

Northwest Passage Volume 2, Issue 3 – Summer 2010

Cover

Northwest Passage

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BLM Oregon/Washington

The Bureau of Land Management Magazine for Oregon and Washington

Summer 2010

Take It Outside!

Celebrating America's Great Outdoors

The BLM's Summer Vacation Checklist

Northwest Youth Esprit De Corps

A Good Time for Badlands

The Fuzzy Math of Moss

District Round-Up

Ride Green!

[Photo of Mountain Biker in the Forest]

BLM Recycles

[Image of Recycling Symbol]

[Image of BLM Logo]

Op-“Ed”

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

[Stylized Photo of a Spring Basin Wilderness Area]

Original photo of the newly designated Spring Basin Wilderness by David Garcia

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

Sunshine and blue skies! It doesn’t matter if you’re a native resident or an esteemed visitor to the Pacific Northwest. After our recent record-breaking rainy spring, we’re all chomping at the bit to get outside. And I’ve got three reasons why you should join us on America’s public lands!

First, President Obama announced his America’s Great Outdoors initiative. His goal is for all Americans to come closer together as a nation by enjoying outdoor activities while developing new ways to conserve our natural resources. In this issue of Northwest Passage, we feature a story about a brand new set of sustainable mountain biking trails the BLM created near Portland through partnerships with members of our local communities. I believe this is exactly the kind of outreach President Obama hopes to inspire.

Second, it’s the season for families to head out on vacation. And we’ve got a great Summer Checklist. Now, we all know budgets are tight these days. And trips need to be affordable. So why not travel to a beautiful location that’s not much further than your own backyard? Throughout Oregon and Washington, we’re highlighting a few of our finest recreation sites closest to you. We sure hope you’ll check out our list and visit a few spots near your community!

And last but not least, the BLM is very proud to announce four new wilderness areas in Oregon: the Oregon Badlands, Spring Basin, and White River in Prineville; and Soda Mountain near Medford. These wilderness areas are the result of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. With our partners, we will protect and conserve these special lands to ensure their natural beauty and resources are preserved for generations to come.

Want a few more reasons? Just check out the rest of Northwest Passage. We believe everyone will find something to inspire them to visit America's Great Outdoors this summer!

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

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Take it Outside!

Volume 2, Issue 3

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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]

[Photo of Mountain Biker in the Forest]

When Zach Jarrett contacted Northwest Passage with a story idea about the BLM's newly-built mountain bike trails near Portland, we were intrigued. But when he showed us Anna Laxague's photos? Oh yeah... Now we're talking magazine cover.

Because not only are Anna's amazing action shots a breathtaking example of the kind of recreation available on our nation's public lands, they're also a perfect complement to President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative.

President Obama recently signed a Memorandum to promote this very kind of innovative community-level action to conserve our land while simultaneously finding new ways to reconnect Americans to the outdoors. In fact, the President's goal sounds very much like Zach's story on the BLM's Sandy Ridge Trail System, one of the most innovative community-based mountain biking trails of its kind.

So whether you're interested in riding the trails, joining a local hiking group, or fishing your favorite river, we hope this issue of Northwest Passage will inspire you to get outdoors and connect with your public lands – and with your fellow Americans. See you out there!

Our Contributors

[Six Photos of Contributors on Image of a Cork Board – Gavin Hoban & Bodie, Zach Jarrett, Mark Wilkening, Anna Laxague, Trish Hogervorst, Jeff Clark]

1: From Fog City to Fog Country! Growing up in the inner city of San Francisco, writer Gavin Hoban considered himself anything but “outdoorsy.” But a high school community service project helped him explore Golden Gate Recreation Area, and he was hooked! Fittingly, Gavin’s inaugural article in Northwest Passage (Page 6) is a travelogue about a lone winter’s hike through the Badlands – one of the Prineville District’s newest Wilderness Areas! In a region known for its spooky landscapes, Gavin wisely brought along his lucky lab Bodie. And when this recreation and wilderness expert isn’t exploring the Tolkien-esque Mordor of Oregon, Gavin can be found spending time with his family, and going on mountain biking trips (see more this issue).

2: Zach Jarrett, outdoor recreation planner for the BLM’s Salem District, takes his first ride down the Northwest Passage. In addition to penning our cover story (Page 10), Zach recently traveled to a mountain biking conference in Augusta, Georgia, where he spoke to mountain biking enthusiasts from around the globe about effective ways to work with Federal land managers to design and build their own mountain bike trails. (And not to start a rivalry or anything, but we hear Anna can take you on the hills!)

3: Wilkie! Can this really be your first foray into the world of Northwest Passage? Wow! (And lucky us.) Mark Wilkening, public affairs guru for the BLM’s Vale District, single-handedly carries more BLM experience than our entire staff. So when we wanted to feature must-see recreation spots on BLM lands (Page 24), we knew we needed Mark’s sage, Gandalf-like advice! And there’s none better than Wilkie to help our newest writer.... (hint: see #6)

4: Anna Laxague is adventure. Not only did she provide this issue’s cover and photos of mountain biking (Page 10), she’s dedicated her life to building and sustaining a better outdoors experience for the public. As a guide and outdoors instructor, Anna has taught mountain biking, climbing, skiing, kayaking and rafting. (whew!) Plus she’s a committed volunteer, logging hundreds of hours building trails and performing outreach with a host of public agencies. Now after two years traveling around the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean islands teaching trailbuilding and working with land managers, she serves as Pacific Region Director of the International Mountain Bicycling Association. Ride on, Anna!

