

Northwest Passage Volume 2, Issue 1 – Autumn 2009

Cover

Northwest Passage

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BLM Oregon/Washington

The Bureau of Land Management Magazine for Oregon and Washington

Autumn 2009

Celebrating our First Year of Taking It Outside!

Where the Wild Things Are: Urban Teens Train Horses

Bring Me the Head of Medusa: Turning Weeds to Stone

Home, Home on the State: Not TV. BLM-TV.

Let the Wild Rumpus Begin

American Heritage: A BLM Forester's Midnight Gig with the U.S.M.C.

The BLM & Oregon Public Broadcasting * Ancient Medicine Wheels

[Photo of Three Horses on the Plains of Eastern Oregon Beneath Blue Skies]

BLM Recycles

[Image of Recycling Symbol]

[Image of BLM Logo]

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Op-“Ed”

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

[Photo from the Snow-Capped Top of Steens Mountain]

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

Happy First Anniversary, Northwest Passage! I’m thrilled to celebrate the first year of our magazine with you, our readers, partners, and supporters of Oregon and Washington’s public lands.

It hardly seems possible that a year has passed since we launched our premiere issue. We’ve been particularly pleased by the many connections we’ve made with new and old friends who have reached out to tell us how much they enjoy our in-depth reporting and magnificent photos documenting the BLM’s progress in the Pacific Northwest.

And speaking of reporting, I’m very pleased to give an update on our role in the national American Recovery and Reinvestment Act’s (ARRA) efforts to provide economic stimulus in our own backyard. Specifically, ARRA projects in Oregon and Washington account for 10 percent of all national BLM ARRA projects. And here at home, we’re well ahead of our targets to obligate funding – and we’re already looking to feature our first completed project in the next issue of Northwest Passage.

In other exciting news, we created an Energy Team to address the growing interest in renewable energy as well as existing conventional energy programs. We’ve already received three wind farm applications and 30 meteorological tower/wind energy testing proposals. Geothermal has also been a hot topic with

multiple prospects throughout the region. And not least of all, interested parties are reviewing viable energy opportunities through woody biomass, coalbed natural gas, and oil and gas leases. These efforts could provide our future alternative energy sources.

We're living in an exciting time. And we at the BLM and Northwest Passage will keep reporting out our progress.

Here's to another year!

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

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Take it Outside!

Volume 2, 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]

[Oregon's Wild Horse Corral Facility in the BLM's Burns District]

Ever seen a wild mustang? Up close and personal? There's literally no other American experience quite like it. And if you haven't taken advantage of this truly awesome opportunity, the BLM has got a deal for you.

You can see one of our nation's treasured wild mustangs today. And it won't cost you a dime. Nothin'.

F-R-Double-E.

The Bureau of Land Management has long managed our nation's wild horses and burros to ensure these majestic herds thrive on healthy rangelands.

And when herd numbers are large enough, the BLM's adoption program can place more than 2,500 wild horses and burros into good homes each year.

In fact, you can visit us online to see which mustangs are currently available for adoption.

Then if you're moved to be an active part of America's history of wild mustangs, you can make an appointment to visit one at a BLM corral.

And yes, they're bigger in person. Not to mention more impressive and more beautiful than you can ever imagine.

Visit one today. Give him or her a name. You'll be glad you did.

Read more about the BLM's Wild Horse & Burro Program online – and discover where you can visit one in person at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/whb/index.php>

Photo by Matt Christenson

Our Contributors

[Five Photos of Contributors on Image of Corkboard]

1: Marking her first (of many, we hope) entry to Northwest Passage is BLM Botanist Susan Carter. Susan and returning contributor Bob Hall's mythological take on the invasive plant species known as Medusahead will leave you frightened and (dare we say it?) petrified! Way more petrified than the actual Gorgon would've done to Perseus without his winged sandals and mirror. (It's called Wikipedia, people. Look it up.) In addition to their article, Susan captured some incredible photos from a controlled burn to treat the noxious weed (Page 8).

2: She's Back! After contacting Northwest Passage to inquire about submitting her inaugural article last month, Candy Harmon has written her second feature – while grabbing our cover at the same time! In her current piece, Candy covers a BLM summer program where Oregon teens train wild horses (say that five times fast) to prepare them for adoption by the public. In addition to their volunteering, these youths also learned much about facing the unknown, taking the hero's journey, and just about every other theme from Joseph Campbell. And, yes, a few of the teen trainers got to adopt their very own horse... Read on to see the photos! (Page 14)

3: Oregon Public Broadcasting? Check. Amazing photos from 10,000 foot vistas at Steens Mountain? Got 'em. The BLM's Big Yellow Balloon? Wait, wha?! That's right, friends. This issue of Northwest Passage is pleased to make your genteel introduction to the BLM's very own blimp as it suffers a few bumps and bruises trying to reach the big blue sky while helping OPB who was on hand to film ancient Native American Medicine Wheels (Page 16). Read Maria Thi Mai's first-person feature and count how many references you find to French films! (p.s. There's only one.)

4: We could fill a page listing our love for Doug "Reno" Huntington. But, probably happily for him, we're already running out of space. It's a shame because we had a whole speech prepared to toast him as he heads into retirement! And speaking of retirement, Doug interviewed Colonel Bill Hatton, U.S.M.C. (Page 12) as Bill takes his own retirement from military service. Fortunately for us dwindling folks at the BLM, Bill continues his public service as a field manager in the BLM's Eugene District.

5: Another eagerly welcomed returnee! Ethan Schowalter-Hay is back at Northwest Passage bringing us on his raft trip as he shoots from the top of Mount Hood down the Salmon River (Page 24). No heart of darkness, this river journey carries hundreds of years of human, ecological, and literary history in a true life narrative we could only name, The Once and Future River. (Dear estate of T.H. White: Imitation is the highest form of flattery. Please don't sue us.)

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Page 6 – 7 Public Lands Live

There and Back Again

A BLM Retiree Makes His Mark After 50 Years

Story by Kathy Eaton and Matt Christenson

Photos by Matt Christenson

[Background Photo of a Bronze Plaque from the Base of Steens Mountain in Eastern Oregon]

Howard DeLano's bronze plaque will welcome visitors to Steens Mountain for generations to come

[Photo of BLM Employees and Visitors at the Dedication]

A Sunny Day Welcomes Family and Friends to the Dedication

[Photo from the Snowy Top of Steens Mountain]

The Summit at Steens Provides all the Validation We Need

[Photo of Oregon & Washington BLM Director Ed Shepard and Kathy Eaton Speaking at the Dedication]

Oregon/Washington BLM Director Ed Shepard and Co-Author Kathy Eaton

[Photo of the Top of Steens Mountain]

The Top of the Mountain Sees us Walking Through Snow in Tee-Shirts

[Image of the State of Oregon]

Oregon Is For Lovers (of Public Lands!)

They came from across the state – generations of family & friends and current & retired BLM staffers – converging at the base of the mighty Steens Mountain in southeastern Oregon...

Arching 10,000 feet to the sky, Steens Mountain was long famous for having one the most treacherous wagon-wheel trails ever braved by pioneers hearty enough to crest its summit. But now – thanks to Howard DeLano – every visitor in a vehicle can drive the Steens Loop and reach majestic heights where they may gaze across the mysterious miles.

Who's Howard, you ask? 96-year-old retiree Howard DeLano began his career with the U.S. Grazing Service in 1942 (before the BLM ever existed). And thanks to his efforts in the 1950s, Howard secured one million dollars in Congressional appropriations to build the entire loop that we use today. He's also the inspiration for the BLM's new plaque, fittingly dedicated to his achievement at the base of Steens Mountain.

So maybe add Steens Mountain to your "To Do" file. Come next spring, perhaps you'll be inspired to visit the top and gaze out into the heart of its valleys and mountainsides.

Howard's plaque is there to mark your way...

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Bring Me the Head of Medusa (or, Burn, Baby, Burn...)

Story by Susan Carter and Bob Hall

Photos by Susan Carter

Consider This: In Greek mythology, Medusa was a mortal woman transformed into a dragon-like creature with snakes for hair. And if you gazed upon her foul visage, she would turn you to stone – for eternity.

After the mythological powers of medusa are invoked, it's no surprise that a noxious, invasive weed whose common name is Medusahead would be deemed a very undesirable usurper in the Pacific Northwest.

The Odyssey

but here's the rub: Medusahead was actually introduced into the U.S. from Eurasia way back in the late 1800s. And after over 100 years of infestation, this weed now occupies millions of acres of semi-arid rangelands in the Pacific Northwest where it can be found in virtually every county in Oregon. It's especially prevalent in eastern Oregon, sucking up scarce spring moisture before perennial grasses get a chance to grow. And because Medusahead is loaded with silica, it's unpalatable as grazing food for cattle or sheep.

Once this weed becomes established in a local ecosystem, the land becomes nearly worthless, incapable of supporting native wildlife or livestock. In fact, the eyes and mouths of grazing animals can even be injured by the Medusahead's sharp and hairy bristles. This dangerous species even changes the temperature and moisture content of the soil in which it grows, greatly reducing successful seed germination for other more desirable grass species – and thus increasing the likelihood of fostering damaging wildfires.

Clash of the Titans

Taeniatherum Caput-Medusae, also known as Medusahead, became well established on 6,500 acres of the BLM's North Bank Habitat Management Area. Originally acquired by the Roseburg District through a land exchange in 1994, this area was acquired in order to secure a safe habitat for the Columbian white-tailed deer, a species listed as endangered at that time.

Once this habitat was acquired, the North Bank Habitat Management Plan was developed in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. After they were designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, these acres saw the Columbian white-tailed deer subsequently removed from the federally endangered species list by 2003.

But in recent years, the ongoing plan to manage the North Bank Ranch acres for a healthy ecological balance has required botanists and prescribed fire managers to collaboratively reverse the increasing march of the Medusahead. So land experts developed a plan to fight fire with fire! They'd burn the weed in the spring when the Medusahead seed was in the "milky" or "doughy" stage and before any seed dropped to the ground. The idea was to prevent the seeds from becoming viable and consequently reduce the reproductive capability and the future recruitment and expansion of Medusahead on the North Bank Ranch.

Prometheus the Fire-Bringer

They started small with a 34-acre prescribed burn in the spring of 2007. Monitoring conducted the following summer noted a remarkable decrease in Medusahead – from about 90% frequency to 17% frequency. With this encouraging statistic, resource specialists were eager to burn additional Medusahead-infested areas. In 2008, approximately 40 new acres were burned. And in 2009 botanists noticed that Medusahead was increasing on the original 34 acre burn area and recommended that the area be treated again along with adjacent acres. This time, a total of 70 acres were burned. But the good news was that vegetation monitoring conducted just days prior to the burn showed a frequency of 38 percent Medusahead – still substantially lower than the 90 percent that was present before this effort began in 2007. It is likely that it will take continued effort to combat this formidable foe.

And as Medusa's power is defeated, the BLM has conducted reseeding efforts in these burned areas to re-establish more desirable native species of forbs and grasses that better support the Columbian white-tailed deer and other native wildlife.

Initial post-fire monitoring at the North Bank Ranch looks promising this year. Most of the Medusahead either burned or lay down. The passage of time and future monitoring will tell a more detailed story, but for now, instead of turning to stone when they looked at Medusahead, BLM resource specialists drew themselves up and accepted the daunting challenge of controlling this aggressive weed species – and have dealt a serious blow to this noxious invader of public lands.

[Photo of Medusahead]

[Photo of Firefighters]

[Photo of a Controlled Burn Treating the Noxious Weeds]

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Pioneers

American Heritage

A BLM Forester's Second Career in the United States Marine Corps

"Top Secret" Interview by Doug Huntington

"Interview for Official Use Only"

By day, Bill Hatton is the Field Manager for the Siuslaw Field Office on the Eugene District. He has worked for the BLM in various positions and locations for over 30 years. However, for the past 27 years, Bill has also served in the Marine Corps on both active duty and in the reserves. Bill has risen through the officer ranks to his present rank of Colonel.

Colonel Hatton has been activated for overseas duty on several occasions, including two tours in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, where he served as the Engineer Officer for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. Most recently he served as the Operations and Training Officer for the Marine Forces Pacific, Combined Marine Rear Area Operations Group, located in Kansas City, Missouri.

Bill has found many similarities between his Marine Corps experiences and his career working for the BLM. Both he says "are small, tight-knit organizations which focus on getting missions accomplished." Bill also enjoyed the rewarding experiences and comradeship he found working for both organizations.

Bill will retire from the Marine Corps in November and focus his attentions on family, friends, and the BLM. He will try to transition from a Leatherneck–Devil Dog to a Husband-Father-Forester. However, as everyone knows, there is no such thing as an ex-Marine. When Bill was commissioned as an officer in the Corps he was presented his curved Mameluke Sword. It is a representative symbol. More than a weapon, it serves as part of the American heritage. "Once a Marine, always a Marine."

Northwest Passage (NWP): When did you begin your BLM career?

Bill Hatton (BH): I began my career with the BLM in the Prineville District during the summer of 1975. I worked as a GS-3, a Range Aide on an initial attack fire crew. Myself and three others were based at Paulina Guard Station. I did that for two summers before coming to the Eugene District as a summer temporary. During the summers of 1977 and 1978, I worked in the Eugene District as a Recreation Guard. At the end of the summer, I was hired as a Forester through a When Actually Employed (WAE) appointment. I graduated from Purdue University in 1978 with a B.S. in Forest Management. My summer jobs with the BLM gave me insight into different aspects of forest management.

NWP: What was it that inspired you to join the Marine Corps?

BH: Watching too many John Wayne movies as a youngster! Just kidding... As a kid I was interested in the Marine Corps because of their history, traditions, and reputation for building leaders. Both of my older brothers served in the Marine Corps. In 1972 – like most 18-year-olds – I registered for the draft. The U.S. was still involved in the Vietnam War. Like my second oldest brother, I figured I'd end up joining the Marine Corps and serving in Vietnam. Other options for me opened up when the draft was abolished in 1973. Fast forward to late 1981, I mentioned to my wife Joyce that I regretted never joining the Marine Corps when I was young. She told me, "If this is something you want to do, then, just do it." (maybe she had a role in Nike's future advertisement campaign?) Without her support then and now, I never would have accomplished what I have in the Marine Corps or the BLM.

NWP: How about your experience in basic training and officer candidate school?

BH: I wouldn't take a million dollars for the experience. I wouldn't do it again for a million dollars. Enough said!

NWP: How has the Corps enhanced your BLM career?

BH: The Marine Corps prides itself on mission accomplishment, self discipline, maintaining high standards, and building leaders who look out for the welfare of the people that they are responsible for leading. I've tried to maintain a focus on all of these attributes as a BLM manager. I've not always succeeded, but I've tried.

dossier continues on page 31

[Photo of Bill Hatton with an American Flag]

[Photo of Bill Hatton and a Colleague in the Desert]

[Image of a Colonel's Eagle]

[Image of Camouflage]

[Image of the U.S. Marine Corps Crest]

[Photo of Bill Hatton and Colleague Near a Gas Truck]

[Photo of a Youth with a Horse]

There was nothing quite so wild as the free-roaming, untamed horse...until it met an Oregon teenager.

They Love Horses, Don't They? Where Pulses Thunder & Wild Hearts Meet

Story & Photos by Candy Harmon

Yamhill, Oregon, near Portland saw a unique opportunity when it made introductions between teenagers and horses last summer. In a partnership between the BLM and both the Mustang Heritage Foundation and the Teens and Oregon Mustangs program, 15 youths were paired with their own wild yearlings – horses generally in their second year. It was literally a case of youth meeting youth.

The experience level of each young trainer ranged from some who counted this as the first time they ever saw a wild horse to others who had experience with the domestication and care of wild steeds. But the ultimate goal of the program? To help teens gentle 15 of Oregon's wild horses so by the end of summer 90 days later, these yearlings would be domesticated and auctioned to approved adopters.

But what actually happened was so much more. In the end, it became more than a seasonal project for both horse and trainer. Three months later, two completely different forces united to form pure bonds of trust, friendship, and love.

My (not so) Little Pony

Extreme Mustang Makeover trainer Erica Knight was motivated to organize this program to “get these horses a home, and give these kids an amazing experience.” The plan consisted of three major tasks: provide the yearlings with body conditioning, get them used to having a halter, and train them to be able to step through a field course displaying all the skills learned from their teens.

At ten years old, honorary “teen” trainer Isabell said when she first saw her horse, Lil' Bugger, she was a little scared wondering what she'd gotten herself into. “Lil' Bugger would just stand in the corner staring at me. After a couple of days I would stand in the corner so she couldn't. I actually had her out of the stall the first week.” Soon afterwards Isabell and her mom jokingly told folks in the stables to watch out! They were bringing a “wild horse” through – albeit one that willingly followed Isabell like her very own pocket pony.

Two-Way Trust

Even though the goal for each trainer was to make their horse available for adoption by the end of the program, several ended up adopting their own horses before the auction ever had a chance to begin. Erin, who trained Alice, entered the program thinking she wouldn't be able to get near Alice for at least a month. “I was able to touch her and put a blanket on her on the first day.” Erin entered the program

to earn some summer money and find a much needed home for a wild horse. She was able to accomplish both goals. At the end of the summer Erin adopted her horse, Alice.

The only young man to be one of the 15 contestants, Trask, said that he was afraid of horses. He envisioned a vicious wild animal constantly running. But what he found was a horse named Brinly who learned quickly to trust Trask, often trotting over to him whenever she became scared. And though the first time Brinly ran up to Trask was an unnerving experience, he quickly saw what Brinly was actually doing – seeking security where she knew she could get it. With her trainer. Trask soon felt confident in his abilities as well as his relationship with his horse.

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Filming the Past with Oregon Public Broadcasting

Le Ballon Jaune

The Yellow Balloon

Story & Photos by Maria Thi Mai

[Photo of a Yellow Balloon carrying a Camera]

[Photo of People Standing at the Top of Steens Mountain]

Scene 1: And That Has Made All The Difference...

On the road:

Even before the sun awoke, we climbed into our vehicles to rumble down a corrugated rough and tumble dirt road for what seemed like more than one hundred miles.

During the next hour we dodged boulders and kicked up dust while six tanks of helium clanged and banged providing us with a syncopated symphony from the back of our truck.

Eventually, we stopped.

As the dust settled (literally), we witnessed through the pre-dawn light a paradox.

A high desert floor laid before us – thousands of feet above sea level.

Scene 2: The Green, Green Grass of Home...

As I opened my truck door, crisp air stole my breath away and stopped me cold as I dropped onto a soft green carpet of grass. Pat O'Grady, an archaeologist with the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History, greeted us with his wise elf-like smile and a welcomed cup of coffee.

I noticed his campsite snuggled up against a rock wall which prompted me to wonder what archaeological treasures may be hidden on the other side...

Hot caffeine firmly entrenched in hand, we made our round of introductions. From Oregon Public Broadcasting, Vince Patton and Todd Sonflieth introduced themselves as the OPB producer and photographer, respectively. Orrin Frederick, Corey Plank, and Ed Zigoy hailed from the BLM's Oregon State Office Geographic Sciences department. Rounding out our party were Scott Thomas, archaeologist from the BLM's Burns District, and his compatriots Kenny McDaniel, Burns District Manager, and Brendan Cain, Associate District Manager.

Scene 3: Phoenix Rising

Oh...by the way. Did you know the BLM has a 30-foot long helium balloon? Sure we manage natural deposits of helium, but I had no idea that the BLM in Oregon and Washington owned its own balloon. Whoa. I was awed and became even more impressed once I saw the big yellow zeppelin for myself.

I was reminded of a recent animated movie about an old man who takes off in a hot air balloon seeking adventure. Visions filled my head of creating my own film floating high above the desert. But when asked, our experts told me my chances of going up in the BLM balloon were...well, slim. Corey Plank chose his words carefully. He told me that, while petite, I still wasn't quite light enough – the balloon could only lift about 50 pounds. (I tried not to look hurt.)

This was no Pixar movie. Better than any fiction, we were writing our own story to record the enigmatic medicine wheels that leave far more to the imagination than mere fiction could achieve. More on them later.

And so with both the temperatures and our balloon creeping up into the morning sky at an almost equal rate, the OPB film crew collected shots of daybreak summiting over the junipers, misty fog rising from a spring-fed pond, and, of course, our yellow zeppelin coming to life.

At the same time, our BLM team worked diligently to strap the GPS unit and camera to our balloon and test a sundry of other connections. But after much tinkering (and a few expletives – shhh...) followed by loss of radio connection, we disconnected our GPS and high-definition camera and made the call to dangle a regular ol' ordinary video camera on the end of our balloon with hopes of getting some usable imagery.

Scene 4: ...Phoenix Not Rising?

over four tanks of helium later, (enough to fill nearly 2,500 party balloons!), our balloon was sent up. But it needed an anchor – more specifically, a human tether. Time to draw straws. And like pulling the sword from a stone, Ed became our chosen one. So we strapped him with a pack holding 100 meters of rope rolled around a spool on his back along with climbing hardware to help regulate the tension in the rope. Ed was literally “weighted down” and could control the balloon - and most importantly, keep it from flying away.

We began carving out an invisible trail in the sky for the balloon to rise, rise, rise! Paying no mind to the boulders at Ed's nimble feet, we guided him to the first of several medicine wheels.

While the experts sent up our balloon with a camera, I thought back to the first time I heard we were visiting a medicine wheel archaeological site. I truly wasn't sure what to expect. And if you share in my unfamiliarity, imagine this: a circle composed of rocks ranging in size from a large cantaloupe to small watermelon – all in an area where about 30 to 40 people could sit comfortably around its perimeter. Like bicycle spokes coming from a hub, additional rocks radiate from the center. In one flat open area about half the size of a football field, we found two medicine wheels along with another as-yet unidentified formation.

Scene 5: Reinventing the (Medicine) Wheel

Standing beside these rock alignments my mind wandered to questions such as: What did people do here? Was this area used for sacred spiritual ceremonies or as an arena for games? Or did residents hold council here to discuss important issues? There are obviously a myriad of questions with opaque and subjective answers to every varying degree.

Another important question came up when I looked at the OHV tracks sprawling across the landscape. How do we know that these rocks weren't placed here last week by visitors wanting to create a "crop circle" hoax?

At this point I turn to our archeologists, Scott and Pat, to ask them for validation of authenticity. They do not disappoint. Using language I can actually understand they explain that lichens and other microbes found on the rocks take many decades – if not centuries – to develop.

Furthermore, medicine wheels were known among some tribes in the American West. And yet... They are not features common to this particular area which raises their level of intrigue.

The northern Great Basin has an ancient heritage of human occupation that extends 14,500 years back into the Pleistocene era, past the time when people used Clovis spear points to hunt mammoths. Much has happened over the millennia to layer the landscape with a rich appliqué of archaeological artifacts and features.

And stone circles such as these will always captivate the human imagination.

Roll Credits: Without Whom...

I now look back to the BLM balloon which has allowed us to document another perspective about a people and culture we know little about – and to record it for all of history. And with OPB's Oregon Field Guide, all public viewers will be given another perspective thanks to the BLM's big yellow balloon.

The medicine wheel and the BLM's balloon will be aired (no pun intended...) on OPB sometime in 2010.

[Photo of People Attaching a Camera to the Bottom of the BLM's Yellow Helium Balloon]

Read more about the BLM's archeology projects at: blm.gov/or/resources/heritage/index.php

How many miles of Back Country Byways are in Oregon & Washington? Explore them all on our brand new map in BLM Facts!

<http://www.blm.gov/or/onlineservices/orblmfacts.php>

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District Round-Up

From: District Round-Up

To: You

Welcome to News from all the BLM Districts in Oregon and Washington!

Please join us for an update on all of our community happenings!

