



BLM NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management • Washington, D.C., Office • 1849 C Street N.W. • Washington, D.C.

For immediate release:
Thursday, September 11, 2014

Contacts: Jeff Krauss
(202) 912-7410

BLM Announces Experienced Land Manager as New Eastern States Director

Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze announced today that John Ruhs, a native of Iowa, has been selected as the BLM's State Director in Eastern States, based in Springfield, Virginia. Ruhs has been acting in the position since January. Prior to that, he served as BLM's Senior Special Assistant in Washington, D.C., and District Manager of the BLM's High Desert District in Wyoming.

"John is one of the most seasoned land managers in our organization," said Director Kornze. "He has a deep understanding of what it takes to balance public land uses like recreation, energy development, and the protection wildlife habitat. His commitment to growing and strengthening our partnerships across the Eastern United States make him the ideal person for this position."

Ruhs will oversee the management of public lands and resources spanning the 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River, including nearly 40 million acres of mineral estate and approximately 10,000 acres of surface property. BLM-Eastern States is also the custodian of the historic land title records of the General Land Office which tell the story of the nation's westward expansion. Additionally, the office manages a number of popular public recreation areas including the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton, Virginia; the Douglas Point nature area in Maryland; and the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area in Florida. Other BLM-managed areas include the public islands of Wisconsin, the Lake Vermilion public islands in Minnesota, and other public lands in Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana.

Starting his career as a Federal grade level 3, Ruhs worked his way up in the BLM in a variety of positions across the country. He started as a seasonal Range Technician in Vale, Oregon, and transferred to Idaho Falls, Idaho, where he worked as both a Range Technician and as a Rangeland Management Specialist. Among other positions he has held are Wild Horse and Burro Specialist in the BLM-Eastern States' Milwaukee Field Office and Fire Rehabilitation Manager and Fire Management Officer in Winnemucca, Nevada. He also served as Field Manager in Kremmling, Colorado, and District Manager in Ely, Nevada. He also was assigned to multiple details within the BLM.

Ruhs also served in the Marine Corps, worked on farms and ranches, and was employed as a farrier. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Idaho. He and wife, Amy, have seven daughters. Ruhs enjoys outdoor activities including horse-riding, exercise, camping, and golfing.

The BLM's Eastern States Office includes the State Office in Springfield; the Northeastern States Field Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; the Southeastern States Field Office in Jackson, Mississippi; and the Lower Potomac Field Station in Lorton, Virginia.

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 manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM generated \$4.7 billion in receipts from public lands.