



# STEWARD

Montana/Dakotas

Bureau of Land Management

Spring/Summer 2015

## Lewistown Field Office conducts BLM's largest prescribed burn outside of Winnett

*Story and photos by Alyse Backus • Public Affairs Specialist • Montana/Dakotas State Office*



(WINNETT, Mont.) — The Lewistown Field Office recently carried out the largest prescribed fire conducted by the BLM in Montana to date.

Fire crews completed the 6,700-acre prescribed burn on April 10 in the Tin Can Hill recreation area and on private ranch lands located about 15 miles northeast of Winnett, Mont. The unit burned is described as Tin Can Hill Unit F, one of 12 units in the area designated as the Musselshell Breaks Fuel Treatment Plan. Five of the units have been treated in previous years with prescribed burns, mechanical treatments or a combination of both.

The primary goal of the burn was to reduce hazardous fuel loads and return the area to its natural 35-year fire cycle. The prescribed fire also reduced density within the area's tree stands and cut down on juniper and conifer encroachment on surrounding rangelands.

"We accomplished all of our objectives for this burn," said Josh Barta, who

served as the burn boss. "We want to reduce ladder fuels and conifer encroachment into the rangelands. If we are able to do that, then we can prevent an unnaturally severe wildfire from happening. In turn, that increases the safety of our firefighters."

Wildfire suppression methods of the last century disrupted the natural 35-year fire cycle of the Tin Can Hill area, which has resulted in build-up of hazardous fuels.

By reducing the encroachment of juniper and conifer stands onto the surrounding grasslands, the prescribed fire also improves wildlife habitat. The BLM partnered with the Montana Department of Natural Resources, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and the Mule Deer Foundation for the prescribed fire. RMEF donated \$30,000 to help fund the aerial ignition operation of the project.

The Tin Can Hill prescribed fire crew primarily used a helicopter to ignite the designated burn area. Fire crews hand-lit controlled fires around the perimeter of the 6,700 acres, while a helicopter dropped

thousands of igniting spheres onto the ground below. Once the spheres that look much like ping pong balls hit the ground, a chemical activates and smolders till surrounding vegetation catches fire.

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## From the State Director's Desk

Imagine that Indiana Jones and Jurassic Park are real every day at your work place. Well, maybe we do not have ravenous dinosaurs wandering the halls, nor do we have to contend with booby-trapped temples at the office. But preservation of our natural and cultural heritage is alive and well across the BLM.

In addition to extensive natural resources, public lands also contain an immense treasure of heritage resources. Heritage resources include archaeological material—items made and used by humans from prehistoric to historic times—and paleontological resources that include evidence of past life on Earth. These resources root us to the past and our legacy, while at the same time help us to understand our future. We are very proud of the heritage programs right here in Montana/Dakotas, both of which are actively preserving and promoting our legacy.

The Billings Curation Center (BCC) is one of only three BLM-managed collection centers in the nation. The BCC houses archaeological artifacts and records recovered from public lands—not just BLM, but also from those managed by many other agencies as well. Presently there are an estimated 500,000 objects, along with related records like field notes and photographs of excavations, from over 4,400 federal localities. This archive of history is used for research as well as education and exhibition, with many county and state museums displaying parts of the collection.

Paleontology resources include evidence of past life, or fossils. Fossils tell the story of how the Earth has changed repeatedly and dramatically over time. Stand in front of a rock outcrop and you can read in the rocks what the environment was at the time they were deposited, and the fossils preserved within them help tell the story. Over 40 museums from across the nation house and display fossils from Montana/Dakotas BLM land. Fossils may be as dramatic as full dinosaur skeletons, or be more modest plants or tiny mammal teeth—they all play a part in helping us unravel the story of life.

One crucial role of the heritage program is being a resource for the public. Recently, during the Artifact



*Jamie Connell holds the skull of a giant short-faced bear, an extinct Ice Age species that lived in Montana and across North America about 1.8 million to 10,000 years ago. It lived alongside other Ice Age species like mammoths, mastodons, saber-toothed cats, and giant ground sloths. This bear is the largest mammalian carnivore known.*

Road Show, more than 100 people visited the State Office bringing in their own personal treasures to be identified and evaluated by program experts. A parade of rocks, minerals, fossils, and cultural objects passed through the doors and under the eyes of staff and volunteers, and participants went away with a better understanding of their own “mystery” items.

