This is a long-term project, not something you do once and forget about,” Filkins said.



“If this work wouldn’t have been completed, invasive trees would have continued to spread and become more established, causing irrevocable damage to the native river ecosystem.”

BLM botanist Roger Rosentreter also participated in the day. He enjoyed his day in the field, but also looks forward to seeing the result of their efforts in the future. “It is incredibly rewarding to work hard in the field and see the positive effects on the Idaho streams for the benefit of the wildlife, fish and people of Idaho.”

“It is incredibly rewarding to work hard in the field and see the positive effects on the Idaho streams for the benefit of the wildlife, fish and people of Idaho.”

- Roger Rosentreter



## In the Field with BLM...

### Steve Ellis Tours the Boise District BLM Wilderness Areas

Boise District and State Office BLM hosted a tour of the Boise District for State Director Steve Ellis.

The group began their day at the Bruneau Overlook and then headed to Deer Water Spring, an area burned in the Crowbar Fire of 2010. At this spot, BLM archaeologist Lois Palmgren detailed impacts from the fire to a cultural site in a small canyon and plans to stabilize rock art. The group also learned about stabilization measures planned to prevent future burning of cultural resources by keeping tumbleweeds out of the canyon. On another part of the fire, the group observed drill seeding, underway on over 27,000 acres.

Next, the group visited the Big Jacks and Little Jacks Wilderness areas via the Mud Flat Road/Owyhee Backcountry Scenic Byway.

After a stop at Poison Creek picnic site, the group proceeded to a gate that accesses a private inholding in the Little Jacks Wilderness.

The last stop was the Mud Flat Oolite ACEC turnout for a look at the roadside interpretive panels placed in 2009.

State Director Ellis also took the opportunity on this trip to see ARRA-funded work at the Cove Recreation Site on CJ Strike Reservoir, the Black Sands Resort (which operates with a BLM permit at the reservoir) and a road recently built by Idaho Power to access the area.



### Idaho Falls District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Tours Upper Snake Area

The Idaho Falls District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) met to discuss issues affecting the BLM Idaho Falls District and tour some of the local areas to be focused on in the upcoming Resource Management Plan (RMP).

During discussion, the group was able to provide BLM staff excellent comments regarding their progress and posed some additional questions and insights into what they feel would enhance the BLM's planning process.

The RAC members also visited St. Anthony Sand Dunes to learn about the Egin Lakes Recreation area and other issues affecting the area and experienced a scenic float on the South Fork of the Snake River. Multiple stops along the river allowed the group to discuss a variety of issues such as the Wild and Scenic River program, the interagency fee program, new regulations on the river and law enforcement practices.

"We appreciate the opportunity to see the areas we discuss in our RAC meetings," said one local RAC member. "It helps our decision-making process."



## National Public Lands Day (NPLD) 2010

### Dune Clean-up Attracts Record Number of Volunteers

On the sunny morning of September 25, over 463 Brigham Young University (BYU)– Idaho students, leadership staff and family members ascended on the St. Anthony Sand Dunes to participate in a dunes cleanup for National Public Lands Day (NPLD). Along with over 50 OHV enthusiasts who recreate on the dunes, the volunteers cleaned up over 2,000 lbs of litter within and adjacent to the dunes. This year's event topped last year's cleanup event as the largest NPLD gathering at the dunes. The volunteers contributed over 1,175 hours of work saving BLM over \$23,000 in cleanup costs.

### New Owyhee Wilderness Areas Celebrated at National Public Lands Day Event

“On this year's National Public Lands Day, BLM celebrated the designation of over 300 miles of wild and scenic rivers and 500,000 acres of wilderness in southwestern Idaho,” said David Draheim, outdoor recreation planner for the Bruneau Field Office. “We appreciate everyone who participated in this first annual event.” Those helping ranged in age from 6 to 75 and work included restoration of a one-mile stretch of a closed vehicle

route into a hiking trail that leads down into a scenic canyon in the Big Jacks Creek Wilderness Area. Other activities included planting native plants and seeds, and marking barbed wire fences to increase visibility and reduce sage-grouse/fence



Owyhee Wilderness Trail Building

collision mortality.

### Pocatello Community Cleans Goodenough Creek Campground

Approximately 30 volunteers from a local Girl Scout troop and two Cub Scout packs helped the Pocatello Field Office remove man-made dams that obstructed passage for the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout built by campers during summer 2010. The volunteers also removed litter along the creek and trimmed vegetation during the day event.



