



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# BLM-Eastern States Annual Report Fiscal Year 2019



# Karen E. Mouritsen

Hello! Let me introduce you to the BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES), by summarizing a few of our accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2019. This report presents the program areas that we manage for all Americans within the 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River. In these pages, you will discover that teamwork and collaboration with one another and our partners are the common denominators that run through all the success stories presented here. We are proud of the interdisciplinary ethic that motivates us to identify the best and highest use of the public lands that we manage, realizing as we do, the value of the diversity of thought that is represented by our employees, those in other federal agencies, and our partnering organizations.

The BLM-Eastern States supports the Secretary's priority to sustainably develop the nation's energy and natural resources. Using the best available science, we worked with the USDA Forest Service to provide access to non-renewable sources of energy on the Wayne National Forest in Ohio, and hard rock minerals in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota. In support of the Secretary's goal to create a conservation stewardship legacy, BLM-ES worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to renew a Public Land Order providing a buffer between the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge and privately-held lands. This refuge, established by Teddy Roosevelt as the nation's first wildlife refuge, is located off the Atlantic Coast near Sebastian, Florida.

We continually work toward process improvement in the BLM-ES, evidenced by the gains we have achieved while hosting adoption and sales events where wild horses and burros are transferred into private care. Our crews based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin,

and Flowood, Mississippi, are responsible for on average, 30 percent of all animals that are adopted or sold nationwide. Additionally, BLM-ES manages the Wild Horse and Burro Online Corral, where potential adopters or purchasers may find a specific animal, and access the details of its life in the wild.

As the custodian of historic land patents dating as far back as 1785, the BLM-ES continues to modernize access by digitizing and uploading them online at [gloreCORDS.blm.gov](http://gloreCORDS.blm.gov). These documents, which were generated by the nation's first surveyors, and issued by the former General Land Office from 1812-1947, are still considered to be legal documents and are sought after by genealogists, public and private surveyors, and land title companies. They also provide opportunities for outreach, as innovative employees have created a GLO "Record of the Week," which tells the story of selected plats, distributed via social media and the BLM-ES website.

These are just a few examples of all the ways you can engage with us in the work that we do, either as a beneficiary of the resources that we administer to enhance quality of life, or by volunteering with us as we manage our public lands for the greatest good for the greatest number.



**Karen E. Mouritsen** - State Director  
*October 2018 - September 2019*

**Sally Spencer** - Acting Associate State Director  
*July - September 2019*

**Barbara Eggers** - Associate State Director  
*October 2018 - June 2019*

**Charles "Ben" Pendelton** - Human Resources Officer  
*October 2018 - September 2019*

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The Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management Eastern States has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business.

All photos are official BLM photos.

Cover photo: Lake Vermilion, Minnesota

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# EASTERN STATES



The National Grazing Service and the General Land Office merged in 1946 to become the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Almost 40 years later, BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) was commissioned April 8, 1980, to manage and conserve public land resources where they occur in the 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River. Our mandate requires a balance between energy development, providing access to recreation, sustaining biological and cultural resources, and conducting outreach through environmental education programs.

The Natural Resources Division provides guidance for the energy and minerals program, managing 40 million subsurface acres of federal minerals in parcels that are scattered throughout the east. In addition to energy development, dedicated employees also direct the work of other diverse missions such as the Wild Horse and Burro Program, recreational use, and outreach to youth for volunteer service.

The Jackson Interagency Hotshots protect life, property, and natural resources, and provide a management career track for traditionally underrepresented groups in the federal wildland fire workforce. From their duty station in Pearl, Mississippi, they are dispatched for fire suppression throughout the nation, and may help manage resources in response to national emergencies.

The BLM-ES Geospatial Services Division has three main management objectives: conduct field surveys, ensure the safekeeping of General Land Office (GLO) records, and respond with land title information when requested by members of the public, or our own employees. This Division supports the work of all our other missions.

Two District Offices located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Flowood, Mississippi, direct on-the-ground projects. From managing wild horse and burro adoption/sales events to analyzing for potential environmental impacts, our employees have been able to do it all with the participation of partners and volunteers.

# SPOTLIGHT OVERVIEW



General Land Office partnered with the Homestead National Monument to present at RootsTech 2019 in Salt Lake City.

Conducted a Wild Horse and Burro placement event in Edinburgh, Indiana.

From Dec. 22, 2018, to January 25, 2019, federal workers were placed on furlough due to a Partial Government Shutdown.

Conducted Wild Horse and Burro placement events in Lebanon, Tennessee, and Springfield, Ohio.

NOV

JAN

MAR

OCT

DEC

FEB

Secretary of the Interior signed a document that will extend protections around Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge in Florida.

Conducted a Wild Horse and Burro placement event in Ocala, Florida.

Conducted a Wild Horse and Burro placement event in Searcy, Arkansas.

Held a competitive federal coal lease sale for an estimated 469,000 tons of high-volatile bituminous coal.

A coal lease is awarded to Best Coal, Inc. for a federal tract in Alabama, estimated to contain 469,000 tons of recoverable high-volatile bituminous coal.

Conducted an oil and gas lease sale that resulted in competitive bids on 1,313 acres located in Ohio, Michigan, and Mississippi, for a combined total of \$22,636.



Released an Environmental Assessment analyzing the potential effects of renewing hardrock mineral leases on the Superior National Forest.



A competitive coal lease sale is authorized for seven federal tracts encompassing nearly 433 acres and containing an estimated 1.4 million tons of sub-surface mineable federal coal reserve on the Wayne National Forest, Ohio.

Conducted Wild Horse and Burro placement events in Lexington, Kentucky; Gonzales, Louisiana; and Marshville, Wisconsin.

Conducted an online oil and gas lease sale for 1,720.10 acres located in Green, Lamar, Perry and Jackson Counties in Mississippi, and St. Mary's and Iberville Parishes in Louisiana.

A competitive coal lease sale is scheduled for seven federal tracts in Perry and Morgan counties, Ohio.

Conducted a Wild Horse and Burro placement event in Liberty, Kentucky.

Conducted a Wild Horse and Burro placement event in Canvas, West Virginia.

Bids are solicited for a lease to manage equestrian recreation resources at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, Lorton, Virginia.

MAY

JUL

SEP

APR

JUN

AUG

Two hardrock mineral leases located on the Superior National Forest in Minnesota are renewed.

