



VANTAGE

Fall/Winter 2005

Mississippi Interior Employees Assist in “Operation Home Delivery”

Story and photo by Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

On September 28, employees from the Department of Interior’s (DOI) BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Jackson Field Office (JFO), the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices volunteered their time and arrived at the parking lot of the Mississippi Agricultural (Ag) Museum in Jackson, Mississippi (MS), ready to make a difference. The Ag Museum was being used as one of three national staging areas for Habitat for Humanity’s “Operation Home Delivery.” Just one month before, Hurricane Katrina blew through the Gulf Coast, changing the lives of coastal residents, many of whom were our friends, family, and co-workers.

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Employees of DOI’s agencies—the BLM, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service came together through Habitat for Humanity’s “Operation Home Delivery” to help build homes for families who lost everything during Hurricane Katrina.

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Jackson Hotshots Assist With Hurricane Relief Efforts

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

This year marked an unprecedented hurricane season, as two of the strongest hurricanes ever, Katrina and Rita, made landfall just a few weeks and a few hundred miles apart. Since this region is considered home base for the Jackson Hotshot Crew, they were extremely busy assisting with relief efforts. They spent several weeks on the Mississippi (MS) Gulf Coast, then moved to Texas to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Rita. There they spent several weeks working in shelters assisting the thousands of displaced families and doing recovery work. Then they moved back to the MS Gulf Coast to the DeSoto National Forest, where they assisted with salvage and recovery. Five saw crews worked daily to help alleviate the tremendous workload.



State Director's Message



During the past year, we have seen or personally experienced the damage caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Southeastern United States as well as wildland fires in the West and Alaska. Our Jackson Hotshot Crew was quick to assist with relief efforts in all these areas and helped thousands of American citizens affected—concerns which held our interest through the media for days, weeks, and even months to come.

Today, another major concern of the American public is the rise in oil and gas prices. The escalation in cost affects our entire economy. We feel it in our wallets when we stop at the gas pumps, but it also trickles down to other everyday living issues. As mentioned in our last newsletter, the Administration considers America's future energy security as one of its top priorities. We, at BLM-ES, are committed to helping to meet the energy demands of the Nation and support the President's Energy Plan. Our Energy and Mineral Resources program is my Number 1 priority for Fiscal Year 2006. We will be accountable to the public and industry for providing opportunities for developing our natural resources in a timely and efficient manner without sacrificing environmental values.

Our six other priorities for 2006 include:

- Reaching Appropriate Management Levels (AML) on the range by increasing the number of wild horses and burros adopted into good homes as well as improving the efficiency of our adoption operations.
- Moving the BLM-ES organization forward by accomplishing the actions in the BLM-ES' Strategic Action Plan for each of the seven major program areas, while playing a major role in making BLM a truly national organization.
- Becoming the BLM "Gateway to Your Public Lands," by effectively presenting BLM programs through outreach and building on-the-ground partnerships by taking a strong proactive approach to involve States, counties, communities, and groups to help in the management of our public lands and resources.
- Demonstrating the Bureau's multiple-use mission in managing natural resources, using state-of-the-art digital technology at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area with satellite remote cameras in the West to showcase BLM programs using real time audio and video.
- Providing for Human Capital Management as identified in the President's Management Agenda and a key part of the Department's Strategic Plan that is reflected in Secretary Norton's four business principles—value, accountability, modernization, and integration. BLM-ES' employees, volunteers, and partners are the organization's most valued resource.

BLM-ES' primary program areas include:

- ◆ Energy and Mineral Resources;
- ◆ Wildland Fire;
- ◆ Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Compliance;
- ◆ Natural Resources;
- ◆ Lands and Realty;
- ◆ Cadastral Survey; and
- ◆ General Land Office Records Automation.

- Meeting two key components of the President's Management Agenda—budget and performance integration and improved financial performance, which are also a key part of the Department's Strategic Plan.

As you can see, our work is cut out for us in 2006, and as always, we are up to the challenge to meet our goals here at BLM-ES. But I also extend a hearty "thank you" to our employees, volunteers, and partners who have helped us to accomplish so many important goals amidst the changes and growth at BLM-ES in 2005.

Michael D. Nedd
State Director, Eastern States



Operation Home Delivery...continued from page 1

Partnerships

To ensure the success of the program, Habitat for Humanity assembled materials needed to build several houses and lined up volunteers to “pre-build” the frames over a period of a few days. Each house was tacked together to ensure a rock-solid fit, then the frame was taken apart. The components were placed, along with other necessary construction materials, in a container and shipped to a designated area along the Gulf Coast, where families, volunteers, and builders would rebuild the house.

