



STEWARD

Montana/Dakotas

Bureau of Land Management

Spring/Summer 2014

Seeing the Forest for the Trees



*Craig Howells, Billings Field Office
Fuels Specialist, with BLM decked
timber in December 2013.*

by BLM Staff

Just outside the town of Big Timber, Mont., sits the Green Mountain Forest Health Project Area. Through partnerships among the BLM and adjacent private landowners, the area is recovering from mountain pine beetle infestation and on the road to better health.

Now in the timber salvage phase, the project is the result of several years' worth of planning, hard work and coordination. The BLM, State of Montana, Stillwater Mine, Lion's Head Ranch, RY Timber and other cooperators are working together to harvest and salvage about two million board feet of insect-infested and

diseased timber on 335 acres of BLM, Stillwater Mine and Lion's Head lands.

Specific project objectives are ambitious: to develop a cooperative road system; reclaim unnecessary and duplicate roads; improve access; reduce hazardous fuel loading and fire danger; improve stand diversity and forest health; and decrease insect and disease damage. Achieving these objectives will ultimately result in a much healthier landscape.

"It's our responsibility to manage the land for long-term stewardship and public enjoyment," said Bruce Reid, the BLM forester involved with the project. "Forest Health is hazardous

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From the State Director's Desk

The snow is melting and the sun is shining longer as spring fills us with a sense of excitement to get outside to work, play and enjoy our public lands.

As we move into our busiest time of the year I want to express how proud I am of our BLM employees and thank each of you for your dedicated service. Over an unusually long winter your resilience carried the day as we faced sequestration, budget cuts and a government shutdown. Your teamwork and dedication assured that our multiple use missions stayed on track, meeting every challenge with innovative solutions.

Because of your ideas, BLM Montana/Dakotas has made huge strides in working more efficiently, particularly in support operations. Examples include operating with a smaller vehicle fleet, reductions in utility costs, and a focus on better utilization of space in our facilities. This is great news not only because we are operating with reduced budgets, but as stewards of tax dollars we are motivated to provide the American public the most effective and efficient use of our scarce appropriated funds.

I'm very excited about one initiative in particular. On April 17, the BLM and United States Forest Service (USFS) signed an important agreement to establish a new Gallatin/Custer National Forest Service Center in the BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office. The agreement enables the USFS and BLM to share working space in Billings and provides a wonderful opportunity for a central "one stop shop" to better serve the public.

Under the Service First partnership, about 5,000 square feet of space in the BLM State Office will be leased to the Forest Service. The agreement includes office space, a dedicated conference room, warehouse and ware yard space, and parking for USFS equipment and vehicles. The initiative will save about \$100,000 dollars per year in operating costs for the BLM and render similar savings for the Gallatin/Custer National Forest. We hope to complete the co-location of the two agencies by the end of the calendar year. These types of cost saving initiatives are so critical in balancing our operational costs with our public service missions.

Again, I'm so proud of our team and the work you're doing in the BLM Montana/Dakotas organization.



Jamie E. Connell
BLM Montana/Dakotas State Director

As we move forward, be assured that we will continue to seek new and exciting partnerships and cost saving initiatives to offset budget reductions with operational efficiencies that make good sense.

Over the next several months I hope each of you grab every opportunity to get outdoors and safely enjoy our public lands.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie E. Connell". The signature is fluid and cursive.



Gallatin/Custer National Forest Supervisor Mary Erickson and BLM Montana/Dakotas Associate State Director Kate Kitchell discuss the BLM/USFS co-location with employees on April 17.

Montana Youth Challenge Cadets Help Complete Project

The government shutdown last fall left a few BLM projects unfinished in the Dillon Field Office, but a group of local youth lent their muscle and energy to get at least one of those jobs done.

A fencing project on a BLM grazing allotment near Grant, Mont., was one high-priority example. Rape Creek is a west-slope cutthroat trout fishery with the portion of the creek on BLM-administered land fenced off from livestock use.

According to Paul Hutchinson, Dillon Field Office Fishery Specialist, the BLM built the exclosure around Rape Creek to protect the high genetic purity of the native west-slope cutthroat trout in the stream. Maintaining a healthy population of WCT in the drainage is a high priority.