Phil & Chricinda Jamison, Macks Creek, Missouri, were recognized with Lifetime Achievement Awards during BLM's 2019 Making a Difference National Volunteer Awards program for their support of the Wild Horse and Burro Program.

A 200-foot-wide railroad right-of-way is conveyed to the Village of Forsyth, Illinois. Totalling almost 15 acres, the right-of-way was conveyed under the National Trails System Act, more commonly known as the "Rails-to-Trails Act."

The BLM accepted jurisdiction over the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse in Florida from the U.S. Coast Guard. The lighthouse is a prominent feature of the 120-acre Outstanding Natural Area.

A Public Land Order extended a withdrawal on 37.5 acres of public land adjacent to the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge in Florida for a 40-year term.



An online oil and gas sale resulted in competitive bids for 3,150.325 acres in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Ohio, for a combined total of \$1,395,521.

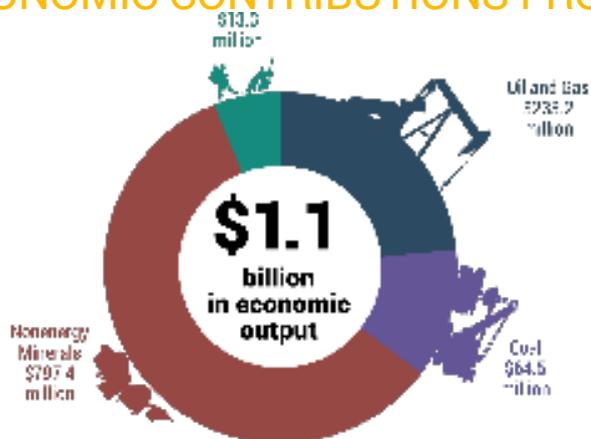


# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## FY 19 MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS

Subactivity	Subactivity Name	Total Spent
L1020	Rangeland Management	\$188,866
L1050	Cultural Resources Management	\$172,956
L1060	Wild Horse and Burro	\$3,065,356
L1160	Aquatic Habitat Management	\$412,557
L1170	Wildlife Habit Management	\$819,612
L1210	Wilderness Management	\$5,000
L1220	Recreation Resources Management	\$549,552
L1310	Oil and Gas	\$3,012,105
L1314	Oil and Gas Inspection and Enforcement	\$1,423,390
L1315	Application for Permit to Drill Processing	\$18,870
L1320	Coal	\$444,487
L1330	Other Mineral Resources	\$671,600
L1410	Alaska Conveyance	\$144,242
L1440	Cadastral, Lands and Realty	\$3,229,370
L1610	Planning	\$1,158,924
L1630	Law Enforcement	\$4,971
L1644	Abandoned Mine Lands & Hazardous Material Management	\$51,783
L1653	Deferred Maintenance	\$42,407
L1660	Annual Maintenance & Operations Costs	\$155,504
L1711	National Monuments & National Conservation Areas	\$236,098
L1820	Admin Support	\$1,318,829
L1830	Bureau Wide Fixed Costs	\$520,806
L1990	Mining Law	\$278,696
		<b>\$17,925,979</b>

## ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BLM-ES MANAGED LANDS



**D**iverse activities authorized on BLM-managed lands generate millions of dollars in economic output throughout the region. In the eastern United States, this economic activity supported 4,000 jobs and contributed substantial revenue to the U.S. Treasury and state governments, mostly through royalties on minerals.

### TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

8 Data not available for FY 2019 at time of publication

## PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES

**P**ayments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are made to local governments to help offset their inability to tax federal property. The payments are made annually for tax-exempt federal lands administered by U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, and for federal water projects and some military installations. The below table provides the PILT payments for eastern states and the District of Columbia.

State	2019
Alabama	\$1,375,444
Arkansas	\$7,418,637
Connecticut	\$33,141
Delaware	\$23,674
District of Columbia	\$23,477
Florida	\$5,936,054
Georgia	\$2,818,370
Illinois	\$1,269,413
Indiana	\$650,568
Iowa	\$529,922
Kentucky	\$2,639,956
Louisiana	\$1,119,387
Maine	\$718,368
Maryland	\$126,457
Massachusetts	\$115,881
Michigan	\$5,146,197
Minnesota	\$5,234,616
Mississippi	\$2,163,010
New Hampshire	\$2,049,423
New Jersey	\$120,105
Missouri	\$4,118,015
New York	\$168,942
North Carolina	\$4,749,018
Ohio	\$437,126
Pennsylvania	\$1,217,291
Rhode Island	\$0
South Carolina	\$844,854
Tennessee	\$2,547,926
Vermont	\$1,136,959
Virginia	\$5,765,340
West Virginia	\$3,358,360
Wisconsin	\$3,424,093
	<b>\$67,280,024</b>



# NATURAL RESOURCES



 Thunder Bay Island in Lake Huron  
Near Alpena, Michigan

**BLM-managed lands in the east contain world-class energy and mineral resources that support job creation, and are crucial to America's energy security. The BLM supports an "all of the above" energy approach, which includes oil and gas, coal, strategic minerals, and renewable sources such as wind, geothermal and solar—all of which may be developed on public lands and subject to free markets.**

**We continue to streamline the environmental documents that we write in fulfillment of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). By following Executive and Secretarial Orders that mandated greater efficiencies in our process, we maintained established page limits for all our environmental analyses documents, and adhered to prescribed completion timelines for 50 percent of all the Environmental Assessments that were prepared.**

**Our Division of Natural Resources also helps to manage populations of wild horses and burros roaming on rangelands in the west by placing animals that have been gathered from those lands, into private care in the east.**

**We also provide oversight of recreational use of public lands scattered from Lake Vermilion, Minnesota, to the white sand beaches of Fort Morgan on the Gulf Coast of Alabama, to Jupiter, Florida. We're able to accomplish it all with the help of volunteers and youth who will become tomorrow's public land stewards.**



**Karlee Yurek**

Acting Deputy State Director for Natural Resources  
May - September 2019



**Elena Fink**

Deputy State Director for Natural Resources  
October 2018 - May 2019

# OIL & GAS



## LEASING FLUID MINERALS

The BLM-ES Energy and Minerals program accounts for 14 percent of the oil and gas produced in the eastern United States. Quarterly oil and gas lease sales support domestic energy production, and contribute to America's energy independence. In FY 2019, 63 parcels totaling 7,326.3 acres were sold in three competitive lease sales.

