

# BLM-Eastern States Annual Report

FISCAL YEAR  
2011

Bureau of Land Management Eastern States



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*The mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use by the Federal Government.*

*On the cover: A boardwalk bridge protects sensitive wetlands along the South Branch Loop Trail at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton, Virginia. In 2011, hundreds of volunteer hours were donated to construct the trail, designed for mountain biking and hiking. Photo by Kevin C. Flynn.*



# Welcome to BLM-Eastern States

Fiscal Year 2011 was one of continued growth and development for the BLM Eastern States Office. When I joined Eastern States in July 2011, the team was already well on its way to a successful year.

Our energy and mineral resources program is one of our most important programs, and it produces significant revenues that are shared with the states. With more than 40 million acres of mineral estate to manage, we generated \$68 million and returned disbursements totaling \$34 million. We held four competitive oil and gas lease sales, selling 494 leases and bringing in \$15.9 million in rentals, fees, and bonuses.

The 2011 fire season was very active, with our Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew dispatched to 15 fires in Texas. In addition to fire suppression, our crew provided fuels management support for more than 11,000 acres treated and burned through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

We strongly support President Obama's "America's Great Outdoors" initiative, joining our field offices and state office in employing young people. Summer student employees worked in environmental education, recreation, as well our human resources, budget, and cadastral survey programs. Students joined our large number of volunteers, who contributed nearly 24,000 hours. A special note was our volunteer turnout at Meadowood's 10th anniversary—more than 160 volunteers contributed to a memorable event on National Public Lands Day.

In this publication you'll find many more stories of the great work done by BLM-Eastern States in FY 2011. Please contact us or visit our website ([www.blm.gov/es](http://www.blm.gov/es)) if you would like to learn more.

Dr. John Lyon  
State Director

## Executive Leadership Team



*Dr. John Lyon  
State Director*



*Marie Stewart  
Associate State  
Director*



*Larry Denny  
Deputy State Director  
for Natural Resources*



*Monique McDonald Harris  
Deputy State Director for  
Business Resources*



*Kevin Flynn  
Acting Chief  
External Affairs*



*Bruce Dawson  
Southeastern States  
Field Office Manager*



*Northeastern States  
Field Office Manager  
Mark Storzer*



*E. Lynn Burkett  
Lower Potomac Field  
Station Manager*



*Jeanne M. Proctor  
Special Agent-in-Charge*

***Executive Leadership team shown as of spring 2012.***

# History, Mission and Vision

The BLM-Eastern States Office has roots that go back two centuries, to the earliest days of the United States.

On April 25, 1812, by an Act of Congress, the General Land Office was created within the Treasury Department. It was the first Bureau to be created within a department.

In creating the General Land Office, Congress combined the functions previously scattered among three Federal agencies—Treasury, War, and State. The Secretary of the Treasury had directed the survey and sale of public lands. Treasury also maintained records and accounts. The Secretary of War administered military bounties and bounty lands. Patents were issued by the Secretary of State.

The General Land Office was transferred to the newly created Interior Department in 1849, and, after three more moves, the records were moved to the present-day Interior building in 1937. In 1946, after a major reorganization, the General Land Office merged with the Grazing Service to form the new Bureau of Land Management within the Interior Department.

After 1950, reorganization—and more moves for the public land records—became commonplace. In 1954, the Bureau abolished regional offices in favor of State offices. Old Region VI became the Eastern States Office. Eastern States Office later merged with the Washington Office of Field Services and became a Division of Field Services within the BLM headquarters. In 1964, another Bureau reorganization changed the Division back to the Eastern States Office, which in the process inherited the remaining General Land Office non-decentralized lands activities formerly retained in the BLM Director's Office.

In still another reorganization in 1967, the Eastern States Land Office, by then at Silver Spring, Maryland, was created. Finally, in 1973, the Eastern States Land

Office again became the Eastern States Office. In 1979, the office moved to Virginia; in 1992 it moved to its present location in Springfield, Virginia. There all the GLO records are protected in fireproof and temperature- and humidity-controlled vaults. The Eastern States' functions have grown—from those limited to a land office to those of a more widely-based multiple-use resource management office.

Today's Eastern States Office includes the State Office in Springfield, Virginia; the Northeastern States Field Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; the Southeastern States Field Office in Jackson, Mississippi; and the Lower Potomac Field Station in Lorton, Virginia. We play a central role in fostering the management and conservation of public lands and resources spanning the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River for present and future generations.



# Program Accomplishments

## Energy and Mineral Resources

The energy and mineral resources program is one of BLM-ES' largest programs. We manage approximately 40 million acres of mineral estate, including substantial leasing for oil and gas. We work effectively with industry partners and conservation organizations to oversee environmentally sound fluid and solid mineral development to help sustain a healthy economy. Overall, we generated \$68 million for the Federal Treasury and distributed \$34 million to State Governments.

### Oil and Gas Program

The BLM-ES oil and gas program produces significant revenues that are shared with the states from which those revenues are generated. In 2011 we administered more than 3,442 federal mineral leases, covering approximately 1.8 million acres in 16 of the 31 Eastern states.

### 2011 OIL AND GAS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved 378 fluid minerals Sundry Notices, which are changes to operations on existing oil and gas wells.
- Held four competitive oil and gas lease sales, offering 497 parcels with total acreage over 287,695 acres; sold 494 leases covering 287,487 acres, bringing in over \$15.9 million in rentals, fees and bonuses.
- Conducted 824 compliance inspections of drilling and production activities on leases in the States of: Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia
- Closed 43 reservoir management drainage cases to resolve the loss of lateral oil and gas reserves to private wells.
- Approved 33 applications for drilling permits (APDs)
- Approved 44 oil and gas agreements to prevent drainage of Federal minerals.



### Coal Program

Part of the BLM-ES mission is to oversee leases of federal coal. There are an estimated 50 million tons of coal which are recoverable from existing and proposed coal leases in the BLM-ES area of jurisdiction. In 2010 we administered four coal leases, covering more than 24,400 acres in the states of Alabama and Kentucky.



## 2011 COAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Performed 28 compliance inspections and production verification activities on existing coal mines.
- Processed one post lease action, including lease renewals modification, terminations, and relinquishments.

### Solid Minerals Other Than Coal

In 2011, we administered 60 solid mineral permits and leases for clay, gold, lead/zinc, limestone, olivine, phosphate, quartz crystals, and wavellite on more than 70,500 acres in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Virginia.

## 2011 SOLIDS OTHER THAN COAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Processed four post lease actions, such as lease modifications, reviewing mining explorations plans, and bonding modifications.
- Performed 264 compliance inspections and production verification activities.
- Administered seven mining claims in the States of Arkansas and Florida.



In 2011 BLM-ES held four competitive gas lease sales, bringing in over \$15.9 million in rentals, fees and bonuses.

### Estimated Revenues from Federal Mineral Leases and Distributions to States In Fiscal Year 2011\*

(values are calculated to the nearest dollar)

State	Revenues	Disbursements
Alabama .....	\$10,200,800	\$4,792,842
Arkansas.....	\$10,052,610	\$4,034,632
Florida.....	\$508,484	\$233,488
Illinois.....	\$283,570	\$208,435
Indiana.....	\$41,288	\$4,420
Kentucky.....	\$1,468,912	\$313,473
Louisiana .....	\$21,491,226	\$17,982,455
Michigan .....	\$1,535,280	\$450,501
Minnesota .....	\$44,915	\$10,142
Mississippi .....	\$4,868,936	\$1,099,777
Missouri .....	\$15,393,000	\$3,684,804
Ohio.....	\$569,732	\$333,229
Pennsylvania .....	\$103,631	\$48,628
South Carolina.....	\$3,354	\$1,015
Virginia.....	\$209,786	\$74,220
West Virginia .....	\$806,727	\$350,541
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$67,582,251</b>	<b>\$33,622,602</b>

\*Based on the Office of Natural Resources Revenue 2011

For more information, visit the ONRR website at: [www.onrr.gov/ONRRWebstats/Home.aspx](http://www.onrr.gov/ONRRWebstats/Home.aspx)

## General Land Office

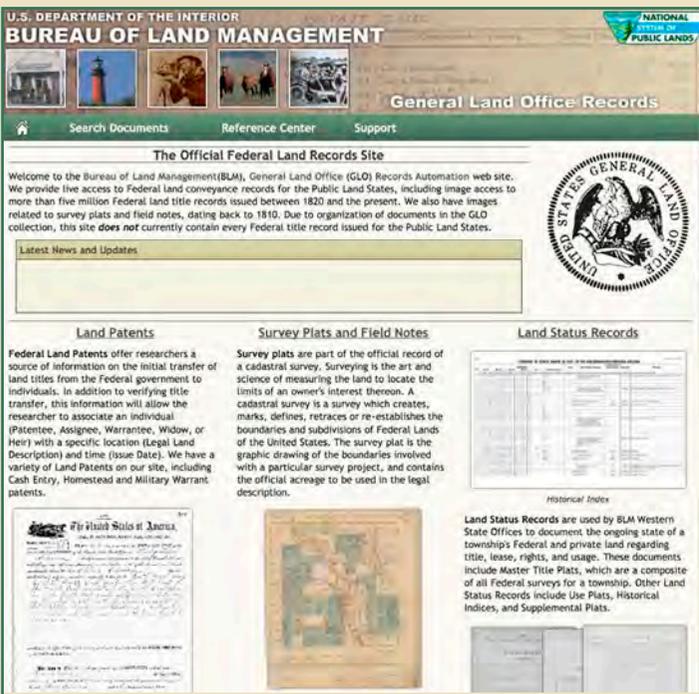
BLM-ES is the custodian of more than nine million historic land title records dating back to 1788. We have records from the 30 Public Domain States: 13 states in the East — Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio and Wisconsin; and 17 states in the West—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

The BLM-ES GLO Records Automation Branch makes available to the public federal land records dating from 1787. All land records within the public land states are based on these historic documents. These records are of major significance for genealogical research, mineral rights, land title insurance, and many other purposes. We scan, index, verify and upload images of these documents to the GLO Records website and almost 1.5 million visitors visit - over 4.5 million images and data are now available online at: [www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)

The GLO Records website is one of the most-visited sites in the federal government. In FY 2011, the site recorded nearly 35 million page views and almost 1.5 million visitors.