By 6:00 a.m., the group had received their instructions, aprons, and plenty of nails. By 9:00 a.m., the houses were going up. One of the volunteers said, “It was an incredible feeling to see our handiwork being raised to form the framework for someone’s future home.” Once the frames were up, each volunteer was given a marker to write words of encouragement to the

future homeowners. They spent the morning together, working hard, and building futures with lasting friendships among sister agencies—an amazingly satisfying day.

By noon, we had framed four homes that were named Promise, Hope, Victory and Triumph—the most homes built in any given day so far in Jackson. Later, Habitat for Humanity determined that, at the rate the homes were coming together in the amount of time we had, Jackson outbuilt New York and Burbank, where simultaneous builds were occurring. “It may have been our own need to reach out and to do something to help or the need to make the most of our vacation day that brought us together for this event,” said BLM-ES JFO Manager Bruce Dawson. And, as proven on this day, working together, we can always make a difference.



Scanning Continues for the State of Oklahoma Field Notes

By John Butterfield, General Land Office Systems Manager, BLM-Eastern States

On November 1, 2005, the BLM-ES office entered into a partnership with the BLM’s New Mexico State Office to scan and index 238 volumes of the original General Land Office and BLM field notes for the State of Oklahoma. This project is in direct support of the October 2005 Cost Share Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Oklahoma’s Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the BLM-New Mexico office.

BLM-Eastern States has the original records, equipment, and technical expertise to assist the BLM-New Mexico office with scanning and indexing of the original Oklahoma survey field notes.

The Oklahoma survey records date back to the 1870s, when the first two contracts were issued on July 25, 1870, between the Commissioner of the General Land Office, Willis Drummond, and Deputy Surveyors Theodore H. Barrett and Ehud Noble Darling. Originally the field notes were only available from microfiche, but with constant usage, the microfiche has become unreadable over the years.



Photo by Peggy Riek

BLM-ES Land Survey Technician Jesse Kopach scans an Oklahoma field note.

In January 2006, the first set of DVD’s containing Oklahoma field notes images in Adobe PDF format will be shipped to the BLM-New Mexico and the ODOT. It is anticipated that this project will be completed by the summer of 2006.

Cadastral Survey



BLM-ES Lands Identification Team Continues the Search for Public Domain Lands in the East

By Ed Ruda, Lands Policy Lead, Division of Land Resources, BLM-Eastern States

In Fiscal Year 2005, the BLM-ES Division of Land Resources, Branch of Lands and Realty, formed the Lands Identification Team (LIT) to initiate a process to locate scattered Public Domain (PD) Lands under the jurisdiction of BLM-ES.

Mississippi was the first State to be selected for analysis, along with BLM-ES' resource management planning efforts for this State. The LIT then developed the Eastern States' LIT Project Charter, which directed the work of the team.

The LIT began the PD identification process to validate Federal ownership of lands in the State by researching all existing data, including unresolved title resolution cases, from lists of PD Lands maintained at the BLM-ES State Office and Field Offices as well as those in the Land Record 2000 (LR2000) System. The total acreage of lands listed for the State originally amounted to 24,000 acres.

Once the data was compiled and entered into the LR2000 System, the Branch of Lands and Realty lands specialists began the verification process. First, each adjudicative staff member was assigned a portion of the list. They sorted through all the listed parcels and eliminated duplicate entries. The second step involved



BLM-ES Lands Identification Team members include (from left): Charles Johnson, Ida Doup, Ed Ruda, and Shirlee Gilmore. Other team members (not pictured) are Nate Felton, Mary Weaver, and Marcia Sieckman.

Photo by Bill Davenport

verifying whether the lands had been patented. Then, the LIT reviewed the BLM-ES' General Land Office Records System and the tractbooks to determine if patents had been issued.

To date, of the 24,000 acres of lands originally identified for the State of Mississippi, approximately 5,000 acres remain unpatented.

BLM-ES Provides Grant for Minnesota Volunteer Fire Department

By Jim Boylan, Public Affairs Specialist (Retired), BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

On May 12, the BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office and Breitung Volunteer Fire Department of Soudan, Minnesota, signed a Cost Share Memorandum of Agreement. The fire department received a \$5,000 grant to be used to upgrade firefighting equipment for the department's new fire boat. With the grant money, the fire department was able to purchase foam equipment, a hose, nozzles, and other related equipment for the fire boat to serve the water areas of Breitung Township in Minnesota.