For most federal oil and gas leases, 49 percent of the revenues collected are returned to the states where the oil and gas activity occurs, 51 percent of the revenues are deposited in the Federal Treasury.

In FY 2019, BLM-ES promoted economic growth with the issuance of 55 new leases totaling \$1,421,290 in rent and royalties.

In addition, BLM-ES completed 491 fluid mineral inspections, resolved 27 fluid mineral drainage cases, processed 21 fluid mineral Applications for Permit to Drill, and 529 fluid mineral sundries (which are applications that must be made prior to undertaking additional surface disturbance on previously-approved drill sites). We also processed 135 transfers of operating rights and 150 assignments of record titles in post-leasing actions.

Oil and Gas Leasing Data	2019
Oil Produced	<b>673,133 Barrels</b>
Gas Produced	<b>42,640,254 Million Cubic Feet</b>
Private Acquired Leases	<b>453</b>
Royalty Payments	<b>\$20,096,738</b>
Parcels Offered	<b>63</b>
Acreage Offered	<b>7,326</b>
Leases Issued	<b>55</b>
Revenue from Lease Sales	<b>\$1,421,290</b>
Active Wells	<b>2,291</b>

# COAL & MINING

## HARDROCK MINERALS

**J**oe Balash, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (second from right) and Karen Mouritsen, BLM-ES State Director, renewed two Twin Metals Minnesota LLC-held hardrock mineral leases located on the Superior National Forest, Minnesota. Watching Balash and Mouritsen from left to right: Congressmen Tom Emmer (MN-06) and Pete Stauber (MN-08). These minerals enable the conveniences we all take for granted, and are of critical strategic importance to our national security.



## COAL

**E**astern States manages coal leasing to provide a fair return for the American taxpayer while ensuring environmentally responsible energy development. Nationwide, BLM has responsibility for coal leasing on approximately 570 million acres where the coal mineral estate is owned by the Federal Government. The surface, however, may be held by private land owners, or other state and federal agencies.

BLM-ES currently manages seven coal leases in Alabama, Kentucky, Illinois, and West Virginia, totaling over 12,000 acres of coal subsurface mineral rights. These leases contribute significantly to state revenues and Treasury collections, totaling over \$2.1 million in revenue per year. In FY 2019, Eastern States held three competitive coal lease sales totaling over \$400,000 in bonus bids.

## MINING JOBS

**H**ardrock mineral development is an important land use within the BLM's multiple-use mandate. In communities across the country, mining provides jobs, economic activity, and important commodities that are essential to maintain a high quality of life. BLM-ES hardrock revenue totaled \$11 million in FY 2019, mostly from copper, lead, zinc, and phosphate. In addition, seven non-energy mineral post lease actions were processed, 20 mining claims were adjudicated, eight prospecting applications and three preference right leases were processed.

## PHOSPHATE

**A** compliance inspection was completed for the Mosaic South Fort Meade Mine in Hardee County, Florida. In the photo to the left, a dragline removes ground surface to reveal phosphate ore for processing. Pictured in the foreground from left to right: Randall Mills, Mining Engineer/Geologist; Samirra Felix, Geologist; and Robert Swithers, Southeastern States District Manager. Phosphate is essential to agriculture processes and our domestic food supply, and is a key component in personal care products.



# WILD HORSE & BURRO PROGRAM

## ADOPTIONS AND SALES

**A** wild horse or burro, as defined by federal law, is "an unbranded, unclaimed, free-roaming horse or burro found on public lands in the United States." The BLM implemented the Wild Horse and Burro Program in response to the Wild-Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. The Act declares wild horses and burros to be "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West" and directs the BLM and the Forest Service to manage and protect herds in their respective jurisdictions.



Cary Frost, SSD, at a Lorton, Virginia, adoption/sales event.

FY 2019 was a very successful year for the BLM-ES Wild Horse and Burro Program. The accomplishments include:

**1,420**

ADOPTION AND SALES

**72,431**

ANIMAL HOLDING FEED DAYS

**837**

COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS COMPLETED

**20**

PLACEMENT EVENTS

**9**

OFF RANGE CORRAL EVENTS

**7**

PARTNER EVENTS

**8**

ONLINE CORRAL EVENTS

**T**he BLM-ES wild horse and burro team has placed the majority of wild horse and burro adoptions and sales in the nation, and the associated compliance and title inspections on the adopted animals. In FY 2019, BLM-ES placed 1,420 animals into private care through 20 placement events, seven partner events, and eight Online Corral (OLC) events. We manage off-range corrals (ORC) located in Ewing, Illinois, and Mequon, Wisconsin. We hosted nine onsite events at the Ewing, Illinois, Off-Range Corral.

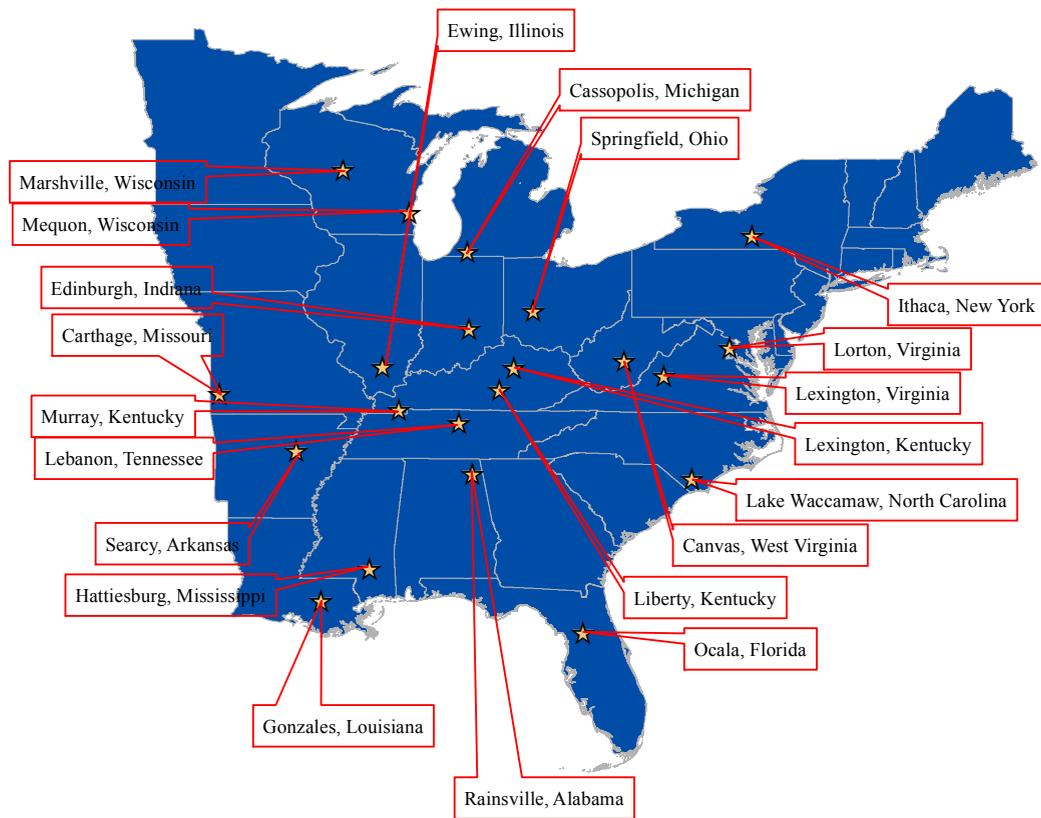
We administer the national Online Corral website, delivering a streamlined interface that provides access to more wild horses and/or burros, and includes several search options to help a user find the horse or burro of their dreams. The site also features an interactive web map, proxy bidding, online payment, and an online portal to complete and submit required documents. In addition, users can submit and

