

Idaho BLM In Action

June 2008 Edition



From the Washington Office

New Report Shows Public Lands Offer Greater Energy Relief to Americans

“Public lands have a significant role to play in meeting our domestic energy needs securely and affordably”

WASHINGTON, DC - With average national gas prices hovering around \$4 per gallon, the Bureau of Land Management recently released a study that shows vast untapped oil and natural gas resources exist on public lands in the U.S.

“America has abundant energy resources,” said Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management C. Stephen Allred. “However, for a variety of reasons, many of these resources are not available for development. At a time when energy prices have reached record levels and Americans are feeling the impact, we must find ways to develop those key energy resources that are available to us right here at home, on our public lands.”

The report is the third in a series of congressionally mandated scientific studies of U.S. onshore Federal oil and natural gas resources and limitations on their development. All onshore Federal lands throughout the U.S. believed to have energy potential are included in this latest study. These public lands are estimated to contain 31 billion barrels of oil and 231 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The BLM administers leasing of onshore Federal oil and gas resources.

The inventory found that 60 percent of the onshore Federal lands that have potential as domestic sources for natural gas and oil are presently closed to leasing, making 62 percent of the oil and 41 percent of the natural gas inaccessible for development. An additional 30 percent of onshore Federal oil and 49 percent of onshore Federal gas may only be developed subject to restrictions over and above standard environmental lease terms, including seasonal timing limitations. The study found that in the inventory areas just 8 percent of onshore Federal oil and 10 percent of onshore Federal gas are accessible under standard lease terms.

The 279 million acres inventoried are managed by various Federal agencies, including the BLM and other agencies in the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service, which is part of the Department of Agriculture. Some of these acres are split estate, where the subsurface mineral resources are Federally owned but the surface is privately owned.

“Public lands have a significant role to play in meeting our domestic energy needs securely and affordably,” said BLM Director Jim Caswell. “Current technology allows us to develop energy resources without adversely impacting the environment or permanently diminishing other non-energy resources found on public lands. With the means to make energy development a temporary use of the land, we don’t have to choose between energy security and healthy lands.”



Public Land News and Actions

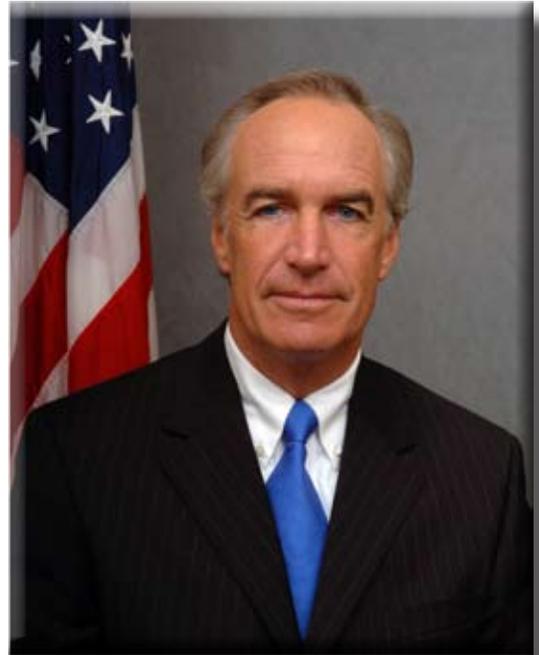
Secretary Kempthorne Hosts All-Employee Meeting in Boise

Secretary speaks on vision for Department, core values, and ongoing and new initiatives for FY 2009

Idaho State Office - Secretary Dirk Kempthorne recently met with a cross-section of Department of the Interior (DOI) employees of the Boise area. The Secretary spoke about his vision for the Department, the Core Values Statement and ongoing and new initiatives for FY 2009 to a well-attended audience of 180 employees and agency heads at the Natural Resource Center in Boise.

The Secretary's presentation was followed by a lively 90-minute question-and-answer session, where Kempthorne fielded questions on an array of topics, including ways to enhance resource management program effectiveness, improve the work environment, recognize good employee performance, facilitate advancement of careers, and enhance exchange of information. The meeting is one in a series the Secretary has been hosting around the country to hear ideas and concerns from Department employees.

Idaho BLM State Director Tom Dyer provided opening remarks and introduced the Secretary and each of the attending Boise area Department agency heads.