Goodenough Creek clean-up

# National Public Lands Day (NPLD) 2010

## Coeur d'Alene Event Transforms Recreation Site Prior to Grand Opening

Volunteers wielding gloves, pulaskis, digging bars and shovels joined staff from the BLM Coeur d'Alene Field Office to plant over 230 native shrubs, trees and grass plugs within the new Blue Creek Bay recreation site. In addition, volunteers installed an entrance sign; added signs to the information kiosk; and installed cement blocks along the sloped sidewalk leading to the boat dock.



The new site facilities include a small-craft boat launch; two docks for swimming, fishing and temporary moorage; three picnic sites with grills and trash cans; defined parking spaces; concrete walkways; vault toilet; and kiosk.

To see a full photo gallery of this year's National Public Lands Day, please visit our website.

## BLM and Volunteers Work to Improve Challis Bridge Recreation Site

Challis BLM hosted 15 volunteers who contributed about 60 hours of labor on National Public Lands Day. The crews returned for a second year to work at the Challis Bridge Recreation Site. BLM has been working on improving the site over the last five years. Together the crews planted 12 trees and shrubs to provide shade and screening to four picnic sites, installed an interpretive sign created by local high school students as part of a *Take it Outside* project, and resurfaced a gravel trail that provides access to the picnic sites and a restroom.



## Recreate in Your Backyard

### **BLM, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Dedicate Lombard Trail**

In Fall 2010, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) along with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hosted a ceremony to dedicate the newly constructed Lombard ATV Trail. This trail begins at the IDPR Land of the Yankee Fork Visitor Center and continues over the Blue Mountains and connects to the Bayhorse area.

Challis recreation planner Jeff Christenson participated in the dedication. "Ernie Lombard was obviously touched by the dedication, and kudos were given to the BLM, IDPR staff, and Great Basin Institute staff."

About 25 riders participated in the dedication ride, and the trail received great reviews from

the participants. At one point during the ride, Ernie Lombard said, "What a great idea. Keep people on the trails by making the trail so fun to ride that people don't want to leave."

IDPR has created a YouTube video that takes people down a virtual tour of the trail and a blog with photos and comments concerning this project.

### **Boat Ramp Project Completed at Steck Park Recreation Site**

An ARRA-funded deferred maintenance boat ramp replacement project at Steck Park Recreation Site was completed in November 2010.

The project, located about 22 miles northwest of Weiser,

Idaho, included removal and replacement of a deteriorated concrete boat ramp along the Snake River in the Brownlee impoundment.

Work involved the demolition and removal of the existing concrete ramp; excavation and placement of engineered fill; installation of sheet pilings and reinforcement of steel; and placement of concrete for the ramp. During the construction, about 20 workers used over 19,000 wire ties and poured 23 truckloads of concrete.

This project will eliminate a safety issue and enhance recreational experiences on the reservoir.



## Wild Horses and Burro

### BLM Conducts Saylor Creek Herd Emergency Gather

BLM gathered 195 wild horses from the Saylor Creek Herd Management Area (HMA), about 15 miles south of Glenns Ferry, Idaho. The horses' home range was 100 percent burned after the Long Butte fire scorched nearly 307,000 acres in late August 2010, leaving insufficient forage to sustain the horses throughout the winter.

The horses were transported to the BLM Wild Horse Corrals south of Boise. They were then examined by an equine veterinarian to ensure no underlying respiratory issues as a result of possible smoke, dust or ash inhalation due to the fire. The horses will be cared for at the corrals until it is determined they can be re-released back onto the Saylor Creek HMA. In fall 2010, BLM implemented stabilization and fencing efforts to restore the health of the rangeland. As soon as the Environmental Analysis (EA) is completed, managers will determine how many horses can be returned to the HMA.

The Saylor Creek Herd was also gathered in 2005 after the devastating Clover Creek fire. Upon completing rangeland restoration of the burned area, BLM returned 93 horses to the HMA in February 2006.

### Hardtrigger/Black Mountain Catch, Treat and Release Gathers Complete

In November 2010, the BLM conducted catch, treat and release gathers in the Hardtrigger and Black Mountain HMAs. The HMAs are adjacent to each other, located in Owyhee County, south of the Snake River.

A total of 149 horses were gathered; 105 in the Hardtrigger HMA and 44 in the Black Mountain HMA. A total of 55 mares were treated with PZP (Porcine Zona Pellucida); 37 from Hardtrigger and 18 from Black Mountain. Mares 2 years old or younger were not given PZP. After being treated, the horses were released back to the HMAs.