track the status of their applications, favorite animals, and auction bids directly through the website. Over half of the animals currently offered on the Online Corral are picked up in the east.

BLM conducts compliance inspections as a regular part of the Wild Horse and Burro program, or when we've received a specific allegation of abuse. During FY 2019, BLM-ES made 837 compliance inspections spread out among 572 adopters.

The Ewing ORC can hold up to 300 wild horses and burros at a time, and supplies animals to be placed in eastern states. Additionally, the facility supports animal pick up events, and conducts monthly placement events from March through November. During FY 2019, the Ewing facility held an average of 250 horses per day, over 72,000 feed days.

# FY 19 PLACEMENT EVENTS



# VOLUNTEERS



**National Public Lands Day volunteers complete a trail maintenance project.**

## WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

**The BLM hosted an exhibit at the 2019 World Scout Jamboree.**

**A**pproximately 40,000 Scouts and visitors from more than 169 countries attended the World Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel National Scout Reserve, Glen Jean, West Virginia. The BLM had three interactive activities for the Scouts: Paleontology, Prehistoric and Historic Archeology, and Land Surveying. Each day, more than 10,000 Scouts completed activities, spoke with BLM presenters, and asked questions. For most Scouts, it was their first exposure to prehistoric fossils.

## ARCHAEOLOGY BOOT CAMP

**BLM Hosts an Archaeology Boot Camp at the ONA**

**T**he Southeastern States District partnered with Florida Public Archaeology Network, Florida Atlantic University, Lynn University, and Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum, to host a three-day intensive workshop for archaeology students. Approximately 50 students from across Florida and from as far away as Missouri attended the boot camp, which focused on a specific time period when the Coast Guard occupied the area. Student instruction included afternoon workshops and evening lectures that featured local archaeologists. The students learned about different tools used during a dig, archaeological mathematics, site monitoring, phases of a dig, and artifact collecting methodology. They put the new information to use and excavated a trash pit on site. Artifacts identified during this project, such as fragments of plates and a nail polish bottle, confirm domestic use of the site. "It was fantastic to have all these young people interested in archaeology on site at the ONA," said John Sullivan, BLM-ES archaeologist and tribal liaison. "They had the opportunity to get some hands-on experience with a dig and even excavated a few artifacts." The program culminated in a public archaeology day when students shared all that they had learned with the public.

## NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

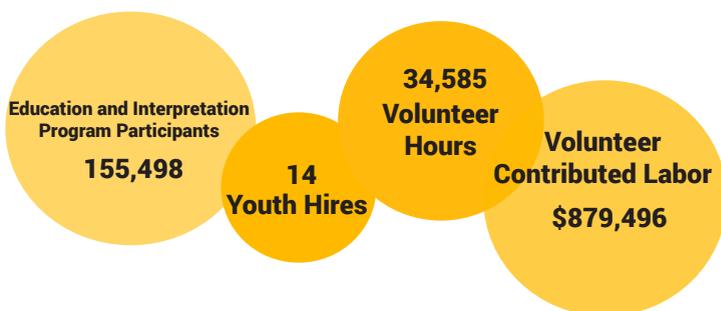
**Volunteer Projects Help Restore Sites**

**T**he Northeastern States District celebrated National Public Lands Day with events at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton, Virginia. Community volunteers, students from Freedom High School, and BLM staff restored ten acres of land damaged by all-terrain vehicles, planted native trees, and picked up litter and trash.

Across the BLM-ES, we promote heritage education and volunteer engagement, with the aim of opening awareness for underserved youth, of natural resource careers.



**BLM's employees that staffed the World Scout Jamboree were (from left to right) Robert Patterson, Vincent Beresford, Janet Robbins, June Lowery, Michael Chodoronek, Doug Blankinship, and David Korzilius. Doug Blankinship, BLM-ES Volunteer Coordinator, worked 40 years with the program and will retire January 2020.**



International Coastal Cleanup Day Jupier ONA, Florida



International Coastal Cleanup Day Jupier ONA, Florida



National Public Lands Day in Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, Virginia



National Public Lands Day in Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, Virginia



Super Bowl III-winning quarterback Joe Namath and company assist BLM's Peter De Witt on International Coastal Cleanup Day, Jupier ONA, Florida.

# WILDLAND FIRE





Eastern States Fire Management is executing a total of nine Wildland Fire Statewide Master Cooperative and Stafford Act Response Agreements. These facilitate the coordination and exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies and services with our interagency partners including the Forest Service, NPS, USFWS, BIA and the States of Mississippi, Michigan, Florida, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Alabama, and Minnesota. The goal is to have agreements signed in all 31 states by 2023.

The BLM fields highly trained professional firefighters and managers who are committed to managing fire in the most effective ways possible in order to protect communities from the risk of wildfire, and improve wildlife habitat by the application of prescribed fire.

One of the fundamental objectives of the Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew (JIHC) is to provide a management career track for traditionally underrepresented groups in the federal wildland fire workforce. To that end, JIHC managers reach out to minority populations and military veterans to promote inclusion in the wildland fire community.

The 2019 season was historically slow for fire activity nationwide with the exception of Alaska. The number of starts nationally were 19 percent below the ten-year average, and total acres burned were 31 percent below the average.



**Michael Boomer**  
State Fire Management Officer  
October 2018 - September 2019



**Darren O' Loughlin**  
Superintendent of the Fire Hotshots  
May - September 2019

# WILDLAND FIRE



Jackson Hotshots crew (from left to right) Josh Wilson, Eric Leight, Karel Williams, Forest Service unidentified member, Brady Harper, Michael Heitzig, Genevieve Fisher, and Eric Krol.

## FIRE SEASON OVERVIEW

The Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew started the season by supporting the Forest Service's prescribed fire treatments on over 8,000 acres in Mississippi and Virginia during April and May. The first wildfire suppression assignment came May 30, and took them to the Ocala National Forest, Florida. Thereafter, they were assigned to other incidents in Florida, Arizona, Nevada, and North Carolina.

The crew spent the majority of the season in initial attack by taking actions to prevent further expansion fire on the ground, and in the application of prescribed fire. On September 3, their final resource order took them to NPS lands in the Outer Banks, North Carolina, in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. During this assignment, the shots cleared debris from roads and trails, removed hazard trees, and worked to limit further degradation of buildings and infrastructure that had been damaged during the storm.



A crewmember ignites fuels during a tactical firing operation on the Castle Fire.

## PRESCRIBED FIRE

The JIHC started the season supporting local districts of the National Forests in Mississippi to implement prescribed burns on Forest Service lands. These assignments, enabled by an Interagency Cooperative Agreement between BLM-ES and Forest Service, provided an environment where inexperienced crew members could observe fire behavior and its effects. This year, they assisted in treating 5,071 acres on National Forests in Mississippi, and supported prescribed burns on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in Virginia. Additionally, the crew completed four days of fuels reduction and habitat improvement projects on the Ocala National Forest, Florida.



The crew completes equipment check on the Gap Fire, Arizona.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY



**B**LM-ES employees are able to do their jobs wherever they may be because they are supported by the Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES). Law enforcement objectives for eastern states are stated in the Mission Areas and Goals outlined in the FY 2019 Eastern States Law Enforcement Plan, and they tier to the DOI 2018-2022 Strategic Plan.

## THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MISSION IN THE EAST

**O**LES may be called upon to investigate vandalism or dumping on public lands, support emergency response, ensure the safety of our visitors, and provide a safe environment for all our employees. OLES may be called to resolve issues related to any natural resource conflicts in the densely populated eastern region. But while representing BLM in population centers may create challenges to law enforcement, we also have an opportunity to raise awareness of the BLM to larger audiences. For example, in FY 2019, there were approximately 115,000 visitors to the Jupiter Inlet

Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, Jupiter, Florida; and 14,000 visitors to the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, Lorton, Virginia, just a short drive from the nation's Capital.

In addition to providing security for surface acres, OLES may respond to other concerns, such as questions arising from the management of wild horses or burros in any of 31 eastern states, or conflicts caused by sub-surface federal mineral trespass. These are just a couple of examples where natural resource management intersects with law enforcement in the east.

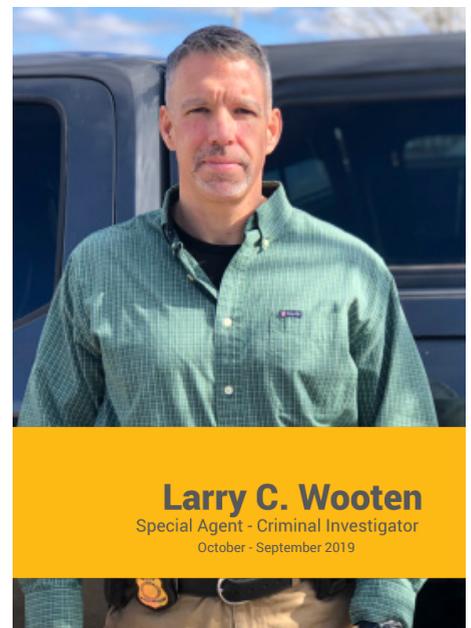
## THE PLAN FOR SUCCESS

**T**he geographic region under OLES jurisdiction in the eastern states is vast. Approximately 40 thousand surface acres are located within 185 counties, and the 31 states in our area of operation include 62 Federal Judicial Districts. With this year's reorganization of the DOI in support of Administration priorities, the OLES supports all federal law enforcement units as follows: Region 1 (North Atlantic), Region 2 (South Atlantic-Gulf), Region 3 (Great Lakes), and

Region 4 (Mississippi Basin). But the OLES does not act alone to provide security for public lands. Instead, it shares information, and provides and requests assistance as needed, while relying upon partner law enforcement agencies in local communities. In some instances, these relationships may be facilitated through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), contract, or other agreement.



The Bureau of Land Management Law Enforcement in the BLM-ES is responsible for all BLM Investigations and Enforcement Actions in the full Unified Interior Region 1 (North Atlantic), Region 2 (South Atlantic – Gulf), Region 3 (Great Lakes), and Region 4 (Mississippi Basin).



**Larry C. Wooten**  
Special Agent - Criminal Investigator  
October - September 2019



# GEOSPATIAL SERVICES



The BLM-ES Geospatial Services Division provides the foundation for nearly everything that we do in the BLM-ES. Our specialists conduct cadastral surveys, resolve title conflicts, inventory public domain lands, and maintain historic land title records. These records make the way clear to power tomorrow by identifying the federal mineral estate in the east.

Prior to its decommission in 1946, the General Land Office (GLO) conveyed public lands into private ownership. In so doing, the GLO contributed to America's growth and economic prosperity by enabling westward expansion through family farms, mining claims, railroads, and frontier towns. The historic records are legal documents, informing the decisions we make today ensuring the highest and best use of the land.

Realty specialists and land law examiners rely on this collection to provide information when resolving title conflicts, or identifying deposits of federal minerals that may be leased to keep America energy independent. The records also support other BLM-ES actions, such as the conveyance of an abandoned railroad Right-of-Way to a local Illinois community, or extending a Public Land Order put in place to protect the nation's first national wildlife refuge.



### **Kenneth Roy**

Acting Deputy Director for Geospatial Services  
July - September 2019



### **Janet Wilkins**

Acting Deputy Director for Geospatial Services  
May - July 2019



### **Dominica VanKoten**

Deputy State Director for Geospatial Services  
October 2018 - April 2019



National Oregon Historic Trail through Idaho, Oregon and Wyoming.  
Photo by Bob Wick

# GENERAL LAND OFFICE RECORDS

## DIGITIZING

In FY 2019, the GLO Records Automation Branch published 222,441 records to <https://gloreords.blm.gov>. We also completed scanning the ES Serial Register Page volumes to prepare for the upcoming BLM-ES office relocation in FY 2020. Our investment in IT this year improved the workflow which reduced the amount of time needed to publish land title records. GLO Records Automation Branch completed and deployed into test and development, the new GLO Case File Management System.



RootsTech 2019, Salt Lake City, Utah

## EXTERNAL OUTREACH

Maintaining GLO records provides a unique opportunity for public outreach. In FY 2019, we attended the Esri Federal Users Conference, and American Association of Geographers, both held in Washington D.C., and the RootsTech 2019 world genealogy conference, Salt Lake City. This outreach increases traffic to the GLO records website, and allows the public to interact with the subject matter experts behind the digitization projects.



The American Surveyor magazine featured the GLO Record of the Week during FY 2019.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Geospatial Information Services (GIS) team supported the BLM GIS modernization project by leading the national technology team, maintained 100 percent data quality on monthly QC inspections performed by the National Operations Center on all national GIS datasets, and published 49 weekly story maps featuring records curated by the BLM-ES team. This GLO "Record of the Week" has become one of the most followed regular features of the BLM-ES social media site. Data improvement to the Public Lands Survey System dataset continued in FY 2019, and focused on data cleanup in the Superior, Wayne, and De Soto National Forests.



Daniel Flemming, GLO Records Automation Branch, accepts an award for the best federal agency Story Map from Jack Dangermond, Esri President, during the annual Esri User Conference held from July 8-12, 2019, at the San Diego Convention Center.

# CADASTRAL SURVEY & LANDS AND REALTY

## FIELD SURVEYING

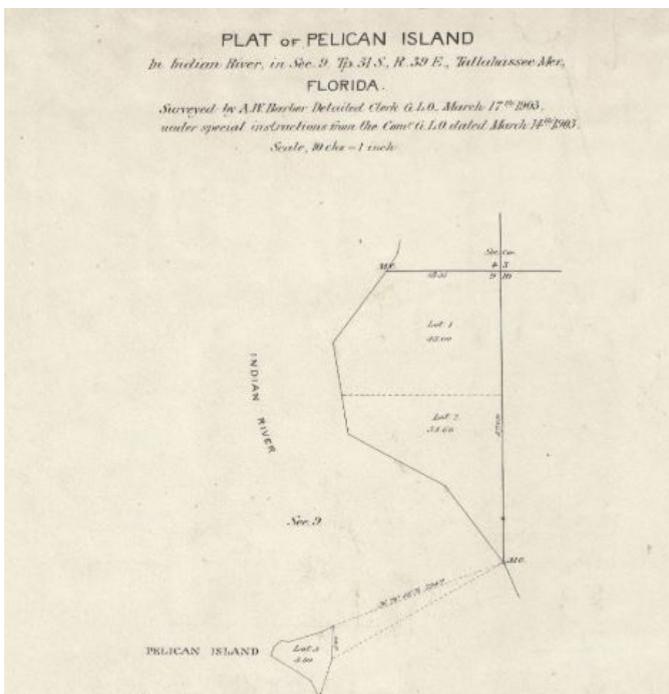
This year, cadastral surveyors performed a variety of field surveying services throughout the east including: boundary surveys in Virgin Islands National Park, St. John; eastern portions of the Lower Potomac Field Station, Virginia; and Poverty Island, Lake Michigan. Our surveyors also collected boundary corner coordinates for a mapping densification project for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina, performed a field investigation and determination of federal status of an island in Lake Vermilion, Minnesota, and posted boundary corner and line locations on lands known as the Fowl River and Gulf Shores tracts in Alabama, and the Baldwin tract in Louisiana.

This year, we also initiated a new agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to provide cadastral surveys of federal lands in the Rock Island District, beginning in FY 2020. We completed Supplemental Plats in Wisconsin and Minnesota to enable a land exchange for the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and to facilitate the identification of un-surveyed lands for the Red Lake Nation lands project. The BLM-ES Cadastral program is the lead for a national agreement with the USDA National Resources Conservation Service, for \$2.5 million over the next four years, where 77 of the easements being addressed are within BLM-ES' jurisdiction.

Geospatial Services staff support the work of many of their fellow BLM-ES employees, who require Standards of Boundaries Evidence that provide a professional opinion of the quality and correctness of any legal land description before they may make any recommendation enabling ground disturbing activities on lands managed by BLM-ES.



Above, Eric Wright, Cadastral Surveyor, at a corner of an SSD public domain beach tract near Fort Morgan, Alabama, established in 1950. Photo to the left shows the same corner recovered in 2000, only 1 ft. below grade.

