

Northwest Passage Volume 3, Issue 1 – Winter 2011

Cover

Northwest Passage

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BLM Oregon/Washington

The Bureau of Land Management Magazine for Oregon and Washington

Winter 2011

BLM On Film

To Rescue

The Wilderness

For the Youth Of Oregon

Take It Outside!

[Upside-down Photo of a Blue Sky Over Pine Trees]

BLM Recycles

[Image of Recycling Symbol]

[Image of BLM Logo]

Op-“Ed”

[Photo of Ed Shepard, State Director, Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management]

[Photo of Skylines and Sunspots]

Photo by Matt Christenson

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Excellence in Interpretation, 2010 Silver Award, *Northwest Passage*

Letter from Edward W. Shepard, State Director, Oregon/Washington, Bureau of Land Management

Winters in the Pacific Northwest are famous for their short days and persistent rainfall. In fact, I’ve heard it recommended that new transplants to Oregon and Washington invest in a special daylight bulb to combat the gloom. But this year I’m happy to report I’m seeing bright rays almost everywhere I look.

One particularly welcome project is an employment initiative that has already created 15 brand new jobs in rural Oregon. Katie Wetzal from our Medford District kick-started this effort which has

successfully developed natural resource positions for youths between 19 – 25 years old. And it's been so successful that there's now talk it may serve as a model for other rural communities.

The BLM is also moving forward on the topic of renewable energy. Energy is one of our strategic initiatives and has become a very popular topic – especially as evidenced by the number of requests we've received for development on the public lands. As part of our multiple-use mission, we work with both proponents who submit these requests as well as conservation groups to ensure all energy progress is balanced with the wildlife and other important values on public lands. I'm very confident we'll find the right equilibrium to ensure future energy sources and healthy rangelands coexist in harmony.

One feature I enjoyed a lot in this issue was seeing how the BLM in Oregon and Washington has set the stage for some popular movies. I'm not at all surprised that these sites were chosen as backdrops; these public lands are among the most beautiful and picturesque in America's great outdoors. And if moviegoers across the nation can't witness Oregon and Washington in person, I know they'll enjoy them on the big screen.

On that note, if reading this issue prompts you to see our public lands or learn more about the BLM's mission – or even meet some of us – drop by our new social media sites for a preview. We post daily on Facebook™ and Twitter™. And we upload new videos on YouTube™ every Monday along with original photo albums on Flickr™ each Friday. So this winter, if you find yourself looking for something new to watch, I hope you'll check us out.

You never know...watching videos of your public lands from the warm glow of your computer screen might even brighten up your winter and save you from having to buy that special daylight bulb.

Thanks for reading and see you outdoors – and online.

Edward W. Shepard State Director Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management

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Take it Outside!

Volume 3, Issue 1

WWW.BLM.GOV/OR

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Mission:

The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Oregon and Washington, the BLM provides innovative leadership in managing natural resources of the Pacific Northwest.

This Month's Cover

[Reproduction of Magazine Cover Photo]

[Upside-down Photo of a Blue Sky Over Pine Trees]

We're turning Northwest Passage upside down! From our topsy-turvy cover to winter whale watching at the coast to a daring high-speed rescue during a zombie infestation near Eugene. (Okay, that last one is slightly wishful thinking on my part...) This issue we're ecstatic to highlight some of the more unique aspects of the BLM that might make you see us just a little differently.

One particularly interesting piece of BLM history is how many movies have been filmed on the public lands of Oregon and Washington. Thrillers, westerns, mysteries, and more. Over the next few issues, our in-house movie aficionado Jeff Clark will play equal parts Philip Marlowe and Inspector Clouseau to sleuth out some of the most iconic films shot on your favorite BLM spots.

In addition to these star-studded Hollywood productions, the BLM has been producing its own movies! Each week we create and post a new video online highlighting everything from recreation to conservation to renewable energy to, well...articles from Northwest Passage.

So if you enjoy this issue's article about Wilderness Areas (page 16), you can watch an online film with photos and video from these gorgeous locations. And if you're inspired to learn more about our article on youths and job creation with the Jefferson Conservation Corps (page 28), meet 'em online in their very own video. Then join us for some of that whale watching!

You can see these and all our videos at [youtube.com/blmoregon](https://youtube.com/blmoregon). And if you have suggestions for future films? Just send a note to [matt\\_christenson@blm.gov](mailto:matt_christenson@blm.gov). Thanks for reading!

- Matt Christenson

Our Contributors

[Six Photos of Contributors on Image of a Cork Board – Michael Mascari, Candy Harmon, Maya Fuller, Jeff Clark, Katie Wetzel, Trish Hogervorst]

1: Smokey Bear gives him a thumbs up! Michael Mascari makes his auspicious debut in *Northwest Passage* with a feature about an exciting BLM rescue. In conducting their training exercise, the BLM's Eugene District successfully extracted two employees injured by wild zombies. (Michael insists the scenario was actually about a cougar, but I'll believe what I want.) Bringing his vast experience as a cameraman for both military and civilian news services, Michael also shot all the dramatic photos that accompany his cinematic story. (Page 12)

2: Finders of the Lost Relics. Writer Candy Harmon returns with a fascinating article about an ancient enigmatic civilization in the Pacific Northwest. She explains how left-behind antediluvian artifacts help BLM archaeologists keep up with the (Indiana) Joneses – and how they may eventually provide us with the answer to a world-wide question about the arrival date of the Clovis culture. (Page 22)

3: Map out your new year! Maya Fuller is back with *Northwest Passage* to document all the breathtaking areas set aside for protection under the National Landscape Conservation System. In addition to asking an expert to explain how to best enjoy these unique locations, Maya sweetens the deal further with a free map jointly produced by the BLM and National Geographic to help make our 2011 the best ever. (Page 16)

