

## **BLM Participation in Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Wilderness Act (As of February 2014)**

### **National Events**

- National Wilderness Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico (October 15-19, 2014). BLM is a major financial supporter of the National Conference, with staff on key planning and publicity committees. The event will feature trainings, field trips, receptions, and key note speakers, including high-profile wilderness and conservation experts. More information on the event is available at [www.wilderness50th.org](http://www.wilderness50th.org).
- Smithsonian “Wilderness Forever” Photography Exhibit, Washington, D.C. (September 3, 2014 - March 4, 2015). Bob Wick is serving on the judging panel for the Wilderness50/Smithsonian-sponsored photography contest.
- “Wilderness Act at 50” Law Symposium at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon (April 11, 2014).

### **State-by-State Events**

#### **Alaska**

- Fun summer geocaching family activity hosted with the USFWS and other partners to commemorate the anniversary. Partners are working on commemorative items and a contest to gather objects from each region of the state and to encourage visitors of all ages to get out and explore “wild and wonderful Alaska.”
- Great Alaska Sportsman’s Show booth, Anchorage, Alaska (March 27-30, 2014). The BLM’s booth will be themed for the Wilderness Act’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to encourage visitors to get out and enjoy Alaskan public lands.
- A variety of commemoration events will be contributed by the Resources Branch, including: hosting a training workshop for wilderness interpretation; providing training in education and wilderness stewardship at the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center in Anchorage (in May); and sponsoring and presenting at the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association (March 19-20) at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

#### **Arizona**

- Arizona Wilderness 50 Celebration, Phoenix (September 2014). This event will include speakers, activities, and a showing of a professionally produced video montage of all wilderness areas in Arizona with a working title of “A Day in the Life of Arizona Wilderness.”
- Arizona wilderness photo contest (October 1 - December 31, 2013).
- Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness photography hike (December 7, 2013).
- BLM AZ Mobile Information Center. This trailer with interactive displays, currently wilderness-themed for the anniversary, can be taken to events around the state.
- Local field office events. Several events and activities are in the planning stages in towns/areas where each of the BLM AZ field offices is located. Most events, as with those listed specifically above, are interagency in nature (not just BLM). Ken Mahoney

is on an “AZ Wilderness 50 Committee” with reps from federal and state agencies and NGOs. There are also some regional committees with BLM participation that are planning events that have formed in Tucson, Prescott, and Yuma.

### California

- 2014 BLM-California Planner. This publication celebrates the 50th and highlights photos from wilderness and WSAs around the state.
- Wilderness Walks (Fall 2014). El Centro FO and Desert District are hosting wilderness walks for the public in several areas this fall.
- Education and Mural Project. Barstow FO received a grant and is working through the Desert Discovery Center to host after-school wilderness education programs that will culminate with the kids painting a wilderness mural in downtown Barstow.
- Mule Days wilderness-related events in Bishop.
- Interagency Wilderness Celebration, Tehama County Fairgrounds (October 10-12, 2014). This celebration will include packing demonstrations and other hands-on exhibits.
- Employee wilderness hikes. Ridgecrest FO is conducting employee hikes in wilderness to better engage ID staff in wilderness management.
- Reprinting California Statewide Wilderness Map. This map will depict all the BLM wilderness and WSAs and other federal agency wilderness areas in California.
- Wilderness displays. BLM will develop two portable wilderness displays for statewide programs and events planned in 2014.
- Student Conservation Association/American Conservation Experience WildCorp teams. Most of the conservation work that will be performed in 2014 by the two Youth Corps Teams will be in wilderness and WSAs. We also plan to invite the public to participate and assist the Wildcorp teams in 2014 with projects in wilderness. Additionally, 2 interns will be placed at the California Desert DO in Moreno Valley and the State Office to assist with planning and coordination of California Wilderness50 events.

### Colorado

- Colorado Wilderness and WSA Calendar.
- Updated brochures focusing on wilderness and WSAs and grazing in wilderness.
- Interagency Walk for Wilderness at San Luis Valley FO.
- Screensaver downloads from State Office website.

