

TEACHERS ON THE PUBLIC LANDS



HANDS
ON THE
LAND

Join the Bureau of Land Management team in protecting our public lands and promoting hands on learning through some of the United States' most treasured cultural, natural and geological resources...become a Teacher on the Public Lands!

The BLM San Luis Valley Field Office is looking for a teacher (K-12) to apply for the Teacher on the Public Lands, Hands on the Land Program for the Rio Grande Natural Area (RGNA). The RGNA was selected as one of the top ten BLM HOL sites from across the nation for curriculum development.

The Teachers on Public Lands program was developed by the BLM's Hands on the Land program and the University of Colorado (UC) Denver to provide professional development opportunities for teachers by placing them as teacher "interns" at the BLM HOL selected site.

This project will last for eight weeks between June and August 2014. The teacher will receive a \$2,200 professional development stipend, based on working 20 hours a week, which will be issued at the end of the Teachers on Public Lands program. The teacher will also receive a \$353 stipend to pay for UC Denver course credits and tech fees. The major duty of the teacher will be to develop educational curricula around the Natural Area's significant cultural and historic heritage for use with students in an outdoor classroom environment and concurring with formal education standards, and State and Federal curriculums. Ideally, the curriculum development would include a Spanish version. UC Denver will provide the teacher with a rubric for the lesson plan as well as instructional feedback. UC Denver will provide the opportunity for teachers to receive graduate credit if interested and the teacher will receive a certificate of completion that can be taken back to the school district and converted into recertification points or units.

In addition to this project, the Teacher on the Public Lands will have the opportunity to get to learn about the Bureau of Land Management's mission firsthand. The teacher will get a chance to get out in the field with different specialists, including the archeologist, wildlife biologists, park rangers, BLM law enforcement rangers, range specialists, outdoor recreation planners and others. It will be a great way to see and explore the unique resources in the over 500,000 acres managed within the BLM San Luis Valley Field Office. The teacher will receive on the ground, firsthand, well-rounded job experiences to see how BLM manages the public lands. The teacher is encouraged to take these experiences back into the classroom and teach their students, fellow co-workers, other school district, and BLM staff what their summer position of being a Teacher on the Public Lands consisted of and the developed curriculum.

Rio Grande Natural Area (Rio Grande River)

Located between Alamosa, CO and the New Mexico border

The Rio Grande Natural Area (RGNA) was designated by Congress and signed into law by the President in 2006, to conserve, restore, and protect the natural, historic, cultural, scientific, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources of that special landscape. The RGNA is a unique setting that provides many significant educational and interpretive opportunities for a variety of resource values, including: watershed health, water quality, riparian health, wildlife habitat, culture and history, rangeland management, livestock grazing, invasive species, climate change, botany, geology, and recreation. The landscape of the Natural Area, and the importance of its ecological diversity, makes it an extremely valuable Hands On the Land (HOL) site for engaging local and regional underserved populations through education and interpretation.

The Rio Grande Natural Area's HOL goals are to provide students, teachers and communities' educational opportunities in an outdoor and natural classroom setting on the Rio Grande River Corridor in the San Luis Valley. Hosting a teacher to develop lesson plans and other educational resources will further the goals of the Natural Area as an HOL site in the following ways:

- 1) Increase knowledge and understanding of public lands management resources and challenges, as well as appreciation of the opportunities available on public lands to learn about broad-based (and increasingly important) themes, such as climate change.
- 2) Achieve the BLM's mission of sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands.
- 3) Strengthen the capacity of BLM staff and partners to develop and deliver quality educational information.
- 4) Provide hands-on learning; allowing students, teachers, and communities to extract meaning and understanding through in-depth experiences with objects, resources, and ideas; connecting children and nature.