In recent years cattle have been able to get through the oldest portion of the fence, so the BLM and the grazing permittee cooperatively worked to replace it. They constructed the new fence, but did not get the old one removed before the government shutdown. Because the new fence paralleled the old one, it created a wildlife hazard where antelope, elk or deer could get trapped.

Wanting to complete the project before winter set in, the Dillon Field Office asked the Montana Youth Challenge Academy in Dillon if they could help—just as they had on different projects in previous years. The Academy quickly agreed and on a cool and sunny morning in late October, four energetic cadets began to remove the old woven wire fence.

The fence was at least 60 years old,



Old (left side) and new (right side) fence crossing Rape Creek in southwestern Montana. The stream has been fenced off from livestock to protect the high genetic purity of native west-slope cutthroat trout. BLM photo

and much of it had willows and shrubs growing through it. Some portions were buried in the ground. The fence also had rotten corner and brace posts that had to be removed. Because of the overgrown vegetation, the cadets had to literally cut the fence out, piece by painstaking piece, with bolt cutters and fencing pliers. To make it more challenging, most of the fence was in a flooded wetland area that required them to work in ankle-deep water. However, they never complained. They just kept chugging along, removing wire from the water-soaked ground with smiles on their faces and fencing pliers in their hands.



Youth Challenge cadets tear down the dilapidated fence. BLM photo

Other than a lunch break, the cadets worked steadily through the day. By the time they returned home that evening, they had completely removed the fence and hauled the materials the half-mile back to the truck. The cadets all said they had a great day working outside on a worthwhile project, and the BLM appreciated getting the job completed quickly and safely before winter weather set in.

*Ryan Martin
Rangeland Management
Specialist
Dillon Field Office*

Missoula smokejumpers clear tree hazards at remote Missouri River campground

A group of smokejumpers from Missoula cleared a potential public safety hazard at a remote location in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument last fall.

Central Montana District Manager Stan Benes recruited the assistance of this uniquely qualified group to remove tree hazards at a river boat camp accessible only by river.

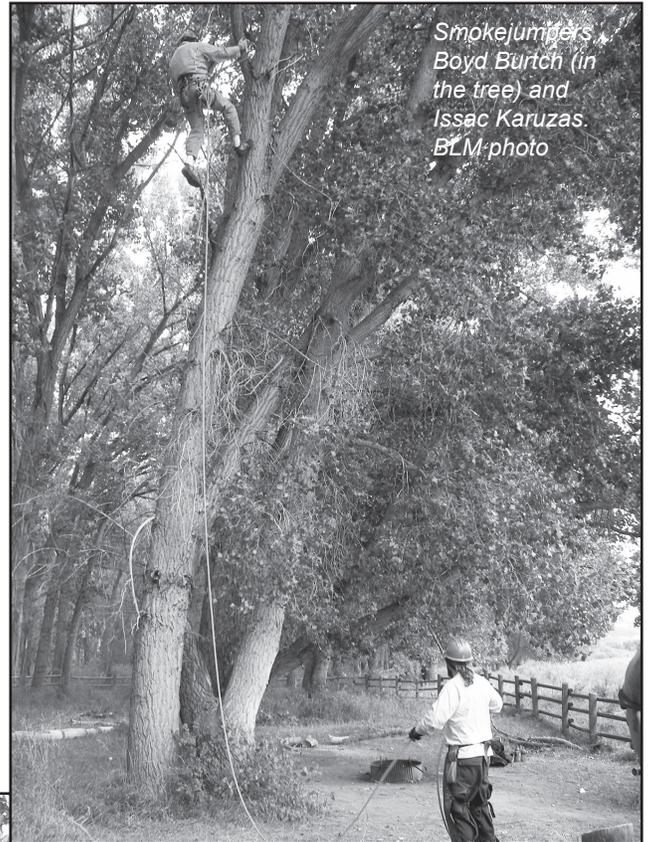
Monument Manager Mike Kania coordinated the plan for early September. Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner Mark Schaefer and River Ranger Joe Lyon met the group and transported them by jet boat to Hideaway river boat camp.

Upon arrival, the smokejumpers surveyed the site with a critical eye. The small riverside campground was heavily forested with cottonwoods reaching as high as 60 feet. Nearly every tree in the grove had numerous dead and dying limbs at every level. It was these “widow makers” and the hazards they create for recreational users that got the smokejumpers’ attention.

