

Montana BLMers Receive Forest Service Partnership Award

Ann Boucher, MSO

Five BLM-Montana employees are recipients of the U.S. Forest Service's 2008 Rise to the Future Partnership Award.

Jim Sparks and Jay Parks (Billings Field Office); Joe Platz and Wendy Warren (Miles City Field Office); and Gayle Sitter (Montana State Office) are commended for their support, leadership, and commitment to the Crooked Creek Barrier Project. The interagency effort will protect and expand one of three genetically pure populations of Yellowstone cutthroat trout on both BLM and Forest Service lands in the Pryor Mountains.

"This project and the subsequent protection and expansion of the Crooked Creek Yellowstone cutthroat trout population would not have been possible without the outstanding cooperation and leadership of the BLM," wrote nominator Darin Watschke, fisheries biologist for the Custer National Forest. "The population can now expand downstream and re-colonize over six stream miles of lower Crooked Creek in the absence of exotic species."

The Billings Field Office, Custer National Forest, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks worked cooperatively to construct the barrier in late



From left: Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief for the Forest Service; Wendy Warren, civil engineer, BLM Miles City Field Office; Darin Watschke, fisheries biologist, Custer National Forest; and Dwight Fielder, BLM Division Chief for Fish, Wildlife & Plant Conservation. *Forest Service Photo*

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summer 2007 on BLM-administered lands. Joe Platz, who has since taken a new job with the Forest Service in Oregon, described the project in the Winter 2007-2008 Quarterly Steward: <http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/info/newsroom/steward/07winter/barrier.html>.

Wendy Warren accepted the award from the Chief of the Forest Service on behalf of the group during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on October 22.

A Message from our Associate State Director

By the time you read this, the 2008 fall hunting season will be the stuff of legend--or at least very detailed stories of the experience. Many of you hunted on BLM-managed public lands. Every year, we hear from hunters and other recreationists who wish they could have gotten onto this or that parcel of public land but found there was no legal public access.

Earlier this year, our Montana/Dakotas BLM management began talking about what we could do to get you to some of those places. A small group of BLMers met with personnel from several state and federal agencies and public land users to gather information on access issues and then develop a plan as to how we should proceed.

That group laid the foundation for our "access initiative." They recommended that we pursue public access using a variety of methods, tools, and funding sources, and perhaps most importantly, that we dedicate staff to the effort. Gene and I agreed.

As I write this, we are preparing to advertise a new full-time position that will focus on acquiring public access to BLM-managed land. The person we hire will work to gain the support and participation of other agencies and non-government offices, and to draw members of the public into the discussion.

As we move forward, we'll let our congressional representatives know of our plans, and invite them to participate. We'll also invite the heads of state agencies and the Montana Association of Counties to an "access summit" to discuss partnership opportunities and maybe even establish an interagency access team.



By putting a strong emphasis on access issues, we hope to provide better recreational opportunities for you -- whether you're hunting, picnicking, or just looking for a quiet place to relax.

Managing public lands is both challenging and rewarding. And while we look forward to the possibilities our access initiative will bring, we also treasure the many BLM sites that are already easily accessible. Judging from the outstanding participation in this year's National Public Lands Day, it's clear that you do, too. Thanks for your interest and your enthusiasm, and we'll see you outside!



Howard A. Lemm

PUBLIC MEETING DRAWS APPLAUSE

Craig Flentie, Lewistown FO

The Lewistown Field Office recently hosted a public meeting to invite comments and ideas for treating about 200 acres of downed timber created recently by a significant wind event in the Judith Mountains.

Everything but the conclusion of this public meeting went pretty much along a straight line. For several months, the local media had helped spread the word about the wind damage and the fact that BLM would be asking the public for ideas about what to do with the approximately 1.5 million board feet of timber strewn about the landscape. Stan Benes, Willy Frank, Bruce Reid, Rod Sanders, and Jennifer Walker had discussed the issue with numerous publics.

The media distributed information about the meeting date, time and location; individuals previously involved in these discussions, area landowners, and interest groups were invited by mail.

During the meeting, BLM staff members kept their presentations short and to the point: Field Manager Stan Benes opened the meeting with a welcome and offered that the BLM felt the downed timber should be extracted while it has a commercial value, which would also reduce the chances of all this timber contributing to a catastrophic fire incident.

