

SUMMER  
2014



# MY PUBLIC LANDS



★ The Summer  
Issue

## CELEBRATE

50 Years of Our Nation's  
Most Magical Destinations

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A New Oregon Trail

Get Radical on New Mountain  
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American Hustle

When Colorado Miners Uncovered  
a Secret Chamber of Gold



## A Note from the Director

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *My Public Lands*, a magazine designed to give readers a glimpse into what BLM-managed public lands have to offer – whether it is nearby or a thousand miles away.

Often the public's perception of the BLM is a reflection of the most visible work we do in any given community. For instance, residents of Wyoming communities may be well aware of the BLM's role in oil and gas leasing or

coal development. For residents of the Pacific Northwest, it might be forestry and in California it could be recreation. But the fact is, our work is extremely diverse and touches the lives of all Americans.

The purpose of *My Public Lands* is to cast a light on some of the work of the BLM that, together, fulfills our mission “to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

In this issue, you'll see a mix of stories about the land's natural beauty, the people who lived here before us, and the historic role public lands played in building communities during good times and bad. You'll read about the role a lone lighthouse on the Florida coast played as a spy station during World War II, and about how the BLM manages forests in Montana and caribou habitat in Alaska.

You'll learn how a public-private partnership brought world-class mountain biking trails to an area near Portland, Ore., and see what happened when an unexpected visitor showed up in the campsite of a BLM river guide on a trip down the Green River in Utah.

This issue comes as we prepare to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act this fall, and so on these pages, we also recognize this landmark legislation passed by Congress in 1964 and the legacy that has evolved. For the BLM, that means managing 221 Wilderness Areas – about 8.7 million acres – and an additional 12.8 million acres of Wilderness Study Area in a natural, undisturbed state.

It is our hope that this edition of *My Public Lands* helps you to get to know us and all of your public lands, whatever their current uses, a little better.

## NEIL KORNZE

DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



## Your Passport to America's Great Outdoors

VOLUME 1 ▼ ISSUE 1

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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.



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## Burning Man

Tens of thousands of visitors enjoy Burning Man on Nevada public lands managed by the BLM. The 2014 Burn kicks off August 25! See more great photos at [instagram.com/mypubliclands](http://instagram.com/mypubliclands).

Burning Man Photo by Bob Wick  
Front Cover Illustration by Matt Christenson

MY PUBLIC LANDS

CARING FOR CARIBOU

Public lands in Alaska are home to more than half of the nation's caribou.

# A Cariboon For Caribou



PHOTO BY JACOB W. FRANK, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**T**here are a great many things that set Alaska apart from the lower 48.

Chief among them are the unique challenges the environment offers, the diversity of animals that inhabit it, and the sheer size of America's largest state. These diverse lands include majestic mountain ranges, vibrant wetlands, unique coastal marine environments and vast expanses of tundra. The BLM manages 72 million acres of public lands in the state, including the largest contiguous

**STORY BY ERIN CURTIS, BLM ALASKA**

block of federal land in the United States – the 23 million acre National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

All of these factors come into play as the BLM in Alaska manages habitat for 16 herds of barren-ground caribou.

The largest -- the Western Arctic Herd -- numbers over 300,000 animals and ranges over an area larger than the State of New Mexico. This herd is particularly dependent on BLM habitats, as more than a third of its range occurs within BLM boundaries in northwestern Alaska. In fact, nearly all of its calving grounds are found within the National Petroleum Reserve, and much of the winter range is within another significant block of BLM lands -- the Nulato Hills.

The BLM's Steese National Conservation Area and White Mountains National Recreation Area, both east

of Fairbanks, provide crucial calving habitat for the Fortymile and White Mountain herds. The Fortymile herd is internationally significant, as its winter range extends into Canada. The BLM is working with the Government of Yukon, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and others to conserve this important herd as it rebounds from a population decline.

Caribou must keep moving to find adequate food. Large herds often migrate hundreds of miles between their summer and winter ranges, while some smaller herds might not migrate at all.

Although caribou herds may intermingle on their winter ranges, they separate into distinct calving areas in the spring.

BLM habitats and the caribou they support are treasured by thousands of rural and Native Village residents who depend upon caribou for food. The herds are also important to sport hunters and other wildlife lovers in Alaska and beyond.

They are very important to BLM as well. "As human activities expand and climate change continues, we are more challenged than ever to understand the needs of caribou and ensure they remain a viable, healthy part of the Arctic landscape," says Cara Staab, wildlife biologist for BLM-Alaska. To that end, the agency is engaged in several continuing, long-term caribou monitoring and research projects to ensure these majestic animals continue to thrive across this "Great Land of Alaska." ▼



Photo by Leslie Kehmeier, IMBA

# BLAZING A New Oregon TRAIL

Story by Zach Jarrett  
& Matt Christenson,  
BLM Oregon

Get  
Radical!  
The BLM  
joins forces  
with a group of  
gnarly mountain  
bikers! Thanks to  
an innovative public-  
private partnership,  
these two groups have  
built world-class riding  
trails near Portland, Oregon,  
that are quickly becoming an  
international sensation.

• volunteer work parties to create and maintain the Sandy Ridge Trail System. It's even accessible by public transportation.

• In addition to the BLM and the Trail Alliance, local youths also joined the effort – some of whom were only just getting into riding themselves. Members from the Columbia River Environmental Youth Corps, Northwest Youth Corps, Portland Youth Explorers, and the Urban League of Portland provided over 10,000 hours to construct more than 15 miles of trails as well as to remove weeds and install visitor signs.