The Breitung Volunteer Fire Department in Minnesota began providing fire boat service for BLM islands and property on Lake Vermilion in May 2005.

Photo by Singh Ahuja

Lands & Realty

Wildland Fire



Hurricanes Destroy Southern Louisiana Oil and Gas Facilities

Story and photos by Charlie Boyd, Petroleum Engineering Technician, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

Following the hurricanes which ravaged the Gulf Coast region in late August 2005, Charlie Boyd, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office Petroleum Engineering Technician, participated in a flyover to inspect the damage to some of the wells on Federal leases in southern Louisiana. What he saw in mid-October was the huge clean-up task that the oil and gas industry faced in the weeks following Hurricane's Katrina and Rita.

Texas Petroleum Investment Corporation's Romere Pass facility received major damage. A warehouse was completely blown away. The office building sustained some damage and contained a foot of mud after the storm. Windows and air conditioning units in the living quarters were blown out. Communication towers and satellites were downed, although the newly renovated ring levee remained intact. Plans are being made to get some of the high pressure gas wells back on line so they can begin generating electricity instead of having to purchase diesel fuel for a temporary generator. It is expected that all wells will be brought back on line in the next few months.

Forest Oil Corporation's W-1 facility received heavy damage as well. A compressor barge broke loose during the storm surge and is now located 18 miles north of the facility in the marsh just south of Venice. The company is unsure if they will be able to get the compressor barge back to the facility. After the oil storage and gas measurement equipment are repaired, they expect to resume production.



The Lease Automatic Custody Transfer Unit located in the center of the photo received heavy damage. This unit is critical for oil measurements and must be replaced before oil sales can be resumed.

All of Goodrich Petroleum's facilities along Southwest Pass received heavy damage. Currently, only seven wells have been put back into production since the storm. The living quarters at the E-5 facility were deluged with water measuring up to 4 feet deep. Several buildings were blown away. The 3,000 barrel oil tank at the W-5 facility was buckled due to high winds and the storm surge. Some oil tanks at the W-8 facility were literally blown off the platform. It will be several months before all wells are back into production at these facilities.

Another problem seen while flying to the Goodrich Petroleum facility was an oil barge that came loose from its moorings. This barge, containing approximately 4,600 barrels of crude oil, was blown some 23 miles up the river and came to rest in the Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The barge is now approximately 1,000 feet off the river on dry ground. With the assistance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Goodrich plans to have the barge removed in the near future.

The Vintage Petroleum facility at South Pass Block 24 was completely destroyed. The operator has requested a one-year suspension of production until the facility can be rebuilt.

These reports are just a small accounting of oil and gas facilities that were damaged, destroyed, or otherwise incapacitated by the hurricanes on the Louisiana Coast. The damage sustained in Louisiana continues to affect the rest of the Nation through higher natural gas and gasoline prices.



Three oil tanks were blown over and destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. Most of the rock from the top and inside of the containment levee has been washed away.



America's "Living Legends" in the East

By Bill Davenport, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States

When the Hellner family, from Avon, Connecticut, went to an adoption in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, they encountered a new world. They saw a demonstration that illustrated the trust that could be developed between horse and man that cemented their feelings. "We quickly realized that, in addition to becoming good riders, we wanted to become good horse people," said Ms. Ricki Hellner.

Later that summer, the family went to Cornell University in New York, where they met a 17-month-old filly from the Granite Ranges area of Nevada. "She looked like a Japanese watercolor—bold, simple, and elegant, with a wild mane and large wondering eyes," said Hellner. "Haiku" (a Japanese verse form) was adopted by the Hellner family and quickly became a member of a family that had a love of horses but had never had the opportunity to have one. The Hellner family gentled and trained Haiku, and their 11-year-old son, Austin, shows her in the Hunter/Jumper world of horses. They are amazed that this young boy and 5-year-old mustang can do what they are doing together. "Their mutual confidence together is a beautiful thing to watch. Here in New England, Haiku is surrounded by 'well pedigreed' horses, yet her intelligence, generosity, and spirit rise far above other horses. Our lives have been enriched beyond measure," said Hellner.