5: Another esteemed visitor us from the BLM’s Salem District is Trish Hogervorst. Making her triumphant return to Northwest Passage, Trish brings us news from BLM botanists who are taking a closer look at some of our smallest forest residents: mosses and lichens (Page 8). Lest you think they’re any less important than massive trees or gorgeous roses, read on to learn how these hobbits of the

forest world provide crucial nutrients to sustain the health of our entire forest ecosystem. Good things do come in small packages!

6: ...who also happens to be the BLM's newest public affairs specialist, Jeff Clark! In the spirit of eco-friendly practices, Jeff joined Mark to graciously put his "green" eye (groan...) on some of the BLM finest spots to visit this summer (Page 24). Jeff joins the BLM with years of Federal experience – plus a fabulous nickname he's actively trying to lose. So...yeah. We promised we wouldn't give it away. Nope. Not gonna say it. [grits teeth] okayican'thelpmyself! "Sugar Bear!" Sorry, Jeff. But, it could be worse. You could be "Cupcake."

Dispatches

Fuzzy Math

BLM botanists learn how the smallest mosses and lichens may be crucial to our equation for healthy forests.

Story by Trish Hogervorst

Photos by John Craig & Scott Batchelar

[Photo of Moss]

[Two Photos of Lichens on Wooden Logs]

After one of the wettest springs in the history of the Pacific Northwest, hikers, bikers, horseback riders, and sightseers will strike out across back country roads and trails to enjoy their public lands.

And while many will stop to admire majestic old growth trees arching to blue skies next to gorgeous technicolor flowers, how many will also take the time to study our less heralded mosses and lichens?

Wait. What?

First, let's review. You might be thinking, "Um...I know I know this. But what's a moss again?" Right? No problem. Perhaps a bit too simply, a moss is a plant with a stem and leaf but no eye-catching flower. Not the best for a Valentine's Day bouquet. But a necessary part of the Northwest ecosystem all the same.

And a lichen? Well, they're practically the cyborg of the botany world. Lichens are actually a fungus growing symbiotically with algae. And unlike our fuzzy mosses, lichens tend to be found on rocks and tree trunks with a tell-tale crusty appearance. Also not carried by your local florist. But they're tough, man. Yeah. Take that, tulips!

And while many folks this summer may find admiring a blooming flower to come more, well, "naturally," only a few will examine individual mosses and lichens as closely as some BLM botanists who recently spent a week at the BLM's Salem District studying with two foremost experts on the topic.

The Mossman Cometh

Enter Dr. David Watner of the University of Oregon and president of the Northwest Botanical Institute and Roxy Hastings, curator of Botany at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton, Alberta. Dr. Watner and Ms. Hastings were invited by BLM botanist Ron Exeter to teach a course on the finer points of the

aforementioned mosses and lichens. Their four-day class took place entirely in a makeshift lab at the Salem BLM office as their students studied moss variations under microscopes.

Fortunately for the BLM, Dr. Wagner is the western United States expert on *Racomitrium* mosses. (Say that five times fast.) “*Racomitrium* mosses live on rocks from sea level to alpine slopes,” said Dr. Wagner. “There are 20 *Racomitrium* species in Oregon. Some are common, others are very rare. Mosses have the ion exchange capacity of scavenging minerals from rainfall and rare elements from the atmosphere that other plants can’t extract. This makes them a keystone in the growth of Northwest forests.”

So mosses pull necessary natural deposits from the rain and local atmosphere and put them into the ecosystem. Yes. And without these scavenger mosses? The forest might not receive its necessary rations to thrive and survive.

May I see your library card?

This kind of in-depth study of mosses is relatively new. After the Federal Northwest Forest Plan, Dr. Wagner spent countless hours inventorying BLM lands to determine what mosses inhabit the diverse landscapes of the Pacific Northwest. He collected thousands of samples of moss and even set up moss sample “libraries” for students to study. Frequently, the variation between one species of *Racomitrium* and another may be nothing more than the thickness of a cell wall or the symmetry between cells.

Not to be upstaged, Roxy Hastings is the North American expert on *Grimmia* mosses. These mosses are generally found on acidic rocks east of the Cascades – most frequently in the Rocky Mountains. Ms. Hastings began her studies in zoology and geography before focusing on botany. Her knowledge of geography has been particularly helpful in cataloging locations of moss species. By identifying acidic rocks in ancient North American sea beds, Ms. Hastings is able to pinpoint where certain species of *Grimmia* are most likely to be concentrated based on their relationship to the local environment. And just like Dr. Wagner, Ms. Hastings is learning that mosses are a crucial member of their local environment – as well as necessary to the ongoing health of that ecosystem.

And a box of chocolates...

So the next time you explore BLM lands, or perhaps even your own back yard, maybe take a few moments to study the vast array of mosses and lichens clinging to rocks and trees. Each new area can deliver a different species – and a single rock or log may contain a colorful bouquet of diverse mosses and lichens. A bouquet? Heck, maybe mosses and lichens will someday be popular enough for Valentine’s Day after all...

