

## **BLM/USFS Natural Resource Conservation Awards Criteria**

The Conservation Project, Conservation Partner, and Linda Siebert Career Achievement awards will be presented at the joint BLM/FS awards reception at the *North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference* in Kansas City, Missouri, during the week of March 14, 2011. Please limit all nominations to two pages. Nominations must be submitted to Geoff Walsh, Wildlife Biologist, at [geoffrey\\_walsh@blm.gov](mailto:geoffrey_walsh@blm.gov) **no later than January 15, 2011.**

**Conservation Project Award:** This annual award recognizes development and implementation of a joint FS/BLM project with outstanding conservation accomplishments for fish, wildlife, and/or native plants and their habitat on public lands, and/or facilitates their use, enjoyment or appreciation. The project's scale can be at either a local, regional, or national level.

Emphasis will be given to projects that:

- have demonstrated (through a BLM and FS partnership) unique or innovative approaches and/or work to promote public understanding of cooperative conservation,
- will work at a watershed or regional scale,
- are multi-year in scope,
- involve creative or multiple partnerships,
- have high conservation value, and
- meet both FS/BLM resource conservation priorities.

The nomination package should include:

- the name and location of the project,
- the title and contact information for the FS and BLM personnel responsible for project,
- a summary of what the project accomplished and its significance for wildlife, fish, and/or native plants and their habitats,
- a description of how the project strengthened interagency coordination,
- a description of the interagency collaborative effort that benefited the species and habitat, and,
- the nominator's contact information.

**Conservation Partner Award:** This annual award recognizes an organization or individual representing a conservation organization for their outstanding leadership in the development and implementation of conservation programs and activities that have directly benefited fish, wildlife, and/or native plants on public lands or their use, enjoyment, and appreciation. Nominees for this award must have demonstrated sustained dedication, leadership, and commitment to work collaboratively to build partnerships that promote sound land management practices and the conservation of wildlife, fisheries, and/or native plant resources that depend on public lands. Nominee's accomplishments can be at either a local, regional, or national level.

Emphasis will be given to nominees who:

- have had a long-standing (four or more years) partnership with the BLM and FS,
- have a demonstrated track record of cooperative conservation successes,
- are recognized leaders in the conservation field and use unique or innovative approaches, and,
- work to promote the public's understanding of cooperative conservation.

The nomination package should include:

- the title of person and/or their organization,
- his/her current position or address,
- the nominator's contact information,
- a summary of achievements, and,
- any other appropriate information.

**Linda Siebert Career Achievement Award:** This award recognizes a current or retired BLM employee who has significantly contributed to the conservation of fish, wildlife, and/or botanic resources over the course of their career. Any outstanding BLM botanist, fisheries or aquatic biologist, wildlife biologist, state office program lead, or manager is eligible to receive this award. State directors are encouraged to nominate individuals for recognition.

The Linda Siebert Career Achievement Award recognizes a BLM biologist or manager who exemplifies the characteristics and professional dedication of one of the BLM's finest biologists, Linda Siebert. Linda passed away on May 31, 2000, at the age of 53, leaving an indelible legacy on the wildlife resources of the desert southwest through her 22-year career with the BLM. Individuals who had the privilege to know and work with Linda, including co-workers in the BLM, professional wildlife biologists in other agencies, teachers, sportsmen, and private citizens, all found themselves in the presence of a truly special person.

Linda's love and passion for the outdoors translated itself into a tireless advocacy for habitat protection and restoration. Her strong commitment to public service and focus on the public good was reflected in her tireless efforts to build bridges between agencies, non-governmental organizations, community groups, and private citizens interested in public lands management. Linda was an active problem solver who focused on non-confrontational ways to get things done; not the problems that might stand in the way. Through her technical skill and genuine desire to do the right thing for the resources and the public, Linda was able to resolve conflicts and turn them into positive outcomes.

Emphasis will be given to nominees that have:

- developed strong working relationships with other individuals or organizations,
- made consistent contributions to natural resources,
- had a long-term natural resources career (20+ years),
- accomplished work through innovation and creativity, and,
- established and developed partnerships throughout their career.

The nomination packages should include:

- the name and title of nominee,
- their current position or address,
- a summary of achievements, and,
- the nominator's contact information.

Justification statements should include examples of:

- career accomplishments;
- professional experience, recognition, and dedication; and,
- how the individual uses ingenuity to accomplish natural resource goals.

**Selection Process:** An interagency committee of staff and managers from the BLM and FS will evaluate nominations for the two joint awards and select one candidate. Every year, the recipient of the previous year's Linda Seibert Career Achievement award will chair a committee to review nominations for the current year's Linda Seibert award. Travel for recipients to the awards ceremony will be paid by the BLM Washington Office. Specific details about the awards ceremony and travel will be provided to the successful recipient approximately one month prior to the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

**The Karl Urban Celebrating Wildflowers Award:** This award recognizes an individual or group, within or outside of the BLM and FS, who exemplify dedication to the Celebrating Wildflowers program, which includes native plant resources, creativity, community involvement, volunteer programs, and educational efforts through wildflower walks, talks, festivals or classes.

Nominators must provide a description of one or more of the following for each nominee:

- how nominee is involved in the community and Celebrating Wildflowers partnership efforts,
- educational elements in nominee's Celebrating Wildflowers program,
- scope and significance of nominee's contributions to native flora of North America, and,
- creativity, perseverance, and commitment in nominee's work.

The nomination package should include the following information:

- the name of individual/group being nominated,
- their nominee contact information,
- the office submitting nomination, and,
- the nominator's contact information.