



BLM NEWS RELEASE

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Bureau of Land Management

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BLM Acting Director Mike Pool Presents Third Annual Director's Awards to Employees for Extraordinary Public Service

Bureau of Land Management Acting Director Mike Pool yesterday presented the third annual BLM Director's Awards to staff across the country for remarkable service in multiple sectors.

“Presenting these awards is an opportunity for me to not only recognize the exemplary performances of individuals and organizations specifically, but to commend the Bureau as a whole,” said Acting Director Mike Pool. “In recognizing our best and brightest with these awards, I am again reminded of what an extraordinary group of talented individuals we have working for the BLM.”

The Director's Awards Ceremony serves as an opportunity for the Washington Office to highlight the good work of different BLM state offices, and to communicate innovative best practices and policies across numerous BLM subject areas. Director Pool remarked on the award winners as a group, saying, “To these BLMers, my highest congratulations and thanks for your hard work, your drive, and your heart. The Bureau of Land Management is a better place with you in it, and we are fortunate to have you as colleagues.”

The awards winners included:

Tony Herrell, BLM-New Mexico State Office, recipient of the Director's Excellence through Leadership Internal Award.

As the Carlsbad Field Office Manager and then as the Deputy State Director for Minerals in New Mexico, Tony was instrumental in leading efforts to resolve the long-standing dispute between the oil and gas, and potash industries.

Potash, Oil and Gas Joint Industry Technical Committee (JITC), recipients of the Director's Excellence through Leadership External Award.

The committee concentrated on searching for scientifically sound technical solutions to allow for the co-development of both mineral resources in a safe and efficient manner. JITC members worked to incorporate an array of stakeholders while showing a willingness to work outside their comfort zones in order to move forward on important issues.

Idaho Falls Phosphate Minerals Branch and District Manager Joe Kraayenbrink, recipients of the Director's Excellence through Stewardship Award.

The Branch created a well-functioning program producing a practical collaboration and tangible advancement of BLM's priorities and program stewardship.

BLM-Montana Pryor Mountain Horse Gather and Adoption Team, recipients of the Director's Team Accomplishment Award.

This Award recognizes this year's tremendously successful Pryor Mountain wild horse gather and adoption. Thanks to outstanding public engagement, sound decision making, and cohesive teamwork, this gather and adoption were completed safely and with positive public support.

Gretchen Hurley, BLM-Wyoming, Cody Field Office, recipients of the Director's Spirit of Service Award.

Gretchen is the Cody Field Office program lead for the geology and paleontology programs. Gretchen has done a tremendous job in keeping up with the demands of the industry and her office.

Sara Romero-Minkoff and Mark Sant, BLM-Montana State Office, recipients of the Director's Award for Diversity.

Mark and Sara have led the effort to develop a strong partnership with Native American Tribes and Tribal Colleges and Universities in the states of Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

BLM-Oregon, Eugene District Office, recipients of the Director's Award for Safety.

The BLM Oregon's Eugene District office has taken a proactive approach to safety that serves as a model for the BLM in creating a healthy and productive workplace for employees.

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. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.



(From Left to Right) Acting Assistant Secretary for Land & Minerals Management, Marcilynn Burke; Safety Manager Kipp Wagner; Acting BLM Director Mike Pool; Acting BLM Deputy Director Neil Kornze.