## Take It Outside

[Photo from the Historic Oregon Trail]

### The BLM's Summer Checklist

What the heck is that big yellow orb floating in sky? A UFO? The return of Quetzalcoatl? To be honest, it does feel kinda hot so maybe the spaceship engines are getting closer? Or perhaps 2012 is starting early? (Someone in our office called it the "sun," but we forget what that means...) Either way, it makes us want to get outdoors!

And to celebrate the triumphant return of plaid Bermuda shorts, grilled hot dogs by the lake, and rafting trips down a mountain river, the BLM humbly submits our "Summer Vacation Checklist."

We've provided a diverse sample of beautiful sites close to where you live. And because we're all keeping a closer eye on our wallets these days, these local public lands are a perfectly inexpensive option for your next family vacation.

Okay, enough talk. The sun's out and times a' wasting.

Ready? We've got three months. Go!

Turn the Page for Our Summer List!

1) Burns: Did you know you can safely drive to the very top of the almost 10,000 foot high Steens Mountain? Point your family truckster up the north side of the loop to reach a crest that allows visitors awe-inspiring views that virtually reach the coast on a clear day. Make sure you bring your camera because you might just run into a herd of wild horses galloping across a meadow. And nearby are the Diamond Craters, volcanic features that look more like a Martian landscape than Oregon.

[Photo of Steens Mountain]

2) Coos Bay: Where else but the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area can you pull off the highway into easily designated pull-outs to witness impressive Roosevelt elk freely trotting along the (fenced) side of the road? You'll also be able to see (and photograph) coyotes, beavers, geese, and migrating ducks. Hint: Make sure you visit the on-site interpretive center for the best wildlife viewing opportunities.

[Photo of Elk at Dean Creek]

3) Eugene: The 17-mile, paved, multi-use path along the Row River Trail follows the now-abandoned Oregon Pacific & Eastern Railroad alongside the famously picaresque Row River. Here you can take hikes and bike rides, visit the Bohemia Mining Area featuring remnants of 1800s gold mines, and photo

the famous trestle bridge at Harms Park – location of the train scene from the movie, Stand By Me. Hint: Impress the locals by correctly pronouncing their trail. (“Row” rhymes with “cow.”)

[Photo of the Row River Trail]

4) Lakeview: Christmas in July?! Only if you’re an off-highway vehicle aficionado. Close to 9,000 thrilling acres await you at Christmas Valley Sand Dunes. And even if you’re into recreation of a less mechanical type, there’s also hiking, sightseeing, photography, and camping in an area largely comprised of ash and pumice deposited nearly 7,000 years ago during the eruption of Mount Mazama. And if you bring a pet, he or she will definitely get “Sandy Claws.” (groan...)

[Photo of an Off-Highway Vehicle Riding on the Dunes]

5) Medford: As you drift down the Rogue River, you’ll be surrounded by lush trees, impressive boulder-lined cliffs, and diverse wildlife. Plus be sure to stop by western author Zane Grey’s historic Rogue River Cabin.

[Photo of the Rogue River]

6) Prineville: An anglers’ delight! Bring your best fishing lures to tackle local smallmouth bass and steelhead at the John Day River. And when you’re done, sign up for one of the many thrilling floats down the river to end up at a family-friendly campground!

[Photo of John Day River]

7) Roseburg: The BLM manages a lucky seven mile stretch of the North Umpqua River where rafting enthusiasts shoot whitewaters amidst virgin stands of Douglas-fir, sugar pine, and hemlock trees. And even if you’re not much for water sports, the Rogue-Umpqua Scenic Byway runs parallel to the river allowing you the same glorious views and access to fishing, hiking, and watchable wildlife sites.

[Photo of the North Umpqua River]

8) Salem: Underneath the watchful eye of the historic Yaquina Head lighthouse (open to the public), you’ll find marine life aplenty! From wading into tide pools to witnessing the 45-foot long grey whales to the taking photos of the western gulls atop Yaquina’s bluffs, this area is an oceanic wonderland.

[Photo of Yaquina Head Lighthouse]

9) Spokane: Dunes! The Juniper Dunes tower 13 stories tall and four football fields wide awaiting the heartiest off-highway vehicle riders. And among the dunes stand some of the largest western juniper groves in the state of Washington. Bring a camera to snap photos of the famed Swainson’s hawks before taking a backpacking trip into the wilderness to set up camp.

[Photo of a Family at the Juniper Dunes]

10) Vale: Stand in a moment of time and rendezvous with history. At the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, you’ll stand shoulder to shoulder with interpretive actors who reenact the early

2,000-mile trek west. From covered wagons to cooking over an open fire, this indoor/outdoor museum boasts vivid artifacts, panoramas, and live theater sure to delight visitors of all ages.

[Photo of a Man in Pioneer Costume Standing Before a Covered Wagon at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center]

[Image of a Patch with the Words, "Family Camper"]

[Image of a Patch with the Words, "I'm A Camping Nut"]

[Map of the 10 BLM Districts in Oregon and Washington]

Learn more about BLM recreation & try our online search engine: [blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/](http://blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/)

Web-tastic!

[Photo of a Mountain Biker Riding a Forest Trail]

Story by Zach Jarrett

Photos by Anna Laxague

Blazing a New Oregon Trail

How the BLM and a group of mountain biking enthusiasts joined forces to create the first sustainable mountain bike path near Portland, Oregon.