[Image of an Envelope]

[Image of Postcard]

[Image of an Arrow]

[Photo of a Traffic Light]

[Photo of a Walking Path Sign]

Burns, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/burns

- The National Wild Horse Adoption Day was a great success this year! We were especially appreciative of our volunteers who hosted Adoption Day events in their areas: Tracey Westbury, Jamie Thomas, Erica Knight, and Debbie Driesner. We also appreciate the High Desert Museum in central Oregon who sponsored an educational day for us at their facility. Over 425 animals were adopted in Adoption Day events across the nation!
- National Public Lands Day saw the Harney County High Desert Wheelers joining the BLM in cleaning and improving the Radar Hill Off-Highway Vehicle Area. And the Oregon Natural Desert Association joined us at Steens Mountain for 4 days of fence removal. Thanks to all our volunteers! Un Up the Mountain: A record number of athletes participated in the Steens Rim Run & Walk on August 1 at beautiful Steens Mountain. See steensrimrun.com for results and photos!

[Photo of a Burro]

Learn About Adoption Today!

Coos Bay, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay

- Coos Bay celebrated its 16th annual National Public Lands Day with over 100 volunteers at the New River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) on Saturday, October 3. Volunteers piled shorepine and other vegetation for burning later this fall. They also pulled noxious weeds. These efforts helped the District restore meadow habitat at the ACEC.

- Over 2,500 kids participated in the 13th Annual Tsalila Festival in Reedsport. Students from southern Oregon area schools learned about watershed health, Native American tribes, forestry, renewable energy and other topics during the three day interagency educational event.
- Two separate projects are underway to restore stream habitat. Working with the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers and Roseburg Resources, Coos Bay restored Lutsinger Creek by placing 215 logs and three boulder wiers along three miles of the stream. In another project, numerous Federal, state, and private partners teamed with the BLM, to place 400 logs in over five stream miles in the North Fork Coquille fifth field watershed. These projects aim to improve habitat for Coho, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and other aquatic species.

[Photo of Youths Learning About Nature]

2,500 kids were enrapt to learn about nature at the Tsalila Fest!

Eugene, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/eugene

- Eugene has entered into a partnership with several local agencies and organizations to mobilize the community in an effort to get kids into nature. Partners hosted the second annual “Play in the Rain Day” event on November 7th with around 500 children participating. The BLM featured an interactive exhibit focused on map reading and fire prevention. Partners working with the BLM include; Northwest Youth Corps, U.S. Forest Service, Willamette Resources Education Network and Friends of Buford Park/Mt. Pisgah.
- The district also completed several successful prescribed burns at the West Eugene Wetlands this fall. More than 140 acres were treated as part of the management plan to address invasive plants in the unique wetland habitat. Key partners included the Corps of Engineers and the City of Eugene.

[Photo of Youths Volunteering Outdoors]

Youth in Nature!

Lakeview, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview

- Lakeview’s Aquatic Habitat Improvement Project benefits local species along a three-mile section of Spencer Creek near Keno, Oregon. Fifty-four structures created from over 220 logs were placed into the stream to restore its natural sinuosity, channel complexity and gravel accumulations. These improvements promise to enhance the creek’s aquatic habitat and, subsequently, to increase populations and distribution of aquatic species. The Klamath River redband trout, Klamath small-scale sucker, and Pacific giant salamander should all benefit from this coordinated effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, JWTR, and BLM’s Klamath Falls Resource Area. And Columbia Helicopters Incorporated, a leading expert on stream restoration in the Pacific Northwest, were contracted to install the log structures using a Boeing 234 helicopter.

- Master Pumpkin Carvers came together to help the needy during a Fundraiser for the 2009 Combined Federal Campaign. On October 20, eight employees entered their creations in a competition judged by their fellow coworkers with the ultimate goal to raise money for charity. Cathy Lindsey took first place with her jovial-faced jack o'lantern, Ian Williamson came in second with his Service First etchings, and Sue LaCroix placed third with her artistic rendering of the harvest season. Decorated pumpkins were auctioned off to the highest bidder at the end of the event generating needed funds for charitable organizations.

[Photo of a Helicopter Flying High Above Oregon Forests]

Helos Help the BLM

[Photo of BLM Employees and their Creative Halloween Pumpkin]

Lakeview shows off artistic pumpkins for charity!

Medford, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/medford

- The Medford District recently accomplished a major milestone by providing education and outreach to over 25,000 people. And its partnerships with local schools and organizations helped the BLM's Table Rocks Educational Program provide environmental education to over 3,500 elementary age students!

Continues on next page

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Prineville, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/Prineville

- The Crook County School District superintendent and board of directors recognized Prineville District recreation planner Tom Mottl for being instrumental in the success of the Lower Crooked Wild & Scenic River Natural Resource Education Program. In the School District's letter to Tom they wrote that he helped ensure efforts to "sustain a successful applied science program." Nicely done!
- The Oregon Paleo Lands Institute (OPLI) held a grand opening of the new Field Center in the town of Fossil. The Center will protect, promote, and educate people about Oregon's ancient and living landscapes through hands-on, regionally-based exhibits, while connecting rural communities to the land. In 2005, an almost complete plesiosaur fossil specimen was found on BLM land.

[Illustration of a Plesiosaur]

Part of the Plesiosaur exhibit!

Roseburg, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg

- The Roseburg District burned an additional 436 acres on the North Bank Ranch this fall. Treatment areas included two burn units and three Columbian white-tailed deer forage plots. The BLM partnered with the Douglas Forest Protective Association, who assisted with lighting, dozer line installation, site

rehabilitation, and other logistical support. And other than a couple of cases of poison oak, all work was accomplished with a perfect safety record!

- Roseburg Employees also partnered with the general public on two National Public Lands Day events in September. The clean-up in Cow Creek removed 140 cubic feet of trash including a Maytag cookstove, a box car coupler, and old dishwasher parts. Field Manager Ralph Thomas reported that he found half a dollar. (Too bad for Ralph it was a half of a paper dollar!) Then at Red Top Pond, 20 volunteers disposed of over 300 pounds of trash, brushed more than 1/3 mile of trail, installed, sanded, and stained a picnic table, and removed an acre of Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry from around the entire perimeter of Red Top Pond.

[Photo of Youths Helping Out in the Forest]

Out in the Field!

Salem, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/salem

- Cascades Pacific Resources Conservation & Development (CPRC&D) just named Salem BLM Botanist Claire Hibler, 2009 Partner of the Year! Claire assisted CPRC&D in bringing together potential partners to help them continue their operations in the face of funding challenges. And it's a great cause as CPRC&D works with citizens of rural communities in nearby counties to enhance their quality of life through social, economic, and environmental improvements. Way to go, Claire!
- Salem is also pleased to announce that the AmeriCorps "Hoopa Tribal Civilian Community Corps" based in Hoopa, California recently spent three weeks clearing roads and trails, removing non-native ivy, and cutting and stacking wood at the BLM locations in the district such as Valley of the Giants, the Alsea Falls Recreation Site, and the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area. While in the woods, Salem BLM Botanist Ron Exetor taught crew members how to identify different types of plants, ferns, trees, and moss. Just a fantastic experience for everyone!

[Photo of Plants Being Studied]

A Botanist's Work!

Spokane, Washington: blm.gov/or/districts/spokane

- The Spokane District congratulates Nick Teague, a BLM outdoor recreation planner in the San Juan Islands, for his nomination for the Silver Excellence in Interpretation or Environmental Education Award! Nick has been nominated for his work in fostering cohesive, citizen-based stewardship in the San Juan Islands and in helping to develop the San Juan Islands Experiential Education Outdoor Classroom for island youth. Great job, Nick!
- Spokane also recently hosted two National Public Lands Day events with volunteers lending a helping hand in replacing fences, building horse corrals, performing trail maintenance, and helping pick up litter at the Douglas Creek Canyon and Escure Ranch Recreation Areas. At Douglas Creek Canyon, volunteers

enjoyed a break in the work with a presentation by Diane Priebe, Recreation Planner with the Wenatchee Field Office, about the railroad and pioneer history of the area.

[Photo of the San Juan Islands in BLM's Spokane District]

Beautiful San Juan Islands in Washington State

Vale, Oregon: blm.gov/or/districts/vale

- Over Labor Day weekend, 30 cavers from the Gem State Grotto in Idaho and the Oregon High Desert Grotto in central Oregon joined up with Jordan Assistant Field Manager Jill Silvey, Malheur Wildlife Biologist Michele Caviness, and Jordan Recreation Technician Ken Siegrist for a descent down into the Saddle Butte Lava Flow. There they conducted cave and bat inventories completing over seven miles of the lava flow!
- As part of the 10 year Statewide Bat Inventory, Malheur Wildlife Biologist Michele Caviness and wildlife student Heather Beeler were assisted by seasonal employees and volunteers alike to conduct bat inventories in established areas on the Vale District. No doubt it was just in time for Halloween!

[Photo of a Climber in a Cave]

A Descent into Caves!

[Photo of Road Sign Star]

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

Your Oregon & Washington BLM Districts

The Once and Future River

It's a fiercely wild river – the only one in the lower 48 states to claim a Wild & Scenic designation along its entire path. Its waters become especially feral when provoked by winter storm and spring snowmelt...

By Sir Ethan Schowalter-Hay

This is the Salmon River. And if you travel an hour's drive from Portland, you'll find it packed with stories of rock, water, fish, and people – all passing through dimensions of time across every foot of current.

And though it's no stranger to visitors, the Salmon River has cloaked itself in dramatic scenery befitting its nature: from volcanic rock to frozen ice, from lava canyons to cold jungles. Anadromous fish return from the sea to spawn in its rapids; elk thump shadowed woodlands alongside massive waterfalls. Hikers tread next to this giant that's no stranger to the company of foot-bound travel. And motorists whiz past on the Mount Hood Scenic Byway, shadowing the phantom route of 19th-century wagoners who came before them. Now please join me on a river trip that begins, of all places, at the top of a volcano.

Woods Run Deep

The Salmon River is birthed by cold, sediment-frothed rivulets drawn off Palmer Glacier onto Oregon's greatest volcano from Tygh Valley to the Willamette lowland: Mount Hood. Careening due south down Hood's volcanic slopes, the Salmon arcs northwestward for the Sandy River which accepts its waters at the small community of Brightwood before carrying them to the mighty Columbia. In all it's a 33-mile journey from ice-field to mouth, during which the river drops some 6,000 feet.

Three miles from the Sandy – before taking a few final, proud meanders – the Salmon flows past the Wildwood Recreation Site, a 550-acre area maintained by the BLM where visitors can sit on the Salmon's banks and wander its shady forest and immerse themselves in all its richness. Further, Wildwood pays homage to the river's power through a series of fascinating interpretive trails, beautiful picnic grounds, and open sports fields. From the Wildwood Recreation Site, the waters then gain access to the rugged Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness to the south where the Boulder Ridge Trail climbs upwards to a summit some four thousand feet up Huckleberry Mountain, one of Oregon's great wilderness landmarks.

River's Power to Unite

If you can, I highly recommend taking the Wetland Boardwalk Trail into what is a beaver-flooded backwater between the Salmon River and one of its tributaries, Sixes Creek. In late winter and spring, skunk cabbage flares yellow; in winter, the willow and alder form skeleton thickets. Great ponderous

blue herons flap hunch-backed, announcing pleasure and annoyance alike through their shamelessly raucous squawks. This sound of pure wildness – of mystery – is a good one to hear, to overtake our senses in a Cascade wetland located not far from the urban horns of the cars littering downtown Portland, Oregon.

Along this lower course, the Salmon hugs a north-facing foot at the steep slopes of the Western Cascades. Bottomland sloughs of marsh marigold, wood duck, and red-legged frog are framed by blue-green knife ridges rising steeply with rhododendron groves, pumas, and subalpine fir. It's a stark contrast of landscapes.

Such is an example of how our rivers unite such divergent scenes and bring a fierce, highland spirit down to gentle lowland vistas filled with bits and pieces of every corner of the watersheds they drain and move.