Porcine Zona Pellucida, or PZP, which makes mares temporarily infertile, is not available for commercial use. The BLM uses the PZP vaccine in cooperation with the Humane Society of the United States under Food and Drug Administration rules that

apply to research on new animal drugs. This vaccine was first tested on the wild horses of Assateague Island (off the coasts of Maryland and Virginia), where a reduction in mare pregnancy rates was observed.

“These ‘catch, treat, and release’ gathers are an innovative way of working to control the population growth of wild horse herds,” said BLM Director Bob Abbey. “If these fertility-control treatments prove successful, we can lengthen the time between some gathers, saving taxpayer dollars by holding down gather and holding costs.”



Horse from Saylor Creek herd



Saylor Creek wild horse gather

# Youth Program Partnership with BLM

## Local Youth Employment Program Receives National BLM Award

The Youth Employment Program (YEP) crew based out of Salmon, Idaho, has received the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director's External Award for Excellence in Leadership. The award recognizes the group for the high quality project work they have completed in Lemhi and Custer County. On November 9, Director of the YEP Steve Adams, traveled to Boise to receive the award from BLM Director Bob Abbey.

The YEP is a nonprofit corporation established in 1994. The group promotes an atmosphere of educational development and provides employment opportunities in local communities for youth ages 14 to 25 years of age. "I wanted to get kids involved so they would develop a sense of stewardship and respect for our natural resources," said Steve Adams, founder of the YEP. "We were surprised to receive this award, but feel it is an amazing tribute to the youth because it epitomizes all their hard work and dedication."

Groups like the YEP provide an important workforce for the BLM, and also teach the hired youth about public land management, the importance of being outdoors, and help develop critical skill sets they can use for the rest of their lives. The BLM Salmon and

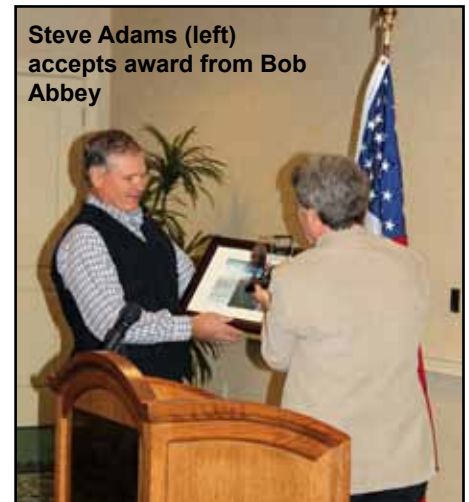
Challis Field Offices manage over a million acres of public land for multiple use objectives including resource management, recreation, grazing and ecosystem protection. In order to manage such a broad spectrum of interests, the field offices turned to the local YEP crew to accomplish projects that would otherwise take more time and funding to complete.

The YEP helped BLM accomplish some critical projects this past year, including:

- Implementing the travel management plan in the Challis Field Office by improving sage grouse habitat and wilderness areas; and by creating a defined, navigable transportation system.
- Removing and/or modifying 29 miles of fence to facilitate wildlife movement through their travel corridors.
- Assisting with rangeland monitoring.

- Building fence around cultural sites and riparian areas.
- Constructing an off-highway vehicle (OHV) training area.
- Constructing a bighorn sheep viewing station on BLM-managed public lands.
- Thinning hazardous fuels to reduce wildfire danger and protect the white bark pine.
- Eradicating/controlling noxious weeds, helping ensure ecological health.

BLM will continue its partnership with the YEP and hopes to complete even more critical projects while providing Idaho's youth with employment.



## BLM Takes it Outside

### Residents of Coeur d'Alene Community Learn About Owls of the Northwest

The crowd started gathering at the Coeur d'Alene BLM pavilion along the shores of the Spokane River before the Owl Hoot Program began. The evening event was organized and funded through a *Take it Outside* grant prepared by Coeur d'Alene BLM Environmental Education Specialist Beth Paragamian. Paragamian was assisted by volunteers from the Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society, students who help at the Wildlife Education Center and guests from the Spokane Valley Outdoor Learning Center.

Paragamian linked the evening presentation to the Great Fires of 1910, describing how the fires burned through the areas in Montana and Idaho, displacing owls and other wildlife until the areas began to revegetate.



Owl Presentation

Several live and taxidermied owls were presented, including a pygmy owl, western screech owl, long-eared owl, two short-eared owls, a barn owl, and the largest, a great horned owl. Paragamian also described special features of the owls, such as their sight, sound and color patterns, along with their habitat needs.

The owls featured in the presentation needed rehabilitation at the wildlife

centers after sustaining injuries such as gunshot wounds, car accidents and fence entanglements.