Then: Traversing a vast swath of the North American continent from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean, the Oregon Trail has provided a vital overland route for nearly half a century. Settlers, ranchers, miners, and business folks began using the trail all the way back in 1841 to reach new opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. These explorers traveled by foot, over wagon trails, on horseback, and by boat, often taking up to six months to travel the grueling terrain.

Now: Fast forward to 2010, and the formidable route of yesteryear has been replaced by a whole new type of "Oregon Trail." A ribbon of dirt featuring bermed corners, roots, rocks, and other technical features. The transportation of the past? A 1,300-pound prairie schooner loaded down with everything imaginable including your children. Transportation of the present? A 25-pound, 27-speed carbon fiber mountain bike capable of covering 80 miles a day and transforming a simple trail into a roller coaster through the woods.

Lewis and Clark never imagined a trail quite like this.

[Photo of a Mountain Biking Rounding a High Turn]

Transportation of the Present?

A 25-pound, 27-speed carbon fiber mountain bike capable of covering 80 miles a day and transforming a simple trail into a roller coaster through the woods.

In 2009, the Bureau of Land Management's Salem District finished a planning effort that covered approximately 15,000 acres of land within the Sandy River Basin located between Portland and Mt. Hood. A key piece of this plan was to address the growing demand for outdoor recreation. With the urban center of Portland sitting just over 30 minutes from the Sandy River Basin, the BLM saw the opportunity to improve recreational opportunities for a large population. Hundreds of public comments were received during a three-year planning process indicating that there is a general lack of mountain bike opportunities on the Western slopes of Mount Hood and virtually no trails for mountain bikers that are less than a 45-minute drive from the Portland metro area. A series of open houses, public meetings and design sessions yielded concrete recommendations: New non-motorized trails are needed along the Mount Hood Scenic Byway and improved river access is needed along the Sandy River.

As the West was settled and metro areas became increasingly more populated, residents have looked to escape the hustle and bustle of city living for recreational activities close to home. People want to get

outside, clear their mind from unwanted stress, and, most importantly, have a little fun. No doubt about it, we've become settled. Isn't it time we reversed this process?

With final approval of the Sandy River Basin Integrated Management Plan in May 2009, the way was cleared to implement these recommendations. Last year, five miles of new non-motorized trails were completed within the Sandy Ridge Trail System. The system is part of a larger recreation area being developed in cooperation with Clackamas County that will provide river access, historic interpretation and high-quality mountain biking from a centralized location. More is on the way in 2010, with five to six additional miles scheduled for completion. Once completed, this project will offer mountain biking opportunities for all ability levels and riding styles. "Bring your 9-inch travel bike or your rigid single speed. Just be ready for a ripping good time," said Anna Laxague, Pacific Northwest Regional Director for the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA).

### Filling a Niche

The Sandy Ridge project has been strategically developed to proactively provide recreation opportunities that are appropriately located, built according to sustainable standards, and encompassing of progressive mountain bike trail design techniques. High visitor use numbers at the Sandy Ridge trails speak volumes about its popularity to bikers in the area and the high quality trail experience it provides. Laxague describes the riding experience in glowing terms. "A tasty ribbon of dirt flowing through an old-growth forest. The constant twists, trees, and booters hold the rider's attention. Short climbs can be blasted like on a pump track – maintain your speed and you'll find minimal need to pedal. I'm not sure I've ever been on a trail quite like this one. It's half resort area descending, half back-country single-track. Somebody pinch me."

Laxague isn't the only fan of this new opportunity. Over 1,400 visitors per month use the Hide and Seek trail, the first phase of trail construction completed within the Sandy Ridge project. The BLM estimates that approximately 2,200 visitors each month will utilize this system after the next phase of trail development is completed by the fall of 2010. Local businesses have already seen an increase in travel and tourism-related spending as recreationists flock to the communities of Sandy, Brightwood, Welches, and Wemme.

### Sharing the Land

The BLM is challenged with managing this area into the future. How can the agency provide a high quality experience that does not degrade the natural resources that these very experiences are dependent upon? Enter the BLM's partners. To create and maintain this trail system, the BLM has worked with a number of stakeholders and youth crews to alleviate the long term operations and maintenance costs by creating a trail-based community outreach that has fostered a grass roots approach to its management.

The Northwest Trail Alliance (NWTa) is the largest mountain bike trail advocacy group in the State of Oregon and an IMBA affiliated chapter. With over 250 active members, NWTa has signed an Adopt a Trail Agreement with the BLM to organize volunteer trail work parties, to provide oversight and

recommendations on necessary trail maintenance projects, and to distribute visitor use information. At this time, the NWTA has provided over 2,000 hours of volunteer support on the project.

While volunteer user groups and NWTA have been busy maintaining trails within the project area, a number of youth groups have been instrumental in new trail construction. In 2009 and 2010, over 10,000 hours of youth labor invested on the project. Members from Columbia River Environmental Youth Corps, Northwest Youth Corps (see more on page 26 of this issue - Ed.), Portland Youth Explorers, and the Urban League of Portland have participated in non-native invasive species removal, new trail construction, trail maintenance, and the installation of visitor signage.

### Exploring the Future

As rain drops give way to sunshine, Portlanders are primed and ready to explore some of the most innovative trails in the state. There's a buzz surrounding the Sandy Ridge Trail System that has reverberated throughout the cycling community. Thanks to strong partnerships, creative trail design, and a successful management plan, this area will delight future riders at every level of ability. So maybe it's time you grabbed a bike, embraced your inner explorer, and set out on a two-wheeled expedition of your own!

