



NATIONAL FISHING and BOATING WEEK

2002 Report

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK 2002

OVERVIEW

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages public lands that directly affect over 117,000 miles of fish-bearing streams and almost 3 million acres of reservoirs and natural lakes. Currently, the BLM's management and restoration efforts are directed to maintain existing conditions in high-pressure areas and invest in restoration activities in priority watersheds.

The BLM is focusing on modifying on-the-ground resource uses that directly impact fish, riparian, and water resources; accelerating restoration actions benefiting aquatic resources; focusing actions to benefit native inland and anadromous species; conducting state-of-the-art research on restoration and aquatic land condition; and enhancing opportunities for recreation fishing where fish populations are stable or increasing to better support the increasing demand for quality angling experiences on the BLM managed public lands and waters. Recreational fishing opportunity enhancements include increased fishing access – boat ramps, fishing piers, and land acquisition – and expanded public outreach activities such as National Fishing and Boating Week and other boating, water, and fish festivals.

National Fishing and Boating Week

The National Fishing Week observance began in 1979 when industry and conservation leaders, State natural resource agencies, and anglers organized a unified approach to introduce young people to this wonderful sport. In 2001, the observance was changed to National Fishing and Boating Week, recognizing the popularity and linkage of both outdoor pastimes. During 2002, in communities across the country, National Fishing and Boating Week united civic groups, conservation organizations, local businesses, national corporations, and Federal and State agencies in offering fishing clinics, tournaments, fish hatchery open houses, and education programs, inspiring America's youngsters to care about and enjoy the outdoors along with their families and friends. Boating and fishing offer healthy lifestyle choices and perpetuate family values and cohesiveness. Rooted deep in the national psyche, fishing and boating help to define the quality of life for millions of Americans.

The BLM, an active partner of the National Fishing and Boating Week 2002 Steering Committee, conducted a series of events for National Fishing and Boating in many of its State and local offices, including the BLM Headquarters Office.

This report summarizes activities from state and field offices that participated in National Fishing and Boating Week 2002 events.

Alaska

In May 2002, the Bureau of Land Management's Fairbanks Northern Field Office hosted "Outdoor Days," a weeklong event with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sixth-graders learned about various natural resource career opportunities in the State of Alaska.



Some students learned to use a beach seine in the Chena River.

Others learned about a salmon's life history.



The "Fish and Fun Day" held in June is a one-day fishing "extravaganza" for approximately 1,500 children in Fairbanks. Hosted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with other Federal, State and local agencies, private industry and other organizations, the BLM operates a "Wheel of Salmon Misfortune" roulette game. This giant wheel game teaches children about the challenges faced by Chinook salmon during their various life stages.

In August, approximately 20 older students and young adults (12-17 yrs.) participated in the “Earth Quest” outdoor environmental education program with its focus on fisheries science, including habitat restoration.



Students planted vegetation along a stream bank for stabilization.

Arizona

To get an early start on the National Fishing and Boating Week events, Arizona’s first event was scheduled in February 2002, in La Paz County, on two small ponds along the banks of the Colorado River, just south of the Parker Dam and Lake Havasu. Numerous Federal, State, and local agencies, and private community groups cooperated to sponsor the 20th annual LaPaz County Kids Fishing Derby. Partners included the BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, LaPaz County, the Parker Police Department, the Parker Bass Club, Safeway, True Value Hardware, and the Rotary Club of Parker. Over 400 youngsters and their mentors attended the event. The local bass club provided the tackle, and the Game and Fish Department provided “hungry 8” rainbow trout for the occasion! At lunchtime, Parker’s “finest” cooked and served hotdogs. There was an unlimited supply of cold sodas to quench thirsty anglers. After the fish were cleaned, each youngster received a “Get hooked on fishing, not on drugs” hat and a tackle box loaded with fishing gear.

The day was a wonderful success for the children, their mentors, and all of the volunteers who participated.



To celebrate National Fishing and Boating Week, the Yuma Field Office hosted a fishing and boating day for 15 mentally and/or physically challenged children at the Squaw Lake Recreation Area on June 6th. Thirteen volunteers taught the children fishing basics and boating safety.



The children enjoyed cruising around the lake. Several youngsters even piloted the boat!

Colorado

The Bureau of Land Management in Colorado hosted over 1,700 elementary and middle school children at over 30 fishing events from March through September, in Denver, Grand Junction, Corn Lake, Connected Lake, and Littleton.



Grand Junction's fishing events got off to a chilly start in mid-March, with a successful early ice fishing event at Crawford Reservoir.

Students from the Montrose Catholic School caught fish ranging in size from “bait” to “frying pan” size.



On June 8th, the “Take A Family Fishing” event was held at the Platte Canyon Reservoir in Littleton, for children ages five and older, with about 330 participants. Over 80 volunteers from the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Department of Wildlife, Denver Water, Trout Unlimited, the Queen of the River Fish Company, the Wright and McGill Co, and manufacturers of Eagle Claw fishing equipment provided their support. The children received sunglasses, visors, and tattoos, as they proceeded through educational stations at Denver Water’s Kassler Education Center.



They learned about knot tying, angler ethics, fish handling, fish biology and identification, aquatic ecology, and fishing techniques.

The students then visited a boating and safety station and practiced their casting techniques.



After lunch with their families and friends, each student received a fishing rod and a full tackle box - contributed by sponsors.



Several hardy teenagers braved the heat and donned owl, eagle and otter costumes as mascots for the event.

Washington, D.C.



The District of Columbia was host to a National Fishing and Boating Week event on June 3rd, at the Constitution Gardens Pond.

Partners included the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the District of Columbia Fisheries and Wildlife Division, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR), the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, and the American Sportsfishing Association.



Within “shouting distance” of the Washington Monument, almost 500 students participated on this bright, sunny day, and were introduced to angling basics and environmental stewardship.



They were treated to up-close interactions with fish, crabs, and other aquatic life at the “touch tank,” provided by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The District of Columbia provided a tank filled with live fish, fresh from the adjacent Potomac River.



The students from D.C., Maryland and Virginia schools learned about horseshoe crabs, starfish, and other ocean creatures.

Following the touch tank, the students proceeded through a number of environmental stations, where they also practiced their casting techniques.



After a “cast-off” with the BLM Director Kathleen Clarke and Interior Secretary Gale Norton, the students tried their luck at fishing in the pond to “cast for great memories.”

“Tackle stop”





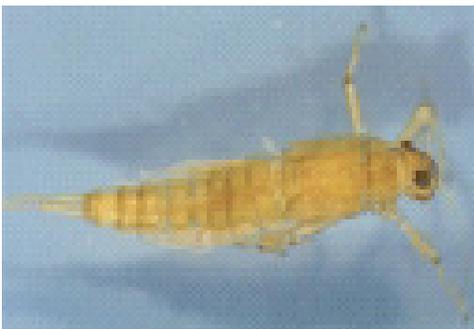
Volunteers were on hand at each station and along the pond to bait the hooks, untangle the fishing lines, and to provide general assistance to all.

The students were treated to a delicious lunch and received a goodie bag filled with a Frisbee, a yoyo, stick-on tattoos, and other treats. F.T. Eyre from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and photographers from local newspapers captured the joyous moments. In addition, each teacher received a disposable camera from AWARDS, Inc., and free developing to capture the happy smiles of all the youngsters.

Idaho

Idaho's Free Fishing Day on June 8th began with "challenging" weather conditions for those who participated in the event. With the rain, snow, and fierce winds, only 30 brave individuals battled the elements out of a predicted 150. The Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office cooperated with the USDA Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, and the Grangeville Lions Club to provide an enjoyable experience of fishing at the stocked Wilkens Pond. Volunteers provided refreshments and miscellaneous activities.

The 2002 Boise River Festival held on June 28 – 30, 2002 provided many fish, wildlife, and conservation-related activities for all attendees. At the "Macroinvertebrate Mayhem" booth students learned about the aquatic insects serving as indicators of river water quality in the Boise River.



Juvenile mayfly



Adult mayfly

Other booths at the festival included the “Wheel of Water”, the “Environ-Scape Watershed Model”, and the very popular Boise River underwater viewing camera. The youngsters were able to view fish swimming by the camera in the river. “Incredible Journey” was another fun game where youngsters rolled dice to see where the water they drank that morning would be that evening!



The craft table is always a popular stop for budding artists!

Cooperators included the Bureau of Land Management, University of Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, the Boise Storm Water “Partners for Clean Water”, the City of Boise Public Waste and Groundwater, and the USDA Forest Service.

Montana

The Montana Bureau of Land Management co-sponsored three fishing-related events during the summer. The Miles City Field Office held a fishing and educational event for approximately 100 children at a locally stocked pond. Other sponsors of the event included Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, along with many local contributors. The Eagle Mount program provided a day of fishing for 26 children attending a summer camp in July and August. The Lewistown Field Office participated in two events. In the first event, the “Crooked Creek” chapter of Walleyes Unlimited held a camp out for 50 children, the local boys club, and other area children. The weekend included boating and fishing at Fourchette Recreation Area on Ft. Peck Reservoir.

The Lewistown Field Office assisted 100 youngsters with a Fishing Day at Cassino Creek Reservoir where paddleboats were also available.

In addition to fishing and boating, youngsters learned about fish identification, knot tying, casting, correct life jacket usage, and instruction on preventing cold-water hypothermia.



Each child who signed up received a bag full of fishing goodies and treats as well as a rod and reel. Many of them also received prizes such as hats, T-shirts, tackle boxes, bait containers, life jackets and other fishing equipment.

Nevada

The tenth annual Kid's Fishing Day was held on Saturday, June 1st at Adorno Pond, located north of Winnemucca.



Numerous businesses, the USDA Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Nevada Division of Wildlife, Raley's Supermarket, and other partners donated prizes, ranging from tackle boxes to fishing combos, to fishing tackle, to the grand prize of a BMX bicycle. Nearly all of the 130 participants received prizes.

Prizes were awarded based on results of a casting contest (four age groups with 1st – 3rd prize winners), first fish caught within each age group, and the largest fish caught within each age group.



Some of the lucky winners.

Twelve year-old Kaelyn Robbins caught the biggest fish and received the grand prize.



New Mexico

Four fishing events were sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management during the spring and summer, involving a total of 226 participants. The Taos Field Office, the USDA Forest Service/Carson National Forest, the Questa Ranger District, the Canjilon/El Rito Ranger Districts, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the Town of Tao sponsored three fishing “Fiestas” for children 11 years of age and younger. The fishing fiestas were held at Eagle Rock Lake (June 2nd), Santa Cruz Lake (July 13th), and Canjilon Lake (July 20th).



Families fished at Eagle Rock Lake after completing educational stations.

Instruction on knot tying in the shade.



One fly-fishing clinic was conducted at the Orilla Verde Recreation Area.



Students practiced their fly-casting techniques...,

... before testing their skills along the Rio Grande.



Children and adults participated in the macroinvertebrates learning station.

North Dakota

The Bureau of Land Management Dickinson Field Office, along with the USDA Forest Service (FS), sponsored a fishing derby on May 18th as well as two fishing schools. Three elementary schools participated in the annual Fishing Schools. The BLM and FS volunteers hosted Kindergartners through 6th graders. The BLM, the FS, and the Southwest Anglers Group provided hot dogs, chips, candy, and soda for all of the participants.

Almost 450 families and friends participated in the derby. Each youngster received a new fishing pole.



Me and my Dad

Many local businesses donated prizes and refreshments. The teachers from one school brought homemade chocolate chip cookies!



Two fishing schools were held on May 21st and May 22nd, where 228 youngsters received instructions on fishing techniques.

All had great fun baiting hooks, catching fish, and taking the fish off the hook!



Prizes were awarded for the biggest fish caught in each age group.



After the large prizes were awarded, small prizes were “launched” skyward for youngsters to catch. There were also some great giveaways.



Oregon

The Bureau of Land Management Roseburg District Office helped sponsor the eighth annual Free Fishing Day at Cooper Creek Reservoir, near Sutherlin. Due to some showers on June 8th, the normal crowd size of 1,000 decreased to 450. A large number of trout from the Rock Creek Fish Hatchery were released for the event.

Plenty of food was provided to all.



Besides the great fishing, there was a casting contest and a fishing pool for kids four years old and under. Door prizes were drawn throughout the day.



Flying Fish!

The Umpqua Valley Bassmasters sponsored a youth tournament for 7-17 year olds. Age-group winners received prizes for biggest fish caught.

Contributions and services were provided by: the Umpqua Valley Bassmasters, the Umpqua Fisherman's Association, City Sporting Goods of Sutherlin, Ray's Food Place, Bi-Mart, Pepsi-Cola and Berkley. Government sponsors included the Douglas County parks Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umpqua National Forest, Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. All youngsters received goody bags with plenty of fishing "stuff"!



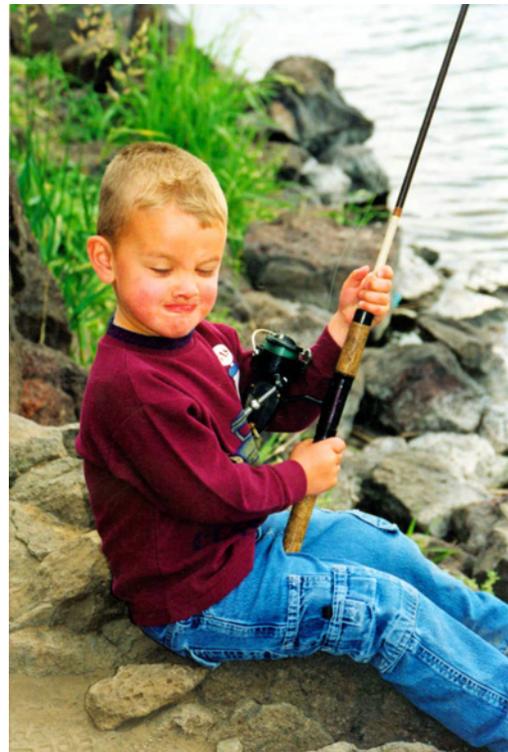
The Bureau of Land Management Burns District Office held a fishing contest and picnic lunch for approximately 50 kids at Krumbo Reservoir on June 8th. Prize categories included largest fish, most fish, smallest fish, first fish, and casting.



Local area businesses, as well as the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA Forest Service, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Burns Paiute Tribe donated their time, prizes, and food.

The Bureau of Land Management Lakeview District Office, Freemont Forest, and a local bass club sponsored a casting contest and fishing derby for third graders in the Lakeview area on June 4th and June 5th. Numerous prizes were awarded to some lucky anglers. Each youngster received a hat, educational materials, and some fishing equipment.

“I’m gonna catch a big one!”





The Medford Field Office provided a day of fun and fishing for approximately 200 kids and adults. There was plenty of food, goody bags with fishing stuff, and free boat rides with local fishing and hunting groups.



Volunteers from the Bureau of Land Management Salem District, Mary's Peak Field Office helped shuttle anglers, coached fishing, and ran activities at the Fall Creek Fish Hatchery. There were many displays and demonstrations for the 400-600 participants in this National Fishing and Boating Week activity, including a fly casting contest, an invertebrate viewing chamber, and a simulated stream channel.

South Dakota

Approximately 130 kids participated in a fishing event, sponsored by four Federal agencies, one State agency, the American Fisheries Society, and High Plains Anglers, held at Mirror Lake near Spearfish.



Casting Practice

The youngsters learned about fish biology, tying knots, and casting, as well as participated in catch and release fishing. All received a great lunch and wonderful prizes. Generous sponsors provided lunch and awarded prizes.

Washington

The Bureau of Land Management Spokane District held a free fishing day for 150 kids on Lake Chelan. Youngsters received educational material, fishing gear, free T-shirts as well as learned about fish cleaning and casting.

Wyoming



On Saturday, June 1st, Federal and State agencies, local organizations, and businesses jointly sponsored the Thirteenth Annual Cheyenne Family Fishing Day.

Youngsters fished in Sloan Lake and viewed displays of live fish and aquatic insects from the Lake. With plenty of same-day “walk-ons”, the total reached approximately 500 participants.





About 40 volunteers, including about a dozen from the local Wal-Mart store, were involved in setting up, teaching youngsters, and talking to the public.

The kids learned about fish biology, aquatic entomology, fishing ethics, fly tying, fly and spin casting, as well as knot tying. Volunteers from Trout Unlimited spent the day providing hands-on lessons in fly tying to youths and adults.



The fly tying station



One of the big “hits” of the day included the “stream trailer”, provided by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The flowing stream simulates erosion and sedimentation, and bank protection.

Game and Fish provided free canoe rides on the lake. Cutthroat Trout Agencies and State organizations provided assistance and information about fishing throughout the State.



One of the favorite stops was the Trout Predator Game.

There was plenty of “hands-on” fish work to perform!



A generous grant from Wal-Mart provided 120 prizes, including 50 rod & reel combinations. Every youth received a free bag of goodies consisting of a “Water Works Wonders” water bottle, a watertight fishing lure carrier, as well as hooks, weights and bait. Other partners included the Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA Forest Service, Cheyenne Parks and Recreation, the Wyoming 4-H, the Sportsmen’s Outlet, the West Laramie Fly Store, Sam’s Club, Pepsi Seven Up, Target Stores, Danielson Company, Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle, AA Worms, and Bullet Weigh.



Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Bureau of Land Management, we would like to thank BLM Director Kathleen Clarke and Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton for their support of National Fishing and Boating Week. We would also like to thank all of the volunteers within the Federal, State, and local natural resource agencies and the non-government organizations, and every other volunteer nationwide that helps to make this program possible. A special “thanks” goes to the parents, teachers, and other mentors who have provided youngsters across the nation with the opportunity to share the outdoors and learn environmental stewardship.

For additional information regarding National Fishing and Boating Week, please contact Mr. Richard Bulavinetz or Ms. Michelle Dawson-Powell.

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