BLM provided an "Owls of Idaho" poster to each attendee, many of whom stayed after the program to view and photograph the owls. Chocolate owl "pellets" were provided as an evening snack, with many in the crowd staying to enjoy the social event of making s'mores.

Owl presented to kids



Owl Presentation



## BLM Takes it Outside

### Fourth Grade Students in Eastern Idaho Help BLM Celebrate Bicentennial of Astorian Fur Trappers

In September 2010, the BLM Burley Field Office partnered with the Twin Falls County Historic Preservation Commission in celebration of the bicentennial of the 1811 expedition of Wilson Price Hunt into the Snake River Country.

A total of 270 fourth grade students from local elementary schools attended the event, which included a living history exhibit and learning stations on local botany, wildlife, geology, and archaeology led by BLM employees.

Many of the historic events associated with these and other famous 19th Century fur trappers occurred on BLM-managed land in southern Idaho.

The Hunt Expedition, also referred to as the Astorian Overland Expedition, was financed by John Jacob Astor. Astor owned half of the Pacific Fur Company, established in New York City in 1810.

Because the timing of European expansion across North America coincided with the exhaustion of beaver populations in the Old World, the thick, luxurious beaver pelts in the American northwest were an irresistible draw to entrepreneurs. However, the

success of the fur trade was heavily dependent on Native Americans, who were already experts at trapping the North American beaver. Many expeditions relied on their hunting and trapping skills and familiarity with the landscape. In fact, many European fur trappers would have died without the sympathy and generosity of Native Americans in which they came in contact.

The celebration of the Wilson Price Hunt Expedition took place at Cauldron Linn, situated on BLM managed-land in the Snake River Canyon near Murtaugh, Idaho. This locality was given its name by Scottish members of the expedition because it reminded them of a series of tumultuous, boiling waterfalls near Perthshire, Scotland. Although Cauldron Linn is recorded in fur trappers' journals as the site of a tragic accident where members of the trapping party drowned in the

turbulent water, it is uncertain exactly where the drowning occurred. It could have happened anywhere along the series of rapids and waterfalls in the Snake River Canyon between Milner and Murtaugh. The loss of friends, compounded by the sinking of dugout canoes, guns and supplies, prompted Wilson Price Hunt to abandon water travel across this region.

Teachers and students who participated in this celebration will prepare posters, plays and other media to present in public venues and community events, demonstrating what they have learned.



## Snake River Conservation Easements

### Idaho Falls District BLM Purchases Two Properties Along South Fork of the Snake River

In December 2010, the BLM Idaho Falls District Office purchased two properties along the South Fork of the Snake River in Bonneville County using Land and Water Conservation Funds. The two properties include Hamilton Pine Creek Bench Property and the Campbell Farms Property.

On December 22, the Conservation Fund purchased the 862-acre Hamilton Pine Creek Bench property and transferred 304 acres to BLM. The Conservation Fund intends to convey the balance of the Hamilton property to BLM in the future when more funding becomes available. The property is located between the Pine Creek Canyon and the South Fork Snake River's Conant Valley.

On December 23, the BLM purchased the 38-acre Campbell Farms property with the assistance of the Teton Regional Land Trust. The Campbell Farms, Inc. property is located on the Pine Creek Bench to the north of the South Fork Snake River. The property has excellent views of Swan Valley, Conant Valley, Pine Creek Bench, and the Big Hole Mountains.

The land owners of both properties offered their

land to BLM because they wanted the area to be kept in its current natural state for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of the public who visit the South Fork of the Snake River.

The Pine Creek Bench connects summer range in the high mountains with lower elevation winter range along the South Fork Snake River for elk, moose and mule deer, and the predators that follow them. Along the Bench lies privately protected parcels of land, protected under permanent conservation easements held by the BLM, the Teton Regional Land Trust and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Landowners, agencies and land trusts have worked together to protect over 3,900 acres in this landscape.

Protecting this landscape ensures connectivity for elk moving to and from the mountains and the river and helps implement long-range plans by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to encourage elk to winter downstream from Swan Valley away from more settled areas.

Conserving this landscape also protects important breeding, nesting and brood-rearing habitat for Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, identified as a sensitive species by federal agencies and a species of greatest conservation need in Idaho's Comprehensive Wildlife Management Strategy.

The BLM will manage these properties in accordance with the interagency Snake River Activity/Operations Plan of 2008.

South Fork of Snake River view from Hamilton Pine Creek Property



## Welcome New BLM Employees

### **Steve Ellis** *Idaho BLM State Director*

In October 2010, Steve Ellis became the newest Idaho BLM State Director.