Hey! Ho! Let's Go!

### Getting There

Driving from the direction of Sandy, Oregon, head east on U.S. 26 for 11.4 miles. Turn left on the second turnoff for Sleepy Hollow Drive – right across from Windells Camp. Then take the second right onto East Barlow Trail Road. After one mile, look for a locked gate on your left and park. This is Homestead Road. Bike trails intersect with Homestead Road at about three miles up the paved road.

Or visit us online! [Blm.gov/or/resources/recreation](http://Blm.gov/or/resources/recreation)

[Photos of Mountain Bikers Riding Forest Trails]

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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](http://blm.gov/or/districts/burns)

- The Extreme Mustang Makeover held a very successful second debut at the Northwest Horse Fair and Expo in Albany, Oregon. A standing-room-only crowd cheered for all competition events and the adoption. Jasmine Lechner of Seal Rock, Oregon, and her mustang Princess Buttercup took first place. Vanessa Hanson of Dairy, Oregon, and her mustang Tuff E Nuff came in second and Gerry Cox of Colville, Washington, and his mustang Festus received third. And from the 24 mustangs available for adoption, 24 were adopted with one placed on the Trainer Incentive Program at an average of \$750 per horse. The high bid was \$2,650 for a gaited mare. Full results and coverage from the Mustang Makeover can be found online at: [www.extrememustangmakeover.com/northwestmakeover.php](http://www.extrememustangmakeover.com/northwestmakeover.php).

- Phase Two of the Steens Mountain Loop Road Reconstruction Project is set to begin this summer. The BLM will supervise major improvements along the 52-mile Loop Road over the next two years to improve access for visitors to the area. This reconstruction work is funded in part by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act with over \$2 million in funding so far allocated to this project.

[Photo of Steens Mountain]

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

- Welcome back to Coos Bay Ralph Thomas! Ralph joins the District as its new Associate District Manager. Ralph fills in behind Robin Estes who is now working as a program analyst on the BLM's Prineville District.

- After donating over 25,000 hours of his time at the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area over the past nine years, Coos Bay District volunteer Chuck Frazier was honored in Washington D.C. as a BLM “Making a Difference” volunteer award winner. Chuck received his award from BLM Director Bob Abbey. Congratulations Chuck...we couldn’t do it without you!

- Summer programs at the New River Area of Critical Environmental Concern are back! Join the BLM and special guest presenters to search for owls during a night hike, learn about wildlife photography, and study tiger beetles. Programs begin June 26 and run through Labor Day. Check the Coos Bay District website for schedule information.

[Photo of Coos Bay’s Superstar Volunteer Chuck Frazier]

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

- New faces! The Eugene District is very pleased to welcome Jason Cox as Eugene’s newest lead Law Enforcement Officer. Jason is joined by his canine partner, Rowdy. And with a communications degree from the University of Denver, Michael Mascari becomes the District’s Public Affairs Officer. Then swimming north from the San Joaquin Valley to the Willamette Valley is Mike Kinsey who has joined us as our fish biologist. And with 20 years of program management experience with the Forest Service, Marci Rider will take on the role of Assistant District Manager for Support Services. Please give them a warm cyberspace welcome. Or, better yet, stop by and introduce yourself!

Summer’s Here in Eugene!

[Photo of Youths on a Raft]

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

- State Director Ed Shepard and Associate State Director Mike Mottice made a special trip to southern Oregon to recognize employees of the Klamath Falls Resource Area for their contributions to the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement. During a special ceremony, individuals were acknowledged for: (1) successfully negotiating water storage goals that mitigate impacts to BLM-managed lands and retain their intended benefits and resources, (2) clarifying BLM requirements, (3) establishing interim measures for the management of the Klamath River Corridor until a final decision is made on dam removal, (4) ensuring the BLM’s voice is heard regarding dam infrastructure maintenance or disposal, and (5) negotiating a placeholder for the long-term management of the wild and scenic river corridor, including the potential for acquiring PacifiCorp lands. State Director Shepard presented an award to the Klamath Falls Resource Area in honor of these accomplishments. The inscription on the plaque read “Your historic achievement with the Klamath River Agreement creates partnership and progress for future generations.”

State Director Shepard Presents Klamath Fall’s Award!

[Photo of Ed Shepard Presenting Klamath Fall’s Award]

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

- The Medford District and the United Hunters and Sportsmen Association hosted a Free Fishing Day at Hyatt Lake on June 12. The BLM provided participants with rods, reels, and bait. Plus free boat rides were offered. Other activities included making salmon print t-shirts, free prize drawings, and free camping at the BLM's Hyatt Lake campground for the entire weekend. Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Assistant Manager Howard Hunter said, "We are hoping to get children to appreciate the outdoors and provide a fun family event." After a successful event, many folks were heard to say they'd be back - soon!

A youth enjoys free BLM fishing in Medford!