### Idaho

- Wilderness reading list for Idaho libraries.
- Owyhee wilderness areas – 50 Activities for 50 Weeks (beginning January 2014). BLM will highlight different opportunities to experience wilderness on its website and through social media. Once a month, the BLM will lead an activity.
- Improving wilderness access point trailhead in conjunction with the Wilderness Society.
- Wilderness education. The Cottonwood FO is proposing a both a wilderness-related puppet show during the summer reading program that will include video and book lists as well as a science- and math-based wilderness education kit to be provided to the library. Other projects in the area include a demonstration of non-motorized tools used in wilderness, a volunteer project, and a wilderness art and photography contest.

### Montana

- Volunteer Vacation in collaboration with the Montana Wilderness Association (MWA).
- Several hikes in WSAs also in collaboration with MWA.
- Potential collaboration with Malstrom Air Force base for an event or project in Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.
- Kick off WSA route restoration projects in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.
- WSA/Wilderness Poster Series.
- New webpages for WSAs.

### Nevada

- Through volunteer organizations (Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Friends of Black Rock, etc...), will be providing a Wilderness 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary presence in conjunction with numerous Nevada 150<sup>th</sup> Statehood celebrations throughout the year, including at special events such as National Trails Day and Burning Man.
- North McCullough Wilderness in Sloan Canyon NCA – multimedia presentation in Las Vegas
- Rainbow Wilderness and LaMadre Wilderness hikes in Red Rock Canyon NCA.

### New Mexico

- Install a Wilderness50 interpretive display at each of BLM New Mexico's six primary visitor facilities.
- Install a small Wilderness50 banner with information cards in the lobby of each of BLM New Mexico's eight offices.
- Student Conservation Association WildCorp Team service projects relating to WSA route restoration.
- Screensaver downloads with photo of a WSA or wilderness will be made available on the website.
- Improve WSA and wilderness webpages to integrate with 50<sup>th</sup> celebration.
- Facebook page to highlight 50 different visits (one per week) to BLM New Mexico's wilderness or WSAs.
- Provide staff-led hikes, weather permitting, in appropriate wilderness areas or WSAs.
- At least one radio interview call-in show discussing wilderness and WSAs in New Mexico.

### Oregon/Washington

- Wilderness-focused YouTube videos. BLM funded a SCEP student to produce a variety of short, wilderness-focused YouTube videos profiling selected wilderness areas. The student also interviewed key personnel and partners associated with those wilderness areas. Much of the content in the videos will eventually get turned into brochures, websites, "NW Passage" articles, maps, and other related social media highlighting the 50th.
- "Wild Wednesdays" articles on social media throughout the Anniversary year.
- Devoting an entire issue of "NW Passage" to wilderness and the 50th Anniversary.

- Developing a consistent web presence for each of our wilderness areas linked to the OR/WA NLCS site and with links to Wilderness.net.
- Fact Sheet/Brochure for each wilderness area borrowing from the website content/format, including consistent maps.
- Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary Communications Plan.
- Polling district and field offices for "stories of interest" unique to each wilderness area to pitch to local media with accompanying "B-roll" footage for them to use.
- Sponsoring a booth at the Oregon Sportsmen Show and tying the Anniversary into other annual events (e.g., Nat'l Volunteer Week, Earth Day, Get Outdoors Day/Month, County/State Fairs, Assoc. of OR Counties Mtg., NPLD, ReWilding the Wilderness, etc.)

#### Utah

- Statewide photo contest that will begin in January and continue till the end of March. The winning images will be displayed at the Natural History Museum in Salt Lake City.
- Wilderness volunteers will complete five service projects around the state improving the conditions of Utah's wilderness study areas.
- Wilderness Festival. Interagency event will occur near the St. George FO. This office will also host a wilderness backpacking trip in May that will include a social media and filming component.
- Displays at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Visitor Center. These visitor center displays will highlight designated wilderness areas in the adjoining Dixie National Forest and the 16 wilderness study areas protected within the Monument. Visitor centers will also show wilderness-related films. The Monument will participate in the Escalante Community Arts Festival, which occurs in September, to celebrate "art inspired by place."

#### Wyoming

- Currently collaborating with the USFS to co-host several events (including a "walk for wilderness.")
- Informal talk on the "history of wilderness" in Buffalo, Wyoming.