Enrichment comes with knowledge and understanding. Public lands are an invaluable laboratory to investigate, document, preserve, and teach about the natural and cultural history of our great region, and BLM has the honor and responsibility of managing it for everyone. What an awesome heritage we share.

*Jamie E. Connell*

*BLM Montana/Dakotas State Director*

Visit us at [www.blm.gov/mt](http://www.blm.gov/mt), like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BLMMontana](http://www.facebook.com/BLMMontana), or follow us on Twitter@BLM\_MTDKs.

# Our National Conservation Lands

In 2015 the BLM will celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System.

Established on March 24, 2000, by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, the NLCS – or National Conservation Lands -- was a new paradigm in land conservation and management. It took in lands previously designated by Congress and through presidential proclamation. Wilderness, wilderness study areas, national conservation areas, national monuments, segments of wild and scenic rivers, national scenic and historic trails, and all similar designations are part of the system.

Unlike similar units managed by agencies such as the National Park Service, National Conservation Lands are managed under the BLM's multiple use mandate. Thus, within the boundaries of a national monument, there might be active protection of significant cultural resources alongside natural gas production. Each unit within the system is unique and, depending on its enabling legislation or proclamation, might exclude or include certain uses.

The concept is not new. The BLM has been managing treasured landscapes since the 1960s with the designation of wild and scenic river sections in New Mexico and Oregon. In 1970 the first national conservation area, King Range NCA, was established on the California coast. In 1983 BLM received its first wilderness designation with Bear Trap Canyon in Montana. Since then, there have been many additions.

Today, the National Conservation Lands are often considered one of the greatest experiments in land management. By focusing on the conservation of resources while allowing for multiple uses, the BLM is providing new examples for managing landscapes. The system now includes 874 federally recognized areas on about 30 million acres.

In Montana and the Dakotas, the BLM manages nearly one million acres in 46 units of the National Conservation Lands, including:

- Two national monuments (Pompeys Pillar and Upper Missouri River Breaks);
- Segments of two national historic trails (Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce);
- Segments of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail;
- Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness; and
- Thirty-five wilderness study areas.

The future of National Conservation Lands is bright. Each year external support grows in terms of nonprofits and public interest. The “new paradigm” is not just a model, but an opportunity for continuing to preserve landscapes along with traditional uses.



## NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

*Largest prescribed burn, continued from p. 1...*

“I think the firefighters out there did an excellent job,” said Barta. “Most of them have been out there several years in a row helping me with fires in the Tin Can Hill area and they have a lot of experience. As a result of that, this prescribed burn went really well.”

The prescribed fire was a mixed severity, which cleared out many of the smaller trees and small areas of the taller over story. There is typically very little plant diversity in the understory of dense tree stands like those in the Tin Can Hill area.

Wildlife biologist Matt Comer of the BLM Lewistown Field Office said it should take the area a few years to show the benefits of the prescribed burn.

The Tin Can Hill prescribed burn was a cooperative effort between the BLM and private land owners Tim and Tom Browning, who own the approximately 5-10 percent private property in the burn area. The Browning brothers are also the primary grazing permittees, and Tim made adjustments to his cattle operation in relation to livestock numbers and grazing dates to help ensure proper pre- and post-burn vegetative conditions.

“The relationship the BLM has with the private landowners is very positive,” said Barta. “Their cooperation has helped the burn immensely, and we would not have been able to do it without them.”



# BLM Botanist Plants New Tree of Knowledge at Little Big Horn College

Story and photos by Brad Purdy, BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office Public Affairs

“Rosehips are a fruit that come from a different type of flower called a hypanthium,” explains BLM Montana/Dakota State Office Botanist Wendy Velman to a group of students who are leaning in to inspect the small berry Wendy holds in her hand.

Sitting along a small tree line, Wendy and about ten students gather to learn what a botanist’s life is like in the field. Wendy closely examines a sample and explains the painstaking process of properly identifying and cataloging plants.

Not only will this be the first sample collection for many of these students, it also is the very first time any student at the Crow Reservation’s Little Big Horn College has collected samples that will stay with the school.