Willy Frank, supervisory land use specialist, spoke briefly about the planning process BLM must fol-

low when making such a decision.

Clive Rooney of the Montana Department of Natural Resources added that the state would be logging a portion of an adjacent state parcel.

Forester Bruce Reid discussed BLM's ideas about letting a contract to remove the timber. He talked about the up-side and down-side of the roads necessary, the time required to complete the task, the approximate value of the timber, and the contract itself.

Audience members then offered their thoughts about the downed timber. From the discussion, it was easy to determine the public and BLM share concerns about how much road construction would be

necessary and how to rehab those roads. However, the overall audience consensus supported BLM's preference to remove the timber.

Then, as the meeting was ending, it fell somewhat out of character. The presenters were showered with applause!

Most BLMers are accustomed to standing their ground before a divided audience and responding to pointed questions. However, a round of applause seemed to bring the BLM staffers to a set of rosy-cheeked blushes and somewhat confused looks about how to say goodnight and find the door!

The BLM accepted comments on the project through October 17.



BLM forester Bruce Reid discusses roads, slopes, contracts, and forest health with audience members at a public meeting regarding timber downed by wind in the Judith Mountains this summer. *Photo by Jennifer Walker*

Clark Fork Team Receives DOI Environmental Achievement Award

The Clark Fork River Response and Restoration Team accepted the Department of the Interior's 2008 Environmental Achievement Award during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 18.



Left to right: Jim Caswell, Stephen Allred, Steve Whitesell, Anthony Schetzle, Greg Nottingham, Willie Taylor, Lynn Scarlett, Peter Bierbach, Shawn Mulligan, Matthew Morrison, Paul Meyer, and Casey Padgett. *DOI photo*

Since the early 1990s, the team has been involved in settling a natural resource damages lawsuit filed by the DOI against the Atlantic Richfield Company. The lawsuit alleged that BLM and National Park Service lands along the Clark Fork River in western Montana were contaminated by heavy metals from Butte/Anaconda mining operations in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The settlement over the Clark Fork Superfund site came after more than 15 years of study and intense negotiation with ARCO. It provides funding for the NPS and BLM to restore wildlife habitat and other values on the lands affected by mine waste after any required reclamation is complete. Affected lands include the NPS's historic Grant-Kohrs Ranch, and 15 riparian parcels along the Clark Fork managed by the BLM. The BLM will use its several hundred thousand dollar settlement in cooperation with the counties to fund weed control.

Members of the Clark Fork team are Peter Bierbach, BLM Montana State Office; Paul Meyer, BLM National Operations Center; Greg Nottingham and Shawn Mulligan, National Park Service; Casey Padgett, Department of the Interior; Henry Elsen, EPA; and Matt Morrison and Robert Homiak, Department of Justice.

To learn more about the project, go to http://www.doi.gov/greening/awards/2008/2008_clark.html.

Gone Batty!

Katie Benzel, Dillon Field Office

Bats are an important part of the ecosystem, pollinating valuable crop plants and controlling night-flying insects. One little brown bat can catch up to 1,200 insects in one hour and reproductive females can consume their body weight in insects each night. A large colony of bats can catch literally *tons* of insects nightly, including beetle and moth species that cost American farmers and foresters billions of dollars a year.

To get a better idea of which bat species occur on public lands within the Dillon Field Office, the BLM partnered with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The agencies used mist nets and acoustic ultrasound detectors, which record the bats' echolocation, to conduct surveys in July and August. Dillon Field Office Wildlife Biologist Katie Benzel joined the bat crew for two nights at the end of August.

The nets were hung across slow-moving/standing water where the bats come to drink and feed, and at the base of a cliff. Bats caught in the net squawked and hissed as they were untangled and taken to the makeshift processing table on the pickup tailgate. There, the crew took measurements such as forearm length, ear length, and weight, and noted statistics such as adult vs. juvenile, sex, and reproductive status.

In addition, the crew took a biopsy punch from the wing for genetic identification of the species. Bat species caught these two nights were the little brown bat, big brown bat, silver-haired bat, and the long-eared myotis, which is on the BLM sensitive species list.

Bats are largely misunderstood and many people fear them; however, less than one-half of one percent of bats have rabies, and these typically bite only in self-defense. Bats pose little threat if you do not handle them.

Having the rare opportunity to be so close to bats, I realized how interesting they are--from their echolocation capabilities (they can detect obstacles as fine as a human hair in total darkness) to their wings, which have four fingers and a thumb. Although batting requires late hours (the first night we were out until 4 a.m.), I definitely have a greater appreciation and fascination for this little mammal that serves a big purpose.



Big brown bat. *Photo by Katie Benzel*

Did You Know?

- There are more than 1,110 kinds of bats in the world, making up nearly a quarter of all mammal species.
- Bats are found everywhere except in the most extreme desert and polar regions.
- There are 47 species of bats in the U.S. and Canada. More than half of the U.S. bat species are in severe decline or on the Endangered Species list.
- For their size, bats are the slowest reproducing mammals on earth, making them vulnerable to extinction. On average, bats have one pup per year and don't give birth until they're at least two years old.
- Bats are long-lived, with a few surviving more than 34 years.
- There are seven species of bats on the Montana/Dakotas BLM's sensitive species list.

SOUTH HILLS PARTNERSHIP GOOD FOR PUBLIC LANDS

Ann Boucher, MSO

For off-road bikers, the South Hills Motorcycle Area is a rare treasure. It's one of the few public land parcels set aside specifically for motorcycle use, and it's within easy access of Billings. It offers about 700 acres for riding.

Unfortunately, the location that makes it so handy also makes it susceptible to misuse. According to Lynn Hardy, outdoor recreation planner for the Billings Field Office, one of the biggest problems is the unauthorized use of four-wheeled all-terrain vehicles.

"We have only one legal access point," said Hardy, "and it's so steep that it's a real safety hazard for four-wheelers. That keeps some riders out, but others trespass across private land to get in."

Fortunately, one group of responsible riders continues to work with the BLM to find solutions for ongoing problems.

The long-running Billings Motorcycle Club first partnered with the BLM in 1984 to address management issues in the South Hills. Club members valued having the open riding area adjacent to their own property, and recognized that their support would help keep it open. The club agreed to donate labor and materials to help protect resources and improve riding opportunities for its members as well as for the community.

"They do so much, often without being asked, and usually without compensation," said Hardy. "When something needs to be done, they're right there to lend a hand."

Thanks to the club's requirement that each member contributes 24 hours of service a year, there isn't a shortage of able volunteers. Although most of those hours go toward hosting various club-sponsored events, a good share of them goes to the maintenance of club grounds – and to public land. This year alone, group members have contributed about 250 hours to BLM land in the South Hills.

"We like to do anything we can to help the BLM," said Darrell Devitt, BMC treasurer and lifetime member. "There aren't a lot of public lands where we can ride anymore, and we want to keep those open." BMC members frequently monitor the area, reporting any problems to Hardy. They routinely remove

trash; have rebuilt several miles of boundary fence; repainted barriers; installed signs; and even graded certain areas to improve drainage. Most recently, they coordinated with the adjacent private land owner for permission to construct a fence to thwart the trespass issues at the site's entrance.

As hoped, the BMC's volunteer efforts through the years have helped keep resource damage to a minimum and maintain good relations with neighboring landowners. As a public land management agency, the BLM views these as signs of success.

Call TIP-MONT (800-847-6668) to report resource crimes and vandalism on public land.



The Billings Motorcycle Club has erected signs and installed barriers to help the BLM manage trespass and safety issues at the entrance to the South Hills Motorcycle Area. *Photo by Ann Boucher*

National Public Lands Day 2008

Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted 11 National Public Lands Day projects this year – more than ever before. Volunteers of all ages showed up to pull weeds, plant trees, build fences, and pick up trash.

It wasn't all work, though. Some organizers also took the opportunity to teach Leave No Trace

principles or offer brief lessons on area history and wildlife. Volunteers at the Sheep Mountain Recreation Site wrapped up their work day by tossing atlatl darts at woolly mammoth targets.

All volunteers received a t-shirt, refreshments, and a one-time pass good for free entry to any public fee

site managed by federal agencies.

NPLD is the largest one-day volunteer maintenance and clean-up effort on public lands across our country. This year, projects at 1,700 sites drew in more than 120,000 volunteers. Following is a summary of this year's work in Montana and the Dakotas.



Kipp Recreation Area – Lewistown Field Office

Besides trimming branches and removing protective fencing from trees that had matured, volunteers installed solar lights on the vault toilet and cleaned up the campground. Photo by Nancy Dahl, volunteer campground host



Storey Ditch Fishing Access Site – Dillon Field Office

The BLM worked with local volunteers and fishing guides to construct a jack-leg fence around the parking area at Storey Ditch on the Madison River to restrict off road vehicle traffic. BLM photo



Madison River Clean-Up – Dillon Field Office

The BLM partnered with the Madison River Foundation and Trout Unlimited to clean up trash along the Madison River. BLM photo



Sunset Mine Cabin – Dillon Field Office

Montana Youth Challenge cadets applied wood siding to the outhouse to match the historic Sunset Cabin, and constructed a wood box to cover the propane tank. The site is used for administrative purposes and as part of the recreational cabin rental program. Photo by Chris Nemeth



Sheep Mountain Recreation Site – Miles City Field Office

Community volunteers erected a fence to keep cattle off the crumbling foundation of an old meeting hall. They also installed barrier cloth and gravel to stop erosion near the reservoir spillway.
Photo by Mark Jacobsen

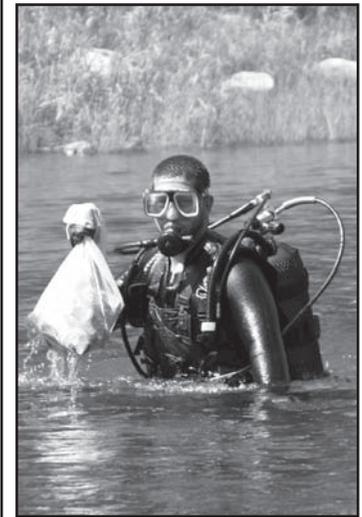
Fort Meade Recreation Area – South Dakota Field Office

In two work days – one in the spring and another in the fall – volunteers built a short trail, prepared a campground for the summer season, and cleaned up debris. Partners included the city of Sturgis, Sturgis Area Business Alliance, Marine Junior ROTC, and Black Hills State University.



Schnell Recreation Area – North Dakota Field Office

This was the 10th NPLD event held at Schnell. Local volunteers have returned year after year to plant and care for trees; build picnic tables and benches; erect signs; and maintain the trail system. The Dickinson State University Science Club, the locally-owned Taylor Nursery, and area scout groups are longtime contributors to the site. BLM photo



Blackfoot River – Missoula Field Office

In a large-scale community effort, more than 170 volunteers collected garbage from the bottom and banks of the Blackfoot River. The BLM joins with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Blackfoot Home and Community Club in the annual cleanup.
Photo courtesy of the Blackfoot Home and Community Club



Sundance Lodge Natural Area – Billings Field Office

About 30 Boy Scouts and their parents worked to clear a mile and a half of trail and apply a layer of wood chips to the trail surface. Ten volunteers from the Montana Conservation Corps installed a new buck and pole fence and reset a gate post and walk-through gate. BLM photo



Galena Gulch Campground – Butte Field Office

The Boulder High School Honor Society and Industrial Arts Club helped construct a new post and rail fence to keep cattle out of the campground. They also pulled weeds, cleaned up litter, painted picnic tables, cleaned out fire-ring frills, and re-seeded disturbed areas. Photo by Rick Hotaling

Rare Plants Catch Fire in Southwest Montana

Brian Hockett, Dillon FO

A 700-acre fire swept across the north side of the Centennial Valley early in September, leaving the area completely clear of vegetation. A disaster? No. The prescribed fire will actually rejuvenate habitat for four rare plant species.

Four rare plants found in the Centennial Sandhills of southwestern Montana require the habitat associated with sand dunes. Painted milk vetch and pale evening-primrose grow on the crests and slopes of blowout areas. Sand wild rye occurs in sand-deposition areas of the dunes, and fendler cat's-eye is found in sparsely vegetated sites across the sand dunes. All of these species typically decline as perennial vegetation takes over areas of formerly open sand.

Changes in disturbance regimes--primarily fire suppression--have allowed sagebrush and bunchgrasses to overtake much of the Centennial Sandhills. The prescribed burn removed this vegetation, creating more favorable habitat for the special status species. It was the first step in implementing the special management identified in the Dillon Resource Management Plan for the Centennial Sandhills Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Follow up grazing treatments and an anticipated increase in pocket gopher activity are expected to further destabilize the dunes and maintain open sand habitat.

Early in the project, the Dillon FO partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They

conducted an intensive pre-treatment inventory of the four rare plant species and established a baseline study to evaluate the

the USFWS with the rare plant inventory.

Prescribed fire burn boss George Johnson conducted the pre-burn briefing and led the interagency team of project personnel. The Forest Service, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Lima Volunteer Fire Department, and TNC assisted with the burn.

Dillon Field Office staff participating in the burn included George Johnson, Kipper Blotkamp, Brian Thrift, Ryan Martin, Steve Armiger, Bart Howells and Kelly Bockting. Project proponent Brian Hockett was unable to assist due to an injury, but was on site with Wildlife Biologist Katie Benzel to observe and

photograph the return of fire to the sandhills.

The Dillon FO will employ a target fire return interval of 20-30 years coupled with follow-up monitoring and adaptive

management to maintain habitat for rare plants in the Centennial Sandhills ACEC.



Matt Stoltenberg and Brian Hockett inventory the rare plant species in the Centennial Sandhills before the prescribed burn. *Photo by Maria Mantas of The Nature Conservancy*

special management proposal. The study will determine if selected treatment methods will promote and maintain early seral conditions of the Centennial Valley's sandhills ecosystem, thus restoring these diminished habitats. Rangeland Management Specialist Brian Hockett and range technicians Erik Broeder and Matt Stoltenberg assisted in establishing the study. Brian and range technicians Tanya Thrift and Dominique Colberg assisted TNC and



A prescribed burn in the Centennial Sandhills will enhance habitat for four rare plant species, including the pale evening-primrose (above). *Photos by Brian Hockett*

Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center Draws Visitors and Volunteers

Ann Boucher, MSO

Word is spreading.

The Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center in Fort Benton is a great place to visit. In addition to the unique building design, scenic location, and interactive exhibits, the center offers fun and creative interpretive programs for people of all ages.

In only its second year of operation, the MBIC hosted almost 700 students at 54 programs. Four separate evening presentations featuring historical reenactments drew in an additional 123 people.

“We select the program to fit the group,” said Interpretive Center Director Connie Jacobs. “Sometimes we focus on the history of this area, and sometimes we focus on the wildlife or geology.”

The programs are gaining popularity. While the center first focused on drawing in students from Fort Benton and nearby communities, now it’s getting requests from schools from as far away as Winnett, Whitefish and Browning.

Successful interpretive programs don’t just pop out of a book. Weaving historical information into meaningful activities and interesting discussions requires skill and time. To help reach the center’s goals, Jacobs recruited volunteers, both locally and nationally. The resulting roster of 11 talented volunteers donated an impressive 2,643 hours in fiscal year 2008. While some of those hours went toward staffing the front desk, the vast majority were related to outreach through interpretive programming.

“People wanted to get involved, but some didn’t want to commit to being at the front desk,” said Jacobs. “So we created two kinds of volunteer positions – one assists with the business of the center, and the other assists with our programs.”

One of the interpretive programs focuses on the Nez Perce Trail. Volunteers modified an existing