### Take Off the Training Wheels

As these biker-built trails have expanded, they've received overwhelmingly positive coverage. From the *New York Times* and the *Oregonian* to the hippest blogs, the secret is out. The Sandy Ridge Trails stand among the premiere destinations for mountain bikers.



Inset Photo by Michael Campbell, BLM Oregon

• And these incredible trails are available to everyone – easily found on America's public lands.

• But these trails aren't just for pros. All ability levels and riding styles are finding their home here.

• Anna Laxague, a director for the International Mountain Bike Association, says it's "a tasty ribbon of dirt flowing through an old-growth forest. Short climbs can be blasted like on a pump track to 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. Somebody pinch me."

• Or don't.

• For mountain bikers, this is one dream they won't ever want to wake up from. ▼

## Lewis and Clark never imagined a trail quite like this.

Traveling these hills used to require a 1,300-pound prairie schooner loaded down with everything from barrels of food and water to medical supplies and ammo (not to mention the odd family piano). But today you can divebomb these very same pioneer paths on your 25-pound, 27-speed carbon fiber mountain bike that will turn a simple trail into a roller coaster. But how did we get here?

### Bike to the Future

Back in 2009, the BLM in Oregon heard an important message from its neighbors. As more Americans migrate to big cities, they're looking for a wider range of local recreation. But near Portland – arguably the two-wheeled capital of the country – virtually all mountain bike trails were at least an hour away.

Enter the Northwest Trail Alliance (NWTA), the largest mountain bike trail advocacy group in the State of Oregon. With over 250 active members, the NWTA partnered with the BLM to sign an Adopt a Trail Agreement that organized

Keep Riding @  
<http://on.doi.gov/1jaDb5e>





Stand on a bluff above the South Fork of the Snake River in southeastern Idaho and watch the swift current, born of snowmelt and springs among the high ridges of Yellowstone country, flow around ever-changing sandbars. Take in the wide views of verdant hillsides that glow with reds, yellows, and oranges in the fall. Glimpse a moose lazily grazing along the shore or a bald eagle soaring above, eyeing the trout swimming in the water below.

The magnificent views and easy access to food and building materials inspired many families to build homesteads and ranches here in the late 1800s. These sparse settlements later gave way to subdivisions and resorts.

The expanding development inspired the BLM to partner with The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and the Teton Regional Land Trust to form the Upper Snake River Land Conservation Partnership. The goal -- to acquire key properties from willing landowners to help preserve what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has called the most valuable, biodiverse, and unique ecosystem in Idaho.

One-third of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem's bald eagles share the air space here with 179 bird species, including 21 raptor species. In the waters below, the largest population of native Yellowstone cutthroat trout outside of Yellowstone National Park swims the clear river channels. One of the largest wildlife-rich, cottonwood gallery forests remaining in the lower 48 states is found here. The region also provides crucial winter range for deer, elk and other big game.

So far, willing land owners have exchanged, sold or donated about 90 private properties to the cause. Many of these were working farms and ranches intermingled with public lands. This has provided some 27,000 acres to help consolidate public lands and enhance the ecological integrity of an area under increasing development pressure. This work also adds tangible value for the more than half a million people who come here each year to fish, boat, camp, hike, watch wildlife or simply enjoy the area's stunning natural beauty and cultural richness. ▼

# Wild Water Conservation

## STEWARDSHIP ▼

### SNAKE RIVER RISING

This gorgeous waterway in Idaho is being carefully conserved for future generations.

STORY BY JESSICA GOTTLIEB, BLM IDAHO

*Think this photo is amazing?  
See Snake River for yourself!  
Visit <http://on.doi.gov/1hvZbZs>  
or scan our QR code for more!*



GHOSTS AT THE COAST

During WWII, this peaceful-looking inlet was the home of American intelligence agents who were spying – and calling in air strikes – on German U-boats that sank American ships off the coast of Florida.