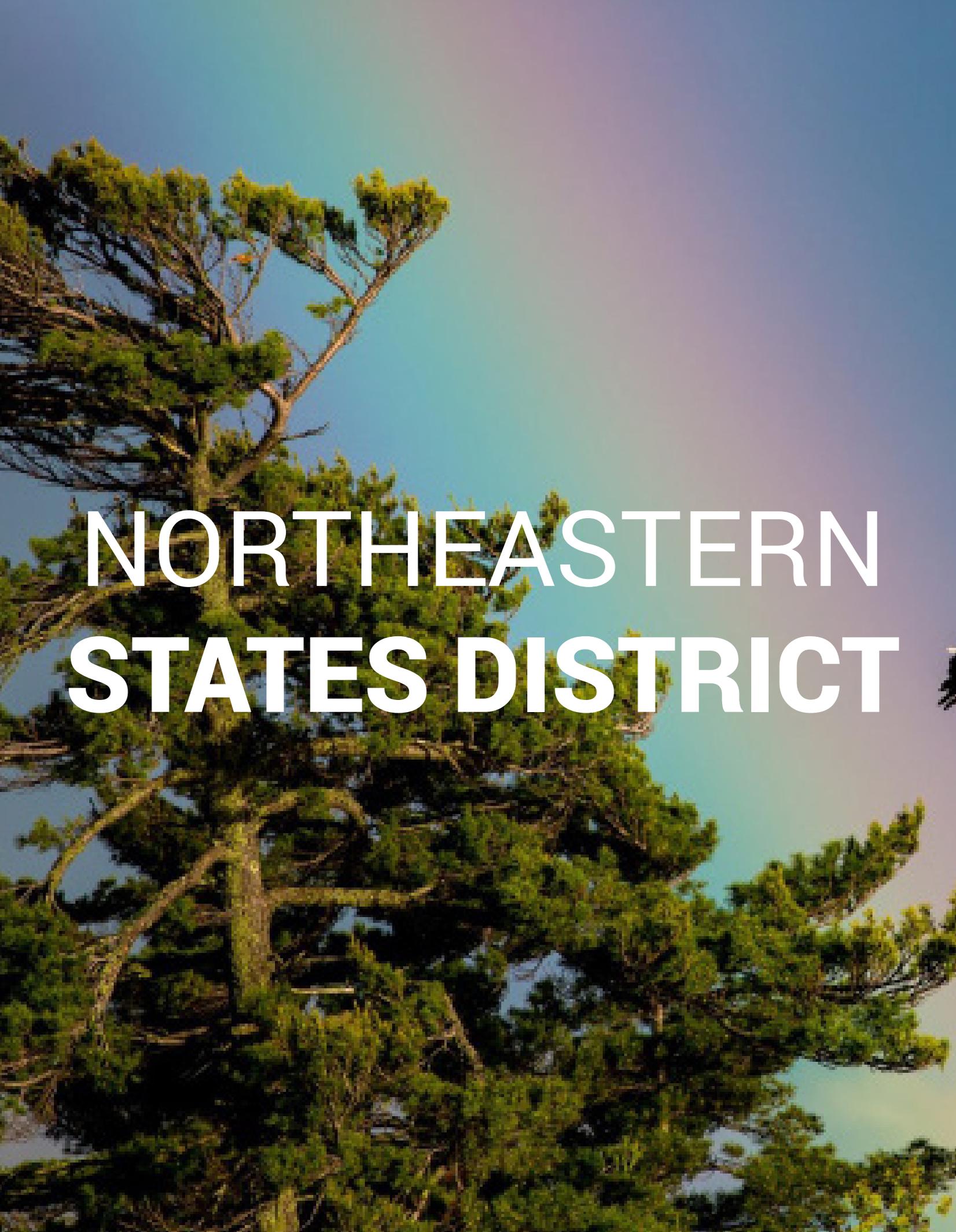


## PUBLIC DOMAIN LANDS

Our lands staff provided information integral to the ongoing Red Lake Lands Project, in which we identified those lands that have been restored to the tribe. We completed review and verification of land status for all public domain lands that are associated with this ongoing project, and developed a plan with the GIS team for the completion of the verification process for the remaining tribal lands by the end of 2020. We also examine and verify the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) list that is submitted to WO BLM. In FY 2019, our lands staff extended the Public Land Order providing protections for Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge,

Florida, and developed a process for claimants submitting land title clearance applications for lands near Lake Bistineau, Louisiana, pursuant to section 1009 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116-9). We continue to review and verify the lands transferred to Voyageurs National Park pursuant to Section 2107 of Public Law 116-9. This work will continue into FY 2020.

This year, we responded to over 700 patent requests and other inquiries from the public, answering questions and resolving issues regarding patents and titles.



# NORTHEASTERN STATES DISTRICT

**The BLM-ES Northeastern States District (NSD) is responsible for the stewardship of public lands under the jurisdiction of the BLM in 20 northern states that are east of and bordering the Mississippi River. They are: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.**

**The NSD also administers the Lower Potomac Field Station (LPFS), Lorton, Virginia. The field station provides oversight on lands at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, Lorton, and the Douglas Point Special Recreation Management Area, Charles County, Maryland,**



**Dean Gettinger**

District Manager  
October 2018 - September 2019



Lake Vermilion  
Northern Minnesota



Students participate in Wilderness Inquiry on the Anacostia River.

## OUTREACH

In October 2018, the LPFS partnered with Wilderness Inquiry Canoemobile in Maryland and Virginia to connect kids with nature and the Anacostia River.

The Canoemobile program takes urban students out on their local water ways in 24-foot Voyageur canoes to learn about science, history, geography, and culture, while recreating on the river. Prior to hopping in canoes and exploring the Anacostia River, local youth learned about the history of the river, the local Native American culture, and other natural resources in the area.

Canoemobile takes the classroom outside to improve student learning in a natural environment, cultivate a stewardship ethic, and inspire underserved youth to explore career opportunities in the outdoors. The program serves more than 30,000 youth and adults of all backgrounds and abilities each year. Over 1,400 students were reached at the Anacostia River event, launched from the historic community of Bladensburg, Maryland.

## RIGHT-OF-WAY CONVEYANCE

In July 2019, the NSD conveyed a 200-foot-wide railroad Right-of-Way (ROW) to the Village of Forsyth, Illinois. Totalling almost 15 acres, the ROW was conveyed through a quitclaim deed under Section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, often called the "Rails to Trails Act." The Village of Forsyth incorporated the former railroad ROW into the community's recreational trail network.

The Village and the BLM coordinated this transfer over a period of several months. Marilyn Johnson, Mayor of Forsyth Village, said, "We are pleased that those efforts have paid off, allowing the Village to add this property to our extensive trail system. This property will be a great asset to the Village, its residents, and all who recreate on the Village's trail network."



Right-of-Way, Forsyth, Illinois



Veterans' Family Fishing Classic at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area

## SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS

In 2019, LPFS hosted six Special Recreation Permit (SRP) events featuring a variety of recreational use, including: therapeutic horseback riding, multistage races, fishing, mounted archery practice, and model aircraft flights that are controlled via a wire connecting the aircraft with hand held controls. In total, these permits granted access to recreation for more than 1,500 members of the public.

## TRANSFER OF LANDS TO VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

**P**resident Trump signed the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act into law on March 12, 2019. The Act is an omnibus natural resources bill that protects public lands throughout the nation and modifies some provisions for managing them. This land transfer for Voyageurs National Park is one example of those projects that are prioritized in the Act. The BLM - ES Geospatial Division is providing support, updating all of the land records as required by implementing the legislation.