## 2011 GENERAL LAND OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Added an additional 192,003 new images to the GLO Records website, achieving 109.7% of our workload target of 175,000 images for the year.
- Uploaded 136 volumes of credit patents to the website. These are among the very earliest land conveyance documents issued by the Federal government, and are of the utmost importance to genealogists researching family histories in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Alabama and Mississippi.
- Uploaded 99 volumes of Timber Culture patents, 66 volumes of Indian allotments, and 164 volumes of Agricultural College Scrip patents.
- Received more than 34,954,684 page views during 1,461,550 visits to the GLO Records website.
- Started work on the “vinegar syndrome” patents, beginning with the State of Idaho. These are pre-1908 Western State land patents that were on microfilm rolls stored at the Federal Records Center in Denver, Colorado and had begun to deteriorate. They are now being preserved by GLO Records Automation Team and are available online via the GLO Records website.



[www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov)

## GLO 200th Anniversary Commemoration

Today's real estate transactions are based on land records that were first written in the decades following the American war for independence. These historic documents are maintained and managed for public access by the BLM-ES. The original land records for most of the United States between the years of 1787 to the present day are located here. These records enabled the establishment of the General Land Office in 1812.

The BLM-ES has planned events that will take place in 2012 to commemorate the 200th year of the General Land Office, which enabled the “Gateway to Land Ownership.” In addition to special event planning, educational materials were designed and put into production so that they may be available during calendar year 2012.

## Cadastral Survey

The BLM-ES cadastral survey's core functions are to uphold the Secretary of the Interior's survey responsibilities for determining the boundaries of Federal public lands within our 31-state area of jurisdiction and for the care, and maintenance of duplicate copies of plats and field notes for all public land states in the East and the West. In addition, we collect data for the Bureau's Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB), we employ Bureau Indian Land Surveyors (BILS) at both Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regional offices in our jurisdiction, and provide public education and outreach regarding the Public Land Survey System.

In Fiscal Year 2011 the BLM cadastral community worked to implement the recommendations of the 2009 Office of Inspector General's Department of Interior Boundary Management Audit. Policy memorandums have been issued at the Washington Office and at Eastern States.

The ES Cadastral Program and the Division of Natural Resources worked together to implement cadastral review of legal descriptions on high risk boundaries, which began in late 2011.

### Fiduciary Trust Model

The Fiduciary Trust Model (FTM) is the model of reform utilized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to reform the management of Trust assets for Indian Tribes and Individuals.



Jennifer Piper, Survey Technician, leveling her instrument while performing the survey of Groups 26 and 27, Mississippi.

### Duplicate Plat Filing and Survey Records Automation Project

We continued to support the entire BLM Cadastral Survey program by fulfilling the Secretary's duties of filing the duplicate copies of plats from the western states. These duplicate plats are part of the archival process of protecting our legal survey records. This year our records automation program met all of its commitments to our western states partners.

### Public Outreach and Inquiries

Cadastral specialists provided answers to many questions from the public regarding BLM survey records and technical survey questions. We also conducted our annual Retracement Seminar held in partnership with Troy University and the Alabama Society of Professional Surveyors. We provided speakers to multiple high school and college classes.



The 2011 Cadastral Chiefs meeting held in Washington D.C. Photo was taken in the BLM Directors' conference room after a program briefing.

## 2011 CADASTRAL SURVEY PROGRAM

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Scanned and indexed 279 New Mexico field note volumes, 181 plats and 14,787 Colorado survey plats.
- Facilitated the scanning and naming of Montana's post 65 patents, assisted the state of Minnesota with the scanning of their original records, and posted 47,763 ES cadastral records to the GLO website.
- Collected 129 townships of Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB) data. We also performed an internal audit of all GCDB data and compiled it into one location. This effort will help us to move forward with our partnerships in the future.