Ellis began his 31-year federal career as a forester with BLM in Burley, Idaho. Since then he has worked for both the BLM and Forest Service in a number of staff and leadership positions in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Alaska and Washington, DC. Steve has performed as an Area Manager, Associate District Manager, District Manager, Forest Supervisor, and Deputy State Director for Resources and Planning. He also served one year as a Congressional Fellow in the U.S. Senate.

“We are very excited to have Steve in Idaho,” said Peter Ditton, Associate State Director for Idaho BLM. “He is a career professional who has worked and gained experience at all levels of our organization. Having leadership with this understanding is invaluable.”

Ellis grew up on a family farm in Illinois. He holds a B.S. in Forestry from Southern Illinois University, as well as a M.S. in Geography from Northern Illinois University. Steve and his wife Linda, a family nurse practitioner, have raised three children and have one grandchild.

“I started my federal career

in Idaho, and all three of our children were born here,” Ellis said. “Coming to Idaho as the State Director for BLM feels a lot like coming home. I look

forward to working more with our employees as well as community leaders and partners as we continue to tackle the challenges and take advantage of opportunities.”



Ellis is a licensed private pilot, and with his wife, enjoys riding and packing their horses in western Idaho and eastern Oregon.



## Welcome New BLM Employees

### **Kirby Peyman** *Purchasing Agent*

Shoshone-native Kirby Peyman is no stranger to the BLM. She has worked for the BLM Twin Falls District Office since graduating from Shoshone High School five years ago. She started her federal career in the fire prevention program, and has since worked a wide variety of jobs within the BLM as a STEP student. She is currently a purchasing agent for the Twin Falls District.

"I am excited about being an employee of the BLM and look forward to what the future might hold," Peyman said.

She holds an associate's degree in secondary education from the College of Southern Idaho and hopes to earn her bachelor's degree in the future. In her spare time, she enjoys being outdoors, specifically canoeing, camping, fishing, and snowboarding. She also loves to run, read and cook.



### **Steve Lubinski** *Geologist*

Since he was a small child, Steve Lubinski has been fascinated with science and the outdoors. Drawn to the mountains, forests and streams of the west, he headed to Montana from his hometown on the outskirts of Chicago in the summer of 2002. He graduated from the University of Western Montana in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in geology and a minor in environmental science. Since then he has worked for the Bureau of Land Management in range and hydrology in Montana and is now the new geologist in the Burley Field Office. He is interested in the processes that have shaped and continue to shape the earth, and anything related to water in the west. Steve enjoys spending time with his wife and three young children while hunting, fishing, skiing and hiking.

### **Kathryn Zelenak** *Realty Specialist*

Kathryn Zelenak is the new Realty Officer for the BLM Burley Field Office.

Kathryn comes to the Burley Field Office from the Anchorage Field office in Alaska where she worked as a Legal Instrument Examiner. Her experience includes documenting historical records, preparing realty cases, drafting environmental documents and providing advice and guidelines to applicants in all land uses.

Zelenak has a bachelor's degree in real estate and recently completed obtained her masters degree in environmental policy and management from the University of Denver.

In her free time, Kathryn enjoys horseback riding, ice-skating, reading, hiking, water-skiing, fishing, camping and swimming.



## Wild Horse and Burro

Idaho's public lands are home to over 775 wild horses in six herd management areas (HMAs). Four HMAs are located in the Boise District, one in the Twin Falls District, and one in the Challis Field Office. The BLM studies each HMA to determine how many wild horses the area can support while also providing for other land uses and resource values.

On this website you will learn more about HMAs, what to expect on a typical horse gather day, adoption criteria and the schedule for upcoming adoption dates and locations, and how BLM has partnered with the local 4-H program to get weanlings more comfortable being around humans.

Website



## Volunteers

BLM loves its volunteers! The Idaho BLM relies on volunteers to help accomplish important work on our public lands. In 2009, Idaho BLM utilized over 1,000 volunteers totaling over 42,000 hours for an approximate value of about \$880,000. Idaho BLM uses volunteers in many capacities and with a wide range of skills and interests. You can work individually, or as part of a group, and projects can be one-day commitments or short and long-term adventures.

Visitors to this website will be able to find out more information on the variety of volunteer opportunities available in the BLM, who to contact near your hometown, and the steps you should take to become a BLM volunteer.

Website

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## Upcoming Events

- **December 25 - January 2**  
Eagle Watch on Lake Coeur d'Alene
- **January 2**  
Golden Eagle Audubon Society Bird Count at CJ Strike Reservoir
- **January 4-5**  
Twin Falls District Fire and Aviation to Host Recruitment Open Houses at College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls