



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

News Release

**Bureau of Land Management
For Immediate Release**

Contact: Tom Gorey (202) 912-7420
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BLM Announces Recipients of 2016 Rangeland Stewardship Awards

Boise, Idaho -- The Bureau of Land Management today announced its Rangeland Stewardship Awards for 2016, given in recognition of the recipients' dedication to the health and productivity of public rangelands under BLM management.

"These awards honor excellence in management practices that benefit America's public rangelands," said BLM Deputy Director Steve Ellis in a statement issued from Washington, D.C. "Today the BLM proudly commends these public land stewards for their commitment to protecting rangeland resources for current and future generations."

The presentation of the four awards took place at the annual fall meeting of the rancher-based Public Lands Council. The awards were presented by Joe Tague, Chief of the BLM's Division for Forest, Rangeland, Riparian, and Plant Conservation.

- The *Rangeland Stewardship-Permittee Award* went to the **Mori Ranch in Tuscarora, Nevada**, a family-owned operation with a BLM grazing permit that has demonstrated excellence in promoting native plant communities on the Mori allotment. The ranch's management, using a deferred rotation grazing system, has maintained perennial grass and shrub vegetation communities, minimizing cheatgrass invasion and production throughout the allotment, even in areas that have experienced recent fires.
- The *Rangeland Stewardship-Collaborative Planning Team Award* went to the **Shoesole Resource Management Group in Elko, Nevada**, consisting of Federal and state agencies, organizations, and individuals, that has advised three Elko County family ranching operations on successful resource management practices for the past 20 years. The family operations are the Smith family's Cottonwood Ranch, the Boies family's ranch on the nearby Hubbard Vineyard allotment, and the Uhart family, which owns a ranching operation between the Cottonwood and Hubbard Vineyard allotments.
- The *Sage-Grouse Habitat Stewardship-Collaborative Group Award* went to the **West Box Elder County (Utah) Coordinated Resource Management Group**, which the BLM commended as an ideal example of a community-based land stewardship organization that is committed, engaged, and active across land ownership boundaries.
- The *Sage-Grouse Habitat Stewardship-Permittee Award* went to the **Drewsey Ranch in Burns, Oregon**, which the BLM honored for the operation's commitment to reducing invasive, wildfire-feeding annual grasses and improving sage-grouse habitat.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.