An Ecological Journey

For more exploration of Salmon River ecology, the BLM's Wildwood Cascade Streamwatch Trail brings us on a rambling path through a riverside forest of Douglas-fir, red cedar, big-leaf and vine maple, and red alder – all across a bed of sword fern, oxalis, Cascade mahonia, salal, trillium, and other herbs and shrubs.

A unique underwater viewing shelter affords an intimate look into one of the Salmon's tributaries. These feeder channels flood more slowly and less violently than the river itself, attracting spawning salmonids and their tiny fingerlings. Depending on the time of year, you might spy on gentle steelhead, Chinook, or cohos shrouded beneath the shaded stream pools. Alders that canopy these streams loose nitrogen-rich leaves upon their surface, which are fed upon by the aquatic insects that in turn nourish the growing fish. Truly an ecological marvel.

Do you know how many wild and scenic rivers the BLM manages in Oregon & Washington? Check out the latest edition of BLM Facts to see them all!

<http://www.wwes.blm.gov/or/onlineservices/orblmfacts.php>

[Photo of Mount Hood]

[Photo of the Salmon River]

[Map of the State of Oregon Highlighting Portland and the Salmon River]

On warm summer afternoons, the Salmon invites its special guests to wade and swim – at sites that can be downright bucolic between whispering cottonwoods and the chattering of its ever flow.

The Ol' Swimmin' Hole

But never forget that upriver – not so many miles away after all – the Salmon serves as conduit between a violent, black-rock canyon cleft through a heavy and brooding temperate rainforest. Great waterfalls serve to stagger and gentle its course: Stein Falls, Split Falls, Little Niagara Falls, Vanishing Falls,

Frustration Falls, and then, aptly, Final Falls, a nearly 80-foot plunge that defiantly gates the upper Salmon from the salt water sea life. With a chasm so rugged, torrents so precipitous – extreme kayakers speak of the Salmon River Gorge in tones of hushed reverence.

Between Churn & Bedrock

Moss-walled defile marks a confrontation between the Salmon's relentless churn and the Western Cascades' bedrock. A grand view of this never-ending battle is gained by hiking from the West Salmon Trailhead south of Highway 26 and upstream from the Green Canyon Campground. For two miles you'll stroll a fairly level path through magnificent old-growth alongside the riverbanks. Barrel-trunked Douglas-fir, western hemlock, and red cedar – with big-leaf maple, red alder, and black cottonwood interspersed – shadow an understory of devil's club, salal, and vine maple.

Past Rolling Riffle Camp, you'll pull away from the river and make a switchback up the slopes of the gorge. Some 3.5 miles in, a southern prospect opens up to reveal the gaping, heavily-timbered canyon, scarred here and there with basalt cliffs. The Salmon churns far below, barely visible, and the roar of unseen Frustration and Final falls can be discerned even in low flow.

Well upstream, the Salmon tumbles through a headwaters gorge, excavated in Mount Hood's volcanic pumice, ash, and mudflow outwash south of Palmer Glacier. Below that and between the upper and lower canyons, the river meanders through a series of marshy meadows in a mudflow basin. These high-elevation flats, sporting sedges, isolated tree groves, shrub thickets, and nesting sandhill cranes serve to constitute a unique ecosystem in this portion of the Cascades.

A Long and Winding History

In all this appreciation of natural wonderment, don't forget that this river shoulders much human history too. A number of Native American cultures have long lived in and used this region. A historic campsite identified by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs lies to the near east of Wildwood on the Salmon's banks. Tribal travel routes included a probable path around the southern slopes of Mount Hood and across the upper Salmon which is the likely precursor to the Barlow Road of the Oregon Trail – as well as the eventual Oregon Highway 26.

Early Oregon pioneer Samuel K. Barlow's party explored this leg of the Salmon in 1845 while seeking an alternative to the harrowing boat ride through the Columbia River Gorge. Their cross-country option swung past the Salmon River close to the Highway 26/35 junction – near the Pioneer Woman's Grave, a good spot to observe vintage Barlow Road ruts while honoring the memory of those who died along this steep route.

The Once and Future River

Elk trails, footpaths, wagon roads, paved highways: the Salmon has seen them all materialize and fade along its banks. Meanwhile, with such special resolution as belongs to moving water, the river has continued its march from glacier to parent stream and back – all convinced that the windswept toe of the Palmer Glacier must be carried out where it may drain into the Pacific Ocean.

Back on the Salmon River, a fish once babied by quiet side streams may be easily swept along to the ocean where it must then someday fight its way back, against currents, to return to the Salmon's nursery beds. A story of there and back again. Such are the old and immutable ways of the river.

The BLM's Wildwood Recreation Site is a day-use facility nestled in the forested foothills of the Cascade Mountains along the spectacular Wild and Scenic Salmon River about 40 miles east of Portland. This 550-acre forest park features Cascade Streamwatch and Wetland Boardwalk interpretive trails and offers access to the pristine Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness. Wildwood also has group and family picnic sites, a playground, and a ball field. To learn more about Wildwood, the Salmon River, or any of the other spectacular recreation opportunities on public lands, please visit :
<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/index.php>

[Photo of Mount Hood]

[Photo of the Salmon River]

[Photo of the BLM's Sign at the Wildwood Recreation Site]

Dispatches

The BLM's Roseburg District is Generous...Naturally!

As Reported by Bob Hall, Roseburg District

Since my first day in Roseburg, I've been steadily and consistently amazed by the creativity, generosity, and caring nature of Roseburg District employees.

Having worked in several districts in a number of western states, I've interacted with a lot of great BLM staffers and some incredibly productive offices. But I've never been anything but overjoyed by the philanthropic nature that seems to define the BLM's Roseburg District and its employees. Let me share just a few of the many examples....

The Combined Federal Campaign

The Roseburg District takes pride in its participation! Last year, 140 employees raised a record \$30,992 for local and nationwide Federally-approved charities. The Roseburg employee auction is always its biggest fundraiser with employees donating services such as rafting, fishing and crabbing trips, dinners, homemade foods, handcrafted gifts, and gift certificates to local businesses. And since 1980, Roseburg has raised nearly \$400,000. In fact, two years ago, the BLM was recognized for its efforts with a prestigious Business Building Community award from the United Way.

