

BLM Colorado

August E-News



Meet Collin Ewing, NCA Manager

Collin Ewing previously served as the Planning and Environmental Coordinator for the BLM Grand Junction Field Office.

Collin is a northern Colorado native who graduated from Colorado State University with a BS in Rangeland Ecology.

Collin's resource management career spans multiple agencies with three years with the BLM. He has a background as a range land management specialist, and with threatened and endangered species consultation and archaeology.

Collin is an accomplished fisherman and enjoys hiking and hunting on public lands.



Dominguez NCA and McInnis NCA Field Office Manager, Collin Ewing



Meet Stephanie Odell, Kremmling Field Office Manager

Stephanie began working for the BLM New Mexico Office in 1991. She worked as the abandoned mine lands project manager for the San Juan Public Lands office in Durango and for the Southern Ute Tribe as a water quality and environmental protection specialist. Stephanie most recently was the abandoned mine lands program lead in the Washington D.C. office.

Stephanie was raised in Greeley, Colo., where she graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a degree in biology with minors in chemistry and geology.



Kremmling Field Office Manager, Stephanie Odell



Group photo of Engine 1419 crew members.

Wildland Fire Fighters save more than homes

In June 2013, the Black Forest Fire became the most destructive wildfire in Colorado history with more than 500 homes destroyed. Firefighters reached full containment on the fire on June 20 with 14,280 acres burned.

Several thousand residents were evacuated. As residents were allowed to return to their homes, one homeowner discovered two notes from firefighters regarding her two Koi ponds. One note from BLM Engine 1419 out of Craig, Colo. read "Hello, I just wanted to let you know we fed your fish and turned the big pond water on. Hope all is well." The second note from June 18 read "Fish fed. Rocky Mountain FD, Boulder, CO."

Engine 1419 was assigned to mitigate hazards within the evacuated areas, making it safe for families to return to their homes.

"The advancing fire had been stopped in the days prior to our arrival, thanks to the efforts of many men and women," said Engine 1419 crewmembers. "Our actions, in this case, are only a small part of the cumulative efforts made by everyone involved during this tragic fire. Glad we could help a little."

In the evacuated areas, firemen on the ground coordinated with each other, ensuring no discovered animal was forgotten. Animal control was notified in the instances where further assistance was needed.

BLM Colorado manages wildland fire through interagency efforts that include numerous federal, state, county and local firefighting units.



Crews work on building wide trails at Hartman Rocks.



Hand Cycle user testing out the new wide track at Hartman Rocks.



Group photo. Crews worked to build wide trails for disabled individuals.

BLM Colorado Works with Partners on a Trail Project at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area

The BLM Gunnison Field Office in Colorado recently partnered with the Gunnison Trails nonprofit Organization and the Adaptive Sports Center on two related projects to retrofit two single track trails into the first ever hand cycle trails in BLM Colorado, and to build a new connector trail at the Hartman Rocks Recreation Area.

The three miles of new trails are called "wide trails" because they are easy for all users, not just hand cyclists. The Adaptive Sports Center in Crested Butte partners with the Veterans Administration to assist with the rehabilitation of wounded warriors.

The trail retrofit and new construction is assisting with rehabilitation efforts by providing a trail facility for disabled individuals.

BLM reached out to several partners to help understand trail design criteria for hands cycles. Those partners included Reactive Adaptations (a hand cycle manufacturer located in Crested Butte Colorado) and The Adaptive Sports Center. BLM outdoor recreation planners were given the opportunity to ride hand cycles and talk to hand cycle users prior to trail design and construction.

The Gunnison Trails Non-Profit Organization assisted the field office with trail design and construction. The Gunnison Field Office also hired a veteran crew through Western Colorado-

Conservation Corp to assist with trail construction. The Veteran Crew followed a mini-dozer (39 inches wide) doing hand crew work. The veterans were honored to build a trail for wounded veterans.

This trail project was a win-win situation. Not only did people with disabilities gain a new trail experience, but the environment won as well. The two trails being rerouted for this project were unsustainable and dropped straight down the fall line creating dished out trails with no erosion control. The new rerouted trails were laid out with sustainability in mind.

A local news station in Colorado ran a feature on the project as well: [view here](#).



BLM's Summer Bucket List Series on Tumblr, mypubliclands.tumblr.com/

Hike Dominguez Canyon Wilderness

The 66,000-acre Dominguez Canyon Wilderness is located in the heart of the BLM's Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area in Colorado's Delta, Mesa and Montrose counties.

The Wilderness has spectacular scenery, with sandstone canyons and pinyon-juniper—covered mesas that offer outstanding opportunities for activities such as hiking, backpacking, camping, bird watching and horseback riding.

The Gunnison River runs along the eastern border and water cascades through two creeks, creating several beautiful waterfalls and ideal habitat for wildlife. Visitors can often see desert bighorn sheep walking on the sandstone cliffs. Cultural resources such as petroglyphs and wickiups attest to the thousands of years that Native Americans used the area for hunting, shelter and as a travel corridor from the Gunnison River Valley to the Uncompahgre Plateau.

Traces of the early miners and settlers who lived and worked there are also evident. Visitors can reach Big Dominguez Trail in the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness by means of Bridgeport Road off Highway 50 in Delta County, Colorado.

For more info visit BLM Colorado's
website: www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/recreation/