Led by 20-year veteran smokejumper and arbor specialist Boyd Burch, the crew wasted no time in gearing up and scrambling expertly into the treetops. Working throughout that day and most of the next, the smokejumpers, with the help of the BLM staff, cleared

nearly every tree of hazards. Several trees that proved to be severely dangerous were expertly felled, limbed, and bucked into convenient campfire-sized pieces along with the dropped widow makers. Everything was neatly stacked at various locations for public use.

“These guys are consummate professionals,” commented Schaefer. “Joe and I are honored to be in their presence and to assist them in their effort to help us out. Knowing what they do in their primary mission, and having them



Smokejumpers Boyd Burch (in the tree) and Issac Karuzas. BLM photo



Smokejumper Colby Jackson. BLM photo

volunteer to come out here and help us on their ‘down time’ is indicative of the caliber of people we know as smokejumpers. The extraordinary professionalism, positive attitude, competence and sheer guts it takes to do work like this is highly impressive and I look forward to continuing this partnership in the coming seasons.”

Considering the number of remote campsites along the river with similar issues, the success of this first mission may be the precursor for many more to come.

*Mark Schaefer
Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner
Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument*

BLM Montana and Partners Celebrate Land Exchange

One of three parcels the BLM has recently acquired along the Big Hole River.

A ribbon cutting ceremony last fall commemorated the acquisition of three parcels of land northeast of Dillon, Mont. The event was held at the entrance to the parcels along the Big Hole River—one of Montana’s internationally recognized blue ribbon trout streams.

The transaction - known as the Hagenbarth Land Exchange - culminates more than eight years of effort between the Bureau of Land Management and long-time Dillon ranchers Jim and David Hagenbarth. Through their exchange agreement, 99.54 acres of private lands along the Big Hole River were swapped for an equal value of BLM land. The BLM’s newly acquired river acreage blocked up three previously non-contiguous, intermingled parcels, ultimately creating a 4,640-acre block of public land. The public now has more than two miles of continuous river access within this resource-rich piece of Montana we call the Lower Big Hole River Special Recreation Management Area.

The Lower Big Hole River and adjacent public lands are popular for recreational activities such as fishing, floating, and hunting. Several recreation sites with

boat launches dot the river above and below the newly acquired lands located 5 miles downstream from Glen, Mont.

The exchange brought into public land ownership additional outstanding natural resource values and recreational opportunities while consolidating public land ownership for more efficient management. The three former federal land parcels were difficult and uneconomic to manage, with limited public accessibility for recreational use. Acquisition of the 243.81 acres by the Hagenbarths consolidated private land ownership with their base property and now provides more opportunities to accomplish their ranch management objectives.

During the celebration, Dillon Field Manager Cornie Hudson expressed her appreciation to all the parties who cooperated in the effort starting with



Beaverhead County Commissioners, the Hagenbarths, and local residents joined the BLM Montana in a small ceremony celebrating completion of the Hagenbarth Land Exchange in Sept. 2013. Photo by David Abrams

the Hagenbarths who initially proposed the land exchange back in 2005. She acknowledged the tremendous efforts of her staff and colleagues in our BLM Montana State Office who worked diligently to facilitate the transaction.

“The exchange is a great example of what can happen when people work together to reach an agreement that is mutually beneficial,” Hudson added.

*Angela Brown
Realty Specialist
Dillon Field Office*

Rare “Egg thief lizard” discovered on Montana public land



A close-up of Oviraptor foot bones under excavation in Carter County, Mont., last July. Paleontology crews were working an exposed section of the Hell Creek Formation near Ekalaka when they found claw and toe bones weathering out of a hillside belonging to this rare specimen. This dinosaur is the second substantial specimen of its kind to be found in North America. Photo courtesy of the Burpee Museum of Natural History.

MILES CITY, Mont. -- A North American Oviraptorosaur, the second substantial specimen of its kind, was discovered by Burpee Museum of Natural History paleontology crews on BLM-administered lands near Ekalaka last July.

Burpee Museum Board Member and Highland Community College Professor Steve Simpson and one of his students are credited with the find. Both were working an exposed section of the Hell Creek Formation in Carter County when they found claw and toe bones weathering out of a hillside belonging to a mid-sized “theropod” -- a meat-eating dinosaur.

Further excavation uncovered more toe and foot bones. Within minutes, several other bones were discovered including vertebrae and ribs. The bones were disarticulated, but closely associated. About 40 bones were collected over the course of 10 days

including toe bones, metatarsals, ankle bones, tibia, partial femur, hip bones, vertebra and ribs. The bones were oriented as to be headed into the hillside and the rest of the skeleton remains covered, hopefully including the skull.

“Initially we thought this could be another juvenile Tyrannosaur,” said Scott Williams, Burpee Museum director of Science and Exhibits. “But there were some features in the toe bones and in the foot bones that are different from Tyrannosaurus rex; they’re not curved as much, not as robust or stocky; the claws are also different. The kicker was the tail vertebrae. They were fairly stubby, not as elongated as what you would find in a juvenile Tyrannosaur and they had pneumatic openings visible.”

Williams likened the animal to “a parrot on steroids.”

“Based on the length of its tibia and other bones we have, it’s probably going to be 5 to 6 feet tall at the hip,” said Williams. “You’re looking at an animal that is probably pretty fleet of foot, very lightly built, lots of hollow bones that have air sacs. This animal could get around pretty good.”

Oviraptorosaur means “egg thief lizard.” Paleontologists first thought these dinosaurs were nest raiders based on a Mongolian fossil of an adult sprawled on top of a clutch of eggs. Later studies concluded that the animal died upon its own nest. Several preserved specimens have since been recovered positioned in similar brooding postures. Oviraptors are thought to have been omnivorous.

Artist conceptions based on existing skeletons depict an upright, ostrich-like animal with fairly long, three-fingered upper limbs and a skull that has a pronounced crest and a parrot-like beak. There are many varieties of Oviraptors ranging in size from the turkey-sized Caudipteryx to the 1.4 ton Gigantoraptor. Some have crests, some don’t, and other characteristics vary. The most complete specimens have been found in Asia. North American finds are exceptionally rare.

Oviraptors have been found with impressions of well-developed feathers, particularly on the wings or hands, and tail. Well preserved Oviraptor tails have evidence of developed “pygostyles” -- a bony structure located at the end of the tail that supports a fan of feathers, possessed by modern birds. Quill knobs have also been found on some Oviraptor specimens.

Dr. Thomas Holtz, noted paleontologist and theropod expert from the University of Maryland, arrived in Montana the day after the initial discovery and helped identify the specimen as a Caenagnathid oviraptorosaur based on the air sac spaces in its tail vertebra.

“It appears to be a large (perhaps the largest so-far) of the as-yet unnamed species of big (ostrich-sized or larger) Oviraptorosaur from the very end of the age of dinosaurs in western North America,” wrote Holtz in an Aug. 19 letter to the Burpee Museum Board of Directors.

“Based on very preliminary estimates (as most of the bones were still in the ground at the time I last saw them), this individual dinosaur may be 15 to 20 percent larger than the Carnegie Museum specimen,” said Holtz. “It could be that this is simply an older and larger individual of this rare species. Alternatively, it might be a new species of the same sort...detailed examination of the bones of this new skeleton compared to those of previously discovered ones will determine this.”

The specimen has been nicknamed “Pearl” for Pearl City, Ill., and Pearl City Street, where Simpson and his students are from. Burpee field crews will return to Montana and collect the remainder of the specimen and is currently preparing “Pearl” for scientific description by Dr. Holtz.

Currently, the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, Pa., has the only complete mounted North American Oviraptorosaur in the world. The Carnegie specimen is the composite of two individuals and is missing its feet. Not only does “Pearl” have elements missing from the Carnegie specimen, but it is similar in size.

BLM-permitted excavation teams working on public land must be Federally-recognized repositories for paleontological specimens before they can be considered qualified to excavate on Federal lands. Permits are issued to professional paleontologists who must agree to preserve their finds in a public museum, a college, or a university because of their scientific importance. These remains must also be made available to other researchers and are held in trust for the people of the United States.