“We collected field data and we went through and collected the actual seeds, so we got about three or four thousand seeds collected in about 20 minutes,” said Velman. “Some of these seeds will actually become property of the college and used in their program we’re trying to get started about native plant growth of culturally significant species.”

*A Little Big Horn College student bags chokecherries on the Little Big Horn River.*



*BLM MSO Botanist Wendy Velman (right) works with Little Big Horn College students.*

The chokecherries and Woods Wild Rose seeds collected near the college are also important to Sage-Grouse habitat, another benefit for partners like the BLM and Natural Resource Conservation Service.

“This is also a ‘Seeds for Success’ collection,” explains Wendy. “That means that some of the seeds will stay here to help train the next generation of conservationists. The rest will be deposited into the national repository for the ‘Seeds of Success’ program. Herbarium specimens collected will be sent to the Smithsonian Institute, the BLM herbarium in Billings, and the

closest land grant university, which in this case is Montana State.”

Eventually, Wendy would like to return to the Crow Reservation and replant native species to help keep the cultural heritage alive and restore habitats for species like the Sage-Grouse. As for today, it’s all about the science and education.

“We are literally using this as the seed to plant the interest in students to start a conservation education.”

Learn more about Little Big Horn College at [www.lbhc.edu](http://www.lbhc.edu) and the Seeds of Success Program at [www.blm.gov/SOS](http://www.blm.gov/SOS)

# The Dillon Field Office Gives a Hoot!

*Katie Benzel, Wildlife Biologist, Dillon Field Office*

While it isn't a glamorous topic, it is an important one affecting several species of concern.

Open pipes, including those for vault toilet ventilation, kill thousands of cavity-nesters every year. Cavity-nesters, such as owls, prefer dark and narrow spaces for nesting and roosting. The 12" diameter of vault toilet ventilation pipes is the size preferred by many owl species. These species enter the open ventilation pipes and become entrapped in effluent, eventually dying.

Considering the hundreds of vault toilets on public lands, the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee's Wildlife Subcommittee secured funding to provide several land management agencies with vent pipe screens to prevent wildlife entrapment.

The screens were designed by the Teton Raptor Center (TRC) in Wilson, Wyoming. TRC started the Port-o-Potty Owl (Poo-Poo) Project in 2010. TRC's easy-to-install vent screens are sized to fit the pipes and feature

a 1" elevation that prevents birds from entering pipes without disrupting ventilation.

With the help of Park Ranger Ed Coon, Wildlife Biologist Katie Benzel has installed vent screens on 31 of the 37 vault toilets in the Dillon Field Office. With the purchase of six more screens, all the vault toilets in the DFO will be protected.

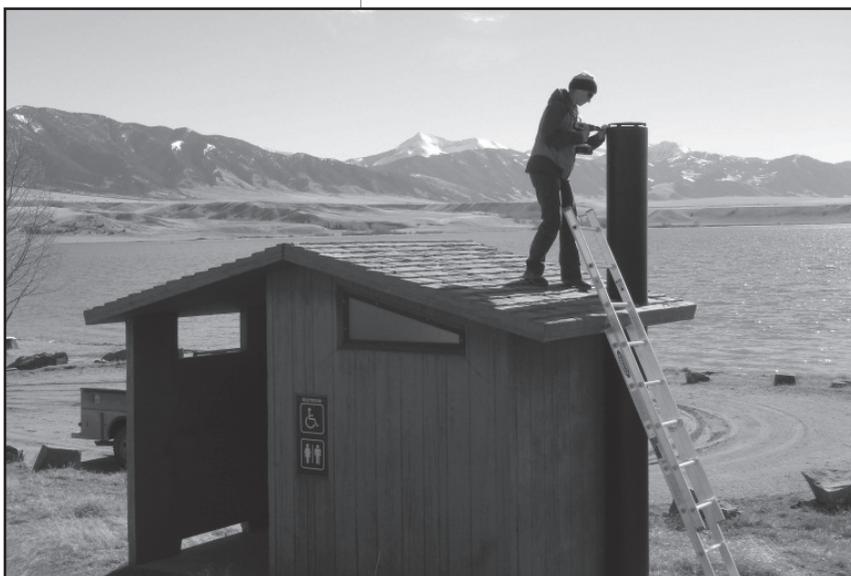
Vault toilet ventilation pipes aren't the only killers on the landscape. Other open pipes including mining claim stakes, irrigation pipes, and fence posts also entrap animals. One survey in Nevada recovered the carcasses of 879 birds, 113 reptiles, and 20 small mammals from 854 pipes (TRC).



*This Northern Saw-whet Owl died after being rescued from a vault toilet in the Sequoia National Forest. Photo by Diane Diebold. Photo courtesy of the Teton Raptor Center*



*Vent screen designed by Teton Raptor Center installed at Palisades Campground. Photo by Ed Coon*



*Katie Benzel, Wildlife Biologist, installs a vent screen at Kobayashi Beach. Photo by Ed Coon*

To purchase screens and/or learn more about this project, visit TRC's website at [www.tetonraptorcenter.org](http://www.tetonraptorcenter.org).

Now appearing at the Smithsonian:

## A little piece of BLM

by Cameron Liggett, BLM Volunteer

The setting was Mud Buttes in western North Dakota, managed by the BLM. The summer was 2014, and a crew from the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History took to the field and began an unusual undertaking: instead of collecting just the fossils lying on the ground or buried within the outcrop, they were collecting a large chunk of the actual outcrop of rocks itself!

On the vertical face of the outcrop they chose to target, they began digging vertical trenches along the sides, and across the top and back of the chunk of rock. Then, inside the trenches and on the face of the outcrop, they built up a protective plaster cast around the piece of rock, finally removing a large 3-foot square portion of the outcrop.

Mud Buttes is known especially for its quantity and diversity of high-quality plant fossils, as well as the presence of dinosaur fossils. So why was the crew collecting a large chunk of rock rather than the fossils?

Sixty-six million years ago (at the end of the Cretaceous Period), the Earth's ecosystems changed drastically with the extinction of the dinosaurs and many other types of animals and plants. Among land animals, only the small species survived. Scientists estimate that three-fourths of all species alive at the time became extinct. The evidence for what happened is sealed in the rocks deposited during that time.

The Hell Creek Formation is the rock unit that was made by rivers, lakes and

floodplains of central North America at the time of that extinction. And it was the surface of the land at the instant that an asteroid six miles in diameter slammed into the Earth, forming Chicxulub crater in the modern Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. A very unusual, thin layer of sediment formed on this surface.



*This summer a Smithsonian Institution team excavated a block of rock containing layers of material blasted into the atmosphere by the asteroid that hit the Earth 66 million years ago, ending the age of dinosaurs. Paleobiology Curator of Planktic Foraminifera and Chairman, Brian Huber, is on the left. Photo by Abby Telfer*

The impact threw tiny drops of molten rock high into the atmosphere. These tiny droplets, called spherules, cooled and solidified. They traveled through the atmosphere and drifted back down to the surface of Earth, including those rivers, lakes, and floodplains that made up the Hell Creek Formation. The thin layer containing the spherules represents a single moment in geologic time.

This same thin layer is also unusually rich in the element iridium. Iridium is very rare in Earth rocks. However, the iridium in this rock layer came from the asteroid itself. This special thin layer, with its spherules and iridium, representing one specific point in geologic time, is generally referred to as "the iridium layer." And the block of outcrop so carefully excavated at Mud Buttes by the Smithsonian team included the iridium layer.

In 2012, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History began work on an exhibit titled "The Last American Dinosaurs:

Discovering a Lost World." About 20 professionals worked for two years to design and produce this exhibit about the ecosystems represented in the Hell Creek Formation and causes of dinosaur extinction.

According to Sally Love Connell, project manager for the exhibit, the 3 ft. by 3 ft. piece of outcrop collected by the crew in summer 2014 was transported from the BLM Mud Buttes outcrop back to the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

"Once the plaster was removed from the top," she explained, "staff poured a fixing agent to soak through to try to stabilize it so they could remove an 8 in. by 10 in. section for the exhibit."

In the exhibit, the rock sample so painstakingly collected at Mud Buttes shows visitors a sample of the actual rock that encases the fossils of the last American dinosaurs, and also shows them the renowned iridium layer that provides a major piece of evidence for the asteroid impact that played a role in the extinction of three-fourths of species at the end of the Cretaceous.

Connell expects 14 million visitors to view the rock sample by the time the exhibit closes in 2018.

### Link to exhibition page:

<http://www.si.edu/Exhibitions/Details/The-Last-American-Dinosaurs-Discovering-a-Lost-World-4945>

### Link to Smithsonian Blogs about making the exhibition:

<http://naturalhistory.si.edu/fossil-hall/last-american-dinosaurs/blogs.cfm>

# BLM, MCC collect sage brush seed for habitat improvement projects

Mark Jacobsen • Public Affairs Officer • Eastern Montana/Dakotas District  
Photos by Justin Hanley and Rebecca Newton

Montana Conservation Corps volunteers assisted the BLM South Dakota and Miles City Field Offices with sage brush seed collection efforts during the first week of November.

The joint field office endeavor collected the seed to be used as part of local habitat restoration projects. Gathering seed from area plants boost seedling survival, said BLM Biologist Rebecca Newton, who works in Belle Fourche.

“The purpose of collecting seeds locally for future planting is to ensure that the stock is adapted to local conditions,” said Newton. “This might not be true of stock collected in a different geographic region, even if the species is the same.”

Billings-based MCC volunteers Harry Kaplan, Daniel Kennedy, Ryan Spencer, Meg Woodruff, Ale Dominguez and Tessa Grasel started and ended their 2014 work season in South Dakota.

“A couple of the MCC crew members expressed that having their last hitch here felt like closing the loop on their summer,” said Newton.

“Collectively we ended up with over 100 brown-paper lunch bags full of sagebrush inflorescence parts, including seed,” said Newton. “The method for collecting is simply stripping the flower stalks by hand and placing all the material in a bag. The tiny seeds are later separated out by machine at a special facility.”

The material has since been delivered to BLM Botanist Wendy Velman at the Montana/Dakotas State Office in Billings, where it resides in storage prior to the

machine-cleaning process that separates the seed from the stalks. According to Newton, the collected will go to Special K Ranch for propagation and the produced seedlings will return to the Eastern Montana/Dakotas District field offices to be planted at project sites.

The MCC was awarded the Public Land Foundation’s Landscape Stewardship Award at a ceremony held at the BLM

Montana/Dakotas State Office in Billings Oct. 10. The Landscape Stewardship Award honors the work done by private citizens who work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on lands that include those administered by the BLM. The BLM nominated the MCC based on its ongoing work on BLM-administered lands in Montana and South Dakota.

Volunteers play a large role in assisting the BLM in taking care of public lands. The BLM has a long relationship with youth groups like the Montana Conservation Corps, which promotes a healthy work ethic and public service by coordinating volunteer work crews with public land agencies. The MCC continues to be a productive partner and helps stretch taxpayer dollars while accomplishing important work projects that otherwise might not get done due to limited BLM staff and funding.

For more details on the Montana Conservation Corps and its mission, see: <http://mtcorps.org/>.



*Montana Conservation Corps Volunteer Ale Dominguez bags sage brush seed for seedling propagation Nov. 6, 2014 in Carter County, Mont.*



*Montana Conservation Corps crew members Harry Kaplan, Daniel Kennedy, Ryan Spencer, Meg Woodruff, Ale Dominguez, and Tessa Grasel pause while collecting sagebrush seeds in Carter County, Montana.*

# Behind the Scenes

## Volunteer tackles complex task

*Ann Boucher, Montana/Dakotas State Office*

Before any development takes place on public lands, the area must be surveyed for signs of cultural resources. Those archaeological surveys often result in boxes full of everything from bone fragments to buttons.

Each one of those pieces – no matter how small -- must be properly catalogued and stored, a time-consuming task that's not for just anyone.

Enter Kaja Anderson, a Montana State University-Billings student who has logged many hours cataloging artifacts in the Billings Curation Center. She first volunteered last fall in order to fulfill an internship requirement, but has stayed on well beyond the required 136 hours.

"I really want to finish this project," she says. That could take her well into the spring.

She truly enjoys the work.

"I like looking at the artifacts," she says. "There are lots of flakes, but no two flakes are alike. The more we collect, the more we learn."

She's in the right place. Since starting last October, Kaja has sorted, labeled and packaged hundreds of artifacts from archaeological surveys done on the Custer National Forest and BLM lands in Montana. Collected more than 40 years ago as part of the University of Montana's Archaeology field school, the items were kept at UM until being recently transferred to the BCC for permanent storage.

Making sense of the flakes of stone, pieces of glass, and stone tools is a time-consuming process that requires specialized training.

She starts by matching the artifacts with the site forms created when they were first gathered, a process not as straight-forward as it sounds. Collected by students in the

UM's archaeology program in 1975 and 1980, the items weren't always properly or adequately labeled.

"We try to match the artifact with the correct form, making note of what's there and isn't noted, and what is supposed to be there but isn't."

All that data is then entered into a BLM database where it is available to BLM archaeologists and other researchers as requested.

The work involves skill, knowledge and educated guesses, something for which Kaja is more than prepared.

An enrolled Sioux from the Fort Peck Tribes, Kaja attended Northwestern College in Powell, Wyo., and attended field school there. She later worked as a volunteer Curation Assistant for the Big Horn Canyon Recreation Area. Now she's a student double majoring in Sociology and History at MSU-B, with a minor in Native American studies. Her first 136 hours volunteering with the BCC fulfilled her internship requirement. The additional hours she counts as pure fun.

"Kaja has been a tremendous asset to the BCC," said David K. Wade, Museum Curator. "She's worked through all kinds of backlog to get our collections properly catalogued."

Kaja is not the first volunteer at the BCC. Since becoming Museum Curator in 1996, David K. Wade has enlisted the assistance of dozens of volunteers to sort and catalog artifacts collected from public lands in Montana and the Dakotas. Many, like Kaja, began as interns but have gone on to distinguished careers in the field of archaeology.

And it all starts behind the scenes in the BCC where volunteers aren't afraid to dig into tiny shreds of who-knows-what. For Kaja, every boxful is another adventure.

"It's fun to volunteer here."



*Kaja Anderson at her desk in the Billings Curation Center. Since last fall, she has logged more than 100 hours cataloguing cultural resources collected from public lands in Montana. Photo by Ann Boucher*

# COOL OPERATORS

*BLM employees and volunteers remove old fence*

*Vickie Anderson • Range Technician • Butte Field Office*



*Moving wire rolls over the snow with a sled. L to R: Volunteer Marvin Carmichael, and BLMers Lee Baldwin, Scott Haight, and John Sandford. Photo by Vickie Anderson*

On a cool December day in 2014, two volunteers and four BLM employees started removing old wire fencing from a non-leased grazing allotment called Dana's Bar, about 10 miles northeast of Helena, Montana.

The fence is a 1.75-mile-long snarl of barbed and woven wires--and "snarl" is an understatement--that poses a safety threat to wildlife and members of the public who live nearby and recreate on the Dana's Bar Allotment.

Volunteers Marvin Carmichael and J. Daly, and BLMers John Sandford, Lee Baldwin, Scott Haight, and Vickie Anderson formed two work groups to start disassembling the fence, going in opposite directions.

Early expectations that most of the fence could be removed that day were dashed when workers

discovered wires upon wires: barbed wires wired to woven wires, wires down, wires partially buried beneath duff, wires overgrown by the trees they were attached to, and so on. Even so, they removed close to half a mile of fence, to the tune of 940 pounds of recycled wire.



*The day's bounty of wire loaded onto an ATV trailer. L to R: John Sandford, Marvin Carmichael, and Vickie Anderson (red hat). Photo by Scott Haight*

"It's great to get this mess of a fence out of here and remove the threat to wildlife. We have other neighbors nearby who will be glad to see it gone as they like to hike and ride their horses on the BLM," said Marvin who, along with his wife Tina, has lived next to the Dana's Bar Allotment for 15 years.

John Sandford was the organizer for this project-- his last as a BLM employee before retiring in January 2015 after 37 years of public service.

"These types of projects, where the BLM gets hands-on assistance from public volunteers who cherish recreating on the nearby BLM lands, are truly important to everyone involved," said Haight, Butte Field Manager. "They create good neighbor vibrations and get people more involved in public stewardship."

Several more workdays, with public volunteers, will be scheduled to remove the rest of the fence.

"I think I might have to come back as a volunteer after I retire so I can see the fence removed in its entirety," said John Sandford.

# Employees on the Move

## NEW TO BLM

Stacie Canen  
Admn Support Asst (OA)  
Glasgow Field Office

Matthew Dillon  
Telecomm Spec  
Montana State Office

Jerry Dolatta  
Rangeland Mgmt Spec  
Miles City Field Office

Kimberly Dolatta  
Rangeland Mgmt Spec  
Miles City Field Office

Shane Garside  
Admn Support Asst (OA)  
Malta Field Office

Patrick Griffiths  
Petroleum Engineer  
North Dakota FO

Kevin Holmes  
Supvy Nat Res Spec  
North Dakota FO

Carol Hudson  
Staff Support Assistant  
Eastern MT/DKs District

Eva Karau  
Nat Res Spec (GIS)  
Central Montana District

Sarah Lee  
Mgmt and Prog Analyst  
Montana State Office

Michael Lininger  
Legal Instr Examiner  
North Dakota Field Office

Rebecca Lloyd  
Soil Scientist  
Butte Field Office

Hal Moore  
Rangeland Mgmt Spec  
Malta Field Office

Gloria Ostoj  
Minerals Assistant  
North Dakota Field Office

Beth Poindexter  
Petroleum Engineer  
North Dakota Field Office

Rachael Ramsey  
Minerals Assistant  
North Dakota Field Office

Christina Stuart  
Fish Biologist  
Miles City Field Office

Jaime Tompkins  
Supvy Outdoor Rec Planner  
Butte Field Office

Ashley Wells  
Forestry Technician  
Dillon Field Office

Kimberly Werven  
Supvy Land Law Examiner  
Montana State Office

Justin Wriedt  
Petroleum Engineer  
Miles City Field Office

## PROMOTED WITHIN BLM

Nathaniel Arave  
Geologist  
Montana State Office

Chad Dolbear  
Supvy Range Tech (Fire)  
Eastern MT/DAKS District  
Office

Michael Fosjord  
Engin Equip Operator  
Central Montana District

Jesse Hankins  
Wildlife Biologist  
Miles City Field Office

Don Judice  
DSD, Div of Resources  
Montana State Office

Lori Kimball\*  
Field Manager  
South Dakota Field Office

Kevin Kovacs\*  
Nat Res Spec (GIS)  
Central Montana District

Patrick Merrill  
Safety & Occ Health Spec  
Eastern MT/DKs District

Colton McKinney  
Supvy Range Tech (Fire)  
Eastern MT/DKs District

Al Nash\*  
Supvy Public Affairs Spec  
Montana State Office

Michael Philbin  
Supvy Nat Res Spec Montana  
State Office

Brad Purdy  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Montana State Office

Matthew Snyder  
Supvy Range Tech (Fire)  
Central Montana District

\*New to BLM Montana/  
Dakotas

## CONVERTED WITHIN BLM

Camilla Flom  
Minerals Assistant  
North Dakota Field Office

Jeffrey Gustad  
Rangeland Mgmt Spec  
Miles City Field Office

Sonni Hope  
Park Ranger  
Pompeys Pillar Nat'l Mon

Greg Liggett  
Geologist (Paleontology)  
Montana State Office

Jeremy McKellar  
Rangeland Mgmt Spec  
Havre Field Office

Jose Rios  
Eng Tech (Petroleum)  
North Dakota Field Office

Stephen Smith  
Rangeland Mgmt Spec  
Lewistown Field Office

## REASSIGNED WITHIN BLM

Nancy Bjelland  
Realty Specialist  
Billings Field Office

Brett Blumhardt\*  
Fire Management Officer  
Central Montana District

Erik Broeder  
Rangeland Mgmt Spec  
Dillon Field Office

Kelly Cole\*  
Field Staff LE Ranger  
Missoula Field Office

Shane Findlay  
Supvy Mineral Res Spec  
Miles City Field Office  
Div of Nonrenewable Res

Pat Harty  
Fire Mgmt Specialist  
Montana State Office

Paula Holwegner\*  
Human Res Spec (ER)  
Montana State Office

Seth Jackson  
Realty Specialist  
North Dakota Field Office

Travis Kern\*  
Supvy Mineral Res Spec  
Montana State Office

Sandra Leach  
DSD, Res, Planning & Fire  
Montana State Office

Jennifer McKinley  
Admin Support Assistant  
Montana State Office

John Nelson\*  
GIS Specialist  
Montana State Office

Gary Smith  
Supvy Land Use Specialist  
Montana State Office

Casey Trang  
Civil Engineer  
Western Montana District

Daniel Velder  
Realty Specialist  
South Dakota Field Office

Sara Whitney\*  
Land Law Exam (Minerals)  
Montana State Office

Nathan Zahn  
Legal Instr Examiner  
North Dakota Field Office

\*New to BLM Montana/  
Dakotas

## LEFT BLM

Craig Eddie  
Lead Range Tech (Fire)  
Eastern MT/DKs District

Richard Henry  
Meteorologist  
Montana State Office

Justin High  
Resource Assistant (OA)  
Missoula Field Office

Carmen Hubbs  
Admn Support Assistant  
Glasgow Field Office

Stanley Knight  
Eng Tech (Petroleum)  
North Dakota Field Office

Amber McNaught  
Admn Support Asst (OA)  
South Dakota Field Office

Hilary Rigby  
GIS Specialist  
Central Montana District

Clinton Valandra  
Student Trainee (Park Ranger)  
Pompeys Pillar Nat'l Mon

Lisa Wyckoff  
Legal Instruments Examiner  
North Dakota Field Office

## RETIRED FROM BLM

Jane Buechler  
Legal Instruments Examiner  
Montana State Office

Robert Giovanini  
Mining Engineer  
Montana State Office

William Hubbell  
Archeologist  
Miles City Field Office

H John Sandford  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Butte Field Office

Melodie Lloyd  
Supv Public Affairs Spec  
Montana State Office

As of March 31, 2015

# Glasgow Field Office fence modification project aids pronghorn

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Central Montana and HiLine Districts*

(GLASGOW, Mont.) – The Glasgow Field Office conducted a fence modification project over a two-week period during February 2015.

More than five and a half miles of fence was modified by wildland firefighters Jason Snellman and Rich Hayner along a section of Highway 2 west of Glasgow.

“They replaced the bottom barbed wire with smooth wire and modified the fence bottom wire height to 16 inches off the ground,” explained Glasgow Field Office Wildlife Biologist Abel Guevara. “Replacing the bottom barbed wire with smooth prevents the pronghorn antelope from rubbing and losing any hair that would expose their skin to frostbite or injury.” Pronghorn antelope most often negotiate fences by crawling under them.

In 2009 a pronghorn antelope migration study was conducted in this area. Data from pronghorn antelope fitted with GPS radio collars showed significant migration within the Buggy Creek and Chapman Coulee areas west of Glasgow.

Most fences in the area were 5-wire with a barbed bottom wire often no more than 12 inches off the ground.

Because the work was being done within the Highway 2 right-of-way, BLM coordinated the fence modification project with Montana Department of Transportation (MDT).

“This project was coordinated with our local MDT contacts Kevin Gower and Carson Buffington as well as MDT Wildlife Biologist Larry Sickerson,” said Guevara.

“We had some great consultation with our partners on this project and we would not have been able to get this work done without the support of MDT and BLM permittees,” Guevara added.

About \$2,500 of wire and fuel was purchased locally for the fence modification project.

Approximately two more miles of fence along Highway 2 are slated to be modified later this summer with a Montana Conservation Corps crew. Additionally, other fences that are immediately adjacent to the highway will be considered for modification to maintain connectivity across the migration corridor.



*Rich Hayner replaces the bottom strand of barbed wire with a strand of smooth wire to make the fence wildlife friendly for pronghorn antelope, which often negotiate fences by crawling under them. (BLM Photo by Able Guevara)*

# For BLM Retirees

## The BLM Retirees Association

Stay in touch! The BLM Retirees Association meets periodically 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](mailto:asluggo@bresnan.net).

## The BLM Email list

Send your email address to [aboucher@blm.gov](mailto:aboucher@blm.gov) to get alerts about upcoming social events and/or news stories from BLM Montana/Dakotas.

## 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](mailto:dmari@earthlink.net); or Kemp Conn at 406-360-9252 or [montanakconn@wildblue.net](mailto: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.

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