

Idaho BLM In Action

May 2012 Edition



Idaho State Office

Students explore the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey area during desert discovery days



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Adventures with BLM Idaho Director Steve Ellis

BLM Becomes Full Partner with Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the BLM has become a fully recognized partner of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC). The BLM was welcomed to the GYCC at their spring meeting in Jackson, Wyoming with an official MOU signing ceremony. Representing BLM at the meeting were: Idaho State Director Steve Ellis, Montana State Director Jamie Connell and Wyoming State Director Don Simpson. State Director Steve Ellis said, "We are excited about becoming a formally recognized partner of GYCC. The Greater Yellowstone Area is widely viewed as the largest intact

ecosystem in the continental United States." Straddling the Continental Divide in the three states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, headwaters to great national rivers, the ecosystem sustains some of the country's largest remaining populations of large carnivores, ungulates and other rare wildlife. A rich history of Native American and European use and habitation continues. The area is one of the most heavily visited wildlands in the West. Under the MOU, the BLM will join the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Forest Service to more effectively coordinate federal land management in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

*"We are excited about becoming a formally recognized partner of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee (GYCC). The Greater Yellowstone Area is widely viewed as the largest intact ecosystem in the continental United States."
- Steve Ellis*

Left to Right: Tom Olliff (NPS), Jamie Connell (MT State BLM Director), Don Simpson (WY State BLM Director), Steve Ellis (ID State BLM Director), Victoria Christiansen (USFS Northern Regional Forester, acting)



Adventures with BLM Idaho Director Steve Ellis

BLM Executive Leadership Team Meets to Discuss BLM Priorities and Accomplishments

On May 8-10, the BLM Idaho and the National Interagency Fire Center hosted the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) meeting in Boise, Idaho. The ELT includes the Director, Deputy Directors, Chief of Staff, Assistant Directors, State Directors, and other key agency leadership. The week's agenda included presentations and discussion on many important topics, as well as a field trip that highlighted many of BLM Idaho's on-the-ground accomplishments. On the field trip, the group toured the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA), the World Center for Birds of Prey and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). At the NCA, the group visited Dedication Point where they viewed golden eagles, prairie falcons, and nests with telescopes and then discussed



NCA restoration, volunteers, partnerships, and geocaching. The ELT members even had the opportunity to participate in a demonstration geocaching hunt. At the World Center for Birds of Prey, the group had another opportunity to test their geocaching skills while hiking the new interpretive trail,

created in partnership with the BLM and the Peregrine Fund. Others had the chance to tour the new falconry archives. This successful meeting was followed up by a visit from Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Deputy Interior Secretary David Hayes. They expressed their "great appreciation for the world-class work BLM employees do while balancing competing priorities."



Members of the ELT visit Swan Falls dam

Keeping Public Lands Clean, Safe and Beautiful

Volunteer Efforts in Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Help Protect Critical Riparian Area

Volunteers helped the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) manager and staff build a seven-mile long smooth wire fence. The fence will prevent soil erosion and protect an important riparian area that includes vegetation and wildlife habitat. Participants re-seeded over an acre of ground and installed three horse stiles to enable trail access. This work was completed next to the Snake River approximately four miles north of Swan Falls Dam.



Local Geocachers Spearhead Clean-up in Birds of Prey National Conservation Area

Local geocachers volunteered to partner with the Bureau of Land Management to help clean-up trash they discovered dumped in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA). The Kuna ATV Association was also invited to participate. “We appreciate individuals reporting sites where they find

trash dumped on public lands and donating their time to help us clean it up,” said Jared Fluckiger, outdoor recreation planner for the NCA. “We also appreciate the donation of a 30-yard dumpster and Ada County’s dumping fee waiver.” The geocachers expressed interest in sponsoring more clean-ups in the summer of 2012.



Keeping Public Lands Clean, Safe and Beautiful

Earth Day Clean-Up at Blacks Creek Reservoir a Huge Success

The largest crowd in five years turned out for the Earth Day clean-up at Blacks Creek Reservoir, located 10 miles southeast of Boise.

Participants collected over 60 cubic yards of trash, leaving the area cleaner than it has been in years. Nearly 100 volunteers joined the BLM including individuals from a local Kuna Girl Scout troop, members of the Golden Eagle Audubon Society (GEAS), Boise Gun Club Responsible Shooters, Idaho Fish and Game Department, Land Trust of the Treasure Valley, Boise ATV Trail Riders, Mountain Visions, and many others. National Audubon Society has designated this as a globally important birding area due to hundreds of different migratory bird species that use it as a stop-over during long annual migratory treks. Another clean-up of the area is planned for September 2012.



Earth Day clean-up at Blacks Creek Reservoir

BLM and Partners Clean-Up North Rim of Snake River Canyon

On May 12, staff from the Bureau of Land Management joined the Southern Idaho Off-Road Association, Magic Valley ATV Riders, geocachers, Jerome County Commissioners and other organizations to clean-up garbage for the 13th annual north rim of the Snake River Canyon clean-up.

According to Greg Moore of the Southern Idaho Off-Road Association, "We couldn't do this without the support of all of our sponsors, in particular, Western States Caterpillar, Cesco Equipment and Southern Idaho Solid Waste. The donated heavy equipment is indispensable for hauling out the huge volumes of trash, and the donated dumpsters enable us to clean this area year after year."

Additional sponsors for the clean-up event included: Columbia Electric, AJ Electric, Western Waste Services, and Jim Bob's Bakery.

Heather Tiel-Nelson, public affairs specialist for the Twin Falls District was happy with the results of the day. "It appeared that all participants had fun and were proud of the work they accomplished in a short period of time. The group filled four 20-yard dumpsters."

North Rim of Snake River Canyon clean-up



Let's Move Outside: Education at Blue Creek Bay

First Annual Migratory Bird Day at Blue Creek Bay Takes Off

BLM's Coeur d'Alene Field Office sponsored the first annual migratory bird day on May 19. The event drew approximately 40 participants to BLM's Blue Creek Bay recreation site; nestled in the 736-acre Wallace Conservation Forest and adjacent to Lake Coeur d'Alene. The setting offers a mix of wetland, forest and lake habitats for bird viewing. The event was tailored to youth and activities included: building pinecone bird feeders, hummingbird feeders, playing "Bird Bingo", and listening to bird songs at a DJ Station. Three different bird walks were offered where families and more advanced birders could practice their "birding by ear" and visual identification skills. Children went home with goodie bags full of stickers, tattoos, bird buddy bracelets, prizes, and even a field guide donated by the Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Audubon Society. The BLM hopes to expand this event and further promote it to schools and local community organizations next year.



Education and Partnership

BLM Employee Coaches Winning Envirothon Team Heading to National Competition in July

The Gooding High School Envirothon junior and senior teams captured first and second place during the State Envirothon competition held in May in Challis, Idaho. They competed against twenty other teams from around the state.

“Envirothon is a hands-on, natural resource competition for high school students,” said Kit Tillotson, President of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts. The Wood River Soil and Water Conservation District sponsored the group. “We use our partnership to bring in environmental scientists and natural resource experts to teach young men and women the vital balance of

conservation and land usage. I want to thank all of our sponsors, and the soil and water conservation districts throughout Idaho for their continued support and donations.”

Coached by BLM recreation planner David Freiberg and his wife Becky Freiberg, science teacher at Gooding High School, this is the fifth out of eight years the Gooding Envirothon teams have won the state competition. Next, the team will advance to the National Canon Envirothon competition to be held in July in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. The group will compete against fifty other Envirothon winners from the United States, Canada and Mexico.

“These kids represent the new generation of environmental problem solvers, and competitions like this help

sharpen their skills and steer them toward the career areas they are most interested in,” team advisor Becky Freiberg, said. “The opportunity for these kids to compete and provide solutions to natural resource problems in Idaho helps them shape their own futures, as well as contribute to a better future for all of us.”

Envirothon is an environmental problem-solving competition in which high school students compete in the areas of forestry, soils, wildlife, aquatics and a current event problem. Students develop and present management solutions for a problem related to a current event. Idaho Envirothon is supported in part by a *Take it Outside* Program Grant from BLM Idaho.

“The opportunity for these kids to compete and provide solutions to natural resource problems in Idaho helps them shape their own futures, as well as contribute to a better future for all of us.”

- Envirothon coach



Education and Partnership

Bruneau High School Science Club Floats Snake River to Learn about Natural Resource Management

On May 3, biology students from the Rimrock High School Science Club of Bruneau, Idaho used the outdoor classroom for hands-on learning about natural resource management. BLM specialists from the Bruneau Field Office began the day discussing field safety with emphasis on boater safety; use of personal protective equipment (personal flotation devices, splash jackets and pants); use of dry bags; simple self-rescue; and swimming techniques. While the group floated down a 10-mile generally flat-water segment of the Snake River

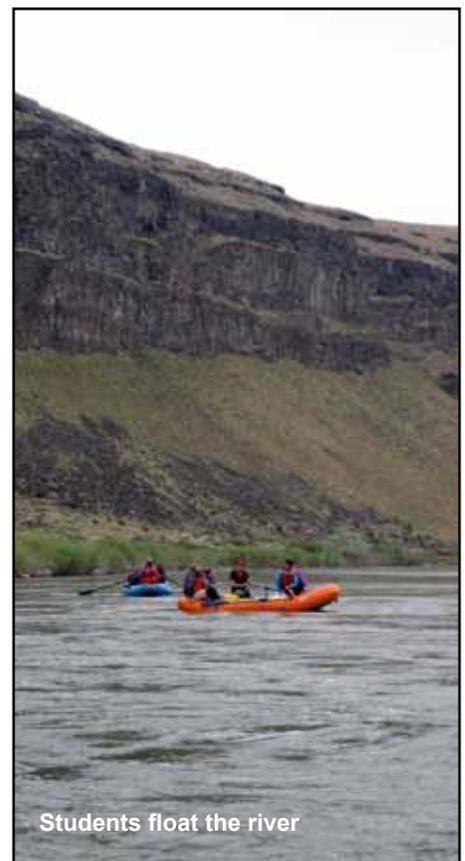
canyon, they were briefed about the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area and the geology of the canyon. Students also learned how to identify several species of raptors and observe their nests along the cliff faces. Stopping at Wees Bar, the youth learned about the rich history of the area. The group discussed cultural resources, viewed numerous petroglyphs, and learned about homesteading history, current public land uses and basic plant identification. At Celebration Park, the students continued their cultural resource and historical learning experiences.



Botanist Holly Beck and students at Celebration State Park test the atlatl range



River ranger Galen Sparks speaks to the students about the Snake River Canyon geology, cultural resources, and raptor habitat



Students float the river

Education and Partnership



Desert Discovery Days Welcomes About 500 Treasure Valley Students

In May, the BLM hosted the annual Desert Discovery Days at the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA). About 475 students and their chaperones participated in this opportunity for students in grades 3 through 6 to learn about the desert ecosystem. Students gained knowledge about the desert-dwelling animals, the surrounding desert vegetation and the adaptations of the plants that live in an area with little water. Students also learned about the geology and cultural history of the area and predator/prey relationships. At the rim of the Snake River canyon, students viewed the splendor of the area and tried to catch a glimpse of a raptor overhead.

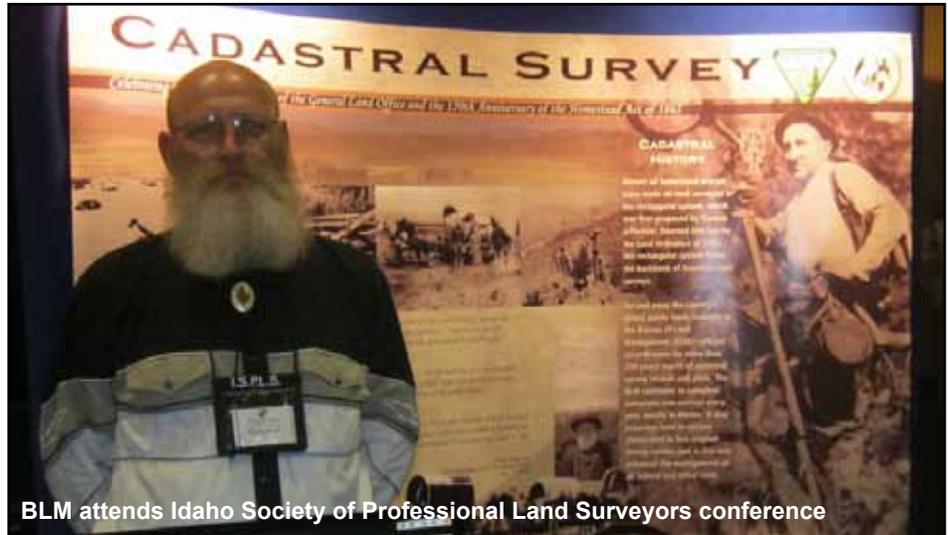


Celebrating the General Land Office and the Homestead Act

BLM Celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the Homestead Act

The cry was FREE LAND! The Homestead Act of 1862 was one of the most significant and enduring events in the westward expansion of the United States. By granting free land it allowed nearly any man or woman a chance to live the American dream. 2012 marks the 150th anniversary of one of America's most influential pieces of legislation, the Homestead Act of 1862. The 1862 Homestead Act was passed by President Abraham Lincoln. The Act was the first homestead act under which settlers could obtain up to 160 acres without cost other than filing fee.

Learn more about homesteading in Idaho.



BLM attends Idaho Society of Professional Land Surveyors conference

Idaho Homesteading

Total: 60,221 homesteads

*Total acres in state:
52,960,640*

*Total acres
homesteaded in state:
9,733,455*

*Total percentage of
Idaho homesteaded: 18%*

BLM Celebrates the 200th Anniversary of the Establishment of the General Land Office

In 1812, a young American nation faced the challenge of transforming wilderness to agricultural use and acquiring the revenue to pay its war debts. The General Land Office (GLO) was established to handle the business associated with the sale of public lands for private ownership, transforming wilderness to agricultural use, and generating income for the Federal government. The GLO, in fact, became the "Gateway to Land Ownership" for millions of Americans. As the successor agency to the original GLO, the BLM, was established in 1946 with the merger of the Grazing Service and the GLO.

