

Acknowledgments

The “Making a Difference” Volunteer Awards Ceremony is coordinated by BLM’s Division of Education, Interpretation, and Partnerships with the assistance of BLM field staff.

Special thanks to BLM offices that submitted nominations, and to the judges who selected this year’s award winners.



“Making a Difference”

**BLM National
Volunteer Awards Ceremony
May 28, 2015**

PROGRAM

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Washington, D.C.**



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



Dear Volunteers and Guests:

I am delighted to welcome you to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) 2015 "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards ceremony. This year marks our 20th anniversary of gathering to honor the BLM's most outstanding volunteers.

This year, our volunteers' list of achievements is diverse and inspiring, ranging from inspecting sage grouse leks to researching and monitoring local mining history, from caring for our rivers and trails to teaching the next generation to do so. BLM volunteers come from all corners of the country, serving after school, after work, and after retirement. Having contributed more than 1.2 million hours of time in 2014 alone, our volunteer cadre of over 32,000 citizens provided over \$27 million of service to the BLM, which is a truly staggering achievement.

We are grateful for the assistance of such passionate citizens who believe in our mission, who love the public lands, and who are willing to volunteer their time and energy in a spirit of cooperation. On behalf of the BLM and the American people, I offer my sincere thanks for our winners' contributions and their dedication to America's public lands.

Sincerely,

Neil Kornze
Director

Lifetime Achievement

Tom and Bessie Evans

Montana

Throughout their 18 years and 20,000 hours of service, Tom and Bessie Evans have been the ultimate BLM campground hosts at the Holter Lake Campground and boat launch. These seasoned volunteers are uniquely knowledgeable about the area and its conditions, able to advise visitors about the weather, river flows, even the best type of bait to use to snag "the big ones." Each year, Tom and Bessie assist local Boy Scouts in coordinating their annual summer camp gathering. Escorted groups of children with disabilities come annually, too, knowing that Tom will be on hand to teach them how to fish. Tom and Bessie have also done an outstanding job of keeping the facilities and grounds in excellent condition, with Tom even clearing the site of noxious weeds by hand. Thanks to his efforts, native grasses there are gradually reclaiming their rightful place on the land. Bessie, on the other hand, is the team's "people person"; she handles campground compliance, assists the U.S. Geological Survey with monitoring of water flow rates, and reports safety issues. As a volunteer representative of the BLM, Bessie has developed very positive working relationships with other agencies. These special people are also heroes; early in their volunteer service with the BLM, Tom assisted with a rescue attempt after a car rolled into the Missouri River. In recognition of this selfless act, Tom was presented with the Department of the Interior's Citizen's Award for Bravery.



Lifetime Achievement

Jim Greene and Martha Vogt

Montana



From the moment Jim Greene and Martha Vogt first dipped their paddles into the Upper Missouri River over twenty years ago, there was little doubt that they were hooked. So they promptly signed up to be volunteer campground hosts at the BLM Judith Landing Recreation Area, and have returned as volunteers every year since. They do whatever's needed: working National Public Lands Day projects, hiking in darkness to monitor sage grouse leks, paddling the river to monitor campsites, inventorying historic sites, planting cottonwood saplings. As campground hosts, they have split their time between the two busiest campgrounds in the Monument, which account for 80 percent of public use during the peak summer boating

season. For many visitors, Jim and Martha - unfailingly cheerful hosts - are the first or only BLM representatives they encounter. Jim and Martha are also deeply passionate about the Monument, eagerly providing visitors with a wealth of information, assistance as needed, and good old-fashioned hospitality. They enhance the BLM's ability to provide visitors with quality recreation experiences, facilitate effective patrols by BLM River Rangers, help keep campground facilities clean, and monitor the quality of the campgrounds' public water supplies. In addition to their host duties, Jim and Martha have performed early-spring monitoring of sage grouse leks for BLM wildlife biologists. The data they collected provided the biologists with invaluable information on which to base recommendations for land management decisions. Jim and Martha have also paddled the length of the river corridor every year since 2006 to inspect and catalog campsites, providing the BLM with critical data on visitor use patterns. In addition, they assist the local BLM archaeologist in monitoring historic sites, filing reports, and photographing the sites for future comparative studies.

Nominated by Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, BLM Montana

“Making A Difference”

BLM 2015 National Volunteer Awards

Welcome

Tim Murphy, Acting Assistant Director, National Landscape Conservation System & Community Partnerships

Speaker

Steve Ellis, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management

Remarks

David Haines, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

Presentation of Awards

BLM State Leadership

Volunteers are encouraged to say a few words as they accept their awards.

Outstanding Youth

Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) Kids

Wyoming



For the past 15 years, the BLM has maintained a partnership with the Self Help Center of Casper, a non-profit organization that serves the community with comprehensive support services and tools for positive decision-making. The goal of the Center's CORE program is to connect disadvantaged, at-risk, and special-needs youths to the outdoors through volunteerism and teamwork at recreation sites. Each

year, CORE members ranging in age from 8-18 participate in multi-day camping trips to BLM-administered sites throughout Wyoming. Since the establishment of the program, these hardworking volunteer crews have undertaken such projects as site maintenance, trail building, painting of facilities, and installation of kiosks, picnic tables, and fire rings. The BLM-led campouts also offer kids prime outdoor recreational experiences, environmental education presentations, hands-on learning activities, and teambuilding exercises. Many BLM participating recreation sites host CORE kids year after year; in 2014 alone, CORE crews returned to work at three locations first visited in 2013. The kids will remember the great experiences that CORE has provided them, but they have also left a lasting legacy in BLM site improvements for recreationists throughout Wyoming.

Lifetime Achievement

Tim Cox and Doug Hancock

Virginia

Working as a dynamic team, Tim Cox and Doug Hancock, long-term volunteers with the BLM Eastern States Office's Lower Potomac Field Station (LPFS), have contributed thousands of hours as stewards at the Douglas Point Special Recreation Management Area in southern Maryland. Douglas Point, with its 548 acres of beaches, forest, and wetlands, is one of the few remaining stretches



of pristine Potomac River shoreline and a vital link in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay's fragile watershed. The first BLM-managed segment of a designated national trail in the East - the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail - also winds through this unique property. With all these resources to safeguard, Tim and Doug have built and maintained trails, felled dangerous trees, removed invasive plants and trash, and improved wildlife habitat on the site. They also helped to uncover evidence of the historic Chiles Homesite and built an accessible interpretive trail for visitors to reach it. Tim and Doug's firsthand knowledge of the area has enabled them to provide recommendations to the BLM with an eye to making the site more user-friendly, easier to maintain, and environmentally sustainable. The team's presence, energy, and attention to detail have made Douglas Point a prime - and safe - destination for recreationists, outdoor enthusiasts, and nature lovers of all kinds. Without their service, the BLM would have only limited ability to conserve, protect, and enhance Douglas Point because of its distant location on the opposite shore of the Potomac River from the office.

Outstanding Achievement

Amber Raoult

Colorado



Following in her grandmother's footsteps, Amber Raoult has been volunteering for the BLM for the past three years in visitor services and front desk staffing. She greets the public, works on office projects, and enthusiastically steps up to help any BLM staff who need assistance. Amber is also a regular presence at National Public Lands Day events; she has planted trees to rehabilitate illegal routes, helped to paint an accessible fishing dock, and assisted with wilderness trail construction. Amber eagerly participates in visitor services training and other learning opportunities, even helping the BLM office volunteer coordinator organize and prepare for classes. And every local BLM outreach

event sees Amber playing an important role, from demonstrating gold panning at a river festival to leading a kids' fire suppression activity in honor of Smokey Bear's birthday. The BLM's Take It Outside! outdoor activity program has also been a wonderful fit for Amber; in 2014, she assisted at every learning station during a week-long youth "Leave No Trace" and river education event, later even teaching members of the surrounding community about the dangers of "microtrash."

Outstanding Youth

Eric Klammer

Colorado



Following his sophomore year at the University of Colorado, Boulder, Eric Klammer worked from mid-May to mid-August as a River Ranger Intern at the BLM's Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area. From his first day, Eric was incredibly eager to learn and work hard; within a couple of weeks, he was completing his daily duties independently and even leading his fellow volunteers. Eric's leadership skills freed BLM staff to work on other projects. Eric took the initiative to train as a whitewater guide, volunteering almost 600 hours conducting river and backcountry patrols and then obtaining certification through a commercial outfitter. Eric also helped to conduct education programs and organize volunteer days, performed maintenance at recreation sites, and assisted with compliance checks. His volunteer work and certification have now qualified him for a river ranger position. And because he has already completed training, Eric will be ready for river work in any position he obtains.

Outstanding Achievement

Ted Brummer California



For over a decade, Ted Brummer has been a recreation and visitor services volunteer at the BLM's Keyesville Special Recreation Management Area, focusing on visitor education, historic site monitoring and interpretation, local history research, and general cleanup. Located in the Los Angeles region, Keyesville receives huge crowds of summer campers who inevitably leave behind heaps of trash. It is a powerful testament to Ted's dedication that visitors often comment on the area's cleanliness, and offer compliments to the site's "excellent maintenance team." Only there is no BLM cleanup team - Ted and his volunteer recruits perform this monumental task on their own, saving the BLM money, improving recreational experiences, and increasing visitor compliance.

With his love of local history, in 2014 Ted helped to locate an array of historical reference material and images for two new interpretive kiosks related to Keyesville's mining history. He also coordinated a BLM-led historic site tour for a group of developmentally disabled young adults from the surrounding community. And Ted does not limit his work to public lands. He is a constant advocate for the BLM and Keyesville in the surrounding community, using his personal connections to benefit BLM projects. For example, he arranged for an expert in stamp mill reconstruction to assess Keyesville's deteriorated 1900-era mill; the analysis will ultimately help the BLM to restore this historic structure and reopen it to public visitation. Ted's volunteer accomplishments are all the more impressive for the fact that he shows constant initiative and requires almost no supervision.

Outstanding Achievement

Carol Chamberland New Mexico



In 2008, Carol Chamberland approached the BLM with the idea of forming and training a volunteer team to record prehistoric rock art in the Albuquerque area. Once she received management approval, Carol enlisted knowledgeable volunteers from the Albuquerque Archaeological Society, and training of the new "Rock Art Team" recruits began. Since then, Carol and the other dedicated team volunteers have headed to the field every Tuesday, weather permitting, to record rock art according to procedures prescribed by the New Mexico Rock Art Council and the State Historic Preservation Office. In 2014, Carol completed a massive report on a five-mile-long local rock art site; this report was ultimately submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office. The Rock Art Team is also helping the BLM meet its obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act's Section 110, which mandates that Federal land management agencies take on increased historic preservation responsibilities. The Rock Art Team helps the Rio Puerco and Socorro Field Offices in this regard by recording rock art sites that might not otherwise be documented. Thanks to Carol's leadership, the Rock Art Team contributed 1,843 hours in 2014 alone, with Carol herself credited with 300+ field hours and 430 hours in report preparation. And Carol doesn't limit herself to rock art - she was also instrumental in the reporting of a rare, intact prehistoric basket discovered by hikers on public lands.