[Photo of a Youth Fishing]

Continues on next page

Continues from previous page

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

- The Prineville District hosted approximately 30 volunteers in the Maston area of the Cline Buttes Recreation Area thirty minutes north of Bend, Oregon. Volunteers were organized by Trinity Cycles in Redmond and by the Central Oregon Trails Alliance, a regional mountain bike trails advocacy group. The project was managed by BLM employees Greg Currie, Gavin Hoban, and Jim Beaupre. Several groups installed bulletin boards at the main entry points, fixed fences, and picked up trash and old fence wire. The Maston area is an extremely popular winter mountain bike destination for Central Oregon residents and tourists. The area is also popular with equestrians and hikers and is the largest trail use area located near the City of Redmond in Deschutes County. This volunteer project along with proposed fence construction and trailhead development will help turn this area into a premier mountain bike, equestrian, and hiking destination. The volunteerism illustrated at this event indicates the high degree of interest and demand for trail opportunities on BLM lands!

Cleaning up the Maston area!

[Photo of Volunteers Cleaning up Maston]

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

- The Roseburg District has won the 2010 Riparian Challenge Award - an award given to a BLM District or Field Office each year by the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. This award is given annually to honor excellence in riparian and watershed habitat management. This prestigious award recognized the extensive restoration and effectiveness monitoring efforts at the Wolf Creek Restoration Project. While large-scale restoration projects are quickly becoming the norm in western Oregon, the effectiveness monitoring work taking place in Wolf Creek set it apart as a special project.

- What weighs 604 pounds and fills up the back of a BLM pickup truck? The latest donations from the Salvation Army food drive in the Roseburg District, that's what! Donations are down in this tough economy so Roseburg District employees stepped up to the plate. In addition to the human food, nearly 100 pounds of pet food was also donated.

Award-Winning Watersheds!

[Photo of a BLM Scientist Working at a Riparian Site]

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

- Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site Volunteer Coordinator Khrystyl Best was awarded the BLM 2010 "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Award. In her role, Khrystyl assists in supervising a large number of volunteers and campground hosts at the developed recreation sites within the South Cascade Recreation Zone. Khrystyl coordinates check-in for campers, ensures campsites are ready, collects site fees and interagency passes, coordinates firewood sales, tracks visitor-use data, and serves as environmental education program lead and instructor for a number of outdoor classes at the park. On her own time, Khrystyl volunteers in the local community with the 4-H Program and local scout organizations. And she tutors local high school students in math. Thank you and great job, Khrystyl!
- Salem District Botanist Claire Hibler presented "Partnerships for Sustaining Native Plant Materials Programs: The Genesis of the Horning Native Plant Center" at the National Native Seed Conference at Snowbird, Utah. Claire's presentation focused on how the Salem District – in partnership with Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. along with other organizations – built the Native Plant Materials Development Program and, specifically, the Horning Native Plant Center. The BLM provided the facility and some funding to start the center, and Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. has served as the administrator. This presentation demonstrated to practitioners how they might craft a similar program in their own area.

Khrystyl is the Best!

[Photo of Khrystyl Best Receiving Her Award]

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

- The Spokane District bid a fond farewell to Mike Shannahan, the Spokane District's first Law Enforcement Ranger. Serving from 1991 to 2010, Ranger Shannahan arrived on the Spokane District during a tumultuous time for BLM recreation sites in the Yakima River Canyon. He was involved in the Canyon Corridor Safety Project during the early 1990s and helped to improve public safety at some of the Spokane's most heavily used recreation areas. Ranger Shannahan was also instrumental in working with the public in the Juniper Forest and Juniper Dunes Wilderness Area. And he helped secure cooperative agreements with county sheriff's offices throughout the state to assist in managing the Spokane District's scattered lands. Ranger Shannahan and his BLM family gathered to celebrate his more than 32 years of Federal service.

- The Spokane District is working with the U.S. Forest Service and the Washington Department of Natural Resources to consider a proposal by Echo Bay Exploration Inc. to conduct mineral exploration and potentially expand current gold mining operations in Okanogan County, WA. The exploration area includes approximately 1,200 acres of BLM, 6,900 acres of National Forest, 1,600 acres of Department of Natural Resources state land, and 300 acres of private surface and subsurface land.

A Fond Farewell to Ranger Mike Shannahan

[Photo of BLM Ranger Mike Shannahan]

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

- Vale District's very own National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC) was in the news recently! The Associated Press published a feature article identifying NHOTIC as an ideal vacation spot for families this summer. Be entertained and educated by its historical panoramas, artifacts, and live presentations covering the settlers' journey west. To see the article and photographs provided by the BLM, check out your local newspaper or read it online. Then come out to Vale and see the real thing in person!

Come Visit the Oregon Trail!

[Photo of a Diorama Depicting Early Pioneers from the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center]

[Photo of Road Sign Star]

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

Your Oregon & Washington BLM Districts

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Public Lands Live

[Image of the State of Oregon]

Oregon is For Loves (of Public Lands!)

I Shot That!

The BLM's Annual Photo Contest

Each year the BLM holds a photo contest open to all employees. These shots are just a sample of the talented and creative output of our photographers who work on the public lands. To see the rest of this year's amazing submissions, please visit our BLM Photo Library at [blm.gov](http://blm.gov) and search for "2009 Photo Contest."