Learn more about the history of the General Land Office.



Boone Cabin homestead near Challis, Idaho

Award-Winning Recreation on Your Public Lands

BLM Receives National Recognition for Lombard Recreational Trail

The BLM's Challis Field Office, in partnership with the Great Basin Institute and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, won the 2012 Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) award in the Maintenance and Rehabilitation Category for the Lombard Trail project.

The CRT is a national organization representing the nation's major trail interests. Since 1992, CRT has been working to build awareness and understanding of the recreational trail program, to support its implementation and to help ensure that it receives adequate funding. The awards are part of the coalition's ongoing efforts to promote and celebrate this highly successful program.

The awards ceremony will be held in Washington D.C. on June 5. "We are very pleased that this project is receiving national attention," said Jeff Christenson, former Challis field office recreation planner. "Our partners have been dedicated to the success of this trail system and this award recognizes them for all their hard work and effort."

The 7.5-mile long Lombard Trail begins at the Land of the Yankee Fork Interpretive Center, winding up

and around Blue Mountain, and enters land managed by the United States Forest Service. Along the way the trail provides outstanding views of the Lost River Range, the Salmon River Basin, and skirts an area of critical environmental concern, managed for bighorn sheep habitat. Partners developed and placed interpretive signs along the trail providing riders with an opportunity to learn about the local area. Signs teach visitors about geology and bighorn sheep, as well as how to minimize trail-related impacts to the species and habitat.

This cooperative project allowed BLM to convert a network of user-created motorcycle trails and jeep roads into a designated all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail linking the town of Challis, Idaho to the Bayhorse

townsite. The ghost town of Bayhorse was converted into a history park and off-highway vehicle (OHV) trailhead by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. "The project was truly a cooperative effort between federal, state, and non-profit entities," said Christenson. Interpretive material, trail layout, design, and construction were provided by the BLM. The grant for funding was written and administered by the Great Basin Institute. The Department of Parks and Recreation awarded and managed the funding and also provided expertise and route maintenance once the trail was constructed. The Great Basin Institute provided youth crews to rehabilitate the trailhead area and staff specialists to design the interpretive panels and oversee project implementation.

Check out the YouTube video.



Restoration: National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS)

Golden Eagles Outfitted with Satellite Telemetry to Monitor Habitat and Focus Restoration Efforts in Morley Nelson Birds of Prey Area

Four adult golden eagles were captured, fitted with satellite telemetry transmitters and released back into the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA).

The release successfully completes phase one of a National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) service-funded research

project. The study goal is to determine if there are changes in foraging areas and prey base for golden eagles, and season of use differences. The information downloaded for analysis from the transmitter units will help determine golden eagle habitat use and prey base, and will assist with focusing restoration efforts within the NCA. These efforts, in the long-term, will improve the supply of available prey.

Capturing the eagles took a collaborative effort among dedicated volunteers and personnel from the Bureau

of Land Management's NCA, Idaho Army National Guard, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Golden eagles are one of the premiere raptor species for which the NCA was set aside as a special area. Resident golden eagle pair numbers have dropped over the years within the NCA, and its habitat has degraded due to repeated wildfire. As a result, the standard prey base (jackrabbits) has been reduced in some areas for golden eagles.



BLM fits golden eagle with satellite telemetry transmitter

BLM Celebrates Earth Day 2012

BLM Idaho Celebrates Earth Day 2012 with Statewide Events and Activities

On April 23, the BLM celebrated Earth Day by hosting a variety of events and activities across the state in an effort to educate Americans and get more children outside. Activities ranged from cleaning up local recreation areas, posting signs at trailheads and sponsoring booths throughout local communities.

At the Portneuf Valley Environmental Fair in Pocatello, the BLM shared a booth with the Caribou-Targhee National Forest Service's Westside District and focused on *Take it Outside* and off-highway vehicle education. BLM also distributed travel maps and gave kids activity books and interactive CD games.

BLM's Twin Falls District staff shared noxious weed and *Tread Lightly!* information during the College of Southern Idaho's first annual sustainability fair in honor of Earth Day.

BLM's Salmon Field Office partnered with Salmon Valley Stewardship, Salmon Idaho Mountain Bike Association, the Salmon-Challis National Forest, the Student Conservation Association and Mountain Ridge Runners to host an Earth Day event at Discovery Hill. Over 40



volunteers participated in cleaning up trash, repairing sections of closed roads and performing trail maintenance on non-motorized trails.



Visitors to the Portneuf Valley Fair learn about ATV safety



Bird Education with BLM



Castleford and Filer High School Students Travel to Jarbidge Field Office to View Sage-Grouse Lek

Jarbidge field office rangeland management specialist Krystle Pehrson and wildlife biologist Jim Klott joined staff from the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Natural Resource Conservation Service and a federal grazing permittee to speak to nearly 30 students from Castleford and Filer High Schools about sage-grouse habitat and its management. As part of the FWS three-year effort to connect kids and nature, these tours are expanding to the south-central part of Idaho.

This tour was an early morning for many of these students as they headed for the desert before dawn on the quest to see a sage-grouse mating dance. Not to be disappointed, a number of sage-grouse displayed for the onlookers. The necessary quiet was nearly interrupted when a herd of antelope was

also spotted by the excited teenagers. Wrapping up the tour, Pehrson spoke to the students about the importance of BLM's multiple use mission for public lands, and Jim Klott spoke about the fire cycle affecting the habitat for sage-grouse. Following discussion, the students were given telemetry instruments and were sent on a hunt for a collared bird.

Learn more about local sage-grouse conservation efforts.

[BLM sage-grouse website](#)

"Bird by Bird" Student Program Celebrates Third Year in the Boise Valley

For the third annual year, BLM participated in the "Bird-by-Bird" program, a collaborative educational project between federal, state and private entities. During the 2012 school year, this unique and very successful school birding program included students from three schools in Boise, from kindergarten to high school. Students fed birds; monitored bird behavior; recorded numbers/species and noted observations in journals. In-classroom data sheets were used to track bird sampling data. Participating schools became a "citizen science" center helping to gather valuable information about birds, and contributing to western and Idaho bird research. This program is included in the Idaho Children and Nature Network's *Be Outside* initiative.



Honored BLM Employees and Programs

BLM Employee Chris Shaver Receives National Conservation Award

BLM's Idaho State Office grants and agreements specialist Chris Shaver received the 2012 BLM and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) Elk Conservation Award in February 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Shaver was honored for her outstanding national leadership and support in grants management and sustained commitment to excellence in building strong, effective partnerships.

Chris was instrumental in providing the national leadership and coordination to help orchestrate an effective close-out process for ten stewardship agreements involving fourteen BLM offices in five states (Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico and Oregon). Her dedication to the Bureau's mission and her contributions to strengthening BLM's important wildlife partnerships are greatly appreciated. Through her work, a total of 5,600 acres were enhanced for elk and other wildlife.

"These awards are meant to give a pat on the back and a thank-you to some of the finest professionals anywhere in wildlife conservation," said Blake Henning, vice president



Chris Shaver with BLM Chief of Division for Fish and Wildlife Conservation Dwight Fielder

of lands and conservation for RMEF. "Together, the BLM, U.S. Forest Service and RMEF are making a real difference in elk country."

RMEF works with many partners, none more prominent than BLM and the U.S. Forest Service. Lands owned or managed by these federal agencies provide habitat for most elk in the U.S., as well as the most opportunities for elk hunters and other recreationists.

RMEF is leading a conservation initiative that has protected or enhanced habitat on over 6 million acres—an

area larger than Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Yosemite, Rocky Mountain and Great Smoky Mountains national parks combined. RMEF also is a strong voice for hunters in access, wildlife management and conservation policy issues. RMEF members, partners and volunteers, working together as Team Elk, are making a difference all across elk country.

Congratulations, Chris!

Honored BLM Employees and Programs

Idaho BLM Special Agent Kent Kleman Awarded 2011 Agent of the Year

Special Agent Kent Kleman of the BLM Idaho State Office was selected for the national 2011 Agent of the Year award. Kleman was honored in Washington, DC during National Police week in May.

Assistant Special Agent-In-Charge Loren Good said, "Kent was among a number of outstanding nominations for the award. In addition to handling a complex Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force case, he tirelessly and professionally engaged in additional cases and projects throughout the year." As stated in his nomination, "Kent is credited with an outstanding year resulting in numerous convictions, project completions, a successful eradication program and additional assistance to the Office of Law Enforcement Services."

Please join the BLM in congratulating Special Agent Kent Kleman for his outstanding dedication and professionalism.

Great Basin Native Plant Project Receives Collaboration Award

The Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Project received the 2012 Forest Service/Bureau of Land

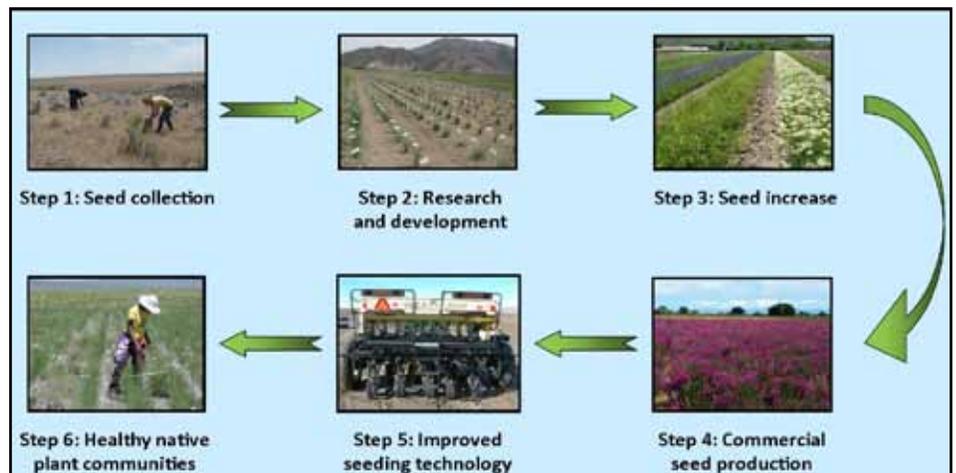


Left to Right: BLM Director Bob Abbey, Kent Kleman, Lynsey Kleman (Kent's wife), BLM Office of Law Enforcement and Security Director Sal Lauro

Management Conservation Project Award. The award was presented in March 2012 during the 77th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Initiated in 1987, the BLM's Intermountain Greenstripping and Rehabilitation Project, evolved to become this project as the BLM and the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station worked together to increase the availability of native plants and fire-resistant plant materials.

It was organized by the Great Basin Restoration Initiative in 2001 in collaboration with the Forest Service following the wildfires of 1999 and 2000 that burned nearly 2.5 million acres in the Great Basin. Funding for the project is provided by BLM's National Native Plant Development Program and administered through the BLM's Idaho State Office. BLM's Great Basin Restoration Initiative coordinator Mike Pellant and Forest Service research botanist Nancy Shaw are co-leads for the project.



Intermountain greenstripping and rehabilitation project

Honored BLM Employees and Programs

South Fork Partnership Accepts National Award

In February 2012, the Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT), the Conservation Fund (TCF) and the Nature Conservancy accepted the "State Wildlife Action Plan Partnership Award." The award recognizes a state fish and wildlife agency and a partner agency or organization for outstanding collaboration in addressing conservation priorities in their state's Wildlife Action Plan.



The South Fork partnership began in 1985 when private land owners along the canyon of the South Fork recognized the scenic and wildlife values of the river and desired to keep the area in its undeveloped state.

A collaboration of state and federal agencies, as well as several conservation organizations also recognized the South Fork as a haven for Yellowstone cutthroat trout, bald eagles, deer, elk, moose and more than 120 bird species.

This award provides an opportunity for federal and state agencies to showcase the importance of federal funding for securing land in this unique corridor.



Left to Right: Rex Sallabanks (IDFG); Kelly Cotter (TCF); Will Whelen (TNC); Chet Work (TRLT); Joe Kraayenbrink (BLM); Dan Sakura (TCF); Monica Zimmerman (BLM); Karen Rice (BLM)

The South Fork partnership began in 1985 when private land owners along the canyon of the South Fork recognized the scenic and wildlife values of the river

and desired to keep the area in its undeveloped state. The South Fork is a haven for Yellowstone cutthroat trout, bald eagles, deer, elk, moose and birds.

Honored BLM Employees and Programs

Secretary Salazar Confers Valor Awards on Three BLM Idaho Employees

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar conferred Department of the Interior Valor Awards on three employees who work for the BLM in Idaho. The individuals – Rick Carter, Edward Foley, and Brett Griffith – were recognized for their exemplary competence and heroism. The individuals saved the life of a truck driver from drowning in the Salmon River and averted a series of potential collisions during a June 2011 logging truck accident.

“We are privileged to have such brave, self-sacrificing individuals working for our agency,” said Secretary Salazar. “I commend each one for setting such a sterling example not only for BLM employees, but also for the public at large.”

On June 22, 2011, Brett Griffith and Rick Carter were driving south on Highway I-95 near Riggins, Idaho, when they observed a northbound logging truck swerve towards them from the oncoming lane. Carter immediately stopped the government vehicle. As the truck side-swiped a rock bluff, overturned, and continued sliding down the highway toward them with the engine in flames, Carter checked for traffic behind and reversed the vehicle to escape the

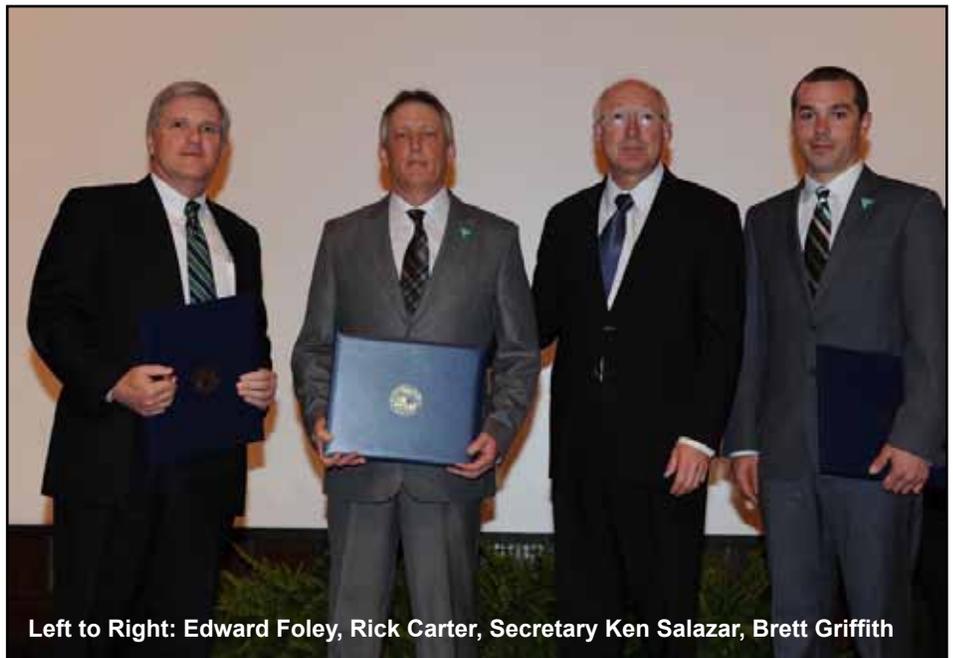
oncoming truck. The truck crossed in front of the two men, broke through a traffic barrier, and slid into the river cab-side down with the load of timber scattering across the highway. Griffith and Carter got out of their vehicle, waving a semi-truck and other vehicles to slow down to prevent a domino effect of rear-end collisions.

Foley was in a vehicle about a quarter-mile away and ran to the scene to offer assistance. While Carter and Foley were attending to the traffic and helping to get emergency assistance, Griffith quickly slid down the bank to the submerged truck to pull the driver out of the water. Suddenly, the injured and bleeding driver emerged from under the truck. He was gasping for air and trying to keep his head above the cold and dangerously fast-moving

water. Griffith grabbed the driver and pulled him safely ashore. He then climbed up the bank in order to form a chain with Foley and other bystanders to lift the driver to the roadway for first aid while awaiting an ambulance.

Congrats to these three brave individuals!

Salazar presented the Department's Valor Awards to the three men "for their valiant actions in saving a life of another, averting further accidents, and risking their own personal safety."



Left to Right: Edward Foley, Rick Carter, Secretary Ken Salazar, Brett Griffith

Be Fire Wise and Fire Safe

Local Students Learn About Fire Safety

About 110 second grade students from Indian Hills Elementary School attended fire prevention events hosted by the Idaho Falls BLM. The students learned about fire safety and fire equipment used by wildland fire operations. Students were given the opportunity to test out gear and clothing, climb inside the fire engine and spray the hose. At another local school, Smokey Bear paid a visit to 80 kindergarteners at Bridgewater Elementary School and taught them similar fire safety information.

Be Firewise in Southwest Idaho

On May 18, Brett Van Paepeghem and Daniel Simpson from the BLM Idaho State Office participated in a firewise demonstration garden project with students and faculty members of Les Bois Junior High. The project, located at the front entrance to Les Bois Junior High, involved a Firewise landscape design utilizing numerous fire-resistant plant species propagated and donated by the Firewise Garden. This donation was a collaborative effort between the BLM, College of Western Idaho, and the Idaho Botanical Garden. The goals of the project are to demonstrate firewise landscaping, educate students and the public on the



Students learn about fire safety

benefits of landscaping with fire-resistant plants, and to continue evaluating species on their performance and suitability for the Treasure Valley Community.

Brett and Dan also spoke with groups of students about the benefits of firewise landscaping in southern Idaho and assisted the students and faculty with proper planting and spacing of the donated plants.

Earth science teacher Erin Stutzman and her students will collect information on the performance of the plants and report findings back to BLM. This information will be used in conjunction with data from the Firewise Garden, and will further BLM's understanding of the suitability of certain plants in southwestern Idaho.



Brett Van Paepeghem helps students plant firewise garden

Welcome New BLM Employees

Aaron Rasmussen
Support Services Manager
Coeur d'Alene Field Office

Aaron Rasmussen's professional experience includes 24 years of service in the United States Army as an engineer, paralegal, and administrative officer, with duty stations all over the Continental U.S., Alaska, and Germany. This experience provided Aaron with opportunities for growth as a leader and administrative officer, which prepared him to assume the duties as the support services manager in Coeur d'Alene. Aaron grew up in Idaho Falls, Idaho, joined the Army after high school, and continued his education while on active duty. He has a bachelor and master of business administration. Aaron enjoys spending time with his wife and four children, cooking, traveling, and outdoor activities.



Kelli Barnes
Archaeologist
Owyhee Field Office

Kelli Barnes grew up in Las Vegas, Nevada where she received her undergraduate degree at the University of Las Vegas. She later earned her master of science in anthropology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Kelli has worked for the Department of Energy as an archaeologist on the Yucca Mountain Project in Nevada and for the United States Army doing field archaeology in southern Colorado. She also worked for the Warm Springs Tribes in Oregon and at the Idaho State University Center for Archaeological Materials and Applied Spectroscopy. Kelly is excited for this opportunity. "I'm looking forward to learning about the local cultural resources, helping protect them and building on knowledge that will further our understanding of larger questions of culture history and processes."

Loretta Chandler
Owyhee Field Office Manager

Loretta Chandler is a westerner, having grown up in California, Utah and Oregon, spending summers on her grandparents' farm. Loretta has three daughters, a son and seven grandchildren. While raising her family, she lived in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Annapolis, Maryland and South Dakota. Chandler has degrees from the University of California, Notre Dame and University of South Dakota Law School, where she studied natural resources, water and Indian law. The Department of Interior's Solicitor's Office in Billings, Montana hired Loretta to provide legal counsel to BLM, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Reclamation. She later moved to the Office of the Regional Solicitor in Albuquerque, New Mexico. "I look forward to working with the community to carry out BLM's multi-purpose public land stewardship mission."



Welcome New BLM Employees



Michele McDaniel
Owyhee Field Office
Assistant Manager

Michele McDaniel has worked for BLM since 1997 when she began her career in the fire office in Battle Mountain, Nevada. She held the supervisory rangeland management specialist position there for ten years prior to moving to Idaho. McDaniel is a graduate of the University of Nevada in Reno and has a bachelor of science in natural resources. "There are plenty of opportunities here to understand local concerns and to help shape sound management decisions," she said. McDaniel and her husband Dusty have a two-year old son Logan. "This is a homecoming for me because I grew up in Adrian, Oregon, a short 45 miles east of Marsing," she said.

Steve Shaw
Assistant Fire Management
Officer
Idaho State Office

Prior to Idaho, Shaw held the same position within the Arizona State Office in Phoenix. Steve's fire background also includes work on engines for the United States Forest Service in Western Montana and ten years on the BLM's Diamond Mountain Hotshot crew in Northern California. On this crew, he served as crew superintendent for three years. Steve also served on the Central West Zone Type 2 team in Arizona for the past two years as a division supervisor. Steve grew up in Western Montana and received a degree in agriculture from Montana State University. He enjoys mountain biking, hiking, fishing, and anything else that allows him time to be outside exploring Idaho with his dog Barley.



Tim Burke
Safety Officer SCEP Student
Boise District Office

Tim Burke is the new safety officer under BLM's Student Career Education Program (SCEP) and is currently in his second year of an environment and occupational health degree at Boise State University (BSU). Prior to returning to BSU for his degree, Burke worked several years in both the retail and manufacturing sides of the fly fishing industry. "This position is a unique opportunity to work on issues that apply directly to my degree," Burke said. "The diversity of projects in the Boise District BLM and broad spectrum of safety responsibilities presents an attractive challenge." Tim and his wife Debbie enjoy hiking, camping and fly-fishing. Tim is also an avid member of a local ice hockey team.

Dan Fogleman
Fuels Technician
Cottonwood Field Office

Before coming to Idaho, Dan Fogleman worked in the Nez Perce National Forest where he has worked for the past several years in fire suppression, fuels and maintenance. Fogleman brings a wide range of technical and leadership skills gained through managing helicopters; supervising engines and hand crews; managing a seed orchard; and working several winters in the vehicle maintenance shop. He has been married to his wife Kami for four years, and they have a daughter named Kendall. Dan is a native of the central-Idaho area and enjoys hunting, fishing, riding horses, sports, traveling and just being outdoors.



Astragalus Kelseyae
Newly Discovered Plant
Species
Owyhee Field Office

Owyhee Field Office Botanist Beth L. Corbin recently published an article naming and describing a new plant species, *Astragalus kelseyae*. The new species is located on the Wasatch Front of the central Wasatch Mountains near Ogden, Utah. She first discovered it in 2009, revisiting the area in 2010 and 2011. While potential, suitable habitat appears to occur elsewhere in the Wasatch Mountains, there is only one known occurrence of the plant to date, so it's very rare. *Astragalus kelseyae* is threatened by hiking trails and invasive weeds; therefore, the plant is of conservation concern.

Additional information about the new species can be found here.

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Upcoming Event

Free fishing day
June 9

Clearwater river clean-up
August 11
More information: Contact Judy Culver at 208-962-3796.

Western Idaho Fair: 4-H weanlings competition and adoption
August 17 -26