The Hellner family looks forward to the upcoming show season for Austin and Haiku. "Who knows, maybe even the pony finals in Kentucky next year," said Hellner.

Our second American "Living Legend" lives a different sort of life. "Eeyour," a mustang from Riverton, Wyoming, is currently used for children's programs and is being trained as a trail lead horse at the New River Trail State Park in Foster Falls, Virginia, which is designated an official National Recreation Trail by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The trail parallels 39 miles of the New River, the second oldest river in the world and one of the few flowing north.

"Eeyour got his name because he looked like Eeyour from the children's story, with his long ears and big orange nose. Eeyour is an exceptional horse and has



Park Manager Mark Hufeisen trains "Eeyour," a gentled mustang at the New River Trail State Park in Virginia.

taken well to working with children as well as working as a trail horse in the Park," said Park Manager Mark Hufeisen.

Eeyour came to the Virginia State Park System from the Riverton Honor Farm, part of the Wyoming prison system, where inmates are rehabilitated through the gentling of wild horses prior to their adoption.

"These horses provide an opportunity to the youth of the area that many might not ever have had. This partnership with the BLM-ES and the Virginia State Park System helps find good homes for America's 'Living Legends' and is a resource for the State of Virginia. It also allows the youth of the area to have a unique equine experience at the State Parks. Eeyour is part of our American wild horse program which is a public program to introduce people to the mustangs and horsemanship in general," said Park Manager Hufeisen.

"As park manager, I have found the mustangs to be very well suited for trail work and our goal is to have at least 6-8 mustangs trained for trail riding by the public. We use them for day programs and they are available for the public to see daily," said Hufeisen.

If you would like to join the Hellner family, and Park Manager Hufeisen as partners with America's "Living Legends," just dial 866-4MUSTANGS or visit the www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov Web site. Click on the Upcoming Wild Horse and Burro Adoptions photo image to learn when and where an adoption is coming to a location near you.



Leading Government Records Decisionmakers Meet to Share Products and Services

By Patricia Tyler, Branch Chief, General Land Office Records Automation, BLM-Eastern States

On September 28, over 140 participants attended a training conference entitled, "Document Management and Automation for the Government Enterprise Conference," in Arlington, Virginia.



BLM-ES Quality Assurance Specialist, Janis Smith, verifies a land patent in the GLO Records Automation office in Springfield, Virginia. The GLO Web site at www.glorerecords.blm.gov was reconnected on December 23, 2005, in BLM-ES.

During the conference, we shared best practices and emerging technology information with other Federal and non-Federal records managers who are using automation for management, storage, and online retrieval of their records. In the near future, several partners will meet at BLM-ES to continue discussions on a more specific scale.

Patricia Tyler, Branch Chief, General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation, gave a presentation entitled, "Preserving America's Heritage: The General Land Office Records Program." This was an overview of the BLM-ES' responsibilities and activities in the preservation and access of the historic GLO records which are maintained at the Springfield, Virginia, office.

Ida Doup, Ted Laird (now deceased), Shirlee Gilmore and Jerry Wahl, spoke with participants and shared information about BLM-ES Cadastral Survey and Wild Horse and Burro programs.

BLM-ES and ELRC Representatives Meet in Vermont

Story and photo by Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, BLM-Eastern States

BLM-Eastern States co-sponsored a successful Fall 2005 Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) Conference, October 2-6, 2005, in Burlington, Vermont. The ELRC is comprised of highly trained, eastern State public land professionals.

BLM-ES participated in several important meetings during the week with the ELRC Executive Committee members in an effort to review the ELRC's mission and bylaws.

Conferees attended interesting presentations dealing with issues and projects in Vermont, including: conserving lands, recreation and natural areas, and historic properties in Vermont; managing ATV's in the Northeast; and the recent land exchange between Mt. Mansfield State Forest and the Stowe Mountain Resort Ski Area. Other topics included discussion of: conservation easements, sustainable forests and forest ecology; an uplands land conservation project, biomass energy projects and sustainable management in Vermont Forests; the Lake Champlain Basin Program; Vermont's Clean & Clear Action



ELRC conference attendees listen to Bill Kropelin as he talks about the woodchip plant at George C. McNeil Generating Station in Burlington, Vermont. The plant remains one of the largest wood burning power plants in the world.

Plan for Using Land Conservation to meet Lake Champlain Phosphorus Total Maximum Daily Load for Lake Champlain; Lake Champlain's shoreline and island land conservation achievements, opportunities and challenges; and a Federal update on current issues of importance to land managers. Site visits included the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps Headquarters in Richmond and a tour of the Green Mountain Power's Searsburg Wind Facility.



National Public Lands Day Events in the East



Photo by Theresa Jefferson

On September 24, BLM-ES Lower Potomac Field Station held a National Public Lands Day (NPLD) event at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and at Pohick Bay Regional Park on the Mason Neck peninsula in Virginia. Over 90 volunteers, including youth and school groups, participated in various environmental projects such as pruning and cutting trees; constructing wildlife habitats; planting native shrubs, grasses and trees; and cleaning litter from Giles Run Creek. Pictured are BLM-ES State Director Mike Nedd and volunteers constructing a trail at the SRMA.



Photo by Martha Malik

The BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office celebrated its 7th annual NPLD event on September 24 at Milwaukee's Urban Treehouse site at Lynden Hill in Wisconsin, with over 200 volunteers in attendance. The event focused on the official opening and ribbon cutting for the initial phase of construction for the gateway, handicapped accessible trail, and amphitheater on the site. Working projects included flower and shrub planting; weeding flower and prairie gardens; installing mulch on the gardens and hay in the amphitheater area; and site clean up. Activities included backpacking, hiking, and camping demonstrations which focused on "Leave No Trace" and "hands on" nature crafts.



Photo by Faye Winters

Given the tremendous need for volunteer labor in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina, the BLM-ES Jackson Field Office (JFO) diverted their energies to a local NPLD event. Friends and partners at Jupiter Inlet hosted the NPLD event in Florida. Neal White and his staff from the Environmental

Research and Field Studies Academy and Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management quickly swung into action, canvassing for volunteers, organizing the work, and coordinating with JFO to locate supplies and equipment. A record 179 volunteers spent the day potting mangroves, picking up trash along the Intra-coastal Waterway, and removing weeds. JFO discovered that partnerships are great, and friends are even better. JFO very much appreciated the hard work of the Academy and Palm Beach County in keeping the Florida NPLD tradition going while they tended to their local needs.



Photo by Steve Volz

BLM-ES Rolla's Solid Minerals Team held its 6 1/2-mile NPLD cleanup, by canoe, of the Big Piney River in Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri. Seventeen volunteers collected 42 bags of small litter, 4 tires, several larger metal parts of unknown origin, a child's play ladder, 6 baseballs, and 2 lawn chairs.



BLM-ES Provides GPS and GIS Project for 4-H'ers

Story and photo by James Engstrom, Geographic Information Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

The 4-H is much more than cows and crops! This past year, the 4-H program in Ozaukee County offered a Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) project for 4-H'ers. Ozaukee County, north of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is slowly being changed from a farming culture to one with more of an urban emphasis. The county's 4-H program has been seeking new projects to serve this new population.

To meet this need, James Engstrom, BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office GIS Specialist, developed a GPS and GIS project to offer environmental education to the youth of Ozaukee County. James talked to several different groups in the county about possible GPS projects they might have that members of this project could complete in a couple of field days. They settled on a request from Ozaukee County to map trails in the recently opened Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve. This area had been used by local people for years and was one of the relatively few places along several miles of Lake Michigan shoreline where people could gain access to the beach by crossing public land. The local youth had created an unplanned network of trails and repeatedly used several locations for unauthorized fires. This was an extensive "social" trail system that was created across the whole nature preserve. The county had constructed a limited gravel and boardwalk trail network they had planned to expand as budget allowed.

The county asked the 4-H'ers to map both the county and the "social" trail systems as well as fire sites to plan for future trail construction and law enforcement activities. Using both BLM GPS software and GPS units, the project members mapped the trails in a couple of weekend days.

Since GPS equipment works on a line of sight basis, the group had some difficulty maintaining a GPS signal in the more heavily forested area because the canopy blocked the GPS signal. However, the group was able to map all the county trail network and much of the social trails and fire sites. By twisting and turning, they were able to find "the hole" through the canopy and collect the data point.



4-H'ers, Spencer Stroble and Aaron Brown, gather location information at an unauthorized campsite during the 4-H mapping project in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

With results in hand, the project members imported their data into ESRI's ArcMap and created maps of the different trail types and fire sites. With only the basic instruction they had, the project members could not do much analysis of the data, but they did gain some experience in seeing how data from different sources can be merged to display their findings. The use of different symbols to draw attention to the parts of the map they felt were important provided opportunities to make them think about who their audience was and how to display the data.

The 4-H'ers received blue ribbons for their maps at the 2005 Ozaukee County Fair.

Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale Results

BLM-Eastern States held Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sales during the months of September and December 2005. The September sale brought in revenue amounting to \$4,097,663 for 53 parcels of Federal subsurface mineral estate. Bonus bids, filing fees, and rental revenue amounting to \$2,665,283 went to the U.S. Treasury, and \$1,432,380 was shared with the affected States of Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, and Mississippi. Whitmar Exploration Company of Denver, Colorado, paid \$371,602 for a 400-acre parcel in Bossier Parish, Louisiana. Their bid of \$925 per acre was the highest per-acre bid of the auction.

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Jackson Field Office Receives Award for Supporting the Troops

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Jackson Field Office

BLM-ES Jackson Field Office (JFO) has earned the Mississippi Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's (ESGR) highest honor, the Pro Patria Award. The award is given to the top Mississippi company, organization, or individual that has supported employees serving in the military. The Latin phrase "Pro Patria" translates "For the country." Mississippi's Adjutant Major General Harold Cross presented the award to BLM-ES JFO Field Manager Bruce Dawson at a ceremony held in Jackson, MS, on November 18, 2005.

In spring 2004, when employees of the JFO began seeing friends and family being deployed to fight the War on Terrorism, they decided to make a difference. Their first step was to adopt the 185 Aviation Group, which was stationed outside of Baghdad. Working with their family support group, JFO started a drive to send each member of the unit a care package. Several months later, they made the trek to the U.S. Post Office with over 100 care packages. The 185th was extremely appreciative, and they became a blip on the ESGR's radar screen. The ESGR operates through a network of more than 4,500 volunteers in 54 committees located in each state, the

District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Europe. The Mississippi Committee's primary goal was to gain and maintain active support from all public and private sector employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve as defined by demonstrated employer commitment to employee military service.

In the summer of 2005, employees in JFO found out that one of their own, JFO Geographic Information Specialist Brian Kennedy, was being called to active duty. He is currently stationed in Afghanistan and expects to be there for approximately 1 year. To continue support, JFO has sent 13 care packages to Brian and are planning several more shipments over the next several months. Receiving the Pro Patria Award was a tremendous honor for the employees, and they plan to continue showing support to the troops in all ways possible.

*We support
our Troops!*

Other BLM-ES Photo Highlights



(From left) Ted Laird, a friend and coworker of employees at BLM-ES, passed away in October 2005. Ted was always willing to help employees and volunteer for National Kids' Fishing Day events held in Washington, D.C. In this photo, Ted's fellow employee, Ric Smart, assists him with repairing fishing tackle. Ted served as the BLM-ES Land and Mineral Records Specialist and worked as the LR2000 Data Administrator and Payment In Lieu of Taxes Point of Contact in the Division of Natural Resources for many years.



Photo by Patrice Junius

BLM-ES Jackson Field Office partnered with Mississippi Girl Scout Troop 100 on a "Linking the Girls to the Land" Project. The Girl Scouts tested the water at Mayes Lake in Jackson, MS. Following, each participant received a patch from the National Girl Scouts.



Fuel, Family, Friends, and Experience Shaped Mineral Resources' Acting Team Lead's Lifestyle and Career

By Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States, Milwaukee Field Office

Stephen Klimetz was an Air Force brat. He was born in Japan and spent his early teen years in Greece and Germany, honing his interpersonal skills while traveling extensively throughout Europe. He has moved so much that he considers home, "wherever he puts his hat."

But now, Stephen classifies himself as a "homebody." His wife, Katrina and 14-year-old daughter, Alexandra, both love to sing and play instruments. Alexandra plays the flute and Katrina dabbles in most anything having to do with art or music. His 20-year-old son, Nikolas, is in the United States Navy, and is currently assigned to the carrier, John C. Stennis.

In 1985, Stephen graduated from Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS, with a BS in Petroleum Engineering. He has continued his education over the years with specialized courses and job-related classes. In December of 2000, his career began with the BLM at the Buffalo Wyoming Field Office. Over the next 4½ years, he reviewed approximately 5,000 APD's for approval. Stephen also wrote special conditions of approval that addressed the abnormalities of coal-bed methane wells. In 2004 Stephen was a busy person. He accepted a 3-week detail as the Petroleum Engineer for the Milwaukee Field Office. He also attended the Bureau's Leadership Challenge and Pathways, and presented a PowerPoint discussion on "Williams Non-Standard Gas Measurement—A Case Study" at the Fluids Minerals Conference in Cheyenne, Wyoming. In 2005, he accepted a permanent position as Petroleum Engineer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 2006, Stephen will be taking the necessary coursework to earn his Inspection & Enforcement certification.