## Wild Horse & Burro Adoption and Compliance

The BLM-Eastern States' Wild Horse and Burro program continues to place more than 30% of all animals adopted each year nationwide. For more information on BLM Wild Horse and Burro adoptions please visit:

[www.adoptahorse.blm.gov](http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov)

### 2011 WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Placed 979 horses and burros into private care, with the majority of those being adopted at 27 satellite locations.
- Hosted six Internet wild horse and burro adoptions at the national Wild Horse and Burro Internet Adoption Web site: [www.adoptahorse.blm.gov](http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov).
- Of the 147 animals adopted online, 89 found homes in Eastern States. Besides online adoption, the site was used to display photos of animals available for adoption in holding facilities throughout the USA.
- Issued 907 Title Certificates for adopted wild horses and burros who had been in private care for at least one year and passed a veterinary inspection. Once titled, these animals are no longer under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government.
- Performed compliance inspections on 550 untitled animals, with assistance from volunteers and our partners from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
- Worked closely with our partner, The Mustang Heritage Foundation, and approved trainers into the Trainer Incentive Program (TIP). This program puts wild horses into the care of private trainers, who must find adopters for them within 90 days. Forty-seven TIP trainers placed 267 horses in Eastern States this fiscal year.
- Placed 99 animals with qualified Sale Buyers, with the assistance of the Washington Office.
- Promoted the wild horse and burro adoption program with the help of volunteers at the numerous equine fairs throughout the East. Eastern States WHB program organized and staffed a booth at the first World Equestrian Games held in the United States as well as the Ohio Equine Affaire.
- Conducted 550 compliance inspections on untitled horses and burros.
- The ES WHB Piney Woods Holding Facility was upgraded to hold 125 animals for a total of 49,052 feed days in FY 2011.



# Lands and Realty

Through our Lands and Realty Program, the BLM-ES provides public land identification, land tenure adjustments and responses to public inquiries on land title issues. This year the Northeastern States Field Office (NSFO) enabled a project under the Minerals Leasing Act, when the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company applied for a 30-inch natural gas transmission right-of-way on lands in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The NSFO coordinated between the pipeline company and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in order to facilitate the pipeline project while mitigating impacts to natural resources. The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company completed construction this year and the pipeline is now in operation, benefiting consumers in the Northeastern region of the United States.

## 2011 LANDS & REALTY PROGRAM

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Developed strategy for resolving title conflicts for an excess of 8,000 acres of un-patented encumbered public domain lands.**
- **Provided documentation to the Department of the Interior’s Office of the Solicitor (DOI/SOL) for litigation on lands traversed by a railroad right of way on the Oneida Indian Reservation in Wisconsin.**
- **Provided staff support for mineral adjudication, competitive oil and gas lease sale preparation and leases issuances.**
- **Assisted the DOI/SOL in the review of title documents affecting a Secretarial Order to restore an excess of 100,000 acres of tribal lands.**
- **The BLM, Southeastern States Field Office (SSFO) processed a partial revocation of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Withdrawal.**
- **SSFO assisted with the preparation of a funding proposal request for the Rapides Parish, PD tract. The funding from Washington allowed for the completion of a high priority Cadastral Survey.**
- **SSFO performed 6 R&PP compliance inspections in Walton County, Florida.**
- **Processed the disposal of 3,749 acres of Public Domain Lands. Researched, copied and mailed 4,524 patents in response to 1,453 patent request orders. Received total revenue of \$11,852.46 from patent request orders. Ongoing efforts continued on the Southeast Resource Management Plan throughout 2011. A “draft” is now nearing completion and should be distributed to the Washington Office soon for review and prior to distribution to the public for comments.**



## Wildland Fire

The Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew (JIHC) remains the centerpiece of the BLM-ES wildland fire program. The JIHC was established in 1997 to provide an additional national fire suppression resource, as well as to help develop a more diverse workforce. The JIHC is based in Jackson, Mississippi. Approximately 70 percent of the people hired each year for the JHC are minorities (African Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans), both male and female.

The 2011 season was very active, with the crew being dispatched to 15 fires covering 5 of the 6 zones in Texas (north, northwest, central, west, and south). The state of Texas has every major fuel type throughout the state. The fuels in most of the zones were below critical dry fuel moisture with temperatures averaging 103 degrees, making fire behavior very extreme. The exceptionally trained JIHC crew worked 8 back-to-back 2-week rotations fighting fires in Texas with no safety or health incidents.

The Jackson Hotshots Wildland Fire crew also helped to mentor students in career opportunities related to fire management, and led a youth fitness event at the southern Fire Training Center in Pearl, Mississippi.

## 2011 JIHC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew (JIHC) provided fuels management support for over 11,000 acres treated and burned through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. These efforts reduced the threat of disastrous wildland fires during the early season. The crew also treated 150 acres of BLM land near Alexandria, Louisiana, including the removal of over 800 invasive tallow trees from the natural habitat in just two days.
- JIHC was awarded the Eastern States Humanitarian Award for valiant efforts this past seas
- JIHC participated in the BLM Annual Fitness Challenge alongside BLM Director Bob Abbey.
- Nominated for the National Wildland Fire Safety Award to be awarded in 2012.
- The entire crew successfully passed the Annual Interagency Hotshot Preparedness Readiness Review in April.
- 42 students placed from the three fire academies at Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and Florida A&M University.
- These academies are part of a partnership between BLM and the universities for the participant to find gainful employment in the fire community once all basic firefighter courses are completed.



*The 2011 Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew (JIHC). In 2011 the JIHC crew was dispatched to 15 fires across the state of Texas.*

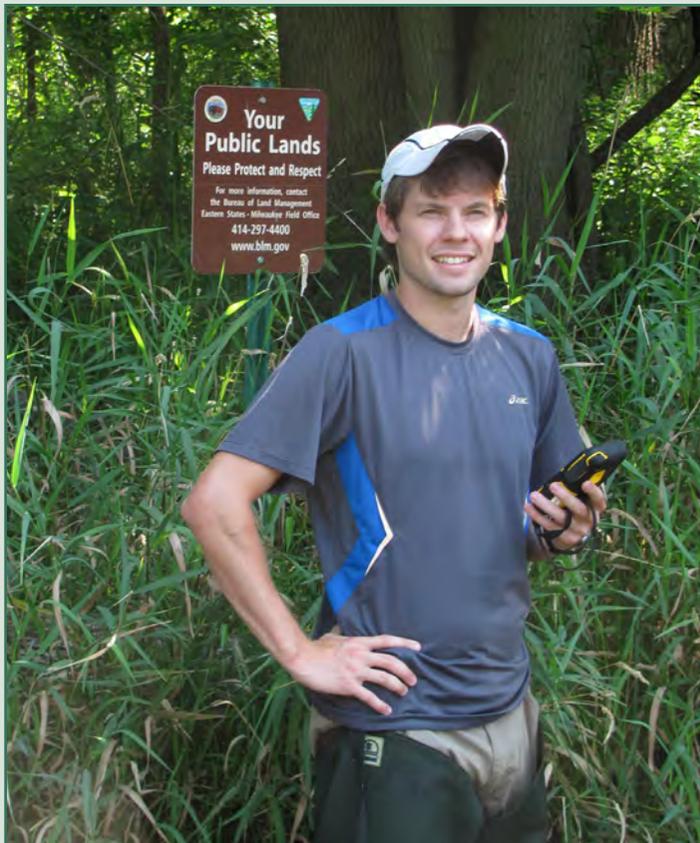
## America's Great Outdoors

When President Obama launched America's Great Outdoors (AGO) in April 2010, he set in place a program that was designed to get America's youth outside. The AGO objective is to provide recreation activities and educational programs, as well as employment opportunities for students who may become tomorrow's work force.

The BLM-ES has taken this mission very seriously. This year students worked in the field on a variety of projects. They inventoried wetlands on islands in Minnesota rivers, and gave tours to visitors at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area in Florida. In addition to working in natural resource program areas, students were also assigned to Business Resources, External Affairs, the General Land Office, and Cadastral Surveying.

Student employees had unique opportunities to learn some of the skills and attributes that are required to manage natural resources. Some of them received on-the-job-training in Global Position Systems (GPS) units and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. Other student employees learned the importance of cooperative management, while working with State and local governments to achieve common goals.

In addition to their work in the field and office, summer student employees helped facilitate environmental education and recreation programs for youth from diverse backgrounds and cultures. Many of the young people who took advantage of these programs had no other access to the natural environment. They participated in organized outdoors activities through events such as Kids Fishing Day, Diverse Youth Outings and Campfire USA.



*Charlie Daehler, student at University of Wisconsin Lacrosse maps invasive species on an island in the Milwaukee River.*

The BLM-ES employed 31 young people during this fiscal year. The SSFO and Lower Potomac Field Station facilitated over 60 organized education and recreation events that reached approximately 5,000 students and family members. The NSFO partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to deliver over 100 programs that reached nearly 2,000 students. With a focus on getting kids outside, the BLM-ES promotes a conservation ethic among young people who would otherwise have limited opportunities to appreciate the natural world.





## National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest hands-on effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. In 2011, over 150,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, removed trash and invasive plants, planted trees and restored our water resources.

BLM-ES has participated in NPLD since the first event in 1994. This year each field office held events at the following sites:

- **Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area in Jupiter, Florida**
- **Last Island, at the Milwaukee River by Estabrook Park in Milwaukee, Wisconsin**
- **Meadowood Special Recreation Area in Lorton, Virginia**

In FY 2011 BLM-ES had approximately 450 volunteers come out to our NPLD sites to assist with trash clean up, planting trees, repairing trails, potting mangroves and exotic species removal.

Volunteers also had the opportunity to participate in a variety of fun activities including hiking, mountain biking, crafts, lighthouse tours and a NPLD photo contest.

## Environmental Education and Public Outreach

BLM-ES provides a variety of environmental education and outreach programs to help educate the American public and promote responsible environmental stewardship among youth. We work with partners for Federal, State, and public and private organizations to develop ways to enhance environmental education opportunities for the general public.

As part of the Take It Outside program, BLM-ES has partnered with a diverse group of organizations and schools, including Jupiter High School, Loxahatchee River Historical Society, the Sierra Club, League of United Latin American Citizens, National Latino Coalition on Climate Change, the National Hispanic Environmental Council, and Cesar Chavez Middle School, to bring urban youth to the outdoors. In FY 2011, participants enjoyed a series of outings and camping trips at the BLM-ES Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area and on segments of the Appalachian Trail.

Visitors can learn more about upcoming BLM environmental education program by visiting:

**[www.blm.gov/education](http://www.blm.gov/education)**



## National Landscape Conservation System

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (JILONA) is a BLM prized asset in Palm Beach County, Florida offering a host of educational and interpretive recreational opportunities for the public. This strategic location contains nationally important natural, historic and prehistoric resources, including the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, a host of special status species and imperiled habitats, all in an urbanized setting in northern Palm Beach County. Agreements with the Loxahatchee River Historical Society and Palm Beach County have provided substantial assistance.

Our goal at JILONA is to help visitors understand, appreciate, and personally connect to this site's distinct "history shaped by nature" and to inspire protection of the cultural and natural resources here and on other NLCS units. The sixty-five thousand annual visitors will find that JILONA has abundant natural resources such as fresh water and rich fisheries. The bluff at the confluence of the Loxahatchee and Indian Rivers attracted indigenous people for thousands of years, and provided the optimal place to construct a lighthouse to safely guide ships past the treacherous reefs and sand bars off the Jupiter Inlet.

In 2011, BLM-ES completed the new ADA-accessible Nature Trail on the north side of Beach Road that meanders through Florida Scrub habitat and leads

### 2011 JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREA HIGHLIGHTS

- **Completion of ADA "natural trail" on north end of ONA.**
- **Completion of wetlands overlook pavilion.**
- **Monitoring and maintaining of approximately 130 federally listed four petal paw paws transplanted from bok towers.**
- **Maintaining the only federally listed perforate lichen that was transplanted from the south side of ONA. Two weed treatments were also conducted.**
- **Youth volunteers from Jupiter High School's Environmental Research Academy continued to use the JILONA as an outdoor classroom to conduct wetland species and water quality field studies.**

to an equally new observation pavilion overlooking a quiet manatee refuge surrounded by wetlands. Visitors are encouraged to bring their cameras and binoculars for exceptional flora and fauna sightings. In addition, BLM ES monitored and maintained approximately 130 federally-listed four petal paw paws transplanted from bok towers. Two weed treatments also occurred in 2011. Primary targets were rosary pea, natal grass, rattlebox and nuisance vines.



*10th Anniversary and NPLD Celebration at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton, VA.*

## Natural Resources

From the steamy swamps of Louisiana to the pristine islands in the north woods of Minnesota, BLM-ES manages a variety of natural resources on widely scattered tracts, located on more than 16,000 acres of BLM public lands. Some of these resources are truly outstanding, and we are proud to be stewards of these priceless “jewels” in the East.

BLM-ES managed public lands include sites in Lorton, Virginia, Douglas Point, Maryland, Lake Vermilion, Minnesota, Lathrop Bayou, Florida and Fort Morgan Peninsula, Alabama. The following stories showcase some of the BLM-ES Natural Resources FY 2011 program accomplishments.

### Meadowood 10th Anniversary: Lorton, Virginia

Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) encompasses 800 acres of mature forests, open meadows, and riparian areas on the Mason Neck Peninsula in Fairfax County, Virginia. Located just 25 miles south of Washington, D.C., the property contains miles of scenic hiking and horseback riding trails. Visitors can experience a variety of natural settings and view abundant wildlife, from white tailed deer and wild turkey to an occasional bald eagle soaring overhead. BLM-ES manages recreation, natural resources, and environmental education programs on the property.

In September 2011, over 160 volunteers showed their community support by rolling up their sleeves and grabbing gloves, shovels, loopers and wheelbarrows to help repair some of the recent storm damage on the Meadowood SRMA in Lorton, Virginia. Several organizations brought volunteers, including Earth Sangha, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and church

groups. This event marked the 13th annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) as well as Meadowood’s 10th anniversary of the BLM-ES acquisition of Meadowood. Volunteers also contributed substantial work to the development of the new South Loop Trail, a new 4.7 mile mountain bike and hiking trail.

### Pollinator Garden: Lorton, Virginia

In 2010, BLM staff, working with local volunteers, designed and planted a community pollinator garden. The garden, located at one of the primary visitor entrances at Meadowood, provides a unique visual and educational opportunity to highlight the vital environmental benefits of pollinators for the public.

Abundant flowering plants attract many pollinators. In addition to native plants (such as butterfly weed and indigo bush) the common ornamental zinnia, grown annually from seed, has been found to be extremely hardy and colorful, flowering all summer and always popular with wide variety of bees, flies, moths and butterflies.



*National Public Lands Day volunteers at Meadowood worked on the pollinator garden.*



### Bat Tower: Big Saline Bayou Area, Louisiana

The Southeastern States Field Office built a bat tower for at-risk bat species on a BLM tract in central Louisiana. Adjacent to the Big Saline Bayou, the bottomland hardwood/cypress swamp floods annually and provides suitable habitat for southeastern myotis (*Myotis austroriparius*), big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), and Rafinesque's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*). These species typically use large, buttressed trees with cavities for roosting. However, less than half of the South's original bottomland hardwood and bald cypress forests remain, and lack of suitable roosts have been identified as a limiting factor for Rafinesque's big-eared bat and southeastern myotis. The cinder block tower was constructed using a design by Bat Conservation International, with additional height added to accommodate seasonal flooding of up to 7 feet.

### Habitat Management: Lathrop Bayou, Florida

At Lathrop Bayou in northwest Florida, BLM-ES is working with private landowners to manage a relic longleaf pine flatwood that supports breeding red-cockaded woodpeckers and 13 Federally and State listed-plant species. Prescribed burns and careful hand thinning of encroaching slash pine is improving habitat for these species.

### Fishing Passages: Menominee River, Michigan

The BLM Northeastern States Field Office and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), through a Service First agreement, cooperated in 2011 to construct a fish monitoring system for use on up to three dams on the Menominee River. The Menominee River is home to many of the historical spawning grounds – backwaters and tributaries – of the lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*), but the spawning areas have been cut off from Lake Michigan by several hydroelectric dams.

The BLM provided \$40,000 to FWS for the construction of a fish monitoring system, which will include live video monitoring as well as Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags. PIT tags are tiny (less than 1 cm) and are inserted into a fish. The PIT tag then transmit a signal that can be received by a device in order to locate a particular fish. This system will enable the FWS to monitor the success of its fish passage system.

The BLM has a vested interest in lake sturgeon on the Menominee River because the BLM manages many islands on the beautiful Menominee River that are popular sites for public recreation.



*Bird watching in Lathrop Bayou, Florida*

# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)



Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Eastern States received funding for five projects. Through these projects, Eastern States provided jobs to members of the local community and because of the improvements, will increase visitations to a NLCS site, which translates to ongoing economic benefits.

One project, at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Virginia, was completed in FY 2010. By the end of FY 2011, three of the four remaining projects were completed, with one still in progress, all at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (ONA). These projects were in the following categories – capital improvements; deferred maintenance, trail construction; and habitat restoration and stabilization (the remaining project to be completed in FY 2012). *Total funded amount: \$2,185,000.00*

## Capital Improvement Project

This project was completed in November 2010, through the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, one of the statutorily identified partners at this site. The project included the construction of a replica Seminole chickee and pioneer shed/well, removal of exotics, installation of irrigation, burying utility lines, installation of security fencing and new gates, restoration and stabilization of the Fresnel lens, completion of a brick pathway, construction of an ADA accessible ramp, and installation of signs and the wooden deck around the foundation of the keeper's house. *Funded amount: \$488,000*



**BEFORE**

*The historic Keeper's Workshop at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area has been completely renovated and is now open to the public.*

## Trail Project

The trail on the mostly undeveloped north section of the ONA was completed in December 2010. Included were the construction of a concrete parking lot with an interpretive kiosk, 1,500 feet of concrete trail, an elevated boardwalk, and an overlook. This trail is open to the public and provides an opportunity to view sensitive scrub, hardwoods, and mangrove habitats in a manner that affords habitat protection. *Funded amount: \$608,000.*

## Deferred Maintenance Project

This project consists of two parts:

### Lighthouse Painting and Restoration

This part was completed in December 2010 under the supervision of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, BLM's partner. Included were the removal of lead-based paint and applying paint to the interior of the lighthouse that will aid in its preservation, and painting metal handrails in the lighthouse and the neighboring oil shed.

### Keeper's Workshop

This part was completed in November 2010 and included raising the wooden frame building; doing extensive work on the foundation; abating lead paint on both the interior and exterior of the building; installing a new roof; restoring windows; replacing doors, windows and panels when the original items were not salvageable; constructing a universal access ramp; installing lighting, AVC and security lighting; and doing landscaping and drainage work. The workshop is now open to the public. *Funded amount: \$624,000*



**AFTER**

## ARRA Projects, Continued Habitat Restoration Project

Scheduled for completion in 2012, this design project, done with public and government agency participation, is for the selection of an alternative to stabilize the Indian River (Intracoastal Waterway) shoreline, restore habitat for the endangered West Indian manatee, and increase public safety while providing some recreational use. Another partner, Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management, is managing the permit application preparation process for the BLM. *Funded amount = \$465,000.*

## Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a globally embraced management practice that aids organizations to reduce their overall impact on the environment. Developed by the International Organization for Standardizations (ISO 14001), Federal agencies began to develop and implement EMS at appropriate organizational levels. Executive Order (EO) 13423 – Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management and Department of the Interior (DOI) policy directs all DOI Bureaus to implement EMS.

The BLM-ES formed an EMS Cross Functional Team in FY 2011 to execute the four core aspects of EMS: energy management, green procurement, monitoring the condition of public lands, and reclamation of public land. In FY 2011 the BLM-ES EMS Cross Functional Team's EMS plan was approved by the Executive Leadership Team and an EMS kick-off training event was held at the State Office.



*Members of the BLM-ES EMS Cross Functional Team and Executive Leadership team at the EMS training kick-off.*

## Volunteers

During 2011, BLM Eastern States continued to expand volunteer recruitment and community opportunities through our website, social media, and news releases, as well as continued volunteer partnerships with local organizations, schools, and universities. BLM-ES volunteer efforts are essential to maintaining the vitality of our nation's public lands.

To learn more about future BLM-ES volunteer opportunities and events please visit:

[www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov)

### 2011 VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

- This year BLM-ES volunteers contributed a total of **23,684 hours of work valued at \$505,071.95!**
- The Wild Horse and Burro program volunteers contributed over **13,000 hours.**
- Youth volunteers (25 and younger) contributed over **600 hours on environmental projects including planting trees, gardening, invasive species removal, trail maintenance, river clean-up and water quality studies.**
- Over **1,000 participants** were organized for public volunteer events including **National Kids Fishing Day, National Public Lands Day, Potomac River Watershed Cleanup and Rock Creek Park Cleanup.**



## Congressional and State Government Outreach

The BLM-Eastern States conducted outreach to many elected officials in national and local governments during FY 2011. We have partnered with local government and community leaders on a shoreline stabilization project at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area in Florida, and conferred with county government representatives on a project at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton, Virginia.

We replied to many Congressional inquiries from members on behalf of constituents who had concerns regarding public lands management. In addition, notification letters were mailed to Congressional delegations and state Governors prior to lease sales of oil and gas parcels in their districts and states.

Members of Congress, their staffs, and local officials have an open invitation to visit the resources managed by the BLM-ES to view projects being implemented in the field. The BLM-ES is committed to maintaining open communications with all interested communities and stakeholders through their elected officials.

### BLM Eastern States Appropriated Funding Level for Fiscal Year 2011 Figures in thousands of dollars Does not include one-time funding

Cadastral Survey .....	\$1,114,000
Energy and Minerals.....	\$6,080,116
GLO Records.....	\$1,373,725
Lands and Realty.....	\$2,455,156
Natural Resources.....	\$2,022,000
Wildland Fire.....	\$702,497
Wild Horse & Burro.....	\$3,067,762
Administration.....	\$3,080,544
NLCS .....	\$172,000

**Total Budget**  
**BLM Appropriated Funds .....** **\$20,067,800**

## Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Fiscal Year 2011

Each year, the Department of the Interior disburses payments in lieu of taxes to states in which there are Federal lands and resources. These payments are appropriated by Congress.

STATE	FY 2010 PAYMENT	FY 2011 PAYMENT
Alabama .....	\$605,410	\$721,010
Arkansas.....	\$4,463,032	\$4,463,032
Connecticut.....	\$28,773	\$29,011
Delaware .....	\$17,750	\$17,897
District of Columbia .....	\$25,087	\$25,390
Florida.....	\$4,525,156	\$4,660,743
Georgia.....	\$1,938,517	\$2,072,956
Illinois.....	\$1,099,777	\$1,111,152
Indiana.....	\$412,560	\$434,637
Iowa .....	\$450,820	\$455,637
Kentucky.....	\$1,480,359	\$1,553,048
Louisiana .....	\$546,772	\$554,343
Maine.....	\$295,510	\$303,652
Maryland.....	\$103,643	\$99,852
Massachusetts.....	\$100,986	\$101,403
Michigan .....	\$3,830,742	\$3,988,603
Minnesota.....	\$2,538,098	\$1,808,191
Mississippi .....	\$1,488,198	\$1,560,083
Missouri .....	\$2,695,274	\$2,546,022
New Hampshire .....	\$1,726,820	\$1,750,215
New Jersey.....	\$96,597	\$97,394
New York .....	\$122,706	\$127,278
North Carolina .....	\$3,858,283	\$3,919,443
Ohio .....	\$485,605	\$521,039
Pennsylvania .....	\$527,493	\$539,161
Puerto Rico.....	\$9,983	\$9,865
South Carolina.....	\$388,740	\$394,712
Tennessee .....	\$1,615,385	\$1,695,519
Vermont .....	\$896,432	\$911,147
Virginia.....	\$2,532,009	\$2,791,489
Washington.....	\$12,821,358	\$13,843,603
West Virginia .....	\$2,799,356	\$2,863,940



**As Guardians of the past and stewards for the future, BLM-Eastern States is committed to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands and resources spanning the 31 states east of and adjacent to the Mississippi River for present and future generations.**

**U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management Eastern States**