4: Look out, Sam Spade...because Jeff Clark is back this month to launch his series about Hollywood's love affair with filming on our public lands. Incorporating a deep knowledge of classic noir, Jeff plays movie detective to investigate the many Hollywood productions with famous BLM backdrops. Jeff's premiere gives a timely nod of his fedora to the sequel of the original *True Grit* – just as its remake prepares to walk the red carpet at the Oscars™. Check out Jeff's own award-winning writing and art inside. (Page 6)

5: Katie Wetzel is the "Angel of Wolf Creek." After having a vision to create jobs in rural Oregon, she turned her ideas into reality in the form of a BLM project that has matched critical natural resource projects with motivated youths for hire. Her efforts have already yielded real jobs that are well on their way to paying for themselves. Perhaps Katie's next stop will be DC to share the secret of her success? (Page 28)

6: The Green Scene. Trish Hogervorst spotlights a project that grows its own solution to rejuvenate 400 miles of streams and lands from the lower Columbia River to northwest Oregon's coastal bays. And in addition to her feature about this award-winning partnership, Trish also worked with us here at *Northwest Passage* to create a video about stream restoration. See it online at: [blm.gov/jl5c](http://blm.gov/jl5c) And the Oscar™ for best riparian film goes to... (Page 10)

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[Image of a Movie Marquee with the words, “BLM ON FILM.”]

Get Your Ticket and Grab Some Popcorn!

Find a Seat Because the Main Feature is About to Start.

Lights...

Camera...

Action!

Story and Art by Jeff Clark

(Text for the article is in the format of a screenplay)

We find ourselves in bright sunlight, exiting a LUSH OREGON FOREST that opens upon the Rogue River. Clear water RUSHES PAST. Suddenly, a man wearing an eye patch steps around to confer with his director. In low tones they discuss the first shot of the day.

CUT TO:

1. INT. OFFICE – DAY

Do you like movies? We do, too. And more than any other month, February is the cineaste’s favorite. Not only is this the time of year for the annual Academy Awards, but closer to home, the 34th Portland International Film Festival kicks off February 10 to premiere more than 100 international shorts and feature films drawing an audience of over 35,000 people!

YOU

That’s a lot of good stuff for movie lovers.

So...you like movies, we like movies. Want to know a cool secret?

CLOSE ON: NORTHWEST PASSAGE – an anthropomorphic magazine about public lands in Oregon and Washington. Like a cowboy in a John Ford film, its pages lean forward to confer in hushed tones:

NORTHWEST PASSAGE

(Whispers) Some of your favorite Oscar-winning films?  
They were shot right here in Oregon on your public lands...

[Image of a Drive-In Sign]

Turn Now and Learn the Secret Off the Record, On the QT, and Very Hush-Hush...

[Artistic Interpretation of John Wayne as Rooster Cogburn]

CUT TO:

2. INT. Hall – NIGHT

Since we're talking about movies and the 2011 Oscars™, one film in the running for a number of categories is the Coen brothers' adaptation of True Grit starring Jeff Bridges as U.S. Marshal Reuben J. "Rooster" Cogburn. Now, you'd be hard-pressed to find a movie buff who doesn't know this role was famously first played by John Wayne for which he won his only Oscar™. Mr. Wayne joked during his acceptance speech that, "If I'd known that, I'd have put that patch on 35 years earlier."

FLASHBACK:

3. EXT. RIVER – DAY

And so when it came time for Mr. Wayne to reprise his role six years later in Rooster Cogburn, the sequel to True Grit, he found himself filming in a beautiful area that might look mighty familiar to those of us in Oregon.

Originally promoted as Rooster Cogburn (...and the Lady), Mr. Wayne starred with Academy Award™-winner Katherine Hepburn in the film that has the distinction of being the only film in which the two actors appear together.

Distinguishing this film even further beyond these two prodigious talents is the sheer amount of gorgeous on-screen scenery. A great deal of the movie was filmed on Oregon lands managed by the BLM. From mountain scenes in Deschutes County west of Bend to the Rogue River near Grants Pass, the Duke and the Lady hiked and fought and struggled (while always hitting their marks) on Oregon lands.

Another location, Smith Rock State Park, still proudly bears their legacy today. The Rockhard/Smith Rock Climbing Guides building at the park entrance was originally built as a set for Rooster Cogburn where it served as "Kate's Saloon."

So if you find yourself holed up inside this winter and are itchin' to see some beautiful BLM lands given the Hollywood treatment, check out Rooster Cogburn. And after our spring thaw, you might even plan a trip to get out and visit these sites in person.

NORTHWEST PASSAGE

Well, I guess that's a wrap for the BLM on Film in this issue.

You begin turning the pages of Northwest Passage to the next article...

YOU

Wait, wait! Didn't you say something about other movies filmed on BLM lands in Oregon?

NORTHWEST PASSAGE

Yes, indeed. Other Oscar winners have shot movies here, too. But I'm afraid we're out of space for now. So we'll be sure to pick up our story next issue.

As you begin to flip the page, an ethereal voice echoes...

NORTHWEST PASSAGE (V.O.)

Until next time, thanks for reading. Adios...

FADE TO BLACK

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From a Small Seed...

...comes an award-winning partnership cultivating a mighty solution for stream and riparian health

[Image of a Forest]

Story by Trish Hogervorst

Photo by Matt Christenson

Since 2002, riparian lands alongside a number of streams in Oregon have looked far healthier to the many local hikers, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts who frequent them. Vegetation is dense and natural. Fish in the waterways are more plentiful. These areas have been transformed.

Has there been a change to the local ecology? Yes, but it's much more than that. There's been an overarching transformation in how this environment has been managed and nurtured.

#### A Growing Solution

There's a collaboration between the BLM, state and local governments, and private landowners to thank for this positive trend. Almost a decade ago, the Tillamook Riparian Restoration Partnership (Partnership) was formed. The BLM came together with members from State and local governments as well as property owners to identify some 400 miles of degraded streams and adjacent riparian areas on which to restore native plant growth. The group focused their efforts on the waterways that feed the lower Columbia River and northwest Oregon coastal bays.

The Partnership determined they could rejuvenate these areas by sowing native plants that were cleared from stream banks years ago. But this goal presented a unique two-part challenge. The Partnership had to first identify what native plants originally grew in each area. Then they had to find commercial quantities of these native plants.

When the Partnership realized there was a shortage of available coastal, locally-adapted plant stock, it became apparent they'd need to collect seed and cultivate the necessary plants. So if they needed a specific strain of vegetation? No problem. They'd grow it themselves. And soon they set up planting beds at several Tillamook County locations and at the BLM's Horning Seed Orchard in Colton, Oregon, and used private nurseries to establish a sustainable supply of local native plant material for their riparian restoration projects. The Partnership has cultivated around 25 different local native tree and shrub species. These plants provide new growth and restore the riparian areas around streams.

#### Restoration Thru Education

To plant the seeds of this project – both figuratively and literally – the Partnership focused on restoration through education. Without landowner cooperation this project would not be as successful.

Thus not only were landowners given the opportunity to learn about the benefits of healthy riparian plant communities, but local volunteers were invited to attend classes and learn about native seed collection, extraction, storage, and vegetative growing techniques to rebuild local flora and foster healthy plant growth along streams.

After building a close relationship with local landowners, the Partnership pursued grant funding with the State of Oregon's Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to guarantee their planting and maintenance plan would be supported until native vegetation was established well enough to grow on its own. The long-term benefits from this Partnership will be recognized in a number of years. Locals are already beginning to see more developed riparian areas that provide more shade to cool stream temperatures and more natural cover to protect young fish from predators.

#### A Green Return

To date over 80,000 plants have been produced and planted annually reaching more than 200 miles of riparian lands. Further, 92 acres of wetlands have been restored while almost 250 educational sessions have connected with 7,000 local participants.

In honor of this progress, the Partnership has been recognized for numerous awards. In 2007 the American Fisheries Society awarded the team the national Western Divisions Riparian Challenge Award. And in November 2010 the Partnership was awarded the National Landscape Stewardship Award by the Public Lands Foundation. Tillamook BLM botanist Kurt Heckerath accepted The Director's Excellence Through Stewardship Award for his key role.

The Partnership's success is the result of hard work by all its participants. And thanks to its many accomplishments, the Partnership is now used as a model by the BLM and the National Park Service to establish other partnerships in the Pacific Northwest.

And to all the local hikers, bird watchers, and neighbors who enjoy the streams and lands found in America's great outdoors? They may not be directly aware of this Partnership, but they're certainly ecstatic to see their favorite fishin' holes and trails returned to their original natural splendor.

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Public Lands Live

[Image of the State of Oregon]

Oregon is For Lovers of Public Lands!

[Photo of a BLM Rescue Team in a Forest]

Public Lands Live Presents:

You know the BLM protects your public lands. Now see how it saves people on them.

BLM to the Rescue

A Horizon Pictures Release

[Images inspired by 1970s films: action, adventure, zombies, etc]

Cougar Attack...or Zombie?

At two o'clock, Albert Rule and Jennifer Moore missed their check-ins.

Warning raised, BLM dispatchers in the Eugene District's Siuslaw Resource Area moved quickly to find the whereabouts of the two BLM foresters. The clock ticking, workers scrambled to find Rule and Moore.

Within 20 minutes of searching, personnel in the field found Rule wounded on the ground with a massive head wound. And as crews dispatched rescue equipment, they made another shocking discovery: Moore rested against a nearby tree, bleeding in agony from a savage cougar attack.

Civil Engineer Luis Palacios was one of the first emergency rescuers on the scene. "It was a really amazing experience. At the beginning, I almost forgot this was an exercise," Palacios said. "They did a really great job of making the injuries look real, and the casualties did a great job (simulating) being injured."

Wait.

Simulating an injury? An exercise?

This is a Test. Only a Test

This scenario was part of a casualty response exercise conducted by the BLM's Eugene District. Employees like Palacios were trained to react quickly in an emergency situation while remaining cool under the pressure.

“Minutes seem like an eternity in a rescue situation,” Palacios said. “It’s actually a lot more difficult than you would think when you take into account the different levels of where everyone is at in their training. Responders must evaluate the situation, evaluate the casualty, and figure out how best to extract them. Training and practice teaches people how to respond when the circumstances can be overwhelming.”

Every second is precious in a lifeline situation. Responders must work without hesitation to find and rescue a casualty.

Sometimes though, it’s slow and steady that wins the race.

“I’ve had a little experience with basic first aid,” Palacios continued, “But I never had training with a backboard, stabilizing the casualty, securing their neck. It’s amazing how hard it is to get someone on a stretcher without moving them around too much.”

### Practice Makes Perfect

The Eugene District’s Siuslaw Resource Area conducted their training by creating a realistic scenario. From posing a convincing challenge BLM employees may truly face to the Hollywood-like special effects, this rescue was taken seriously because it felt absolutely genuine.

To assist the training of BLM district employees, Chris Ordonez, a hospital corpsman in the U.S. Navy assigned to the local Marine Corps Reserves unit, provided his experience and expertise.

Ordonez said the training was some of the best he’d seen. “When a real world situation goes down, they’ll be a lot more comfortable with the equipment. Getting their hands on it, getting familiarized with it, and gaining that experience in the field will prepare (BLM employees) much more to react than classroom training could.”

The BLM’s Dan Howells, a ski patrol volunteer during the winter, worked with Ordonez to oversee BLM employees as they moved through the exercise. And Cindi Phillips – an Emergency Medical Technician in addition to her role as a Resource Support Technician with the BLM – supervised first aid and evacuation.

### Future Forward

The ultimate goal of carrying out this rescue is to continue regular training for all local staff – especially those who may be inexperienced and new to the BLM – to ensure everyone can save people in peril from field or forest.

“We have a lot of folks in this (district) approaching retirement age,” Siuslaw Resource Area Manager Bill Hatton said. “It’s important to transfer these skills to the next generation.”

So no matter the threat or situation, this BLM will be prepared to react swiftly to any future rescue emergency.

Be they cougars...or zombies.

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[Two Photos of Steens Mountain]

Ask the Experts Vol 1 NLCS Wilderness Areas

Map Out Your New Year

Interview with Jerry Magee by Maya Fuller

The Oregon Badlands

Steens Mountain Wilderness

Ancient Junipers, Volcanic Vistas, and Sand Underfoot

Official Journal of The Bureau of Land Management Oregon and Washington

America's Best Kept Secrets are Yours to Explore

The BLM proudly protects many of our nation's most treasured landscapes under a system of lands known as the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). Celebrating more than 10 years of managing these conservation areas, the BLM partnered with National Geographic Magazine to produce a map highlighting these amazing open spaces specially designated and intentionally set aside for public use and enjoyment.

Over the next year, Northwest Passage will feature interviews with BLM experts to offer their insights and recommendations about how to best visit and explore these special places. So save your new NLCS National Geographic map and prepare to witness some of the best locations that America's Great Outdoors has to offer. (And if some lucky person already took the map out of this issue, please visit [blm.gov/or/resources/nlcs](http://blm.gov/or/resources/nlcs) to print your own copy.)

So what makes up one of these special landscapes designated under the NLCS? Well, they may be one of a variety of different settings such as wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, national monuments, national conservation areas, and scenic and historic trails, among others. But what do those different names really mean? Not to worry – we've got the answers! And we're going to focus on a different aspect of the NLCS in each issue of Northwest Passage. Our first feature kicks off our series with the Wilderness Area designation – and to help us understand what it means I spoke with BLM expert Mr. Jerry Magee, the BLM's statewide lead for Wilderness in Oregon and Washington.

>So what is a BLM Wilderness Area?

Jerry Magee: Wilderness Areas are set-aside by Congress and must meet specific criteria to include at least 5,000 acres in size, no motorized equipment use, have no roads, and possess outstanding opportunities for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

>What does that mean for the average visitor to a Wilderness Area?

Jerry Magee: There are places you can go, for free, to get away from it all and experience a natural environment without the noise or distraction from too many visitors. Yes, Yellowstone National Park is spectacular. But have you ever experienced the untouched natural scenery in central Oregon's Badlands Wilderness? Here you can experience ancient junipers, volcanic vistas, and sand underfoot. You can explore cracked volcanic pressure ridges called tumuli or walk narrow moat-like cracks in the ground. Traces of human history are visible to the careful observer. There are almost 50 miles of trails offering the visitor many opportunities for hiking or horseback riding on loops of various lengths.

>Are Wilderness Areas hard to reach? Is there any special equipment required?

Jerry Magee: BLM manages eight wilderness areas in Oregon and one in Washington. Some are found just outside metropolitan areas such as the Table Rock Wilderness which is about an hour's drive from Portland in the Molalla River Watershed. Others such as the Hells Canyon Wilderness on the Oregon/Idaho border are more remote. However, most of the outdoor recreation areas on BLM-managed lands have easily accessible trailheads with adequate parking. Visitors to these lands should plan ahead by consulting a map and talking with a local BLM expert about what to expect. It is always a good idea to cover the basics of survival and be prepared for the unexpected. This includes bringing extra food, clothing, shelter, a first-aid kit, and a compass or GPS unit – and knowing how to use it! (Know your 10 essentials! – Ed.)

>Where can I go to learn more about recreation in wilderness areas?

Jerry Magee: I highly recommend educating yourself prior to any trip in the backcountry or wilderness. You should obtain travel maps and current regulations from your local BLM District Office which you can find at [www.blm.gov/or](http://www.blm.gov/or). And you may want to consider taking recreation skills classes or hiring an outfitter or guide. And you can also visit [www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net) for specific information.

>Lastly, what is your favorite Wilderness Area and why might you recommend this spot to others?

Jerry Magee: Since my very first trip, I have enjoyed returning to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management Protection Area in southeastern Oregon. This is a breathtaking place. It's a fault-block mountain in the middle of the high desert with glaciated gorges, the meandering wild and scenic Blitzen River, lush meadows, and picturesque aspen groves. Even more appealing is that this rugged and remote area can be accessed from several locations along the highly scenic Steens Loop Road. You won't find a grand lodge or concessionaires nearby. You'll trade some luxuries for solitude and the rare escape from civilization – for the smell of sagebrush, crisp, cold air, and the crackle of your campfire. Wild horses roam the range, wildflowers bloom, and the night sky puts on a display like none other.

Meet Jerry Magee in person in his online interview at [youtube.com/blmoregon](https://youtube.com/blmoregon)!

District Round-Up

Welcome to news from the BLM in Oregon & Washington!

[Illustrated Map of Oregon & Washington with all ten Districts Identified]

Your BLM Districts are “All Over the Map!”

Burns, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/burns](http://blm.gov/or/districts/burns)

- Travelers to Steens Mountain in southeast Oregon (see the preceding article!) will enjoy far greater access on their next visit thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Steens Mountain Loop Road currently serves as the area’s main access to campgrounds, wilderness, lookout points, and hiking trails. And now crews have undertaken reconstruction efforts on road segments on both north and south sides of the Loop to help visitors enjoy this incredible wilderness area.
- This fall volunteers from Harney County and the High Desert Wheelers Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Club spent a full day cleaning up the Radar Hill OHV Area as well as public lands near Oregon’s Wild Horse Corral Facility. In total, 18 volunteers contributed nearly 130 hours of incredible community service removing over 16 tons of garbage and debris!

[Photo of Steens Mountain]

Coos Bay, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay](http://blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay)

- Dan Van Slyke, Coos Bay’s fish biologist, received the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board’s Spirit of the Oregon Plan award at their biennial conference. Dan was honored for his instrumental watershed restoration efforts and his partnership with watershed associations as well as for embodying the spirit of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Well deserved, Dan!
- Another summer of western snowy plover nesting ended last fall, and the final numbers are in. Over 230 birds were present on the beach in 2010 – the highest number since the monitoring of this threatened species began over 20 years ago! Thanks to concerted efforts around habitat restoration and predator control, the BLM is nearing the recovery goal of 250 birds.

[Photo of a western snowy plover]

Eugene, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/eugene](http://blm.gov/or/districts/eugene)

- The Eugene District staff participated in the third-annual Youth in Nature ‘Play in the Rain’ day at Mt. Pisgah Arboretum. The BLM joins forces with several other government and non-profit organizations in an effort to bring kids into the great outdoors. Nearly 1,500 people braved the cold and rain to participate in a variety of creative crafts and outdoor games in November.

- Just in time for the winter, the Eugene District Safety Officer conducted four-wheel driver training. BLM staff navigated the new 4X4 trail at the Shotgun Recreation Center and learned the ropes of vehicle extraction.

Lakeview, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview](http://blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview)

- The Klamath Falls Resource Area created a booth for the first-ever P.L.A.Y. Day, or Promoting Lifetime Activities for Youth, held at the Klamath County Fairgrounds. This interactive display was titled “Where the Pavement Ends, Wildlife P.L.A.Y. Begins” and took participants on a hike through local wetland, range, and forest lands. Along the trail, hikers encountered tracks of various animals that inhabit these landscapes and learned facts about each species’ behavior and characteristics. This event was organized by 30 partners in Klamath County to entice kids and their parents to spend time in America’s Great Outdoors. More than 850 youth attended and were treated to free outdoor sport seminars, puppet shows, demonstrations and activities. The success of the BLM’s exhibit was due to the hard work and dedication of the wildlife, recreation, timber, and maintenance crews as well as the BLM’s graphic designers. “The exhibit was very successful thanks to the multidisciplinary input of all who contributed,” said Wildlife Biologist Steve Hayner. “The kids had a blast discovering what was hidden behind each animal track and took a lot away education-wise.”

- Renee Snyder took top honors in the Department of the Interior’s national Green DOI Challenge. Her idea to replace traditional flashlights in DOI fleet vehicles with wind-up units will require no batteries, reduce waste, and save the Federal Government \$25,000 per year. Renee’s brilliant plan helps us save green by going green!

[Photo of young people visiting the BLM’s booth at the Promoting Lifetime Activities for Youth event]

Medford, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/medford](http://blm.gov/or/districts/medford)

- The Medford District with the help of longtime public lands volunteer Gene Bowling and the Southern Oregon Construction Academy built a warming shelter overlooking the sledding hill at the Table Mountain Winter Play Area. This warming shelter is completely enclosed, features a wood stove, and allows views of the entire sledding hill. The Table Mountain Winter Play Area also provides access to snowmobile and cross-country ski trails in the Hyatt Lake area. This area is specifically designed for snow tubing and sledding and offers an excellent spot for families to enjoy a day playing in the snow.

[Photo of a Warming Shelter]

*Continues on next page*

*More great news from the BLM in Oregon & Washington!*

Prineville, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/Prineville](http://blm.gov/or/districts/Prineville)

- An Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) Demonstration Project has been proposed for the flanks of Newberry Volcano. To educate the public about this potential project, the BLM conducted a field tour

with cooperation from the Deschutes National Forest, the U.S. Department of Energy, Alta Rock Energy, and Davenport Power. Forty-five members of the public, agency staff, and project proponents braved cold and snowy weather to visit the geothermal well pad and learn about EGS in greater detail. Both Alta Rock Energy and Davenport Power provided technical experts to answer questions raised by the public and to explain the complex mechanics of injecting water under pressure into deep wells to create minute fractures in underground bedrock which is then expected to create a closed system reservoir that can heat pumped water. The BLM explained the processes for public involvement and expected timelines. Information gained from the potential project may contribute significant knowledge to national and international geothermal communities about EGS technology.

[Photo from Enhanced Geothermal Systems Demonstration Project]

Roseburg, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg](http://blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg)

- Students and parents from Connection Academy, a local home school organization, toured the Roseburg office during the fall. Participants learned about the many facets of the BLM's multiple-use mission. Students also had an opportunity to talk with staff about occupations in natural resources as well as the upcoming Resources and People (RAP) Camp open to local youths in the Spring of 2011.
- The Roseburg District beat all its previous records by raising more than \$31,000 for charities this year! These funds were generously collected by such creative employee-driven events as a competition with the BLM's Coos Bay District, a flea market, a cooking competition, and the grand finale of the Combined Federal Campaign Auction. In a year of economic difficulty for many, the generous BLM employees of Roseburg continue to happily give back even more to the communities in which they live.

[Photo of Youths Learning About Natural Resources]

Salem, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/salem](http://blm.gov/or/districts/salem)

- In other news of the BLM giving back to its local communities, employees from the Salem District raised almost \$11,000 as part of their own Combined Federal Campaign. The BLM in Salem held three fundraisers along with promoting a pledge drive for specific charities. In addition to monetary donations, Salem also collected some 400 pounds of food for the Marion/Polk County Food Share and donated another \$480 to provide 24 Pringle School families in need with certificates to purchase groceries. And the BLM in Salem helped provide 30 gifts for Pringle School children during the 2010 holiday season.

Spokane, Washington: [blm.gov/or/districts/spokane](http://blm.gov/or/districts/spokane)

- In October, Spokane District staff archaeologists participated in a two-day educational event at the BLM's Fishtrap Lake Recreation Area in Lincoln County, WA. Approximately 160 fourth grade students, teachers, and parents from two local elementary schools were in attendance. The event, held at the historic farmstead and interpretive site known as "Folsom Farm," is a hands-on outdoor learning workshop focused on the physical and cultural elements of the earth. The BLM's workshop station

combined archaeology and geology into a short lecture and excavation exercise. The BLM's role in this educational opportunity for youths was borne out of a partnership with the Outdoor Leadership School.

- Spokane District Manager Robert Towne accepted a position in Washington D.C. as the Deputy Assistant Director of the new National Landscape Conservation System directorate. Robert's last day in Spokane was in December, but his enthusiasm and leadership (and infamous cover photo from the Summer 2009 issue of Northwest Passage!) were instrumental in charting a positive course forward for the Spokane District. The Spokane District staff wishes Robert the very best in his new position. And though Robert will be dearly missed across the District, staff are excited to welcome a new District Manager in early 2011.

[Reproduction of the Summer 2009 Northwest Passage cover featuring Robert Towne]

Vale, Oregon: [blm.gov/or/districts/vale](http://blm.gov/or/districts/vale)

- The BLM continues the generous support of its neighbors as the Vale District contributed about \$7,500 as part of the 2010 Combined Federal Campaign. And during the 2010 holiday season, Vale also sponsored a family identified by the local school district as needing assistance with foodstuffs and gifts for three children and adults. Through the generous contributions of BLM employees, each of the three children received three gifts of clothing and another three gifts of toys while the adults received necessary groceries as well as gift certificates. And in the nearby Baker Resource Area, BLM staffers auctioned items donated by employees and were able to contribute close to \$1,500 to local charities in Baker City.

Plus daily updates at Facebook and Twitter!

## The Time Travelers

[Image of Arrowheads Under a Spotlight]

Image courtesy of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, Texas A&M University

### How BLM Archaeologists are Bringing Ancient History Back to the Future

By Candy Harmon

Archaeologists at the BLM's Burns District are time travelers, dusty Indiana Joneses scouring the high deserts of southeastern Oregon.

Each year they brave sand, sun, and wind to sift through layers of earth hoping for a glimpse of the ever-distant past.

And what does our past look like? Well, if a picture is worth a thousand words, an archaeologist's findings are a Cecil B. DeMille spectacular screened in sparkling Technicolor. Ancient artifacts serve as tactile touchstones brought forth from eons gone to allow us to shake hands with our prehistoric ancestors. And it's from this antediluvian refuse that we can paint a picture of long-lost civilizations.

Particularly impressive, BLM archaeologists and their partners have uncovered 27 Clovis spear points over the last decade. These are tools made and used at the end of the last glacial period – over 11,000 years ago. And though this number of spear points may not seem large to a lay person, it is actually quite massive relative to the total number found in Oregon. Any researcher will feel lucky to find one Clovis spear point a year – which makes the BLM ecstatic to have averaged almost three times that number of discoveries.

But how did the BLM begin bringing forth souvenirs from our ancient America?

Thar's Gold! Or at least Obsidian...

In the beginning, Dianne Ness, a seasonal archaeology technician for the BLM, launched Clovis Quest, a program to connect this ancient civilization with our 21st Century. Her efforts found the BLM joining forces with volunteers from the Oregon Archaeological Society, the University of Oregon Field School, and hardy community members from eastern Oregon. Together these groups comb the high desert each year for elusive evidence. And with the support and assistance of the BLM's Burn District's archaeological division, this group has been able to study approximately 1,000 acres each year.

So what in the world is Clovis anyway? Actually, Clovis isn't a "what." It's a "who." Clovis is the name given to the ancient people who created and used the distinctive weaponry and tools during the late Pleistocene and early Holocene eras some 13,000 years ago.

## Pure Clovis, Honey

Currently, the BLM and Clovis Quest are focused on four sites: Sage Hen Gap, Sheep Mountain Clovis, Trout Creek Paleo Camp, and Lake on the Trail. Two of these sites, Sage Hen Gap and Sheep Mountain Clovis, appear to hold the greatest potential for evidence.

Due to its unique landscape, Sage Hen Gap is the perfect spot for an ambush. “We think that the Sage Hen Gap site is near a kill site for big game animals. Most likely some of the now-extinct species,” says Scott Thomas, Burns District Archaeologist. Thus archaeologists are confident they’ll find direct evidence of hunters here. And because this site is pure Clovis, archaeologists expect to find strictly Clovis technology.

## A Tourist Attraction for 12,000 Years

The other premiere location, the Sheep Mountain Clovis site, has been a popular location for human inhabitants for over 12,000 years – which is good news for the BLM and Clovis Quest. Across the millennia, inhabitants of this area as well as nature itself have covered over previous cultures by building new ones on top. It’s like a prehistoric version of the city of Budapest which saw ancient cities enveloped by newer ones. And so archaeologists feel Sheep Mountain Clovis’ deeply-buried soils will yield well-preserved evidence of its Clovis-bearing human inhabitants.

“This site is super important, because it may contain hearths and other living spaces used during the Clovis era. And they may contain charcoal to date (its age). If we find charcoal, it will be the only site in Oregon and the Northern Great Basin with a dateable Clovis period occupation,” says Scott Thomas.

## Dream Date

Finding additional artifacts beyond spear points may open the possibility of dating this region. The actual timeline of the arrival of Oregon-found Clovis technology can then be compared with data from other regions of the country. And because the Clovis culture arrival date remains a worldwide topic of debate, the BLM’s archeological team is determined and hopeful to find relics that can help the world reach a final answer on the timeframe.

So while the BLM’s archaeologists in the Burns District continue to happily find the most Clovis-bearing sites in Oregon, their goal is far more global. They hope future discoveries will unearth evidence of the Clovis people’s vibrant life. Then they can answer bigger questions. What kind of activities did they perform? What was their social unit like? And, most mysteriously, what happened to them? Finding Clovis points is but the first step to identify potential campsites and kill sites – areas which archaeologists hope will provide greater detail to telling the story of these ancient humans.

To learn more about Clovis Quest and archaeology at the BLM, please contact Dianne Ness at 541.573.4400 or visit the BLM’s cultural heritage homepage at [blm.gov/or/resources/heritage](http://blm.gov/or/resources/heritage).

[Photos of archaeologists working in the field]

## The Spark of Genius

[Image of a Deer and Windmills]

Photo Courtesy U.S. Department of Energy

Story by Jeff Clark and Mark Brown

Renewable energy has become increasingly popular since the advent of the 21st century.

From rising electric bills to a desire for greater energy independence to technological innovations, the motivations are many and diverse driving new projects like solar, biomass, and wind. Yet the push for new developments on public lands must be balanced with the BLM's mission to protect and conserve native wildlife and resources. Energy projects must be as welcome to the local mule deer and sage-grouse as they are to those of us looking for more efficient sources to power our homes and recharge our phones.

### A Productive Partnership

In 2009, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar challenged the BLM to move forward with renewable energy development – all while continuing to protect the foliage and animals who call our public lands home. And so the BLM brought together many different stakeholders to share their mutual experience and knowledge to better understand the complete picture of energy development within natural habitats.

Working to best balance new energy innovations with wildlife preservation, the BLM and the Renewable Energy & Eastern Oregon Landscape Conservation Partnership recently met in Bend, Oregon, for a day-long conference. This partnership, established last year, also includes the State of Oregon and the Association of Oregon Counties. Federal, State, and local government representatives invited both renewable energy developers as well as conservation interest groups to join in preservation and partnership. Collaboratively this group came together to develop a comprehensive picture of all the issues around renewable energy development and conservation in eastern Oregon. The group specifically focused on wind energy and its potential impact on sagebrush habitat.

Mike Haske, Deputy State Director for Resources with the BLM, said, "We're trying to help folks better understand what they can expect when they go to a given area." Haske also provided the Partnership with the BLM's newly-developed Challenges & Opportunities Map and accompanying website which illustrate wildlife habitats of animals like the sage-grouse, pygmy rabbits, and mule deer. The BLM's new map and website put a spotlight on animals' homes to assist renewable energy developers and conservation groups alike. These areas are called "core habitat areas" and are what Christian Hagen,

sage-grouse conservation coordinator for the State of Oregon, describes as areas of primary importance due to their function as winter ranges and breeding areas.

### Mapping the Future

The BLM's map identifying wildlife habitat areas came about when BLM offices east of the Cascades tracked a significant increase in right-of-way permit applications for wind development and other forms of renewable energy. And though this map is not intended to be a decision or a policy document, it's a strong tool to foster collaborative solutions in planning energy projects on public lands.

In particular, the map provides a better understanding of the wildlife complexity in a given area of the public land. And once everyone, from developers to conservation groups to public managers, reviews the same information, the conversation can begin. The BLM has also made this information available on the internet and reached out to request critical input from local experts and the public – all of which is crucial to the comprehensive management of any successful project.

The BLM's map and this partnership are just the first steps to engage groups with an interest in working together to find the balance between wildlife and habitat conservation and renewable energy development. Additional discussions and conferences will continue to ensure public lands support the multiple uses of providing energy for the 21st century while protecting the environment and animals for future generations. As the BLM's Mike Haske said, "We can't take on this task by ourselves, and that's the challenge."

Looking forward, Secretary Salazar announced in February 2011 a number of initiatives designed to encourage rapid and responsible development of renewable energy on public lands. With its growing partnership, tools, and guidance, the BLM in Oregon is poised to thoughtfully implement these new renewable energy initiatives as we move into the future.

You can see the BLM's Challenges & Opportunities Map online at: [blm.gov/or/energy/opportunity/index.php](http://blm.gov/or/energy/opportunity/index.php). And please visit the Renewable Energy & Eastern Oregon Landscape Conservation Partnership to view the latest info: [orsolutions.org/statewide/sagebrush.htm](http://orsolutions.org/statewide/sagebrush.htm)

Oregon Youth Are Gonna Work It Out

[Photos of the Jefferson Conservation Corps in a Forest]

Photos by Matt Christenson

Katie Wetzel is showing me Wolf Creek, one of the most economically-struggling towns in Oregon. She wants me to get a picture of the challenges faced by youths in this region.

Looking at the vast number of closed stores and businesses – to include a local lumber mill that was once the lifeblood of the town – I ask, “Do people ever just up and move?”

Katie, a planner for the BLM as well as a woman of infinite patience (perfectly suited for working with youths), gives me a look that says, There are no dumb questions...but that one was pretty close.

But instead of saying so, she politely answers, “Most of these young people are part of families who have lived here for generations. They’re taking care of parents, raising their own children, and keeping these communities alive.” Katie pauses to look around her, as if seeing it anew through my fresh eyes. “And when towns and states everywhere are facing the same challenges, where else can they go?”

Where indeed.

I was spending half a day with Katie and the Jefferson Conservation Corps (JCC), an employment initiative designed to give 19 to 25 year-olds some initial training and small (very small) financial support to help them launch their own contracting crew. The idea was to reach out to out-of-work youths, bursting with untapped talents and motivations, and impart basic skills to put them on the road to self-sufficiency.

A hand-up rather than a hand-out, if you will.

Contracting crews are particularly crucial in heavily forested areas such as theirs in southwestern Oregon. Fire, an omnipresent threat, can do wonders with a forest full of uncleared scrub brush and branches and dead logs. This is where a crew such as the JCC comes in to care for the outdoors and perform manual labor ridding these lands of “fire fuel.” Their employers may range from public agencies like the BLM to the private timber industry.

That day I documented this successful project with a short video about the JCC\*. And I also interviewed Katie about her personal experience serving as the spark plug to help youths find productive sustainable employment.

\*Check this out! Meet the JCC in their online video at [youtube.com/blmoregon](https://www.youtube.com/blmoregon) (But make sure you have a tissue nearby. Their story is both powerful and emotional.)

Katie Wetzel, BLM Oregon  
Sponsor, Jefferson Conservation Corps  
Conversation with Matt Christenson  
January 28, 2011

1. YOUTHS IN RURAL OREGON are typically some of the most versatile and hard working in the nation. They are raised within families in communities who intuitively understand that working in the natural environment surrounding them is their best option to support their families. These youths learn at a very early age to mend fences, build barns, cut firewood, till soil, harvest timber, and raise livestock. Most of them know how to operate a variety of heavy equipment by the age of 10 and run chainsaws by the age of 12. They are accustomed to working long hard hours – sun up to sun down, seven days a week. They, and youth like them, are the foundation of America.

2. I GOT THE IDEA to start the Jefferson Conservation Corps many years ago while raising my own children in rural Oregon. It was obvious from the start that there were little to no wage earning opportunities for my children, let alone the hundreds of other youth striving for a sustainable future. Yes, some would move away from their communities, attend colleges, and inevitably gain employment in far-away metropolitan areas. However, for those youth whose families, farms, or family-run businesses were dependent upon them, they had the difficult responsibility of staying within their communities and finding a way to carve out a livelihood. I thought if we could come up with a way to give these youths as much training and experience as possible in all aspects of natural resource management, then someday they would be able to sustain their families while remaining in their communities. They could accomplish this by working for natural resource management agencies or by creating their own small businesses which support natural resource management.

3. THE FIRST STEP was to come up with the plan, both short and long term, then obtain support from local organizations and agencies. The necessary support included professional mentoring and training, academics, and funding to ensure the youths' wages while they trained and worked within the program. Involvement had to be partnerships between Federal, State, County, and local organizations, all working together toward the common goal of program success. Employees of these agencies and organizations who were involved had to be creative people able to "think outside of the box" if the program was going to work. This partnership process has had its challenges, but it has also had its successes and continues to grow. To date, agencies and organizations have provided grants, contracts, medical services, legal services, clothing, higher education opportunities, certifications, facilities, vehicles, and administrative overhead for the program. The BLM continues to be the mainstay for supporting the program through grants and contracted funds to accomplish project work.

4. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, by working as partners, have the ability to accomplish incredible feats. And this program is just one successful example. It was obvious from the start that within the Medford District, several rural communities were suffering the effects of dwindling timber programs. These communities, located at the far edges of their respective counties, were becoming ghost towns full of abandoned businesses, vacant homes, closed schools and libraries, and zero public services. However, the youth were still there, desperately trying to maintain their families,

farms, or Dad's once thriving logging business. With the Department of the Interior's Youth in the Great Outdoors initiative, coupled with grant dollars as seed money associated with the initiative, the opportunity arose to be creative about engaging youth in natural resource management. This was the perfect time in the exact right communities to start a Conservation Corps program with local young adults. What better way could the BLM give back to these communities than to augment the loss of local timber-related jobs by providing a jobs and training program for their youths?

5. I HAD TO SMILE when, at the first public meeting I facilitated to introduce the program to the community, I entered the building one hour early to get things set up and was shocked to see a full room of young adults, parents, and community leaders, already there and awaiting my presentation. Now if that didn't tell me the community was receptive concerning the program, I don't know what else would!

6. HALF THE BATTLE was trying to figure out how to accommodate the hundred plus applicants we had for the program positions. We were only able to fund 15 positions to begin with, and the long lines of applicants wishing to fill those positions created an instant challenge. Clearly the need and desire for employment and training was there. Continued funding for the program has been the greatest obstacle to date. The JCC's members receive full time wages, are covered by insurance, pay very high State workman's compensation charges, and are bonded for forest-related contract work. They have their own vehicles and facilities to store equipment and supplies as well as an office and educational facility to keep the program running. Unfortunately all of these items have their related costs as well.

7. NO ONE TOLD ME how these young people would tug so heavily at my heartstrings. What they have experienced in life, their personal challenges, their community challenges, the level of poverty in which they live, I would have never dreamed of what I now know to be true. I am amazed on a daily basis at the strength of these youths to overcome some of the most terrific barriers anyone could possibly imagine. Every one of the JCC's members has a life story that would absolutely make your knees give out if you heard it – shocking tales of life that are so incredible one wonders how they have even survived.

8. THE HARDEST PART about helping with this program is not being able to hire all of the really wonderful young adults who want to work for JCC. It's so hard to have to say to struggling youths, "No, I am sorry – all of our positions are filled." I have never seen such hard working, dedicated, appreciative young adults in my career. And it's sad to know that, as one of our crew members best stated, "This is the ONLY show happening. There is no other work available!"

9. SUCCESS IS NOT just creating this program. Anyone could do that. It's not about counting the widgets of how many youths we hired. It's not just about getting a multitude of otherwise unfunded work successfully accomplished on public lands.

10. SUCCESS IS taking a vested interest in these amazing youths and helping them to achieve their dreams. It's about sustaining and growing this program, giving hope for a bright and successful future to young adults, seeing them thrive in their communities, feed their families, and meet their basic needs. It is about the partnerships that help these youths as well as help BLM accomplish its mission. Success is

knowing that with each of our youth hires, we add economic stability to these once-flourishing, timber-dependent communities of southwest Oregon. Success is the whole of the sum, not just its parts. And no matter how difficult it may seem on some days to keep this program operational, I simply think about one of the many JCC crew members, what they have gone through in life, what they continue to go through each day to survive, and I immediately find the energy to keep going.

Back Country

[Photo of a Whale]

photo: john j. mosesso / life.nbii.gov

A Winter's Tale

Whale Watching at the Oregon Coast

It's time!

'Tis the season to watch prehistory's monolithic masterpieces, those warm-blooded, air-breathing mammals long as a school bus and heavier than a tank known as the gray whale!

Pods of gray whales can currently be seen heading south to their breeding grounds in sunny Baja, California. Then, beginning in March, these migratory marvels will head back north to feeding grounds in the Bering Sea. This means from now until May, they're just waiting for you – and your camera – to document their annual road trip.

So where's the best place to see gray whales? Fortunately for us in Oregon, we have literally hundreds of great spots at the coast. One of the best is the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in the BLM's Salem District. And one great thing about Yaquina Head is that, if the weather turns bad, you can bring the family inside warm and dry while you show off the BLM's whale exhibit.

So...wanna do a little whale watching? As in right now? Yes! From the warm glow of your computer screen, you can join us today as we check out these magnificent creatures at our YouTube™ page. Just click on over to <http://blm.gov/bl5c>.

See you there!