“Burpee Museum has a phenomenal track record of conducting paleontological field work under permit on public lands in southeastern Montana. One of the great things about collecting material on public lands is that the specimens, once prepared and curated, are truly available to the public,” said Williams. “Specimens like our juvenile Tyrannosaurus rex ‘Jane,’ our sub-adult Triceratops ‘Homer,’ on down to shed dinosaur teeth and fish vertebra, are available not only for the general public and school tours to enjoy; they are available to qualified researchers to study.”

Williams went on to say that when Pearl is completely prepared, “she” will be available for what he termed as the “the trifecta:” scientific study, public exhibition and educational programming. The accessibility of these



Oviraptor fossils have been found with impressions of well-developed feathers, as well as sitting on egg-filled nests similar to this artist's conception. A North American Oviraptorosaur was discovered by Burpee Museum of Natural History paleontology crews near Ekalaka, Mont. last July. Artwork courtesy of the Burpee Museum of Natural History.

specimens to the general public is incredibly important to help excite and encourage children to take an interest in science, said Williams.

“Equally important is the accessibility of specimens to qualified paleontologists,” he said. “Through their research and study we are better able to educate all people about the history of our natural world.”

“Our paleontological field successes in Montana have allowed us a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with the Bureau of Land Management as well as to maintain a great relationship with many ranchers in the Carter County area,” said Williams. “There’s a rich paleontological history in that part of Montana and I feel lucky to be able to share that with so many people.”

The Burpee Museum formally announced its discovery of this rare North American, Montana dinosaur in a Nov. 15 news release.

Log on to www.burpee.org for more information on the Burpee Museum of Natural History.

*Mark E. Jacobsen
Public Affairs Officer
Eastern Montana - Dakotas District*

BLM workshop for industry deemed a success

DICKINSON, N.D. -- BLM oil and gas experts held a workshop for industry in Dickinson on Sept. 11 as part of a proactive approach to information sharing and education regarding energy production inspection and enforcement procedures.

The BLM's Great Falls Field Office Manager Don Justice coordinated the program and arranged instructors for the day-long event. Topics focused on the most common violations found under government inspections on Bakken production facilities.

BLM specialists from the three Montana/Dakotas field offices with oil and gas responsibilities applied their expertise and experiences to help 162 attendees --representing 33 companies-- understand compliance issues and the proper remedies that will assist production crews in operating within the framework of the law.

The BLM coordinated with the North Dakota Petroleum Council to invite its members to participate in the workshop prior to the event. The invitation was also extended to operators on the Montana side of the border.

September's workshop curriculum included an orientation on the BLM's jurisdiction and structure; details of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty management act of 1982; Onshore Orders dealing with site security, oil and gas measurement; electronic flow computer operation requirements, and Oil and Gas Operations Reports.

Instructors focused on the regulations while highlighting areas of concern and defining the BLM's expectations.

Several attendees expressed appreciation for the session and the time spent by presenters. Printed and electronic materials from the course were made available to industry reps, and feedback from individuals noted how useful those documents would be to their operators in the field.

"The BLM has worked closely with the NDPC in planning and scheduling workshops that will benefit the industry, as well as the BLM," said BLM Eastern Montana/Dakotas District Manager Diane Friez. "The first workshop held in coordination with NDPC was related to submission of Applications for Permit to Drill. That workshop was also a

huge success with valuable information shared and operators understanding the requirements for submitting a complete APD package."

The next planned get together is an Environmental Workshop, which is being scheduled for February 2014.

"These workshops benefit the BLM and industry and we plan to continue to present them on different topics in the future. They give us an opportunity to interact with company representatives on the ground, and explain why we require the things we do," said Friez. "We are also happy to share the information from the workshops so as new employees are hired, the information can also be shared with them."

The workshop curriculum was based in part on a bureauwide presentation used in the Inspection and Enforcement Program. The presentation has been refined; an abbreviated presentation is used in the field and a more in-depth version is tailored for specific BLM field offices and used for workshops and industry management presentations, said Justice.

"We are able to reach the pumpers working on site, reach the new hire and provide them the training, it really helps," said BLM Petroleum Engineer Technician Brian Nansel regarding the mobile training program. "When we are proactive and talk to them, let them know what they need to do and know out there, in the end it saves us time and money."

This approach is producing significant results, he said.

"Last year, training was provided for one company that had hundreds of violations," said Nansel. "This year, that same company had zero violations."

For more information on future workshops contact the BLM North Dakota Field Office at (701) 227-7700.

Mark E. Jacobsen
Public Affairs Officer
Eastern Montana - Dakotas District



BLM staffers Michael Erickson, Joseph Bramhall, Brian Nansel, Chris DeVault, Don Justice, Chad Hoskins and Lisa-Marrie Whiteman conducted an oil and gas workshop for industry in Dickinson, N.D., on Sept. 11. The workshop focused on information sharing and education regarding energy production inspection and enforcement procedures. Photo by Mark E. Jacobsen

All for the Birds

HAVRE, MONT.-- Biological Technician Marcus Hockett and Havre Field Office Wildlife Biologist Craig Miller spent many mornings last April downing cups of coffee as they cruised to the breeding grounds of Greater Sage-Grouse. They often split up to visit as many leks as possible within the first two hours of daylight.

Routinely arriving at a lek in the dark, the BLMers would often hear the booming noise of sage-grouse males emptying their air sacs, and the scuffles of flapping wings and striking claws, as the cocks sorted out who would be allowed to court the females.

The breeding grounds (leks) tend to be in the same locations year after year. While surveying, Hockett and Miller worked quickly to get accurate counts and minimize their time in each lek, avoiding unnecessary disturbance. They focused on the male birds, which are easily distinguished in their breeding plumage of bright white ruffs around their necks and yellow air sacs on their breasts.

The BLM worked with an Adopt-a-Lek crew and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to monitor 40 leks in Blaine and Chouteau counties in 2013. Nearly all the leks were visited at least three times during April. Similar efforts are taking place this spring.

Habitat Assessment

Last year, after the lek counts were completed, the focus switched to



Photo by Craig Miller

Greater Sage-Grouse displaying on a lek in Blaine County in north-central Montana.

assessing the condition of sage-grouse nesting habitat. In early May, Miller and Hockett were joined by Biological Technician Brad Mitchell.

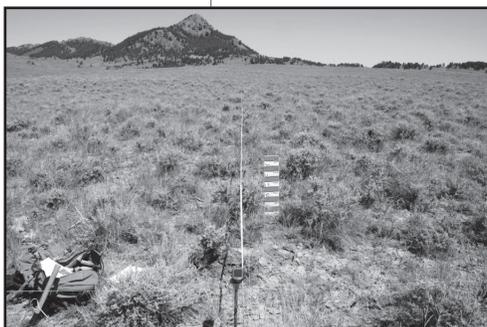
They started by identifying pastures within each allotment, as each would serve as an independent area that could

be managed through changes in grazing management to help achieve desired conditions.

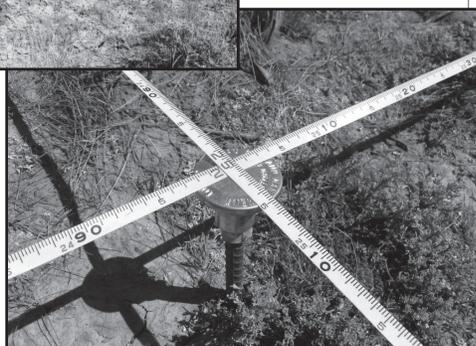
Using GIS, previously identified sage-grouse habitat was overlaid with allotment pasture maps to identify potential habitat plot locations. Further investigation on the ground would lead to several more plots being established as varying habitat was found within individual pastures.

Overall, the crew established 32 permanent transects. At each transect, they measured sagebrush canopy using the line-intercept method and recorded the average heights of grasses and shrubs. They went on to identify individual species of shrubs, grasses and forbs and recorded the canopy cover of each.

The data collected last summer is now being used to evaluate conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health. It is also being used to establish quantifiable sage-grouse habitat and management objectives for each allotment to ensure that future grazing management will maintain or improve habitat for the Greater Sage-grouse.



Sage-grouse habitat monitoring plot in Blaine County in north-central Montana.



Permanent center caps were placed for sage-grouse habitat monitoring plots to have a repeatable study. Photos courtesy of Marcus Hockett

*Story by Craig Miller
Photos courtesy of
Marcus Hockett
and Craig Miller
Havre Field Office*

fuels reduction, wildlife habitat, and economic boost. It's not just logging."

Reid has many years of experience working in areas infested with mountain pine beetle. "You can almost hear them chewing though the trees on quiet days out marking timber."

In the Green Mountain unit, some sample plots hold up to 90 percent dead lodgepole pine due to beetle kill. The clear benefit of removing dead and dying trees is reducing hazardous fuels loading and thus the potential for catastrophic wildfire.

Craig Howells, Fuels Specialist for the Billings Field Office and longtime Montana resident, highlighted the community aspects of the project.

"It's a project involving both federal and local land owners in the harvest," he said. "The contractor harvesting the timber is based in Montana and the logs are being processed at a mill near here. It's a true collaboration benefiting the land but also benefiting the Montana economy."

The entire Green Mountain project will result in about \$100,000 profit for the BLM while boosting the local economy.

This timber salvage is the first large-scale sale for the Billings Field office in many years.

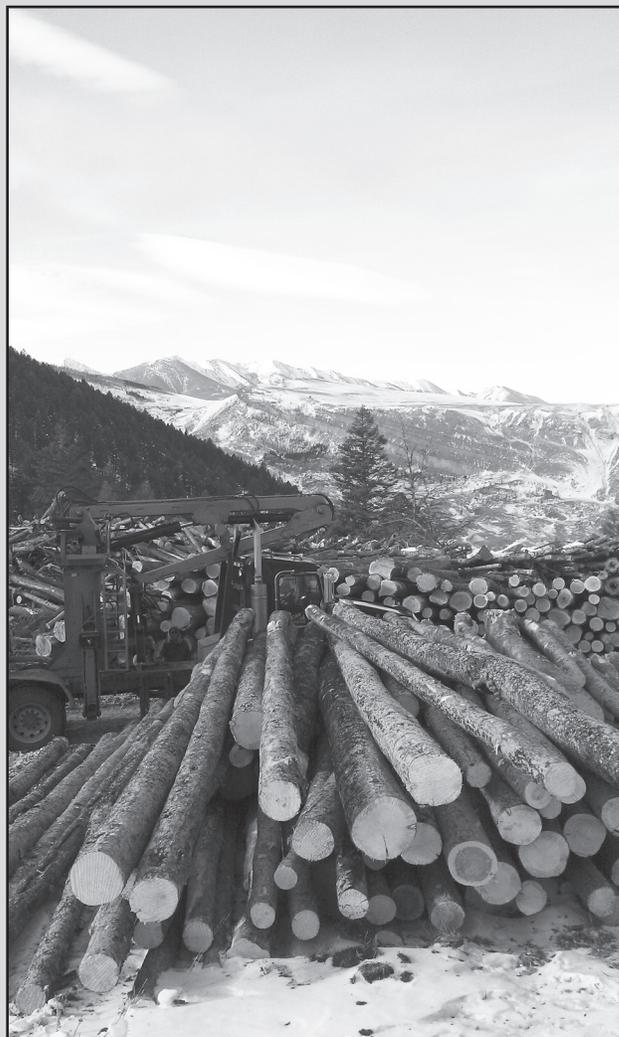
"This project is really a success for our office," said Billings Field Manager Jim Sparks. "It has taken a lot of work to get to this point and the multiple resource benefits and collaboration is really a true success story."

The Green Mountain Forest Health project is really seeing the forest for the trees.

Photos by Carmen Thomason



Contractor Seth Beck, owner of Iron Pine Logging, harvests trees in December 2013.



Overview of a log deck on the Green Mountain Timber Salvage. The timber is labeled, de-limbed, and stacked according to ownership and then hauled to a local mill.

Employees on the Move

NEW TO BLM MONTANA/DAKOTAS

Brandon D. Anderson
Malta Field Office
Engineering Technician
(Civil)

Robert J. Van Sickle
Miles City Field Office
Petroleum Engineer

Wendy M. Warren
Miles City Field Office
Supervisory Land Use
Specialist

Richard M. Hayner
Central Montana District
Lead Range Technician
(Fire)

Josh M. King
Montana State Office
Supvy. Gen Supply
Specialist

REASSIGNED WITHIN BLM MONTANA/ DAKOTAS

Pamila M. Dandrea
Montana State Office
Administrative Officer

Sally A. Taylor
Montana State Office
Legal Instruments
Examiner

Ruth A. Miller
Montana State Office
Planning and
Environmental Specialist

Nathan A. Zahn
Montana State Office
Administrative Support
Assistant

Roger G. Hall
Montana State Office
Petroleum Engineer

Brian W. Nansel
Miles City Field Office
Supervisory Engineering
Technician (Petroleum)

Gregory S. Pedersen
Montana State Office
Government Information
Specialist

Jacalynn C. Parks
Miles City Field Office
Administrative Support
Assistant

Tracy A. Thoricht
Montana State Office
Supervisory Litigation
Specialist

PROMOTED WITHIN BLM MONTANA/ DAKOTAS

Joshua Jackson
Missoula Field Office
Forester

Adrienne M. Lipka
Malta Field Office
Rangeland Management
Specialist

Gabriella K. Torres
Montana State Office
Secretary (OA)

Samuel J. Herbert
Montana State Office
Secretary (OA)

Thomas L Laakso
Montana State Office
BLM Indian Land Surveyor

Alexandra L. Burke
Glasgow Field Office
Law Enforcement Ranger

Joseph D Bramhall
North Dakota Field Office
Engineering Technician
(Petroleum)

Weston J Miller
Dillon Field Office
Forestry Technician

Loren C. Wickstrom
North Dakota Field Office
Supervisory Geologist

Mary M. Masse-Geary
Miles City Field Office
Fire Business & Training
Coordinator

Laurie A. Blinn
Dillon Field Office
GIS Specialist

Matthew J. Lewin
Miles City Field Office
Rangeland Management
Specialist

Rebecca E. Newton
South Dakota Field Office
Wildlife Biologist

Craig G. Howells
Billings Field Office
Fire Management Spec
(Prescribed Fire & Fuels)

Mary L. Ramsey
North Dakota Field Office
Legal Instruments
Examiner

Lisa L. Wyckoff
North Dakota Field Office
Legal Instruments
Examiner

Michael W. Erickson
North Dakota Field Office
Engineering Technician
(Petroleum)

Chad Hoskins
Great Falls Oil & Gas
Office
Production Accountability
Technician

RETIRED

Pascual R. Laborda
Montana State Office
Supervisory Petroleum
Engineer

Teri N. Bakken
Montana State Office
Supervisory Land Law
Exam

Richard J. Torquemada
Missoula Field Office
Field Manager

Bart Howells
Dillon Field Office
Rangeland Management
Specialist

Pamela K. Wall
Miles City Field Office
Realty Specialist

Bradley W. Rixford
Butte Field Office
Supervisory Outdoor
Recreation Planner

Gerald D. Moller
South Dakota Field Office
Range Technician

Jonathan M. Kautt
Malta Field Office
Rangeland Management
Specialist

Karen L. Michaud
Montana State Office
Fire Management Specialist

John H. Thompson
Montana State Office
Planning & Environmental
Specialist

Melinda J. Mason
Missoula Field Office
Geologist

David J. Breisch
Miles City Field Office
Supervisory Mineral
Resource Specialist

Attention BLM Retirees

The BLM Retirees Association

Stay in touch! The BLM Retirees Association will meet at 11:30 a.m. on June 3 and October 7, 2014, at the Windmill (3429 TransTech Way) in Billings. If you would like to receive an email notification of these meetings, please contact Alice Slagowski at 406-259-9319 or asluggo@bresnan.net.

The Public Lands Foundation

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) offers new retirees a free one-year membership. If you're interested, contact one of the Montana PLF representatives: David Mari at 406-538-7121 or dmari@earthlink.net; or Kemp Conn at 406-360-9252 or montanakconn@wildblue.net (please note "PLF" on the subject line).

What is the PLF? It works to keep America's public lands in public hands, managed professionally and sustainably for responsible common use and enjoyment.

The goals of the PLF are to:

- Keep lands managed by the BLM in public ownership and open to use by the public.
- Support multiple use management under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.
- Encourage professionalism by BLM employees.
- Increase the public's understanding of and support for the proper management of the public lands.

Although PLF membership consists largely of retired BLMers, current employees and anyone interested in the goals of the organization are welcome to join.

Bureau of Land Management
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