



BLM NEWS RELEASE

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Bureau of Land Management
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BLM Announces Appointments to Three Key Leadership Positions

The Bureau of Land Management today announced the appointment of three career professionals to key leadership positions in the agency's Alaska, Idaho, and Montana state offices.

Bud Cribley, currently serving as the Deputy Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning in the BLM's headquarters office, will serve as the new State Director in Alaska; Jamie Connell, now the Northwest Colorado District Manager, will be the new State Director in Montana; and former BLM employee Steve Ellis, currently Forest Supervisor of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in the Pacific Northwest, returns to the agency as the Idaho State Director. All three positions became vacant when the incumbents retired. Reporting dates have yet to be determined.

"These three outstanding land managers bring decades of experience, including proven management skills, to their new positions. I'm delighted that they have accepted new professional opportunities," said BLM Director Bob Abbey in announcing these appointments.

Bud Cribley joined the BLM in 1975 as a Range and Conservation Technician in the Arizona Strip District. Since then, he has held several positions with the BLM in Montana and Colorado. Before moving to Washington, he served as the Assistant District Manager for the Winnemucca District in Nevada. In 1997, he moved to Washington, D.C., as a senior specialist with the Wild Horse and Burro program, later heading up the Rangeland Resources Division. In 2006, he served as Acting State Director in Idaho, before returning to Washington, D.C., as Deputy Assistant Director for Renewable Resource and Planning. Cribley holds a B.S. in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He enjoys hunting and fishing and looks forward to returning to those activities in Alaska. Cribley currently lives in Northern Virginia with his wife, Karen, and has three daughters and one granddaughter.

Steve Ellis grew up on a family farm in Illinois, and began his 31-year federal career in 1979 when he joined BLM Idaho's Burley Office as a forester. Since then he has served in a variety of positions with the BLM, including Acting Associate District Manager in Las Vegas and Area Manager in BLM's Shoshone District in Idaho, District Manager of the BLM Oregon's Lakeview Office, and Acting Forest Supervisor of the Fremont-Winema National Forest. He also spent five years in Washington, D.C., including one year as a Congressional Fellow in the U.S. Senate. Ellis holds a B.S. in Forestry from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and an M.S. in Geography from Northern Illinois University at DeKalb. He and his wife, Linda, a family nurse practitioner, raised three children—all born in Idaho—and have one grandchild.

Ellis is a licensed private pilot, and with his wife, enjoys riding and packing their horses in western Idaho and eastern Oregon.

Jamie Connell was born in Butte, Mont., and received her B.S. in Petroleum Engineering from Montana Tech in 1985. She began her BLM career in 1985 as a petroleum engineer in Miles City, Mont. For the past 18 years, Jamie has been a public land manager for the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service in locations across the West, including Great Falls and Malta, Mont.; Boise, Idaho; and Montrose, Silverthorne, Glenwood Springs, and Grand Junction, all in Colorado. In addition, she successfully completed the federal Senior Executive Service candidate development program, during which she was detailed to a number of positions, including in the BLM's headquarters office in Washington, D.C. Her experience ranges from overseeing significant levels of energy development on public lands, to managing the largest alpine skiing permits on America's National Forest System lands, to oversight of numerous BLM National Conservation Areas. Since February 2009, Connell has served as the BLM's Northwest Colorado District Manager. She enjoys hiking, skiing, canoeing and fly fishing.

The BLM manages more land – more than 245 million acres – than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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