The Roseburg BLM "Brickyard"

In addition to donating their personal time, energy, and money, the Roseburg staff also gives the gift of life. Over the past 12 years, BLM employees have donated more than 1,870 units of blood. And earlier this year they celebrated their 100th Donor Express. Due to these incredible figures, the BLM was encouraged to participate in the national "Racing Team" competition. And now the Roseburg District is part of a unique partnership that includes the Red Cross, 3M, and NASCAR in an online nationwide program designed to encourage additional blood donations. And out of more than 1,000 participating teams across the country, the Roseburg blood donor team known as the "Brickyard" placed seventh nationally in 2008.

Camp Millennium

In the summer of 2009, Roseburg District runners joined forces with other community advocates for Camp Millennium, a summer camp for kids addressing the challenge of cancer. Three BLM relay teams participated with each individual running 12 to 14 miles to cover a 67-mile course. And while the runners got to enjoy the exercise, the fresh air, and the beautiful scenery, Camp Millennium received strong financial support of the racers' sponsors.

For a final example, I will simply quote a recent letter from the Salvation Army to the editor of the News Review, Roseburg's daily newspaper:

"The Salvation Army extends a special thanks to the Bureau of Land Management. Once again it has supported us, establishing its own food drive, collecting more than 600 pounds of food."

The Roseburg District is a beautiful place to work. So much gets done week in and week out. All of which is a reflection of the employees and their commitment to their jobs as well as to their community and each other.

[Photo of a BLM Volunteer Donating Blood at the Red Cross]

[Photo of Two Runners]

[Photo of a Boy Scout]

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NWP: Okay, now the other direction. How has the BLM enhanced your career in the Corps?

BH: In the beginning of my USMCR career, the field skills (physical stamina, map reading, land navigation, and using a hand compass) that I developed as a BLM Forester were a tremendous benefit to me. As my military career progressed, the patience that I learned as a BLM employee helped me to be a more successful leader of Marines.

NWP: What were some of your most interesting overseas deployments?

BH: I spent two and a half years in Okinawa, Japan where, on one deployment, I provided support for the 40th Commemorative Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. In the early 1990s I participated in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, and Operation Provide Comfort during the first Gulf War. I also served two tours of duty in Iraq from 2002 to 2005. In all cases I saw things that I will always remember, worked with outstanding people, and learned about different cultures.

NWP: What will you miss most upon retiring from the Corps?

BH: Leading Marines.

NWP: Can any of the principles you've learned from the Corps apply to our mission in the BLM?

BH: Lieutenant General John Sattler (my Commanding General during the second tour of duty in Iraq) had the following saying: "Who did you teach today? What did you learn today? When did you laugh today? Who did you make laugh today?" If I can give a positive response to these four questions when I hit the rack at night, it's been a good day!

Colonel Hatton was honored by the Marine Corps at a formal retirement ceremony on November 14, 2009 at the same unit where he began his military career in 1986.

They Love Horses, Don't They?

Where Pulses Thunder & Wild Hearts Meet

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Telling their Story

The teen trainers were able to decorate their stalls with mementos they felt helped tell their story of this incredible experience. And even though the youths didn't know what to expect when they began the program, they overcame any fear of the unknown or doubt in their abilities – turning questions into confidence, knowledge, and understanding.

And while each trainer took a different, and personal, hero's journey to reach their goal, they all achieved very similar outcomes. They took pride in what they accomplished. They made new friends with fellow trainers. And they formed an unconditional bond with a wild horse that can never be broken.

The BLM's Corral Facility in Burns, Oregon has approximately 300 horses in their care year-round. If you would like to know more about these amazing animals and how to adopt one, you can contact the Burns BLM office at (541) 573-4400 to chat with one of our dedicated Wild Horse and Burro staff. And please visit us online at: blm.gov/or/resources/whb/index.php

How many wild horses were adopted from the Oregon & Washington BLM in 2008? That answer – along with great photos and maps – can be found in BLM Facts!
<http://www.wwes.blm.gov/or/onlineservices/orblmfacts.php>

[Photo of a BLM Interpretive Actor Wearing 1800s Clothing]

David Jason, stage and television actor, has just wrapped his latest performance as “Probably” George Malvern, a city boy turned mountain man who lived an exciting, if too short, life in the 1800s American West. Carrying little more than his “possibles bag” full of every possible staple he might need on his travels, “Probably” George struck out from the relative safety of his hometown to brave a wild, unpredictable future hoping to find his fortune – as well as a place where he could settle down.

Mr. Jason knows this character very well. He created him. Mostly.

“Probably” George Malvern is based on in-depth historical research as well as Jason’s personal experiences gathered along his own journey.

Before becoming an Interpreter for the BLM’s National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC) in eastern Oregon, David Jason spent decades acting in popular vehicles ranging from famed soap opera *One Life to Live* to the 1965 film *The Great Sioux Massacre* along with Darren McGavin (an actor most recognizable as the father in the film *A Christmas Story*) to 1979 television movie of the week *Walking Through the Fire* starring Emmy-winner Swoosie Kurtz.

Now David Jason is lending his prodigious talents to the BLM’s NHOTIC, which delivers a full educational experience of living history, interpretive programs, multi-media presentations, special events, and more than four miles of interpretive trails.

To this character, Jason has brought his own travels and a myriad of similar life experiences. Between acting gigs, Jason has also worked as a ranger for both the U.S. Forest Service and the Park Service.

But now David Jason comes full circle, rejoining his craft as a thespian to transmit the experience of American life in the West from 150 years ago.

At the end, the crowd stands on its feet cheering for both “Probably” George Malvern and David Jason. What’s his next act?

“Well, I’ve been trying to settle down for the last 25 years,” says Jason. And from the overwhelming applause at his performances, it seems he’s found his audience at last.

See David perform at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Schedules and information online at: blm.gov/or/oregontrail

“Change is one of the themes for professional actors.” – David Jason