First Place Photos

Artistic: Gary Wing, Prineville [Photo of a Snowy Barbed Wire]

BLM at Work: Cari Taylor, Prineville [Photo of a BLM Cowboy and a Horse]

Cultural: Casey O'Connor, Lakeview [Photo of a Cultural Site]

Fire: Seth Macalady, Salem [Photo of a Forest Fire]

Landscape: Terry Fennel, Salem [Photo of a Forest Stream]

People and Recreation: Gillian Wigglesworth, Vale [Photo of Hikers]

Plants: Katrina Krause, Roseburg [Photo of a Mushroom]

Wildlife: Gary Wing, Prineville [Photo of a Wolf]

Second Place Photos

Artistic: Ebenezer Krantz, Prineville [Photo From the Inside of an Old Barn]

BLM at Work: Seth Macalady, Salem [Photo of a BLM Firefighter]

Cultural: Michelle McSwain, Prineville [Photo of Native American Art]

Fire: Seth Macalady, Salem [Photo of a Forest Fire]

Landscape: Jeff Brown, Medford [Photo of Mountains Above Clouds at Sunset]

People and Recreation: Scott Hopkins, Salem [Photo of a Youth Working with an Owl]

Plants: Ron Exeter, Salem [Photo of Flowers]

Wildlife: Heidi Honner, Spokane [Photo of a Young Deer]

Third Place Photos

Artistic: Ron Exeter, Salem [Photo of Vibrantly Colored Shells]

BLM at Work: Rob Horn, Roseburg [Photo of a Youth Working with an Owl]

Cultural: Jerry Magee, State Office [Photo of a the San Juan Islands in the Spokane District]

Fire: Sheldon Rhoden, Prineville [Photo of a Fire]

Landscape: Mike Fieber, Eugene [Photo a Tree High Above Blue Skies]

People and Recreation: Lisa Baldwin, Vale [Photo of a Youth Riding a Horse]

Plants: Gary Wing, Prineville [Photo of a Flower]

Wildlife: Todd Bush, Eugene [Photo of Three Owls in a Tree]

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Youth Esprit de Corps

Story by Matt Christenson with Liz Karas

Photos courtesy BLM & Northwest Youth Corps

[Image of a Postcard]

Hi Family,

The BLM and the Northwest Youth Corps turned my summer job into the EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!  
See you in a few weeks!

Liz

[Photo of Three Youths Working Outdoors]

Do you remember your summer jobs? Perhaps you had plenty of regular work, but nothing you'd call a career, right? Or, to paraphrase Wayne Campbell, "Do you have an extensive collection of name tags and hair nets?"

What if you could have done something different? With more long-term benefits? Like a lifelong experience of positive personal growth and friendship while still earning a paycheck. If that sounds interesting, the BLM may have a hot tip for you. There's an opportunity for youth employment that's a little more challenging – and a whole lot more rewarding. So if your kids are ready for more than just another summer season sweating over the fryolator, then the BLM's partnership with the Northwest Youth Corps may be just the perfect fit for them.

Continues

NYC in Oregon

If you haven't chatted with someone who's worked for the Northwest Youth Corps, here's a little background.

Since 1984, the Northwest Youth Corps has helped over 10,000 young Americans between the ages of 11 to 19 find jobs in our great outdoors. They restore habitats, construct hiking trails, reduce forest fuels to prevent fires, and much more. Their structure is largely based upon the Civilian Conservation Corps from the New Deal. And these youth crews work directly with such agencies as the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State Parks, and, of course, the BLM.

So what kind of youths work on these crews? To answer that question, we asked Dr. Bronwyn Baz, pediatrician at the Oregon Health and Science University – and five-year veteran of the Northwest Youth Corps. "NYC is really for anyone. Anyone looking for an outdoor experience learning work and environmental skills while having a lot of fun making lifelong friends."

And it's not only about making friends. There's a quantifiable benefit from working on a youth crew. Megs Boe who's worked four sessions for the Northwest Youth Corps says, "Before my work with NYC, I didn't really have life goals or even an idea about which direction I would steer my life. But [by] my final session of NYC, I was able to apply for an Americorps scholarship to help foot the bill at University of Oregon. I was the first in my immediate family to graduate from university."

#### America at Work

So how does the BLM come into the equation? During these challenging economic times, the BLM has made youth employment one of its top priorities. And one way the BLM accomplishes this mission is through its long partnership with the Northwest Youth Corps.

Ultimately, youth crews need projects. And the BLM needs workers – especially during the summer season. But this isn't just busy work. These youth crews provide crucial mission-oriented support to Federal lands. And they're quite necessary because the summer can be the BLM's most hectic months, what with a greater influx of visitors from around the world, the blooming of every variety of natural foliage, the heightened fire awareness and response system, an increase in scientific studies, plus a number of other Federal requirements.

So while the BLM is heavily occupied, the Northwest Youth Corps's crew swoop in to play a critical role. They take care of necessary work to keep our public lands safe and functional. As BLM recreation specialist Zach Jarrett puts it, "We rely on the Northwest Youth Corps to accomplish a tremendous amount of priority work each year."

#### No Dancing with the Stars?

Okay. So you're a youth. Or the parent of one. What can a member of a youth crew expect if you join up? To better understand, let's turn to Ryan Ojerio, Southwest Washington Regional Coordinator of the Washington Trails Association. Oh, and he's also a former five-year member of the Northwest Youth Corps.

"One of the most satisfying parts of the job was working directly on projects that had a tangible result. The work is physical work – but it's equally creative and cerebral.

"Your crew is ten kids cut off from computers, cell phones, the internet, and cable TV. In a sense, it's just you, your crew, and the world. And that's an incredible setting when you can focus your life on the basics. It's powerful. You can't get that from a classroom. You're putting yourself in a new place where you may never be again. A once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"Plus it's only five weeks," Ryan laughs.