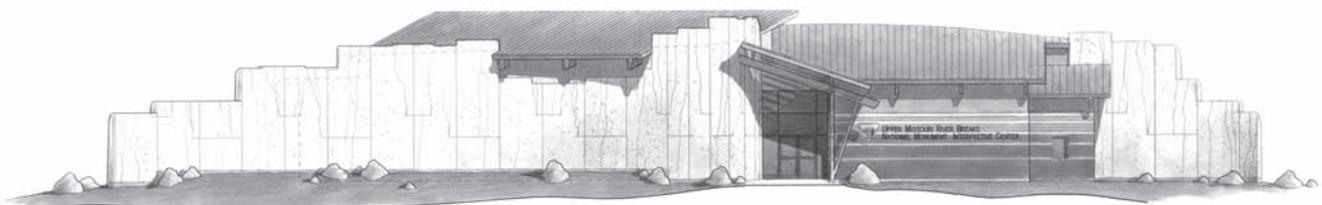


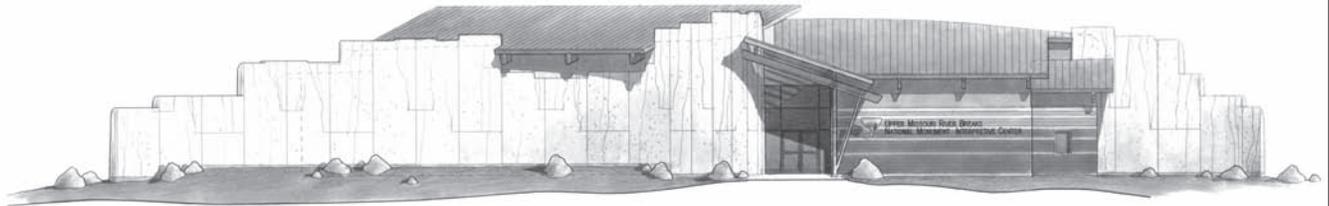
BLM volunteers Cindy Hirshberg and Clark Wagner pose with Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer at the dedication of the Missouri River Breaks Interpretive Center in Fort Benton. Cindy is dressed as Mae Flannigan, a young lady who wrote about her steamboat trip aboard the steamer Eclipse in 1887. Clark is a ‘shady horse trader’ from the late 1800s - waiting to see what “treasures” would be unloaded from the steamboats as they docked in Fort Benton. Clark and Cindy have each given nearly 1,000 hours of volunteer service at the MBIC – in 2008 alone. *BLM photo*

program so that it can be effectively presented within hours, rather than days. The program has been so well received that the National Park Service’s Bear Paw and Big Hole battlefields, the other two major sites associated with the Nez Perce Trail in Montana, plan to adapt portions of it for their own use.

That interagency cooperation is just one of the many benefits that are growing from the positive interaction among MBIC staff, other agencies, volunteers, and the local community.

“Our volunteers are such great ambassadors for BLM,” said Jacobs. “They reach so many more people than we could ever reach without them.”





Every Hour is a Gift!

Volunteers at the Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center

Cindy Hirshberg – An interpreter, Chautauqua presenter, and retired business professional, Cindy developed many of our education programs. She also coordinated all the volunteers, scheduling programs and ensuring that presenters had what they needed. Cindy came from Maryland intending to volunteer for just one season, but has stayed for three.

Clark Wagner – Clark provided front desk operations, gift store management, administrative support, technical review, and electronics operation. His home is in Maryland, but Clark has been Center Director Connie Jacobs' right-hand-man for the past three seasons. He is an interpreter and Chautauqua presenter, and is retired from Department of Defense.

Anna Mae McKeever – Anna Mae has helped with all aspects of educational programs by scheduling, developing, and presenting. A retired educator and farmer, she also provides front desk and sales support, as well as administrative assistance. There's not much Anna Mae can't do, and everything she does, she does well.

Ruth Carlstrom – Ruth has been instrumental both in developing and delivering educational presentations. She provides great community PR and helps us with cooperative volunteer development through the Chamber of Commerce. She is a retired educator in talented and gifted programs.

Leone Cloepfil – Leone is a local artist who has helped out with painting and illustration needs at the center. Her efforts have made our topo map of the Missouri River region much richer.

John Cloepfil – John is a retired educator who helps cover the front desk and provide visitor services. John has helped us for many years - long before the new interpretive center was developed.

Dusty Keuhner – A retired educator, Dusty has been instrumental in program evaluations and logistics. She helps with set-up and take-down and provides program assistance wherever it is needed.

Joanne Witt – Joanne has jumped into the proverbial frying pan. She is a retired farmer/rancher who one day asked how she could help. Since then, she has taken on an entire program to learn and share. Joanne says that she learns from the students every time she makes a presentation.

Mary Meissner – As a retired educator, Mary took on a new program about bird adaptations that the students have really enjoyed. She is also always willing to help with other programs and development.

Casey Naeseth and Mariette Daffy – Casey and Mariette are high school friends who stopped in over the summer to see if there was something they could do. Silly question! They were soon asking visitors to complete surveys for the interpretive center. They both did an excellent job of getting nearly a 100 percent response.

Other folks around Fort Benton and local communities have heard the word – volunteering at the Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center is fun and challenging with great camaraderie. At least seven more people want to join us in the coming season!

DON GALVIN

Employee and Volunteer Extraordinaire

Ann Boucher, MSO

Don Galvin first came to the Billings Field Office as a seasonal range tech in May 2002. Having retired from a 30-year career with the Marines, he was enrolled at Middle Tennessee University in Murfreesboro and wanted a summer job related to his field of study.

He seems to like it. He has returned every year since then, holding seasonal positions related to wild horses, wildlife, and recreation. But to him, it's more than just the job.

Galvin has found so many areas of interest that he also volunteers for BLM in his off-hours. The president of a horsemen's association in Tennessee, he is particularly drawn to the Pryor Mountain National Wild Horse Range. He often spends his weekends there, watching for signs of travel on closed trails, estimating visitor loads, and reporting wildlife sightings to the field office biologist.

He is also very knowledgeable about the horses and the range, and often encounters visitors who are eager to talk about the issues related to them.

"A lot of times they don't know the whole story," he said,

"but after visiting for awhile they seem to see both sides. I tell them, 'there's an infinite number of horses and only a finite amount of land.' Then they seem to understand. They say they hadn't thought of that."

That opportunity to talk with visitors on the range pleases Galvin as well. He is gathering information for his thesis on visitors to the wild horse range. Having earned his first degree after retirement, he is well on the way to completing his master's in recreation and already looking forward to working on his Ph. D.

In addition to the horses,

significant volunteer contributions to a number of other programs as well. Among these are helping with the annual cleanup of the 17-Mile Area, a popular target shooting area on public land near Billings; building and installing informational kiosks in BLM recreational areas; parking cars during the *Clark on the Yellowstone* National Signature Event; and planting and maintaining a shelterbelt at Pompeys Pillar National Monument. In addition, Don has assisted with visitor counts, monitored the trails, and acted as a BLM presence at Shepherd Ah Nei, a popular OHV-riding area.

Last year, Galvin volunteered to help trap and relocate white-tailed prairie dogs. Working with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the BLM moved the animals from a site south of Belfry, Mont., to a remote area near Elk Basin, Wyo. Galvin helped set and bait live traps early in the morning, and came back later to check the traps. Galvin later visited the release



BLM seasonal and volunteer Don Galvin. *BLM photo*

one of Don's special interests in the Pryors is Penn's Cabin. Because there seemed to be a lot of misinformation about the site, Don researched the cabin's history through written records and personal interviews with relatives of Pen Cummings, the cabin's builder. His research may lead to an interpretive effort centered on the cabin.

Despite all the time and energy dedicated to the Pryors, Galvin has still managed to make

site several times to observe the animals' activities, which he reported to the wildlife biologist.

The Billings FO estimates that Galvin has volunteered nearly 600 hours on evenings and weekends in the last two years alone, in addition to being a full-time seasonal employee. To him, it seems only natural.

"I don't like to sit at home," he says. "It's good to out and do something constructive."

Attention BLM Retirees

The BLM Retirees Association meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of even-numbered months at Guadalajara in the Riverboat Casino (444 S. 24th St. West) in Billings. If you would like to receive email or postcard notifications of these meetings, please call Shirley Heffner at 259-1202, Cynthia Embretson at 252-1367, or send your address to Cynthia at ceatsage@wtp.net.

The Public Lands Foundation offers new retirees a free one-year membership. Please contact David Mari, Montana PLF Representative, at (406) 538-7121, or email dmari@earthlink.net. If you send an email, please note "PLF" on the subject line.

Please also help us keep our Quarterly Steward mailing list current by contacting Ann Boucher of the External Affairs staff at (406) 896-5011 or aboucher@blm.gov with address changes.

Retired since September 1, 2008:

Billy McIlvain — 48 years
Natural Resource Specialist
Montana State Office

Margaret Geiger — 27 years
Purchasing Agent
Montana State Office

Bureau of Land Management
Montana State Office
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, Montana 59101
Phone (406) 896-5011
<http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en.html>

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