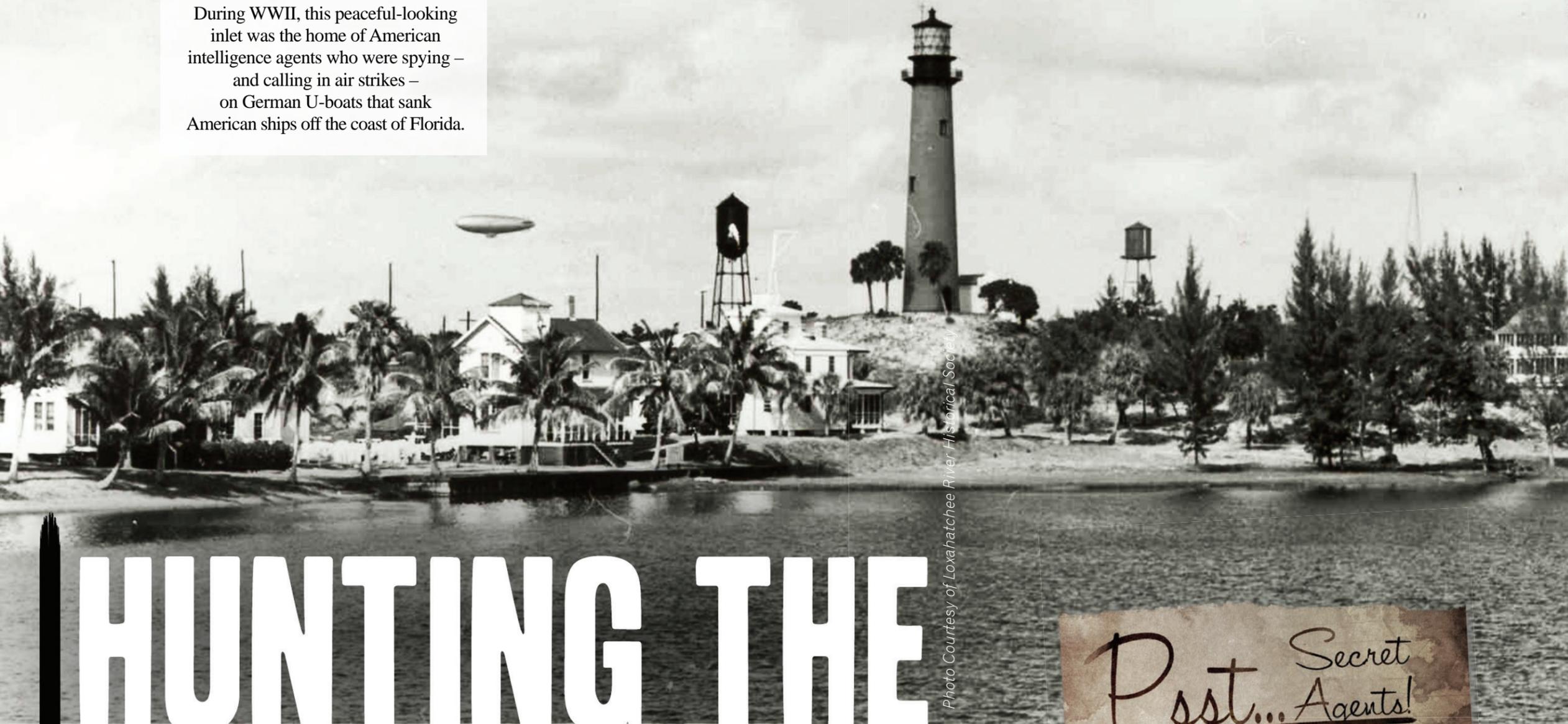


Photo Courtesy of Loxahatchee River Historical Society

# HUNTING THE HUNTER



**T**oday this island of green stands as a peaceful waylay for tourists looking for tranquility away from spring breakers, motorcycles, and urban development. But don't be fooled. The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse has a secret past few have ever known.

Back in WWII, the lighthouse served as a U.S. intelligence spy station.

During those years, merchant ships departed from the Port of New Orleans carrying vital war supplies to U.S. troops in the European theater. These ships were forced to travel dangerously close to the Florida coastline to avoid being attacked by German submarines lying in wait for them. The first year of the war was particularly dangerous and costly. Ships such as the SS Republic and the SS W.D. Anderson were sunk off Jupiter Inlet killing 42 people.

In anticipation of the increasing threat from lurking German U-boats, the U.S. Navy established a secret intelligence listening post known to the intelligence community as "Station J" where the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area stands today.

The crew at Station J intercepted German radio messages to provide crucial information to help protect U.S. merchant vessels and allied ships and aircraft. Station J was even able to pinpoint the locations of hostile German submarines when they surfaced each night to charge their batteries and send reports back to Germany.

The American spies who intercepted this information relayed to U. S. tactical units. As a result, the U-boats were caught by surprise on the surface by U.S. aircraft whose swift air attacks significantly reduced the effectiveness of German patrols in that portion of the Atlantic.

**STORY BY BOB GILLCASH, BLM EASTERN STATES**

In 2008, Congress passed an act designating this remarkable site as the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area to protect its unique scenic, scientific, educational, and recreational values. The lighthouse is part of the National Landscape Conservation System and is one of only three sites afforded the Outstanding Natural Area designation.

Today, this unlikely spy station welcomes 80,000 visitors each year – many of whom have no idea of the lighthouse's James Bond past. ▼

MAKE TRACKS!

More dinos @  
on.doi.gov/1rqghJk



Or just use  
our QR code!



# WALKING with GIANTS!

## DOWN BY THE SEA SHORE

We follow 167-million-year-old dinosaur tracks in the ancient ocean shores of...Wyoming?

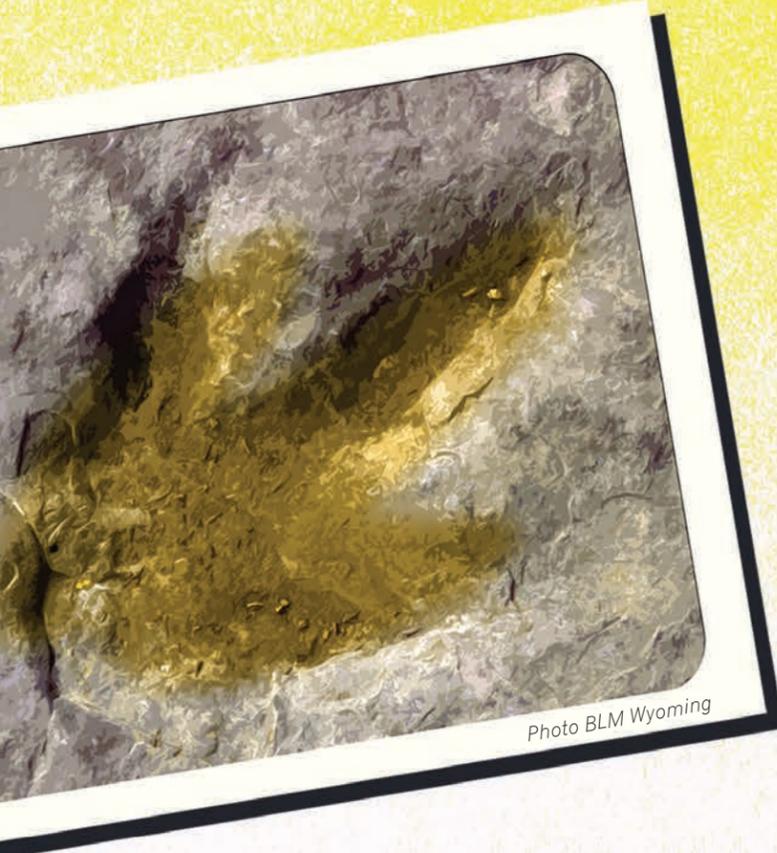


Photo BLM Wyoming

*Imagine yourself walking along an ocean shoreline 167 million years ago with dozens of dinosaurs, picking up bites to eat from what washed up on the last high tide. The ground is soft and your feet sink down in the thick ooze, leaving a clear footprint with every step you take.*

These footprints are the tangible remains of the Middle Jurassic population of meat-eating dinosaurs that walked on this ancient tidal flat, and are preserved at the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite in Wyoming. The tracksite is not only a gem among America's public lands, it is also one of the premier dinosaur tracksites in the world.

The limy mud over which the dinosaurs walked probably felt similar to cement just starting to harden. The tracks were perfectly preserved when the ground fossilized and was covered by more layers of ooze and then by fine sand, filling the tracks and preserving their shape. Over the years, layer upon layer of sediment filled in over the top. Much later, erosion went to work and removed those layers, exposing the tracks that were made all those millions of years ago.

Scientists are excited about this site because its size makes it the largest in the state and its age marks it as one of only a few worldwide from the Middle Jurassic Period (160 million to 180 million years old).

The discovery also means that the geologic history of the area needs to be rewritten.

For part of the Middle Jurassic, Wyoming was covered periodically by an ancient ocean called the Sundance Sea. Until the tracks were found, scientists thought that only sea-dwelling creatures could have lived in the area which would mean there shouldn't be any dinosaur footprints here at all. But there are thousands of tracks in the 40-acre area. The dinosaur tracks were clearly made just at the shoreline, not in deep ocean water, and there must have been large areas of dry land to support not only dinosaurs but other animals and plants.

The Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite is one of the most extensively and intensively studied dinosaur tracksites in the world and continues to provide important information about the dinosaurs and paleogeography of western North America during the Middle Jurassic Period. BLM scientists working here have pioneered photogrammetric techniques currently used around the world that

allow tracks and other fossils to be digitally documented for research and curation. A podcast was recently made available on YouTube that showcases the site and details some of the state-of-the-art photogrammetric work done on dinosaur footprints in northern Wyoming.

More than 12,000 people from 11 countries and more than 30 states visited the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite in 2013. In addition to finding hundreds of dinosaur tracks, visitors are also enjoying the recreational area's recent facelift which includes a new shade shelter, the Trex boardwalk, and well-maintained picnic area and interpretive signage.

The Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite exemplifies Wyoming's tremendously rich fossil heritage and provides a unique opportunity for the public to experience one of the world's unique dinosaur tracksites. ▼

STORY BY SARAH BECKWITH, BLM WYOMING

## NATIONAL MONUMENT ▼

### VACATION DESTINATION

Spectacular scenery sings the siren's song to summer travelers along 1,100 miles of the awe-inspiring California coast.

# Surf's Up

**Spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife, and heartfelt connections – these are the natural ties between community residents and nature that combine to make the Bureau of Land Management's California Coastal National Monument unique among the agency's assemblage of National Conservation Lands.**

**Story by Jeff Fontana, BLM California**

The monument, established by Presidential proclamation in 2000, protects more than 20,000 small islands, rocks, exposed reefs and pinnacles stretching the entire 1,100-mile length of California's coast.

Waves crashing over the rocks jutting from the brilliant blue Pacific provide a breathtaking backdrop for drivers on California's Highway 1, revered by many as one of the world's most scenic drives. Photographers and artists from around the world are drawn to the rocks, writers are inspired by them, and school children in coastal towns use the natural beauty in their own back yards to produce poetry, essays and art.

Importantly, however, these rocks and islands provide critical habitat for seabirds, seals, sea lions, and unique plants.

And this year, the California Coastal National Monument "came ashore," as 1,665 acres known as the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands were added to the monument. This property on the Mendocino Coast, also designated by Presidential proclamation, more than doubled the monument's acreage, and for the first time provided opportunity for people to actually set foot on the monument. There is now unfettered public access to a 12-mile swath of coastal prairies and dramatic bluffs overlooking a rugged and rocky shoreline.

The monument is loved by many, for many different reasons.

It's a haven for birds. Monument rocks are critical nesting and breeding grounds for thousands of birds. Although the ocean is their primary habitat and food source, seabirds such as murrelets, guillemots and puffins nest on the offshore rocks where they are safe from predators.

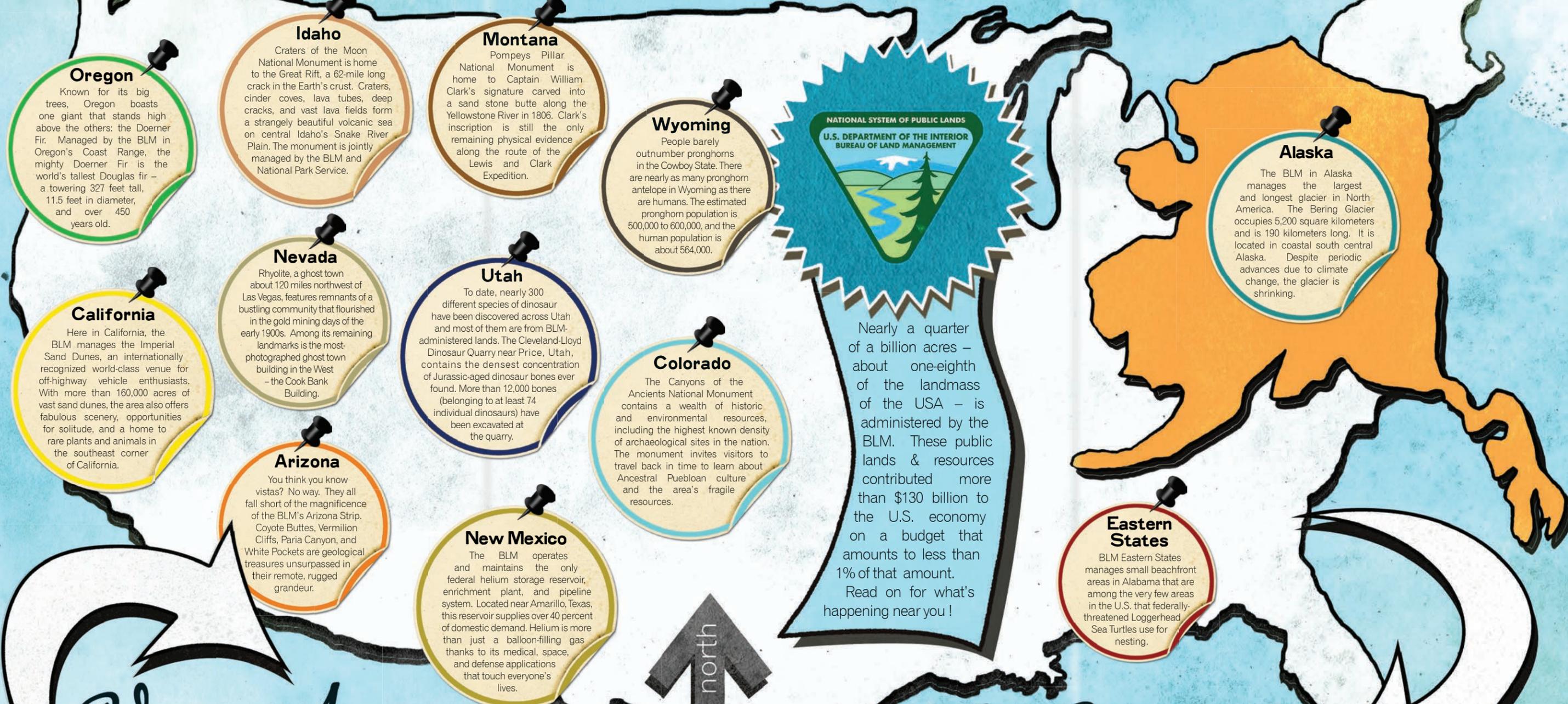
It's a marine mammal retreat. Harbor seals, California sea lions, Stellar sea lions, elephant seals and California sea otters thrive in the waters surrounding the monument and go out onto the rocks to rest.

It's a natural wonder. The nutrient-rich waters around the monument support diverse habitats and organisms. Tidepools, pounded by the surf and baked by the sun, are some of the harshest environments on earth and support fascinating life forms adapted to survive in extreme conditions.

It's an economic engine. Coastal communities from enclaves near San Diego, Los Angeles, and the Bay Area, to the tiny towns on the rugged north coast depend on tourist dollars brought by thousands of visitors drawn to the coast's magnificent beauty. Importantly, the tourism is sustainable and not dependent on development.

It's a respite from the stresses of daily life. A stroll across coastal prairies at Point Arena, a hike on Trinidad Head or a stop at a dramatic ocean overlook provides ways for people to revitalize and recharge. ▼

# Explore America



Nearly a quarter of a billion acres – about one-eighth of the landmass of the USA – is administered by the BLM. These public lands & resources contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy on a budget that amounts to less than 1% of that amount. Read on for what's happening near you!

**Oregon**  
Known for its big trees, Oregon boasts one giant that stands high above the others: the Doerner Fir. Managed by the BLM in Oregon's Coast Range, the mighty Doerner Fir is the world's tallest Douglas fir – a towering 327 feet tall, 11.5 feet in diameter, and over 450 years old.

**Idaho**  
Craters of the Moon National Monument is home to the Great Rift, a 62-mile long crack in the Earth's crust. Craters, cinder cones, lava tubes, deep cracks, and vast lava fields form a strangely beautiful volcanic sea on central Idaho's Snake River Plain. The monument is jointly managed by the BLM and National Park Service.

**Montana**  
Pompeys Pillar National Monument is home to Captain William Clark's signature carved into a sand stone butte along the Yellowstone River in 1806. Clark's inscription is still the only remaining physical evidence along the route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

**Wyoming**  
People barely outnumber pronghorns in the Cowboy State. There are nearly as many pronghorn antelope in Wyoming as there are humans. The estimated pronghorn population is 500,000 to 600,000, and the human population is about 564,000.

**Nevada**  
Rhyolite, a ghost town about 120 miles northwest of Las Vegas, features remnants of a bustling community that flourished in the gold mining days of the early 1900s. Among its remaining landmarks is the most-photographed ghost town building in the West – the Cook Bank Building.

**Utah**  
To date, nearly 300 different species of dinosaur have been discovered across Utah and most of them are from BLM-administered lands. The Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry near Price, Utah, contains the densest concentration of Jurassic-aged dinosaur bones ever found. More than 12,000 bones (belonging to at least 74 individual dinosaurs) have been excavated at the quarry.

**Colorado**  
The Canyons of the Ancients National Monument contains a wealth of historic and environmental resources, including the highest known density of archaeological sites in the nation. The monument invites visitors to travel back in time to learn about Ancestral Puebloan culture and the area's fragile resources.

**California**  
Here in California, the BLM manages the Imperial Sand Dunes, an internationally recognized world-class venue for off-highway vehicle enthusiasts. With more than 160,000 acres of vast sand dunes, the area also offers fabulous scenery, opportunities for solitude, and a home to rare plants and animals in the southeast corner of California.

**Arizona**  
You think you know vistas? No way. They all fall short of the magnificence of the BLM's Arizona Strip. Coyote Buttes, Vermilion Cliffs, Paria Canyon, and White Pockets are geological treasures unsurpassed in their remote, rugged grandeur.

**New Mexico**  
The BLM operates and maintains the only federal helium storage reservoir, enrichment plant, and pipeline system. Located near Amarillo, Texas, this reservoir supplies over 40 percent of domestic demand. Helium is more than just a balloon-filling gas thanks to its medical, space, and defense applications that touch everyone's lives.

**Eastern States**  
BLM Eastern States manages small beachfront areas in Alabama that are among the very few areas in the U.S. that federally-threatened Loggerhead Sea Turtles use for nesting.

**Alaska**  
The BLM in Alaska manages the largest and longest glacier in North America. The Bering Glacier occupies 5,200 square kilometers and is 190 kilometers long. It is located in coastal south central Alaska. Despite periodic advances due to climate change, the glacier is shrinking.

Visit America's Great Outdoors with

The Bureau of Land Management

In 1914 near Cripple Creek, Colorado, a group of hard-working miners discovered a hidden chamber – *with walls of gold.*

# AMERICAN

STORY BY KYLE SULLIVAN, BLM COLORADO

# HUSTLE



Turn the page to strike gold...

Cripple Creek - 1893

# AMERICAN HUSTLE



On November 24, 1914, in the Cripple Creek Colorado mining district, miners were shocked to discover a large chamber with walls completely covered in gold crystals as large as thumbnails.

The owners quickly installed vault doors, and deployed armed guards to escort the ore to the mills. While mining had already been prevalent in the area, this discovery helped lead to an economic boom that would last years.

The gold from this mine was likely transported through the rugged and winding canyons like those in the photo above. The precious metal traveled some 30 miles from Cripple Creek to Canon City. And just two years earlier, a massive flood had destroyed the Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad. Thankfully, two other routes existed. Today these roads make up the Gold Belt National Scenic and Historic Byway.

But before being washed out by the flood, the Florence to the Cripple Creek Line was the busiest narrow-gauge railroad in the West. Miners would transport gold ore to Florence for processing, and Florence would send back food and other supplies. This wealth from gold soon helped spur other economic activities in the region.

Spencer Penrose, an entrepreneur who invested in the mines, made a fortune in Cripple Creek and used his wealth to build a massive irrigation system that helped local farmers grow fruits and vegetables. Today, the remains of Penrose's work can be found at Penrose Commons, a popular recreation site for hiking and off-highway vehicle use.

But the local economy wasn't the only recipient to profit from the gold.

Science also benefitted. Around this time, infamous rival paleontologists Edward Drinker Cope and Othniel Charles Marsh discovered rich fossil beds near Canon City. Their attempts to sabotage one another in the pursuit of being the greatest paleontologist of all time helped establish dinosaurs in the public consciousness. Fossil discoveries in Garden Park Fossil Area impacted the course of American paleontology and continue to yield important discoveries.

As we arrive in the present day, we find that recreation and tourism opportunities are as diverse as the history of the land. The Garden Park valley between Shelf Road and Canon City is an

outdoor destination for many enthusiasts. From hiking and mountain biking to rock climbing, horseback riding, and off-highway vehicles, amazing opportunities await around every corner. And another 27,000 acres of pristine lands at the nearby Beaver Creek Wilderness Area provide even more primitive recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat.

And to think, all of the development, discovery, and progress in this area began thanks to the ingenuity and hard work of these early American miners. Thankfully, their legacy allows us to tell their story – and wonder what it must have been like to be the first people into their golden cave. ▼

WANT TO PLAN YOUR VISIT? DROP BY [ON.DOI.GOV/1PL9D8F](https://on.doi.gov/1PL9D8F)  
OR USE OUR QR CODE. (DON'T FORGET YOUR GOLD PAN...)



## ▼ ARCHAEOLOGY

### HEY, INDIANA JONES!

In the remote high deserts of New Mexico, modern-day archaeologists and adventurers are building a bridge to our past.

Between A.D. 700 and 1150, the Chacoan people built the Great Houses. Thanks to their advanced architecture and masonry techniques, some of these elaborate buildings – which they mysteriously left behind – are now known to have been several stories high with hundreds of rooms.

Each year, tens of thousands of visitors explore the spectacular Chaco Canyon in the Chaco Culture National Historical Park. But brave adventurers willing to step off the well-worn path will discover the ruins of a relatively unknown but equally captivating network of associated communities known as the Chaco Outliers.

The Great Houses – also known as the Outliers – served as the social, political, and religious center of the Chaco world. And each one is unique in its setting and state of ruin. Many of them were connected to the larger settlements in Chaco Canyon via a network of prehistoric roads.

To experience this area, amateur Indiana Joneses should gather up a map and be prepared to navigate off the beaten trail – usually on county or oil field roads that may require high clearance vehicles like SUVs. There are no info centers, and hiking is usually required, but intrepid explorers will be rewarded with the opportunity to experience the places where the Chacoan people lived so many years ago.