What controversial issues have you faced working with the BLM? "Shortly after joining the BLM in Buffalo, Wyoming, I was asked to review a complex and controversial method of measuring coal-bed methane gas produced from Federal leases monitored by the Buffalo Field Office. While the proposal would save the applicant millions of dollars in equipment costs, it was contrary to standard industry practice and did not meet BLM regulations. In order to address the problem, I formed a team using the expertise from other BLM offices as well as local expertise. Under my direction, the team worked with the applicant and an independent flow measurement laboratory to perform extensive testing on the proposed metering system. Based



Photo by James Engstrom

Stephen Klimetz,
BLM-ES
Milwaukee
Field Office
Acting Team
Lead for Mineral
Resources

on the test results, the team recommended approval of the proposal."

What did this experience teach you and what do you want to accomplish long term? "I've learned that BLM's collaboration with industry and other agencies (i.e., State and Federal agencies) is the key to moving forward. This collaborative approach to problem solving resulted in a defensible solution which ensured accurate measurement of Federal resources while also providing cost savings to industry. This team also continues to address other metering proposals as well as participating in the development of industry standards and BLM policy. Ultimately, I hope that an Instruction Memorandum or Onshore Order #5 will be written to address consistency issues throughout the BLM field offices."

What are your hobbies? "I am an avid mystery reader. I am particularly fond of Clive Cussler adventures. I like to watch movies with my family and enjoy a nice round of golf. At one time I was extremely active in bowling; and a few years ago, I had a very good season punctuated by rolling three, 300 games."

How do you envision your future role with BLM? "I enjoy taking on challenges and the stimulus of stretching myself professionally and personally. I look forward to a long, rewarding career and retiring with the BLM. I would like to be a recognized leader within the BLM as it moves forward to confront a growing need for energy as well as addressing the urgency of protecting our natural resources for our children, grandchildren, and future generations. I see myself as a part of BLM's future as it is interwoven into the fabric of our Nation's changing energy needs and far reaching methods of resolving these issues."



E-mail Brief

General Land Office.—"Thank you for your response to my query. I look forward to hearing what you have learned/what information has been generated by your database query. Difficult as it is (for all of us!) to deal with the absence of the easy-to-use interface and the immediacy of its response, I do appreciate your efforts to continue to serve those of us who have come to rely on the GLO database." *Kristin E. S. Zapalac, Ph.D.*

The GLO Web site at www.glorerecords.blm.gov was reconnected December 23, 2005.

Eastern States Vision Statement — As Guardians of the Past, and Stewards for the Future, Eastern States is committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands spanning the 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River for present and future generations.

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Comings & Goings

Transfers.—*Gary Cooper*, Lower Potomac Field Station Manager, to the BLM's Washington Office, and *Rosemary Waddon*, Human Resources Specialist, to the General Services Administration.

Retirees.—*James Boylan*, Public Affairs Specialist, and *Sylvia Jordan*, Resource Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office; *Elizabeth Allison*, Land Use Planner, *David Gay*, Records and Data Administrator, and *Sammy St. Clair*, Acting Budget Officer, Jackson Field Office; *Stephen Douglas*, Supervisory Land Surveyor, *Brenda Munch*, Legal Instruments Examiner, State Office, *Jay Thietten*, State Fire Management Officer, and *Joe Zilincar*, Public Affairs Specialist, State Office.

In Memoriam.—*Ted Laird*, Land and Mineral Records Specialist, State Office, Division of Natural Resources, died in October 2005.

Oil & Gas Sale Results...continued from page 9

The December 15, 2005, Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale brought in revenue amounting to \$592,662 for 42 parcels of Federal subsurface mineral estate in the States of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania. Bonus bids, filing fees, and rental revenue amounting to \$444,496 will go to the U.S. Treasury and \$148,165 will be shared with the affected States. Pennsylvania Gen Energy of Warren, PA, paid \$115,033 for a 101-acre parcel in Forest County, PA. Their bid of \$1,125 per acre was the highest per-acre bid of the auction.

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