BLM River Ranger Participates in Idaho Fish and Game Hunter Education Course

45 hunter education students learn about principles of leave no trace outdoor ethics

Cottonwood Field Office - Idaho BLM Cottonwood FO River Ranger Evan Worthington recently spent time with 45 hunter education students discussing the seven principles of Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. In groups of five, the students made their way around several other work stations to learn tasks including fire building, finding a blood trail and using a compass. After attending all stations and passing a written test, the kids receive a certificate to purchase a hunting license. This was the second year BLM has participated with Idaho Fish and Game hunter education course. This course provides an excellent opportunity to plant the seeds of outdoors ethics while getting to know the kids and parents of the community.



Worthington said, "This was a great experience and an ideal way to touch base with our user groups. We would like to incorporate the 'Leave No Trace' ethics information into all the Idaho Fish and Game Hunter Education Courses. Hopefully this information will become a permanent staple in the Hunter Education Courses statewide."

Public Land News and Actions

University of Idaho Professor Presents Ph.D. Research on Aspens in Owyhee Uplands

BLM and U of I collaborate on ongoing ecological research projects

Boise District Office - Eva Strand from the Department of Rangeland Ecology at the University of Idaho recently presented her Ph.D. research on remote sensing for aspens in the Owyhee Uplands of Southwest Idaho. The disruption of the natural fire cycle in this area of Idaho has resulted in unprecedented western juniper expansion and the subsequent loss of aspen and other fire-dependent communities. Strand has developed a fine scale Land Sat-based aspen inventory and prediction model that will be used to identify future aspen restoration efforts.

The work is a cooperative effort with the Boise District and is the latest phase of ongoing ecological research being conducted by the University within the Owyhee Uplands.

Recent collaborative projects between the BLM and University of Idaho have focused on: Species richness along the successional sagebrush steppe/western juniper gradient; Changes in fuel characteristics during western juniper woodland development; Mapping vegetation on the Owyhee Plateau; and Modeling of natural and prescribed fire scenarios in three watersheds in the Owyhee Mountains.



New Field Guide to Biological Soil Crusts of Western U.S. Drylands Published

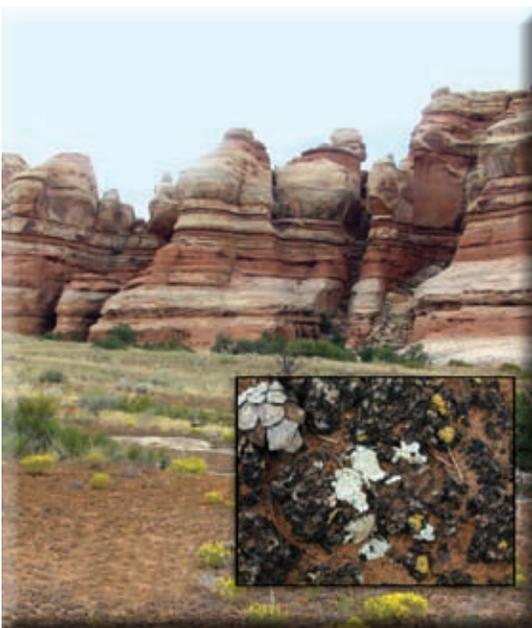
Full-color guide contains photos, keys and distribution maps for over 65 commonly encountered species

Idaho State Office - A new field guide entitled “A Field Guide to Biological Soil Crusts of Western U.S. Drylands: Common Lichens and Bryophytes” was recently published and is of interest to public land management agencies.

This full-color guide contains photos, keys and distribution maps for over 65 commonly encountered species. It is intended for field use; therefore, the descriptions in the keys emphasize characteristics distinguishable in the field, rather than those needing a microscope.

Authors include Roger Rosentreter, Ph.D., BLM Idaho State Office; Matthew Bowker, Ph.D., Center for Environmental Science and Education, Northern Arizona University; and Jayne Belnap, Ph. D., U.S. Geological Survey, Southwest Biological Science Center.

Hardcopies of this 103-page field guide, available only through U.S. Geological Survey, can be obtained free of charge while supplies last by emailing: cparry@usgs.gov. A free online version is also available [here](#).



Public Land News and Actions

Idaho Fish and Game and BLM Team up With Students to Plant Mountain Mahogany on Fire-Scarred Slopes



Mountain mahogany to help improve mule deer habitat on valuable, critical winter range

Pocatello Field Office - In April 2008, 56 students and 3 teachers from Soda Springs High School decided to “go green” for mule deer. They teamed up with the Fish and Game and the BLM Pocatello Field Office to plant 1,300 Mountain Mahogany plants on some fire-scarred slopes near Soda Springs. The students planted the mahogany in an effort to help improve mule deer habitat on this valuable and critical winter range. Prior to the planting event, Fish and Game staff visited the high school to talk about mule deer biology, habitat needs and the efforts made to try to help improve mule deer populations.

This year numerous plantings have taken place across the region in southeast Idaho with the help of volunteers from various high schools and sportsmen’s organizations. Hand plantings coupled with scheduled tractor plantings this year will result in over 100,000 bitterbrush, sagebrush and mahogany seedlings.



Blackrock/Chinese Peak 40-Mile Motorized Trail System Re-Opens

Brochures, maps and responsible user information distributed to visitors

Pocatello Field Office - After extending the seasonal closure due to excessive snow, the Idaho BLM Pocatello Field Office opened the Blackrock/Chinese Peak Trail system on May 1. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation provided the Off-Highway Vehicle education trailer onsite May 2-4, which provides several informative messages on how to be a responsible rider.

Staff passed out brochures and trail maps; provided information with Tread Lightly tips for responsible trail use; answered questions; and informed users of seasonal closure extensions on other trails in the Pocatello area.

The Idaho Trail Machine Association also hosted their annual club ride. In addition to the club members, an estimated 100+ trail users took advantage of the opening of the trail system. This trail system contains over 40 miles of motorized trails.



Public Land News and Actions

Flight of Boise District IT Specialist Highlighted on Cover of National Magazine

Photo taken during flight exercise chosen for cover of Air Force Magazine

Boise District Office - John Banks, IT specialist at the Idaho BLM Boise District, is also a member of the 189th Airlift Squadron of the Idaho Air National Guard. Banks recently participated in a flight exercise over the Owyhee Military Operating Area in Owyhee County west of Boise. During the exercise, flares were dispensed from another aircraft behind the one Banks was flying. The flares are used to counter or “confuse” infrared missiles fired at American aircraft by enemy combatants. A remarkable photograph was taken of John’s aircraft, a C-130, at the moment the flares were dispensed. The photograph was chosen for the cover of Air Force Magazine, which is distributed worldwide to Air Force Association members. The Owyhee Mountains provide the backdrop for the photo.



BLM and FS Hold Annual Wildflower Walks in Salmon Area

Local school kids identify flowers, talk about plant reproduction and uses

Salmon Field Office - The Idaho BLM Salmon Field Office and Salmon-Challis National Forest organized the Salmon area annual Wildflower Walk for first and fifth graders on May 19. The walks were led by two BLM employees, five Forest Service (FS) employees, one former BLM employee and one FS retiree. A group of 66 first-graders and another group of 75 fifth-graders spent two hours identifying flowers and talking about plant reproduction and uses, pollinators, animal tracks and insects. One exciting example of local animal life was a rattlesnake napping under a sagebrush!

Public Land News and Actions

BLM and Tribes Partner To Produce and Gather Native Plant Material

Program supplies native plant material for emergency stabilization and longer term rehabilitation and restoration efforts



Idaho Falls and Twins Falls District Offices - In 2005, Idaho BLM entered into a multi-year partnership with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (SBT) and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (SPT). Funding through the partnership allowed the groups to cooperatively build greenhouses on both reservations through the Native Plants Materials Program (NPMP). The NPMP, in its eighth year with BLM, is a direct response to Congressional direction to “supply native plant material for emergency stabilization and longer term rehabilitation and restoration efforts.”

The greenhouses are located close to the school and students are involved in the management of the greenhouse and the production of plant material. With subsequent funding and technical assistance from the BLM, the SBT has been able to plant and grow over 40,000 sage brush seedlings, and the SPT is growing 60,000 bitterbrush and sagebrush seedlings. The Idaho Falls and Twin Falls BLM Districts purchased all of these seedlings for use in fire rehab

March 2008.

The SBT also provided their resources to build a refrigeration unit so they could store the seedlings once they are ready. This will allow the Tribe to replant and conduct “grow” operations year-round. Should the SBT be able to produce more seedlings, Idaho BLM will purchase the additional plant material or refer its federal and state partners to the Tribes to purchase the seedlings.

Idaho BLM has reached out to its federal partners to assist the Tribes in expanding opportunities for native plant production. For example, the Forest Service has been working with the Tribes to train them on both production and collection aspects of Native plants/seeds.

In the future, the Tribes are interested in expanding the partnership to provide greater quantity and variety of native plant material (seeds and seedlings). They are also interested in employment and educational opportunities this might generate. Opportunities include Youth Conservation Corps; Business/Botany/Natural Resource/Fire training; adult crews for seed gathering, planting, grow operations; expanding the greenhouse; and/or moving into outdoor nursery operations.



Idaho BLM will continue to work cooperatively with both the SPT and the SBT to enhance the availability of native plant material for use on public lands.

BLM Law Enforcement

Idaho BLM Welcomes Two New Law Enforcement Officers

Agents bring about 20 years combined Law Enforcement experience and knowledge to the BLM

Idaho State Office - On March 21, 2008, Idaho BLM Law Enforcement (LE) welcomed new Twin Falls District Ranger, Jonathan Terland. Terland took The Oath of Office and was sworn in by the Montana State Director and father, Gene Terland.

The ceremony took place in the Idaho State Director's Office, where Jonathan was surrounded by a large family, friends and many other Law Enforcement Officers.

ID BLM State Office Special Agent-in-Charge Loren Good said, "It's exciting to see the Law Enforcement Program in Idaho grow. Terland's character and diverse background in LE makes him a great asset to our team."

Terland is married with three kids. His previous experience includes one year with Forest Service LE, four years as a Deputy Sheriff in Oregon and five years as a Police Officer in Anchorage, Alaska.



Idaho State Office - Jeff Roberts took the Oath of Office on April 14, 2008, as the newest Idaho Falls District Ranger. The ceremony took place at the Idaho State BLM Office and was conducted for the first time during the Spring Idaho Leadership Team (ILT) Meeting. Roberts took the Oath of Office and was sworn in by Idaho State BLM Director, Tom Dyer.

Roberts was accompanied by his wife and young daughter. The ceremony attracted support from many of the BLM Law Enforcement Officers who were on hand to welcome Ranger Roberts and his family.

Ranger Roberts comes to BLM with five years of experience with the Park Service and four years of experience with the Fish and Wildlife. While attending Humboldt College, Roberts worked two years for campus security/meter timing compliance officer, thus beginning his experience in the law enforcement field.

"His background in Natural Resource Law Enforcement makes him a natural for this type of position" said BLM Special Agent-in-Charge Loren Good. "Because of his background and the diverse resources found within the Pocatello Field Office, Ranger Roberts will be a great addition to the program."



BLM Law Enforcement

BLM Officials Warn of Public Health and Environmental Risks from Illegal Wire Burning Activity

Exposure to hazardous lead released with copper wire burning lead to liver and kidney damage, cleanup sites cost taxpayers thousands of dollars

Idaho State Office – Air pollutants and other hazardous materials being released into the environment from the illegal burning of insulated electrical wire on public land has Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials in Idaho concerned.

“There are serious health risks and environment concerns from dioxins, copper, lead, zinc and other pollutants commonly associated with illegal wire-burn sites,” according to Acting Idaho BLM Hazardous Materials Program Coordinator Steve Moore. “We want the public to be aware of the dangers, and we encourage anyone who should come across one of these sites to immediately notify their local BLM office, county sheriff’s office or city police department.”

Idaho BLM Safety and Occupational Health Manager Jan Peterson explained that dioxins, commonly associated with burnt insulation, are easily absorbed and stored in fat tissue. “Dioxins are known human carcinogens, and even low concentrations can cause serious health problems such as impaired immune system and liver function. Long-term exposure to lead, a hazardous waste that is released into soil when copper wire insulation is burned, can cause acute or chronic damage to the nervous system, and high doses of copper can cause liver and kidney damage.”

“Heavy metals are dangerous because they tend to bioaccumulate, or increase in concentration in the body over time,” according to Peterson. “When these heavy metals find their way into streams, lakes, rivers or groundwater, they can be dangerous to human health and the environment.”

In rural and urban areas across the West, federal and state land management agencies and local law enforcement officials are encountering sharp increases in the incidents of illegal wire burning on public, state and private lands.



“People looking to make a fast buck, characteristically methamphetamine or other drug users, are stealing the electrical wire, usually copper, from anywhere they can and burning the insulation from the wire to bring in more at scrap metal recycling facilities,” said Idaho BLM Special Agent Loren Good. “Burning on public land also poses a dangerous and unnecessary wildfire hazard.”

Law enforcement officials believe the rising price of base metals, particularly copper, is fueling the sharp spike in these thefts. Investigations of past wiring burning cases have been linked to the theft of farming equipment and copper wire from business or residential construction sites. “We caution anyone who works with or possesses copper wire or other metals that could be sold for scrap metal to increase their security measures,” Good said.

Read full news release



BLM Law Enforcement

Idaho Falls District Managers and Law Enforcement Agents Conduct Tactical Firearm Training at Idaho National Laboratory

Officers and managers participate in state-of-the-art video simulator

Idaho Falls District Office - Idaho BLM law enforcement officers and managers from the BLM Idaho Falls District and Idaho State Office recently conducted tactical firearms training at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) indoor range. The all-day training consisted of shooting handguns and rifles. The officers and managers were also permitted to participate in a state-of-the-art video simulator. The simulator is designed to roll-play different scenarios involving shoot or don't shoot situations. Manager who participated were Idaho Falls District Manager Joe Kraayenbrink, Challis Field Manager Dave Rosenkrance and Pocatello Field Manager Dave Pacioretty.



INL operates a unique live-fire training facility that consists of eight firearms training ranges, multiple obstacle and evaluation courses and the capability to train explosive breaching techniques and conduct independent vehicle and armor integrity testing. Since its inception, the laboratory has provided firearms training to more than 100,000 security police officers, law enforcement officers, military personnel and federal law enforcement agents.



“The INL firearms instructors are top quality, and the facilities are some of the best we have used,” stated Special Agent Kent Kleman. “It was great to share with some of the BLM managers the kind of firearm training BLM Law Enforcement Officers conduct and the high standards that we must adhere to. In addition, the video simulator puts the officer and managers in a real-life scenario. It was good to show the managers the split-second decisions our officers have to make in the field to determine if deadly force is needed.”

Dave Rosenkrance, BLM Challis Field Manager, said “It is very reassuring to witness the professionalism and skill of our rangers, first-hand.”

Fire and Aviation

“Sand Table” Exercises Help Train Rural Firefighters in Boise Valley

Exercises practice emergency operations in safe, controlled environment

Boise District Office – Twenty-three fire departments across the Boise District received training this spring thanks to funding provided by the Ready Reserve Program. The training includes a sand table exercise (STEX). The STEX simulates a wildland fire scenario.

The STEX offers a multi-dimensional setting that includes temporal and spatial “modeling” of incidents. It also incorporates miniature toys or objects that replicate resources within the simulated “geographic” environment. What brings forth the challenges are the addition of “natural” influences, such as weather, communication and time simulations. The STEX training tool was adopted from the Marine Corps. During the exercise, participating firefighters and fire chiefs get the opportunity to practice emergency operations in a safe, controlled environment, where no lives or property are at risk. Bob Narus, technician fire mitigation specialist for the Boise District Office, said the activity “gets everyone around the table before there’s smoke in the air.”



These activities will enable the BLM Boise District to increase participating fire departments’ initial attack capabilities for wild-fire response. Interested individuals can build on this training as a step to qualify them for participation in federal and state Incident Management Teams.



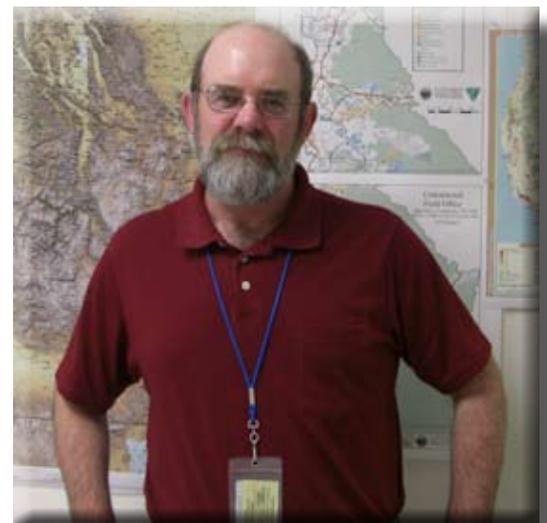
Coeur d’Alene’s Mark Grant Elected as Forest Region FMO of the Year

“I’m honored to join the ranks of others who have received this award, this is a reflection of the organization”

Coeur d’Alene Field Office - Mark Grant, interagency (Coeur d’Alene BLM/Idaho Panhandle NF) fire management officer (FMO), has been elected as the 2008 U.S. Forest Service Northern Region FMO of the Year. A Forest FMO of the Year is elected annually for each USFS Region.

Reasons for his selection include: 1) developing and implementing a fire management Service First program between the Idaho Panhandle NF and the Coeur d’Alene District BLM; 2) implementing a Wildland Fire Use program on State of Idaho lands with the Idaho Department of Lands; 3) recognizing and acting on the need to develop a Forest level fire business management position when finance was moved to the Albuquerque Service Center; 4) maintaining the level of Incident Management Team (IMT) support from the forest; 5) supporting subordinate development through well planned training and details; 6) maintaining operational strengths on the home unit even with the high level of IMT support; and 7) developing and maintaining standing type 3 IMTs.

Grant said, “This is a reflection of the kind of organization I work for. This is not just my work. I am honored to join the ranks of others who have received this award, including Peggy Polichio and Byron Bonney.”



Environmental Education- Earth Day



BLM Employees Participate in Statewide Earth Day Events

Events serve to educate youth on environmental issues and ethics



Cottonwood Field Office - Idaho BLM Park Rangers Evan Worthington and Jeremy Harris recently participated in Earth Day events at Grangeville and Whitebird Elementary Schools. Approximately 110 students attended the event. Worthington and Harris emphasized Leave No Trace Ethics and promoted the 3 R's, "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Students also talked about their role in helping the environment and what is being done at their school and home to help the Earth. Major topics included human waste disposal in the outdoors, minimizing campfire effects and what students can do at home to help minimize waste.

Coeur d'Alene Field Office - Beginning April 22, Idaho BLM Coeur d'Alene FO Environmental Education Specialist Beth Paragamian hosted a week of events to celebrate Earth Day. A fishing clinic was held at Camp Mivoden with fifth and sixth graders from the Inland NW, where 50 students learned about native species, parts of a fish, fishing techniques and outdoor ethics.

At the Wildlife Education Center in Coeur d'Alene, 40 preschool students made animal tracks from plaster of Paris and looked at mammal furs and skulls; 20 first-graders from Kellogg Elementary School studied wolves and made animal tracks, and 50 second-graders from Garwood Elementary School toured the exhibits, studied mammals and made plaster tracks to take home.



Boise District Office - Three clean-up events on public lands in the Boise District resulted in six large dumpsters, or approximately 35 tons of trash being removed from Public Lands. The cleanups were located at Blacks Creek Reservoir (approximately eight miles south of Boise), Snake River Birds of Prey NCA and Canyon Creek OHV area (south of Mountain Home).

Environmental Education



BLM Hosts Annual Spring Hikes in Snake River Birds of Prey NCA

Activities staffed by BLM specialists in natural history of NCA and southwestern Idaho

Boise District Office - As more than 800 pairs of eagles, falcons, hawks and owls return to their nests in the Snake River Birds of Prey NCA, the BLM Boise District is once again hosting the popular series of Spring Hikes in the NCA. The hikes run from April 26 through June 23. Most of the hikes are offered on Saturdays. Each activity, staffed by BLM specialists in the natural history of the NCA and southwestern Idaho, covers different aspects of the area's fascinating wildlife and cultural history.



BLM Partners with National Park Service to Participate in “Snow School” at Craters of the Moon National Monument

Shoshone Field Office Ranger joins students for rewarding winter ecology education program

Shoshone Field Office - In January 2008, Shoshone Field Office Park Ranger Mike Setlock assisted Park Ranger (NPS) Doug Owen in hosting over 445 students and 15 schools from south-central and south-eastern Idaho at Craters of the Moon National Monument “Snow School.”

The “Snow School” was a result of Owen’s passion for snowshoeing and educating Idaho’s youth. Owen directed his passion into a partnership with the Winter Wildlands Alliance to offer this on-snow winter ecology education program. The Alliance granted several pairs of snow shoes to the Monument. The first year of the “Snow School” program attracted two schools and 33 children and has continued to grow ever since. This increase in popularity revealed a need for additional staff to assist the National Park Service (NPS) throughout the winter.

Thanks to BLM’s partnership with NPS, Shoshone FO Park Ranger Mike Setlock was able to assist with SnowSchool in January, February and March 2008. “I really enjoy seeing the students and their excitement as they take what they learn during the hour-long classroom session out onto the snow,” says Setlock. “It’s very rewarding.”

Safety is a critical component to ensuring a successful SnowSchool. The fun and education are not just for school groups; guided snowshoeing hikes at Craters are also available on weekends January - March.

Read local news article on event.



BLM Employee in the Spotlight

Aden Seidlitz Named New BLM Boise District Manager

Seidlitz brings distinguished 25-year federal career with the BLM, wealth of knowledge and experience in natural resource issues facing Boise District

Boise District Office - Aden Seidlitz was named new manager for the BLM Boise District. Seidlitz has been serving as the Chief of the Fire Planning and Fuels Management Division at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise and was previously the Field Manager for the Richfield Field Office in Utah.

“Seidlitz brings a distinguished 25-year federal career with the BLM and a wealth of knowledge and experience to the natural resource issues facing the Boise District,” Idaho State Director Tom Dyer said. “He has a history of thoughtfully and inclusively bringing people together and working out successful solutions. I have the highest level of confidence in his abilities and am pleased that he agreed to work in this key position in Idaho.”

Seidlitz, who began his new duties March 31, oversees the management of nearly 4 million acres of public land in southwestern Idaho – lands that provide recreation, grazing, renewable energy, forestry, wildlife habitat and many other values. The District contains many special features such as the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, Boise Front open space, three wild horse management areas, the Bruneau and Owyhee rivers and the Oregon Trail.

“The Boise District contains diverse and valuable resources, with many multi-user activities,” Seidlitz said. “In addressing our growing needs and challenges, I look forward to working with the people of southwestern Idaho. As one of my first priorities, I plan to meet with members of county government, state agencies, federal agencies, tribal leaders, local land users and interest groups.”

Seidlitz was born and raised in the farming and ranching community of Chester, Montana. He has worked as a Petroleum Engineer for BLM in Wyoming, Alaska and Montana. In 1997, he served as the Acting Area Manager for the Powder River and Big Dry Resource Areas in the Miles City District Office in Montana and in 1998 served as Associate Field Manager. He was Acting Field Manager for the Miles City Field Office for most of 2001.

In 2002, Seidlitz became the Field Manager for the Richfield Field Office in Utah until September 2004, when he was selected to be the Chief of the Fire Planning and Fuels Management Division at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

Seidlitz resides in Boise with his wife and their 12-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter. When not working, Seidlitz enjoys spending time with his family and engaging in various outdoor activities, including fishing, camping, geocaching and cross-country skiing.



Community Outreach

BLM Fire Prevention Specialists “Cowboy Up” with the Dodge National Finals Circuit Rodeo

Firefighters educate 860 students on fire safety, prevention and suppression messages

Pocatello Field Office - Idaho BLM firefighters working with the Gateway Interagency Fire Front participated in fire prevention activities for elementary school students at the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo. The rodeo was held March 20 at the Idaho State University Holt Arena in Pocatello, ID.



Regular attractions of horses, livestock, rodeo clowns, bulldoggers, rodeo queens and cowboys were present. Also participating were Smokey Bear and Sparky, who accompanied local fire agencies and talked about fire safety, prevention and suppression.

In the past two years, student participation has been between 400 and 500 third graders. This year, with a sponsorship from Sportsman’s Warehouse paying for the school buses, the event hosted 12 elementary schools from as far away as Preston, ID. This included 860 students along with their teachers and parents.



Idaho Falls Children Meet A Scientist at Museum of Idaho with BLM Fire Ecology Specialists

Children participated in hands-on training to learn about fire science

Idaho Falls District Office - The Museum of Idaho recently hosted the *Meet a Scientist* event for several children, ranging from five to eight years old. *Meet A Scientist*, which evolved from *Ask A Scientist* (the website where students can submit a question to a network of southeast Idaho scientists). The opportunity allows kids to interact in and better understand their physical surroundings alongside a scientist.

The Stoller ESER (Environmental Surveillance, Education and Research) Program and Idaho Falls District BLM education specialists provided the fire ecology expertise and conducted several of the hands-on activities in the Discovery Room of the Museum. The children were exposed to fire science through a variety of lessons, such as “Meeting the Fire Triangle” and “Matchstick Forest.” “Bucket Brigade” was the most exciting part, as the students got to see and experiment with real fire. The effects of fire were discussed through “Recipe for a Lodgepole Pine Forest,” when serotinous pine cones were opened up in a microwave to simulate the heat from a forest fire. The children, who finished the activity day with a race to “Puzzle it Out”, showed great enthusiasm to share what they had learned with their parents.