One destination, the Casamero Pueblo, lies off County Road 19 – some 20 miles west of Grants, New Mexico. This particular Outlier is located against a magical backdrop of brilliant red sandstone cliffs. The pueblo contained 22 ground floor rooms and may have had as many as six second-story rooms. It was occupied between A.D. 1000 and 1125 and is an excellent example of a Chacoan Outlier with characteristic core-veneer masonry. Two Chacoan roads and a Great Kiva, a semi-subterranean structure usually used for ceremonial or community gatherings, are also evident. You can plan your visit online at [blm.gov/nm/casamero](http://blm.gov/nm/casamero).

Guadalupe Ruin is the easternmost Chacoan Outlier. This single-story pueblo sits on a sandstone mesa rising nearly 200 feet above the valley floor. This ruin consists of at least 39 rectangular rooms and seven kivas. It's about two hours from Albuquerque, and you can get more info at [blm.gov/nm/guadalupe](http://blm.gov/nm/guadalupe).

If you decide to go see these wondrous buildings left behind by the Chacoan people nearly 900 years ago, and we hope you do, just make sure you pack plenty of supplies and water as well as a camera. (Indiana Jones hat optional.) ▼

STORY BY DONNA HUMMEL, BLM NEW MEXICO

Welcome to the

# Big House

Sunset at the Casamero Ruin  
Photo by Lorrin Meares

In a place called Big Timber, the small mountain pine beetle has taken its toll.

In a number of surrounding areas, the destructive beetle has killed up to 90 percent of the lodgepole pines. According to BLM forester Bruce Reid, “You can almost hear them chewing through the trees on quiet days.”

Also in Big Timber is the Green Mountain Forest Health Project. Thanks to this partnership between the BLM, the State and adjacent landowners, the area impacted by the beetle is on the road to recovery.

The BLM, State of Montana, Stillwater Mine, Lion’s Head Ranch, RY Timber, and other cooperators are working together to harvest and salvage about 2 million board feet of insect-infested and diseased timber on 335 acres of BLM, Stillwater Mine and Lion’s Head lands.

The objectives are ambitious: to improve forest health and stand diversity, develop a cooperative road system, enhance public access, reduce hazardous fuels and decrease insect and disease damage.

Now in the timber salvage phase, the project is the result of several years’ of planning, hard work and coordination. Billings Field Manager Jim Sparks says the work “is really a true success story.”

The clear benefit of removing dead and dying trees is reducing hazardous fuels and thus the potential for catastrophic wildfire. But the Green Mountain project will also result in about \$100,000 for the American people while boosting the local economy. This is the first large-scale sale timber salvage project for the BLM’s Billings Field office in many years.

Craig Howells, a fuels specialist for the BLM and longtime Montana resident, highlighted the community aspects of the project. “It’s a project involving both federal and local land owners,” he said. “The contractor harvesting the timber is based in Montana and the logs are being processed at a mill near here. It’s a true collaboration benefiting the land but also benefiting the Montana economy.”

“It’s our responsibility to manage the land for long-term stewardship and public enjoyment,” Reid points out. “Forest Health is hazardous fuels reduction, wildlife habitat, and economic boost. It’s not just logging.”

You might say, the Green Mountain Forest Health project is seeing the forest for the trees. ▼

Story by BLM Staff,  
Montana/Dakotas

Illustration by  
Matt Christenson,  
BLM Oregon

# DON'T BUG MONTANA

# The Good News About TOUGH-TIMES

Story by Dennis Godfrey, BLM Arizona

Visit the historic Sanchez Civilian Conservation Corps Camp in southeastern Arizona which took young men out of bread lines and put them to work outdoors.

When people make an effort to visit what remains of the Sanchez Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp in southeastern Arizona, they are fascinated by the history.

“People love to go to it,” said Dan McGrew, archaeologist for the BLM in Arizona. “It’s just one of the most favorite places that we bring people to.”

Nonetheless, only about 300 people a year find their way to what was a bustling work camp for the CCC in the 1930s. It’s not a hard place to get to, about three miles from the Safford Airport on BLM land. But it’s not widely known, and it helps to have a guide like McGrew.

McGrew points out water tanks dug with hand tools, contours cut into the soil to stop erosion, and earthen dams that still hold water. Many of these and other features built by hand by young men almost 80 years ago still provide the conservation measure for which they were designed.

This isn’t ancient history. The Sanchez CCC camp was open and active in 1935-36 during the Great Depression. It’s not that long ago from an historical perspective, and that’s one of the connections that people make. Chances are they have a parent or grandparent who lived through that time.

The CCC was an answer to youth unemployment during the Depression. It was also a means to repair a landscape devastated by drought and poor land management.

As many as 200 men, most from Texas, lived at the camp. They worked five days a week and were paid \$30 a month. Nearly all of that money went home to their families.

They were typically young men from 18 to 20 years old. Each of the young men earned food, clothing, and medical care along with housing in the camp. They also received a basic education with classes in spelling and mathematics. Advanced training was available in mechanics, firefighting, and diesel repair.

McGrew met a man who had been in the Sanchez CCC Camp. One of the stories he told was of Saturday nights in the nearby town of Safford where there was a little open-air dance spot. The young men would clean themselves up and then load into the back of open trucks for the ride to town. However, the trucks kicked up dust and invariably, the men arrived in town as dirty as if they had made no preparation.

Visitors to the site today can see seven standing buildings and interpretive signs.

If you visit the Sanchez Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, you can get a sense of a time when young men were willing to endure life in camp and hard work to help their families far away. You can see the benefit today to the land from that hard work 80 years ago. ▼

Plan your visit at  
<http://on.doi.gov/1hep8ZZ>



# !Midnight Mustang!

**W**hile camping overnight on a solo rafting trip down Utah's aptly named "Desolation Canyon," BLM River Ranger Mick Krussow has a midnight rendezvous with a wild mustang...

A few summers back, I ran a solo river patrol down Desolation Canyon. I was making a night run because I felt I knew the river well enough to float past dark. And I chose that time because I wanted to space myself between launch groups as well as survey the local wildlife that comes out of the willows at dusk. Leaning back, I floated quietly down the water taking care not to disturb the stillness of evening or the solitude under the brilliant night sky.

I arrived at my first stop where I planned to set up camp for the night. After making a quick sweep of the area with my headlamp looking for cactus thorns, I was soon fast asleep.

But it wasn't long before I awoke to the sound of horse hooves approaching from downstream.

I bolted upright knowing this was a solitary wild horse that I'd previously seen from a distance. In a desperate attempt to avoid being trampled, I turned on my headlamp and gave a few crazy yells. To my surprise, the wild horse turned and took off in a gallop. I gratefully laid back down and returned to sleep.

But sometime later he came back. This time when I turned on my headlamp, he did nothing. But I could finally see him up close. An old strawberry roan. No doubt a longtime local resident. And to him, I was in his house.

For several minutes we held each other's eyes atop the banks of the wild Green River. Then, without warning, he moved toward me several steps. I threw my sleeping gear on the patrol boat and untied it for a quick escape.

With less than 50 feet of darkness between us, I could feel the great horse breathing and staring me down, his mane as wild as his heritage. I was completely fascinated by his power and beauty. He was the epitome of everything natural and untamed. So I left him to his home and quietly floated away. Watching his mystic silhouette come to the water's edge to drink, I then realized I was sleeping in his territorial watering spot.

I went further down the bend to a sprawling beach where I tied the boat and went back to sleep. I could still hear the sound of hooves in the night. He was running. Still making his presence known. But now that we'd been introduced and he knew

I wasn't going to encroach upon him, he moved away and allowed me a peaceful sleep for the remainder of the night. ▼



Illustration by Matt Christensen, BLM Oregon

# H

omesteading, mining and ranching have all been a part of Nevada's 150-year history. Through it all, the Department of the Interior, first in the form of the General Land Office and now in the form of the Bureau of Land Management, has played a role the history of America's 36th state. In order to help celebrate Nevada's Sesquicentennial in 2014, BLM offices in Nevada developed activities designed to encourage people to get out and explore their public lands.

Across the nearly 45 million acres managed by the BLM in Nevada, there are many opportunities to get outside. People who enjoy wide open spaces, secluded canyons, historic buildings, and flora and fauna were asked to share their experiences as part of BLM Nevada's second annual photo contest.

"There are few places in the world as rich as the public lands in Nevada," according to Scott Mortimore, a photo contest winner who captured an image of first light on a hunt in northern Washoe County. "If you see a mountain you want to climb, a rim you want to hunt, a stretch of desert you want to explore, odds are it's there for the taking. You simply go."

Native Nevadan Dennis Doyle, a resident of the Great Basin for 60 years, describes the area as "a little piece of heaven."

"The photo contest was only one part of our efforts to get people exploring their public lands during the Nevada 150 celebration," said Outdoor Recreation Planner Barb Keleher, who heads the planning committee for the BLM's support of Nevada's sesquicentennial.

"We're also working on a junior explorer book that has information and activities for kids and families about sites on each of our districts that will be available later this spring. And

# Home for 150 Years

(and counting!)

## CELEBRATION ▼

### WHERE THE HEART IS

Nevadans mark 150 years of statehood with a photo contest and other activities.

**CHRIS ROSE, BLM NEVADA**

we'll be placing Nevada 150-themed geocaches aimed at getting people out to trails, historic sites and other areas on public lands throughout the state." ▼

PHOTO BY MICHELLE JETZER

**LOTS MORE NEVADA 150 PHOTOS**  
@ [HTTP://BIT.LY/QFMR8N](http://bit.ly/QFMR8N)



# HAVE YOU SEEN AMERICA'S WILDERNESS?!

SEE IT FOR YOURSELF AS AMERICA CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT! CHECK OUT THE BLM'S FULL-COLOR POSTERS THAT CHRONICLE THE CONCEPTION AND COMPOSITION OF THESE CONSERVATION CREATIONS FEATURING SOME OF OUR NATION'S MOST SPLENDIFEROUS SCENERIES!



**MORE STATES COMING SOON!**



**MERLE WILDMAN**

**WILDERNESS EXPERT**

THESE THREE POSTERS OF YOUR ALL-TIME FAV' PLACES ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN ONE EYE-CATCHING COLLECTION ONLINE @ [FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/MYPUBLICLANDS](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mypubliclands/). PLUS THE ACTUAL PHOTOS THAT INSPIRED THESE WORKS OF ART -- ALL TOGETHER FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME! AND MEET MERLE WILDMAN IN PERSON AT YOUTUBE WHERE HE'LL BE YOUR PERSONAL GUIDE TO AMERICA'S WILDERNESS. JUST SCAN THE QR!



<http://bit.ly/1hewW3W>

## HEY BLM, SEND ME MORE INFO ON THE FOLLOWING!

IT'S ALL ONLINE! VISIT [HTTP://ON.DOI.GOV/1fEJccN](http://on.doi.gov/1fEJccN)

- NATIONAL MONUMENTS
- NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS
- COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION AREAS
- OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREAS

- WILDERNESS
- FOREST RESERVES
- WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS
- WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS
- NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAILS

