

Idaho BLM In Action

June 2009 Edition

Idaho

BLM



Greater Yellowstone Area

From the Washington Office

Idaho BLM Presented With Three Secretarial Awards During National Ceremony

Awards given for honorary achievements throughout Department of the Interior

Washington Office - Interior Secretary Ken Salazar recently presented three Secretarial Awards to Idaho BLM and its partners during national award ceremonies in May at the Main Interior Building in Washington, DC. The awards recognize top honorary achievements throughout the Department of the Interior.

Congratulations go to State Director Tom Dyer, who received the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award and Boise District Heavy Equipment Work Leader Irvin "Trey" Glineski was received the Secretary's Valor Award for his efforts in saving lives and property during the Oregon Trail Fire in southeast Boise during summer 2008.

The BLM Idaho Falls District, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and partners were also presented the Secretary's Partners in Conservation Award for their Bayhorse Mining District Cooperative Conservation Partnership.

Congratulations to these individuals for their outstanding accomplishments!



Distinguished Service Award - Thomas H. Dyer

In recognition of his exemplary leadership, combined with 35 years of exceptional Federal service and contributions to the BLM, State Director Thomas H. Dyer has been awarded the highest honor of the Department of the Interior, the Distinguished Service Award. With his extensive management experience and passion for ensuring a balanced program of public land management, Dyer has maintained a high standard of excellence in overseeing Idaho's 12 million acres of public land.

Among the many professional positions held during his career, Dyer was the Project Lead for the Snake River Activity Plan of 1991, which was an interdisciplinary, interagency plan that became the foundation for BLM in eastern Idaho to acquire properties for preserving habitat and conserving open space. Accomplishments to date include the conservation of 58 properties with a total value of \$43 million.

Dyer was the District Manager/Forest Supervisor in Burns, Oregon, during which time he oversaw the establishment of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area, established through special legislation in October 2000. As Deputy Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning in the Washington Office, he led the national team responsible for implementing BLM's responsibilities under the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

In addition, he played an integral role in the development of national implementation policy and direction for the Wild Horse and Burro Sale-Authority Law of December 2004.



From the Washington Office

Valor Award - Irvin "Trey" Glineski

On the evening of August 25, 2008, a cold front had passed through Boise, whipping up extremely high winds, which fanned a wildfire into an inferno adjacent to a densely populated area. One of the firefighters who responded to the incident was Glineski. As 20-foot flames raced up the slope towards Columbia Subdivision, Glineski heroically tied his bulldozer line into some rim rock and stopped the forward progress of the fire. Despite the tragic losses, the heroic actions of Glineski saved countless lives and millions of dollars in property. His 18 years of wildland fire experience and his unique skill and ability to operate a bulldozer, knowing its capabilities and limitations, have been an invaluable asset to the Bureau and the citizens of the United States.



Boise City Fire Chief Dennis Doan commented, "The Oregon Trail disaster challenged many firefighters to serve and protect in ways they never imagined. The scope of the fire quickly became larger than any one department. Multi-agency cooperation was critical to containing the fire and saving lives. BLM Firefighter Trey Glineski's operation of the bulldozer, cutting a fire line and putting himself between the fire and the homes, was the type of quick action and cooperation that ultimately helped save an untold number of homes and lives. We at the Boise Fire Department are grateful for his assistance and congratulate him on this well deserved honor."



Partners in Conservation Award - Bayhorse Mining District Cooperative Conservation Partnership

The BLM Idaho Falls District and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) have joined forces to make the Bayhorse Mining District in Idaho a much safer place for visitors to recreate through effective outreach to several agencies and the public. The area's dilapidated historic mining structures and sandy toxic tailings piles beckoned mining buffs and off-highway-vehicle enthusiasts. Until recently, however, the area offered no visitor protection.

Challis Field Manager Dave Rosenkrance said, "This project and award are the result of a collaborative partnership of historic preservation, abandoned mine lands and outdoor recreation professionals and agency leaders from IDPR, the Idaho SHPO and BLM. Through this highly effective partnership and a great working relationship, countless projects in the Bayhorse Mining District are benefitting the fish, streams, wildlife and soils. They are also providing for the public safety of those visiting these areas."

Rosenkrance also said the partners successfully accomplished their cooperative conservation goals. They remediated mining related hazards and environmentally affected areas, and they provided a positive recreation experience for the general public.

[Click here for news release.](#)



From the Washington Office

BLM Announces Economic Stimulus Projects

Investments to restore landscapes, develop renewable energy, and create jobs

Washington Office – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has announced its first projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – \$14 million that will fund more than 40 BLM projects across Idaho. Overall, the Department of Interior will invest more than \$3 billion through President Barack Obama’s economic recovery plan, \$305 million of which is dedicated to BLM projects nationally.

“Through these economic recovery investments, we will make a down payment on restoring and protecting the stunning landscapes that BLM manages on behalf of the American people,” said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. “Many of these BLM investments will lay the groundwork for our clean energy future by opening the new energy frontier and creating new, green jobs here in America.”

The \$14 million announced on Saturday for Idaho by Secretary Salazar will go to BLM programs including:

Capital Improvement – \$657,000

Deferred Maintenance – \$7.99 million

Habitat Restoration – \$2.79 million

Roads and Bridges Maintenance and Construction – \$325,000

Trails Maintenance and Construction – \$1.04 million

Renewable Energy Authorizations and Permits – \$1.2 million

The BLM projects were selected in a rigorous merit-based process based on the longstanding priorities of the agency, as were all projects included in the Department of Interior’s Recovery Act funding.

“These projects are not only an investment in the National System of Public Lands, they also provide a positive economic impact for Idaho’s local communities and businesses,” explained Idaho BLM State Director Tom Dyer. “Soon, we will be offering many of these projects for competitive bid. Individuals or businesses interested in registering as Federal contractors so they are eligible to bid should visit our website (<http://www.id.blm.gov>) and click on the links under the headline Advertised American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Business Opportunities for specific information.”

Other projects may be offered as grants and agreements, Dyer added. “We are looking forward to working with state, tribal and local governmental partners and interest groups to advance critical land management objectives.” Information on federal grant opportunities can be found at <http://www.grants.gov>.

Secretary Salazar has pledged unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Department of the Interior’s economic recovery projects. The public will be able to follow the progress of each project here.

Secretary Salazar has also appointed a Senior Advisor for Economic Recovery, Chris Henderson, and an Interior Economic Recovery Task Force. Henderson and the Task Force will work closely with the Department of the Interior’s Inspector General to ensure that the recovery program is meeting the high standards for accountability, responsibility, and transparency that President Obama has set.



Public Land News and Actions

BLM Participates in Variety of Annual Statewide Fishing Events

Events successfully draw families to free fishing events

Statewide BLM Offices - In cooperation with the Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho Fish & Game and the Wilkins family, the BLM Cottonwood Field Office co-sponsored a Kids Fishing Derby at Wilkins pond near Grangeville. The event was a huge success, with 81 participants from ages one to twelve reeling in 56 fish. Prizes were awarded for largest and smallest fish in two age groups and for best cast. The largest and smallest fish caught in the 8-year old and under age group measured 18” and weighed 2.1 lbs., while the smallest fish measured 8” and weighed 4 oz. The largest fish in the age group for 9-12 year olds measured 21” and weighed 3.6 lbs., while the smallest fish was 8” and weighed 3 oz. The Grangeville Lions Club provided free hot dogs and soda pop to all participants in celebration of National Fishing Week and Idaho’s free fishing day.

BLM Pocatello Field Office also partnered with the Idaho Department of Fish & Game to host a free fishing event at Hawkins Reservoir for the over 40 people who braved the unpredictable weather.

Challis Field Office held a fishing derby at Blue Mountain Pond, where 68 boys and girls between the ages of one and 16 participated. Over 40 adults, including parents and grandparents, accompanied derby participants. Kids who caught a tagged fish during the derby won a \$50 savings bond donated by one of 14 local businesses.



BLM Boise District and Smokey Bear Attend Marsing Head Start Spring Fling

Kids and families learn about campfire safety during event

Boise District Office - The BLM Boise District recently attended the Marsing Head Start Spring Fling. The event took place at Island Park and included various information booths and activities for kids. Smokey Bear made an appearances with his friends from the Boise District.

The BLM set-up a table with Smokey Bear goodies and information on wildland firefighting and prevention of unwanted wildland fires.

Fire Prevention/Education Specialist Mallory Eils said, “It was great to see so many families attend this event and the kids really do enjoy it.”



Public Land News and Actions

Boise District Wild Horse Program Hosts Booth at Annual Idaho Horse Expo

Excitement generated for upcoming local wild horse adoptions

Boise District Office - During the 23rd Annual Idaho Horse Expo, managers and staff from the Idaho BLM Boise District staffed the Wild Horse and Burro booth. Staff used the opportunity to promote the upcoming September 11-13, 2009 adoption and related events in Challis. During the adoption, the local 4-H group will halter train and there will be a demonstration of backcountry packing.

Acting Wild Horse and Burro Specialist Steve Leonard said, "Plenty of excitement has been generated by the upcoming adoptions and this was a great outreach opportunity to educate the public over the three-day event."

The Expo was located at the Idaho Horse Park, Idaho Center, near Nampa, Idaho. Events during the three days include: arena demos; educational seminars from three renowned horsemanship clinicians; free-style reining; supreme cowboy race; El Capa Bareback riders; live and silent auctions; and several youth activities.



BLM, Partners Organize Event Honoring Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month

Challis archeologist and ecologist participate in 21st annual event

Challis Field Office - In honor of Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month, the Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center in Challis hosted 93 third and fourth graders from the Challis, Stanley and Salmon school systems. In honor of this year's state theme *The New Deal: A Legacy of Public Works in Idaho*, the children were guided through a day of being a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) member. The CCC program in Idaho began in 1934 through the start of WWII.



Just like the young men who came to Idaho 70 years ago, the kids were taught different outdoor skills during this year's event. All of the children learned how to plant trees from BLM Challis Field Office Ecologist Dana Perkins, fight wildfire from the Forest Service Challis Ranger District wildland fire crew, and put up electrical and telephone lines from Mark Hobbs from Salmon River Electric Cooperative. The children also ran an obstacle course set up by the Challis Ranger District fire personnel.

This year's event was organized by Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation and BLM Challis Field Office archeologist Carol Hearne.

More information about statewide activities can be discovered here or by calling the Idaho State Historical Society at (208) 334-3847.

Public Land News and Actions

BLM Archaeologist Conducts Oral History Project for the Craters of the Moon National Monument

"Sheep Country" tales provide invaluable look into the lives of sheepherders in the 19th and 20th centuries

Shoshone Field Office - Shoshone Field Office archaeologist Lisa Cresswell acquired Antiquities Act Centennial funding in 2006 to conduct a collaborative oral history project with California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB). Although Lisa and Suzann Henrikson, (Associate Director of the Center for Archaeological Research at CSUB at the time, and current Burley Field Office Archaeologist), had spent many years recording historic sites on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, they knew very little about the history of land use in the region during the 19th and early 20th centuries.



Because so much of this history has already been lost, the goal of the project was to collect information from living individuals who had personal experience herding sheep on the Monument, including Pete Cenarussa of Boise, John Peavey of Muldoon, and Leonard (Bud) Purdy of Picabo, Idaho.

Cresswell said, "These men provided invaluable details regarding the lives and experiences of sheep herders and gave a wealth of information about the use of the Monument area, including Laidlaw Park and Wildhorse."

The men interviewed knew of the first sheep companies to take advantage of this rugged country, the seasonal movement of herds, the location of trails and water sources that have long since disappeared, and the significance of

the many cairns or "stone boys" that dot the landscape. The Basque gentlemen also described the day-to-day challenges, hardships and pleasures inherent to a way of life that may soon be gone. Based on the help of these individuals, BLM has been able to interpret many of the archaeological sites in the region.



Outdoor Idaho Records Footage for Program on Owyhee Public Lands Management Act

Spectacular country in Owyhees can be shared with rest of the state

Boise District Office - Outdoor Idaho producer John Krancer and a Public Broadcasting System videographer spent a day in the field with former Boise District Outdoor Recreation Planners Judi Zuckert and Frank Jenks, and Range Technician Steve Leonard. The purpose of the field trip was to record new video footage and interviews about the Owyhee Public Lands Management Act for an upcoming program. Despite snowy and bitterly cold conditions, they visited the Rattlesnake overlook in the Little Jacks Creek Wilderness and went for a hike in the Big Jacks Creek Wilderness.

Zuckert enjoyed her experience with the taping. She said, "I enjoy showing *Outdoor Idaho* some of the spectacular country we have out in the Owyhees, so that they can share it with the rest of state."



Public Land News and Actions

BLM Fire Specialists Educate Children at Annual Dodge Finals National Circuit Rodeo

Kids learn about fire safety, prevention and get opportunity to see engines up-close

Idaho Falls District Office - The Idaho Falls District participated in the annual Rodeo School Program with over 600 children from eastern Idaho schools. Children learned about fire safety and fire prevention as well as information about rodeo clowns, queens and bulls.

Public Affairs Specialist Joanna Wilson said, "I always look forward to this event. The kids always have a great time at this event, especially when they get to use the bladder bags like a true firefighter."

The Gateway Interagency Fire Front provided BLM and Forest Service engines for the children to crawl around and learn how they work. Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Dog were also in attendance.



Greater Yellowstone National Geographic MapGuide Released

Mapguide fosters travel that sustains and enhances geographical character of place

Idaho Falls District Office - The Greater Yellowstone MapGuide, created through a collaborative process, highlights the natural, historical, and cultural assets unique to the area. In this partnership, our region benefits from National Geographic's considerable map-making expertise. But the project could not have worked without all the hundreds of site nominations sent in from local agencies and the general public on what truly makes a place unique and noteworthy. MapGuides are different from standard tourist maps because their aim is to foster travel that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place - its environment, culture, aesthetics, and heritage and the well-being of its residents.

The BLM Idaho Falls District along with other agencies, tribes, and visitor bureaus have been working on the MapGuide for the Greater Yellowstone area for the last 10 months. The partners include local communities such as West Yellowstone, Gallatin, Driggs, and Idaho Falls, agencies like Idaho Tourism and organizations such as the Yellowstone Business Partnership.

For more information, [click here](#).

Order a free MapGuide [here](#) or download instantly [here](#) - [Side 1](#) | [Side 2](#).



Public Land News and Actions

Dedication Ceremony Unveils New Portal Sign Recognizing Renamed Birds of Prey Area

Area named after famous conservationist and raptor spokesperson morley nelson

Boise District Office - On July 19, over 50 invited guests helped the family of the world famous conservationist and raptor spokesperson Morley Nelson unveil a BLM portal sign celebrating the newly renamed Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. The area is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Boise.

Idaho BLM State Director Tom Dyer served as the Master of Ceremony for the celebration. Speakers and attendees included Garry Wenske, former Congressman LaRocco's Chief-of-Staff; representatives from Idaho Congressional Delegation and Idaho Power; and the World Center for Birds of Prey Chairman of the Board.



Chinese and Russian Scientists Coordinate on BLM Restoration Efforts in Great Basin

Visitors interested in native plant program model, efforts to reduce wildfires with fire-retardant vegetation

Idaho State Office - Great Basin Restoration Initiative Coordinator Mike Pellant recently assisted in a scientific tour and discussion on BLM restoration projects and studies. A group of two Russian and two Chinese scientists were interested in BLM's native plant program and our efforts to reduce wildfires with greenstrips. Greenstrips are long, narrow bands of fire retardant vegetation and generally readily establish and persist, are difficult to ignite, burn with low intensity, are tolerant of fire and are sometimes desirable wildlife and livestock forage.

The BLM's Orchard Plant Materials Test Site, between Boise and Mountain Home, served as the focal point for discussions on plant selection and increase efforts in the three countries. The scientists were especially interested in our native plant program model and our ability to take native plants through a selection process to a private

production basis in a short period of time. The last BLM stop was the seed warehouse at Boise District where warehouse manager Jim Andrews explained the seed purchasing and storage model that has made this operation the envy of other government agencies. The scientists continued their visits to other plant material development programs in the western U.S. before returning to their home countries at the end of June.



Over the last nine years, the Seed Warehouse has hosted visitors from, Australia, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, China, Mexico, Russia, Japan and New Zealand; BLM officials from offices in the West and the Washington Offices; as well as members of several Congressional staff.

Take it Outside/Environmental Education

Shoshone Archaeologist and Recreation Planner Host Cave Tours for Nearly 200 Students

Important to instill proper conservation and respect for public land to prevent future destructive behavior

Shoshone Field Office - As part of a *Take It Outside* initiative, Shoshone Field Office Archaeologist Lisa Cresswell and Outdoor Recreation Planner David Freiberg recently hosted nearly 200 students on cave tours. Different groups of students toured Dynamite Cave south of Shoshone, and Tee Cave and Maze Cave north of Shoshone.

During each tour, students were treated to a *Leave No Trace* ethics presentation as well as a volcanic geology, wildlife and caving techniques discussion. The most popular questions from the students had to do with the wildlife living in caves. Some students also expressed concern about the caves caving in.

“If we can instill proper conservation and respect for public land at an early age, building ownership in young minds, it can only increase their level of respect for public lands as they get older – and hopefully prevent destructive behavior later on,” said Freiberg.



Upper Snake Field Office Education Specialist Teaches Local Cub Scouts How to *Leave No Trace*

Students put newly learned skills into practice while hiking local BLM trails

Upper Snake Field Office - The Upper Snake Field Office Education Specialist Deycie Luke recently led 30 Cub Scouts in learning how and pledging to *Leave No Trace* while using public lands. Teams of scouts constructed posters of their ideal campsites. These posters are currently being displayed at the Eastern Idaho Visitor's Center along with a traveling display highlighting the new regulations for boaters on the South Fork.



Luke said, “I was excited to hear that the cub scouts were later able to put their *Leave No Trace* training into practice when they hiked and picked up trash along the BLM Cress Creek Trail and Lava Trails.”

Cub scout leader Jocie Reel was impressed with the program. Reel said, “I have lived in the Idaho Falls area for seven years and never knew these types of resources were available until I took a *Project Learning Tree* class. I will continue to use these resources in future years for the benefit of my family and future cub scouts.”

Take it Outside/Environmental Education

Environmental Specialist Presents Educational Session about Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey

Presentation is a great way to interact with and answer questions from the public of Mountain Home

Boise District Office - Boise District BLM Environmental Specialist Barbara Forderhase recently spoke to the public about raptors and the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. Forderhase was accompanied by two birds including a Swainson Hawk and a Short Ear Owl.

Forderhase said, "This is the fourth year that I have participated in this event and it is a great way to reach the public of Mountain Home. I stay busy answering questions and interacting with the people who attend the event."

The presentation was held at the Desert Mountain Visitors Center in Mountain Home.



Gooding Envirothon Team Sweeps State Competition Fourth Year in a Row

Issues kids deal with in envirothon are much like what BLM works on every day

Shoshone Field Office - The annual state Envirothon competition was again held in Challis, Idaho. For the fourth out of five years, the Gooding Envirothon Team placed first out of a field of 18 competing high schools from around the state, earning an all-expense paid trip to the national competition in Asheville, North Carolina in early August.



This year's topic was *Biodiversity in a Changing World*. Invasive species issues made up the central current event theme for the competition. Shoshone Field Office Outdoor Recreation Planner David Freiberg and his wife Becky, a Gooding High School biology teacher, serve as advisors for the team and the event.

According to Freiberg, "These kids once again did a remarkable job and earned their berth in the national competition. I would encourage BLM employees to consider involving their local schools as part of the Bureau's *Take It Outside* Initiative. The issues the kids deal with in Envirothon are very much like what we in BLM are working on every day."

Envirothon is a program in which high school students compete with one another to solve natural resource-related problems. State competition winners advance to a national competition sponsored by Canon Corporation, with over \$75,000 in scholarship awards for the top-ten winners.

For more information, please [click here](#).

Take it Outside/Environmental Education

BLM Natural Resource Specialist, Wildlife Education Specialist Participate in Urban Forestry Program

Students learn about trees and value of snags and decaying logs, erosion, wildflowers and seed dispersal

Coeur d'Alene Field Office - Two ID BLM Coeur d'Alene Field Office employees participated in a two-day program involving 500 fifth grade students from the Post Falls School District. BLM Natural Resource Specialist Bill Cook and Wildlife Education Specialist Beth Paragamian staffed two of the four stations during the field trips.

Cook, participating for the fourth consecutive year, discussed the benefits and impacts of insects and diseases in the forest. The students handled pieces of bark to identify trees and viewed bark beetles and other specimens in shadow box displays. Paragamian's discussion on raptors included a live owl and several mounted specimens. Students learned about the various raptor species, characteristics and habitats.



Paragamian said, "When these students walked the trail, watched wildlife, and identified wildflowers, a whole new world opened up to them. Hopefully, they will become active members of this new world, instead of passive observers."

The program, sponsored by the Post Falls Urban Forestry Commission, included a half-mile walk through the woods to learn about coniferous and deciduous trees; the value of snags and decaying logs; erosion; wildflowers and seed dispersal.

Cook looks forward to future years of the program. "The number of students in the Post Falls School system continues to grow and hopefully the event will also continue to grow."



Upper Snake Field Office Education Specialist Participates in Career Days

Local elementary school students learn about careers in natural resources

Upper Snake Field Office - The Idaho BLM Upper Snake Field Office Education Specialist Deycie Luke recently visited with 314 students between preschool and fifth grade, describing the different federal jobs within BLM. Students were shown pictures of natural resources in their area, such as bugs, trees, wildlife, grass, water and sand, and they discussed professions associated with caring for those resources. Students were encouraged to do well in school and to learn all about their favorite science area if they would like to someday get paid to care for what they loved with a BLM career.

Luke enjoyed her experience and said, "This was amazing to visit every student in every class and to feel welcomed by staff and students. What a wonderful experience! The students were surprised that there were so many different career possibilities working with natural resources."



Take it Outside/Environmental Education

BLM Participates in Sixth Annual Field Inquiry Research Education Program

Program teaches students about fire ecology and field research, educates homeowners on urban interface

Idaho State Office - During June 2009, BLM teamed up with the City of Boise, State Farm Insurance and Northwest Nazarene University to promote a **Field Inquiry Research Education** called *F.I.R.E Up for Summer*. The program teaches high school students about fire ecology and field research in the Boise Foothills. The program also serves to educate home owners about protecting their homes during a wildfire.

Boise Fire Chief Dennis Doan says the research and the public education presented by *F.I.R.E. Up* will be critical to fire prevention planning for the city's wildland-urban interface.

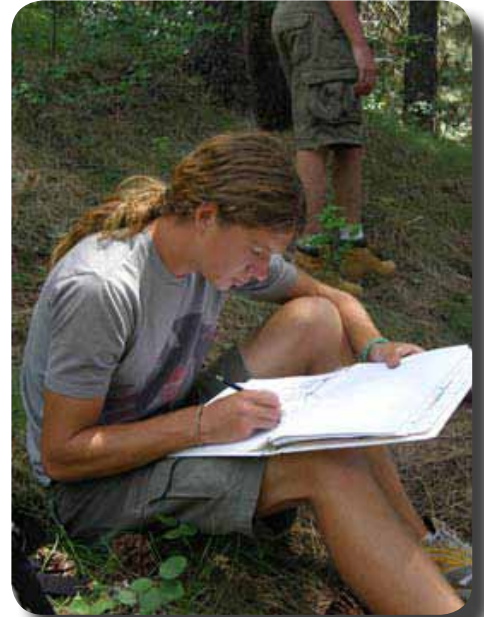
"Many Boise neighborhoods face a unique and serious threat from wildfire," said Chief Doan. "Finding out just where the risk is highest, then educating those homeowners on what they can do to help us protect them is going to be very valuable."

Northwest Nazarene University partnered with the program to allow the students to earn college credits while collecting data and completing research projects about wildfire. Research projects help students learn about wildland fire behavior, its effect on natural ecosystems, and what can be done to minimize rural communities' susceptibility to wildfire.

State Farm Insurance became a partner in F.I.R.E. Up in 2008, because the program supports fire safety, youth, and the importance of education.

[Click here for CBS coverage.](#)

[Click here for Idaho Statesman coverage.](#)



Boise Fire Chief Dennis Doan said, "Many Boise neighborhoods face a unique and serious threat from wildfire. Finding out just where the risk is highest, then educating those homeowners on what they can do to help us protect them is going to be very valuable."

Keeping our Public Lands Clean

Great American Clean-Up Draws Nearly 70 Volunteers

Four dumpsters filled with garbage found along canyon rim north of Snake River Canyon

Twin Falls District - This event drew the largest group of volunteers the *Great American Clean-Up* has seen in the last several years. Members of the Magic Valley ATV Association, Snake River Canyon Krawlers, Backcountry Horsemen, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and BLM came out to fill four 40-yard dumpsters with household waste and debris from recreational shooting and illegal dumping - found along the canyon rim north of the Snake River Canyon. Over the past years, this area has become an unfortunate hot spot for dumping trash. Many BLM employees pitched in to help including Public Affairs Specialist Heather Tiel-Nelson.



Tiel-Nelson said, "It was great to see so many people from several different user groups join together to pick up trash. Everyone came prepared and the area was a much nicer place when we were finished! The *Great American Clean Up* raises the awareness of people who use that area - it isn't cool to dump trash on public land, and the cleaner we can keep it, the cleaner it will stay!"



Boise District Partners on Clean-up Effort Aimed at Creating Future Regional Park

Globally important bird area hosts over 130 different species of nesting and migrating birds

Boise District Office - Managers and staff from the Boise District recently spent two days working with volunteers from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Ada County Sheriff's Office, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Land Trust of the Treasure Valley and Idaho Earthfest on a clean-up of the Blacks Creek Reservoir.



The clean-up is a first step aimed at restoring an area of public and private land located approximately 10 miles east of Boise that has become a local dumping ground. Blacks Creek is also designated as a Globally Important Bird Area, with over 130 different species that either nest in the area or use the reservoir as a stopping-off area on their migratory route.

The cleanup is part of a year-long effort to increase public awareness of, education opportunities about and law enforcement efforts to change use patterns in area and possibly transform it into a regional park.

[Click here for KTVB coverage.](#)

Fire and Aviation

Idaho Fire Operations Specialist Mark Jones Receives National Wildland Fire Safety Award

Jones goes beyond call of duty, helped firefighters and managers involved in traumatic fireline incidents

Idaho State Office - Idaho BLM Fire Operations Specialist Mark Jones has received the BLM's National Wildland Fire Safety Award for 2008. NIFC Deputy Assistant Director Timothy Murphy presented the award during Idaho BLM's combined Leadership Team and Spring Fire Meeting at the BLM Idaho State Office in Boise.

This award is presented each year for outstanding leadership and service in wildland fire safety. Jones and award co-recipient Kirsten Sherve, intelligence coordinator of the Nevada State Office, were recognized for their efforts in coordinating and participating in peer support and critical incident stress management for the Great Basin Geographic Area and for providing assistance to other areas as needed for the past several years.

"You most recently assisted with the Iron 44 multiple fatality incident in California and filled a crucial need in assisting with the well-being of fellow fire program employees," Murphy said. "Your support has helped numerous firefighters and managers who have been involved in traumatic fireline incidents. You have gone well beyond the call of duty. Your efforts are a model for the BLM and for other geographic areas."