And speaking with Megs Boe again, she says specifically, "I still remember my first day of digging trail at Mary's Peak in Southern Oregon. Every time I swung my tool, it just bounced off the grass, not even leaving a dent. Watching my crew leader was amazing because when she swung her tool, she made beautiful new trail. I remember watching her and thinking, 'I want to be that strong!' The first week I

was so sore I couldn't move at the end of the day. But by the end of the session, I made trail just as beautiful as my crew leader. That session, I built muscles and a good dose of self-esteem to top it off."

Later, Fryolator

So if your son or daughter might like to trade the hair net and name tag for their very own hard hat, while making long-term friendships working with other kids their age in nature? Please contact your local BLM office or the Northwest Youth Corps to learn more about signing up for a future session.

And to those who become a youth crew member? You can expect to have the opportunity to work with other kids on projects in America's great outdoors while learning life skills and earning money.

And we can promise one thing: You'll never have to say, "Do you want fries with that?"

learn more online at [blm.gov/or](http://blm.gov/or) and [nwyouthcorps.org](http://nwyouthcorps.org)

[Photo of a Youth Working Outdoors]

[Photo of Ryan Ojerio in the Forest]

"You're putting yourself in a new place where you may never be again. A once-in-a-lifetime experience." – Ryan Ojerio

A Good Time for Badlands

As Told By Gavin Hoban

[Photo of Gavin Hoban Hiking at the Badlands with His Dog, Bodie]

A hiker and his best friend brave one of the BLM's most unique wilderness areas

[Photo of the Oregon Badlands]

Out my kitchen window, the snow is finally easing up. A big snowfall in Bend usually means only a trace of powder lies east of town. Today I know I want to hike. Burned out on months of Nordic skiing plus the promise of a lightening sky has led me to the newly designated Oregon Badlands Wilderness. In the rain shadow of the Cascades, the frozen paths of the Badlands make for fast hiking.

Usually.

At the trailhead, I quickly realize my miscalculation: nine inches of snow had settled and the temperature is 19 degrees and falling. With no other cars present, Bodie, my Labrador, and I have the Badlands all to ourselves. On the trail, Bodie romps like he did as a puppy, his nose plowing the snow like an Arctic ice breaker at full throttle. All is silent save the occasional snort from Bodie.

Not a single limb stirs among the large, gnarled 1,000-year-old western junipers, snow clinging to their deeply furrowed trunks. I'd imagined them as ghostly figures marching silently, in procession. But they are as immovable as the neighboring sea of volcanic blisters called tumuli, which pepper the nearly flat landscape. Bifurcated ridges of lava, these tumuli yawn at the sky with gaping mouths of black basaltic teeth.

The crunch of snow underfoot reminds me that one can only experience this much snow in the Badlands perhaps once every winter. And with a change of heart, I long for my beat-up rock skis, so-named for their suitability for skiing on rocks. To the west, a high cirrus sky is moving in. A momentary cold gust of wind descends from nearby Bear Creek Buttes cutting through my gloves as if they aren't there at all.

I stop and climb a tall tumulus to orient myself, moving through a narrow moat-like crack. Sharp stones grab at my clothing until I reach the broad, flat summit. The ground is sharp and porous; large empty bubbles called vesicles have remained here as a memory of the frozen froth of lava which erupted some 80,000 years ago. An experienced tumulus climber, Bodie chooses to preserve his paws despite the covering of snow.

From my lookout, I take my bearings on Horse Ridge and West Butte and make a plan to travel cross-country back to the trailhead. I take notice of the thick blanket of freezing fog at ground level spreading

quickly south from Powell Butte. Descending through the snowy lichen and moss-covered uneven path, I am very careful of my step.

Weaving south across the Badlands volcano, I am acutely aware of the passing of time: everything in the Badlands seems ancient. Older than history itself. I lose myself in my thoughts but notice the freezing fog bank which now covers the horizon and my navigation points. Looking back at my own history, I am reminded of foggy San Francisco summers from my boyhood. Bodie wanders in and out of the fog like a banshee.

I stay my course, emerging near the trailhead as both fog and daylight wane to the west. My weary legs grudgingly guide me the final steps to my truck. As Bodie and I feel the warm blast of my heater, I wonder when I'll bring my rock skis to the Badlands. Perhaps next year.

### BackCountry

A venture into the Oregon Badlands is to travel back in history.

Deep in the heart of the Pacific Northwest lurks a primeval wilderness of ancient junipers, volcanic vistas, and fossils from eras long past. Ancient eruptions of cracks and craters make a hike on the Badlands' trails feel more like a trek across the dark side of the Moon.

This year the BLM is very pleased to celebrate the Badlands' new designation as a Wilderness Area. As a result of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, these almost 30,000 acres have become a permanent member of the National Landscape Conservation System. And going forward the BLM will preserve the Badlands to ensure it retains all its primordial charm and prehistoric qualities.

Inside this issue, you can also read BLM wilderness expert Gavin Hoban's first-person account of a desolate hike through the Badlands with his best four-legged friend, Bodie, as his only companion. Maybe you'll be inspired to visit it yourself!

To learn more about the Badlands and the entire National Landscape Conservation System, please visit the BLM online at: [blm.gov/or/resources/nlcs](http://blm.gov/or/resources/nlcs)

[Photo of the Oregon Badlands]