On September 25, 2019, Dean Gettinger, NSD District Manager, and Bob DeGross, Voyageurs National Park Superintendent, conducted a site visit to BLM lands that were transferred to the national park. The BLM lands, totaling 63 acres, consist of a series of small islands and parcels within the authorized boundary of Voyageurs National Park.



Dean Gettinger, NSD Manager, and Bob DeGross, Voyageurs National Park Superintendent, make a site visit.

## RECREATION AND PUBLIC

**T**he Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926 as amended (R&PP) authorizes the sale or lease of public lands to state and local governments and qualified nonprofit organizations, if they will be used for recreational or other public purposes. The NSD currently has over 300 R&PP case files, each including multiple parcels of land that have been transferred to local or state governments. In FY 2019, NSD made significant progress on a backlog of compliance inspections for Recreation and Public Services parcels, certifying sixty outstanding cases through site visits, and self-certifications across Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Ninety-seven percent of the inspected parcels were in compliance with the intended use.



Dean Gettinger, NSD Manager and Bob DeGross, Voyageurs National Park Superintendent, in Voyageurs National Park.

## EAGLE FESTIVAL

**I**n 2019, LPFS reached over 15,200 individuals through a variety of outreach events with local partners. The May 11, 2019, 24th annual Eagle Festival at Mason Neck State Park, Lorton, Virginia, was attended by 3,500. LPFS staff distributed Junior Ranger booklets and BLM brochures, and provided information on Every Kid Outdoors, and other environmental educational programs. Attendees learned about the outstanding recreational opportunities available to them at Meadowood and Douglas Point Special Recreation Management Areas, and children were hands-on with various animal skins, skulls, and other engaging educational materials.

## VETERAN'S FISHING

**O**n August 24, 2019, the LPFS, in partnership with Fishing-community.org, hosted its inaugural Meadowood Veterans' Family Fishing Classic at Enchanted Pond. This event is part of the Field Station's plan to increase recreational use and develop new partnerships.



# SOUTHEASTERN STATES DISTRICT



**The BLM-ES Southeastern States District (SSD) is responsible for the stewardship of public lands under the jurisdiction of the BLM in 11 southern states that are east of and bordering the Mississippi River. They are: Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.**

**SSD also administers Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, Jupiter, Florida.**



**Bob Swithers**

District Manager  
October 2018 - September 2019



Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area  
Near Jupiter, Florida



CAPT James Passarelli, USCG 7th District, (left) shakes hands with Robert Swithers, SSD Manager after the transfer of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.

## JUPITER LIGHTHOUSE RELINQUISHMENT

The SSD recently accepted jurisdiction over the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). The lighthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a prominent feature of the 120-acre Outstanding Natural Area and a beloved landmark in Palm Beach County. BLM will continue planning efforts for this area, which include opportunities for public comment on future management alternatives. The trans-

fer did not affect public tours of the lighthouse and grounds, which are managed in partnership with the Loxahatchee River Historical Society. The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse has more than 80,000 annual visitors.

The USCG notified the BLM in 2017 that it no longer required use of the lighthouse, and therefore planned to relinquish Lot 22, the 16.41-acre site where the lighthouse stands.

In addition to the lighthouse, Lot 22 includes 11 residences and associated storage sheds and structures. This land was withdrawn from the public's use, enabling the Coast Guard to provide a navigational aid where the Indian River converges with Jupiter Inlet.



Peter DeWitt, Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse ONA Manager, makes a presentation during the listening session.

## COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION AND WORKSHOP

On May 22, 2019, the SSD hosted its first "Community Listening Session and Workshop" concerning the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse ONA. The goal of the meeting was to engage the local community in a discussion of how their values may inform the overall management of the ONA within the legislative framework established when it was designated by Congress. Approximately 100 members of local communities attended, some raising issues and concerns they wanted to bring to the attention of the BLM. "Hearing directly from the public helps us keep our finger on the pulse of the community and what they feel is important. We were thrilled with the turn out and we hope to continue with the sessions on an annual basis," said Bob Swithers, SSD District Manager.



Students learning in Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse ONA, Florida.



Wild Horse and Burro Program Volunter and Staff

## WILD HORSE & BURRO

The SSD WHB program exceeded expectations in FY 2019, placing 721 wild horses and burros into private care through adoption and/or sale. The SSD facilitated 17 events in ten states, including Extreme Mustang Makeover and Trainer Incentive Program events. Working together, BLM staff and volunteers placed approximately 10 percent of all animals who found homes this year nationwide.

## VOLUNTEERS

Approximately 450 volunteers contributed over 13,000 hours of service to SSD, working at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse ONA, and in the Wild Horse and Burro program (WHB). Volunteers spent countless hours at the ONA maintaining trails, assisting with public fishing events, keeping the site free from trash, and removing invasive species. WHB volunteers assisted with care and feeding of wild horses and burros during scheduled adoption/sales events. They also helped place animals into private care by being a resource for potential adopters or buyers, who have had no previous experience in gentling a wild animal.

## FILM PERMITS

For the first time, the SSD issued permits to allow filming on public lands. Three permits were issued for projects featuring the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse ONA. They included a commercial, real estate television programming, and a celebrity chef on the Lifetime channel.



Jupiter ONA lighthouse tour



# FISCAL YEAR 2020 PRIORITIES



## **CONSERVING OUR LAND AND WATER**

**We will foster partnerships to achieve balanced stewardship of our lands and resources, and we will use land use planning processes to provide for public access and use of these lands.**

## **GENERATING REVENUE AND UTILIZING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES**

**We will encourage environmentally responsible development of energy, minerals, and infrastructure. We will strategically work with partners to address mineral development, and complete processes to implement actions for priority energy, minerals, and infrastructure projects. In FY 2020, we will ensure energy and economic security for America, and ensure access to mineral resources.**

## **EXPANDING OUTDOOR RECREATION AND ACCESS ON PUBLIC LANDS**

**We will collaborate with state, tribal, and federal partners in order to expand hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities by promoting multiple use on public lands. Additionally, we will enhance public satisfaction at ES sites.**

## **FULFILLING OUR TRUST AND INSULAR RESPONSIBILITIES**

**We will enhance tribal relations by working closely with Tribes on land management issues of interest to them.**

## **MODERNIZING OUR ORGANIZATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS**

**We will align our structure and organization to improve partnership engagement, improve customer service, reduce operational costs, and prioritize DOI infrastructure needs.**