Boise District Receives Citation from National Interagency Fire Center

Employees provide tours and host senior managers, elected officials and VIPs interested in fire prevention



Boise District Office - Deputy assistant director for the National Interagency Fire Center, Tim Murphy recently presented a citation to the managers and staff of the Boise District during an All Employee Meeting. The citation gave thanks for the many occasions Boise District employees have helped provide tours and host senior managers, elected officials from Washington and VIPs from other countries seeking information about fire prevention and management.

Boise District BLM Fire Management Officer Andy Delmas said, "It was very nice of Tim to recognize the professionalism of our staff with this award. We are very fortunate to meet VIPs and fire professionals from around the world who visit NIFC, and stop-by our facilities. The information exchanged during these visits is beneficial to our employees and organization."

Law Enforcement

Growing Issue of Marijuana Cultivation on Public Lands Generates Safety Concerns

Public urged to be cautious and recognize signs of garden, take appropriate actions

Idaho State Office – While traveling through Idaho’s remote areas, you may encounter an outdoor marijuana garden. It is important to understand how to spot the signs of a garden and how to react if you do encounter one.

Be aware of the following warning signs: clearing of brush or timber, signs of cultivation, wooden structures or tents, garbage in remote areas, garden tools, fertilizer bags and PVC/ plastic tubing coming from streams or on hillsides. If you find any of these items, you may have stumbled into a marijuana growing operation.

As always, personal safety is the most important thing. These marijuana gardens are worth large sums of money, and the growers want to protect their investment. Growers are dangerous.

This is what you *should do* if you encounter a garden:

- Immediately leave the area from the same direction you came.
- Do your best to remember where you saw the garden--use landmarks, a map or a GPS. This will help law enforcement find the illegal operation later.
- Make a note of any vehicles or persons in or around the area.
- Immediately notify law enforcement.
- Keep the information to yourself after you notify law enforcement.

This is what you *should not do* if you encounter a garden:

- Do not enter a garden area or look around for more plants.
- Do not leave any unnecessary sign of your presence in the area.
- Do not return to the area unless accompanied by law enforcement.

Officers recently seized 12,545 marijuana plants on public lands. The garden was discovered by private citizens recreating in a remote section of Owyhee County. [Click here to read the news release.](#)



BLM Employees in the Spotlight

New Law Enforcement Ranger and K-9 Join Boise District BLM

Whitworth brings numerous years of experience with Forest Service

Boise District Office - Boise District's newest law enforcement ranger Keith Whitworth recently joined the BLM. Whitworth was recently sworn-in at the Idaho State Director's Office. Officer Whitworth, his wife and son join the BLM from Talladega, Alabama.

Whitworth has numerous years experience with the Forest Service as a K-9 law enforcement officer. As the Boise District's *West Resident Ranger*, Whitworth will be patrolling most of Owyhee County in the company of his *K-9 unit*, a German Shepherd named Benny.



Two Idaho BLM Employees Receive Meritorious Service Awards

Work is ever-changing and full of surprises, employees have inspiring commitment to stewardship of natural resources

Idaho State Office - At an all-employee awards ceremony in Boise, Idaho BLM State Director Tom Dyer presented the Department of the Interior's prestigious Meritorious Service Award to Deputy State Director for Resources Susan Giannettino and Engineering and Geographic Sciences Branch Chief Gary Hunter.

Giannettino was recognized for her professionalism and exemplary leadership to the employees and senior management of the BLM during her distinguished 34-year federal service career. A continuing theme throughout Giannettino's career has been her exceptional ability to develop and nurture coalitions with other federal and state agencies, stakeholders and conservation groups.

Giannettino was honored to receive the award. She said, "It is a great gift to have work that is ever-changing and full of surprises... and I get to work with absolutely fantastic people whose commitment to stewardship of natural resources is inspiring."

Hunter was also recognized for his exemplary leadership, professional work ethic and dedication to the employees and management of the BLM during his distinguished 31-year federal career. A hallmark of his leadership style is his high standard of excellence and his untiring drive for efficiency and innovation, which is greatly benefiting the Bureau, both locally and nationally.

