

Volunteers Descend on River with Trash Bags -

Dick Fichtler, Missoula FO

They came with snorkels and fins. They came with gloves. But most importantly, they came with garbage bags.

Hoping to preserve the pristine beauty of the Blackfoot River, more than 130 volunteers gathered for the sixth annual river cleanup on July 25.

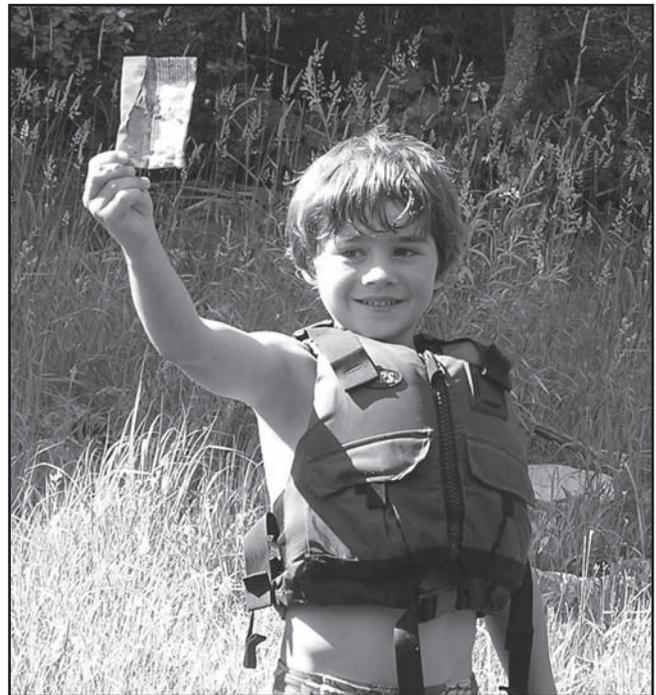
As the concerned citizens (including many from the BLM Missoula Field Office) scoured the river bottom and river banks, the garbage started to pile up.

Rafters, scuba divers, snorkelers and folks from every walk of life spent the day gathering 1,551 aluminum cans, 178 plastic bottles, 89 shoes, 72 glass bottles, 24 pairs of sunglasses, 14 inner tubes, 11 hats, one toaster, one bowling shoe (size 11), and one inflatable doll (adult).

In an effort to avoid the cold water of September, this National Public Lands Day event is always held the last Saturday in July.

This is the second year that event organizers say they have recovered significantly less trash. The reduction is most likely the result of a long high-water period that kept the river rough and cold and discouraged early season inner tubers and their trash deposits. The BLM and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks—which co-manage the river—believe that the BLM’s free mesh trash bags are helping keep the river clean by giving tubers a convenient method to contain their beer cans. The visible law enforcement presence and stiff fines also seem to help deter river litterbugs.

This annual event would not be possible without the close partnerships that are the hallmark of the Blackfoot Valley. In this case, our sincere thanks go out to the highly motivated ladies of the Blackfoot Home and Community Club.



Young Eric Lorentz proudly holds up a piece of trash he collected from the Blackfoot River during the sixth annual river cleanup—part of National Public Lands Day—on July 25. *Photo by Chris Lorentz, FWP River Manager for the Blackfoot*

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State Director's Notes

Greetings to everyone. We've reached the end of another year. It has been one hectic year, with the American Recovery Restoration Act and FBMS implementation on top of normal annual work plan activities. Howard and I congratulate you all on pulling together and meeting the challenges we faced. You have done a fantastic job!

Secretary Salazar has identified three top priorities for this administration within which the Montana-Dakotas organization fits well. The first, energy independence with emphasis on renewable energy, remains a strong focus for the agency. For us that means wind, biomass, limited geothermal and transmission projects, while continuing with the leasing and development of conventional sources of energy. Much of our work in this area is aimed at proper siting and mitigation to protect the treasured landscapes.

In fact, protecting treasured landscapes is another top priority of this administration. Our efforts on units of the National Landscape Conservation System, watershed assessments, habitat restoration and improvement, fuels and wildland fire protection are all aimed at this goal. This work provides for healthy lands, which support traditional uses such as livestock grazing, which contributes to a stable ranching industry, which can help minimize the spread of subdivisions, which again helps protect treasured landscapes.

A third priority is educational outreach and the involvement of youth in our programs. Montana/Dakotas BLM has a history of doing this, from hosting outdoor events such as fishing days to our student employees in the STEP and SCEP programs. We will continue and expand our efforts in this arena.

Tied to these is our goal of improving access to public lands. We have hired Janné Joy who has worked both with the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM in similar efforts to help lead us. Janné reported for duty on Aug. 2. Please



take the opportunity to welcome her to our organization and share your ideas with her.

Again, thank you for all your efforts. As we close out fiscal year 2009 and start 2010, please keep in mind that the number one priority is your safety and the safety of others.

Gene R. Terland
State Director

2009 Active Season for Area Dino Hunters -

Mark E. Jacobsen, Miles City Field Office

Summer is on the wane and excavation crews from across the nation are headed back to their labs after a field season extracting fossils from eastern Montana's fossil-rich formations.

This year in Garfield County, the St. Louis Community College-Meramec from Missouri was among those federally permitted institutions working on BLM land. Field Supervisor and Physical Science-Geology faculty member Carl Campbell has been overseeing excavation operations north of Jordan.

Campbell worked with several groups of students and volunteers this year, which rotated through the area in June and July in several locations. One of the more unique work sites is a "bone bed" situated in the lower Hell Creek Formation within the Snow Creek drainage. Bone beds are relatively uncommon in northeast Montana. Rarer still is finding the remains of multiple species in one location.

According to Campbell the bone bed has produced various parts of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, *Triceratops* and *Torosaurus* as well as fragmented plant remains. Interestingly, some of the bones appear to have been burned prior to being buried—as a thin charcoal layer was in the clay at the level where the bones were discovered.

"These *Torosaurus* and *T. rex* are very, very early, maybe the earliest ones ever found," said Campbell. "They're in the very lower part of the Hell Creek formation."

Torosaurus are particularly unique. The debate is fresh amongst scholars as to whether or not they are a separate species—or just another phase in *Triceratops* development. *Torosaurus* --the name meaning "perforated lizard"—are part of a group of plant-eating, parrot-beaked dinosaurs touting some of the largest skulls known.

Specimens have two large holes in the massive frill. The location of the holes roughly corresponds to "thin spots" present on about half of recovered sub adult



St. Louis Community College-Meramec Field Supervisor and Physical Science-Geology faculty member Carl Campbell (right) examines exposed fossil bone fragments or "float" with Aaron Jacobsen (left), a field crew volunteer from Miles City, July 14. Campbell has been supervising several groups of volunteers and working in the Snow Creek area north of Jordan this summer. *Photo by Mark E. Jacobsen*

triceratops specimens, hence the debate. Some paleontologists suggest that *Torosaurus* just might be mature *Triceratops* who have reached sexual maturity and developed larger frills as a type of display.

"We thought we had a *Triceratops*. The (*Torosaurus*) lower jaw was extremely gracile, along its full length; it's real delicate looking," said Campbell. "The *T. rex* seems to be based on the bones of a sub-adult; it had very long legs and feet but wasn't bulked out yet, kind of like a teenager."

The St. Louis Science Center preparation lab has been processing material from the bed: brow horns, disarticulated skull bone fragments, ribs, vertebra, tibia, fibulae and femurs. The lab is in a publicly-accessible setting where museum visitors can watch the preparators separate bone from rock and ask questions.

Campbell has been working on the bone bed since its discovery in 2006.

“We’ve been staring at these rocks for five years out here and finally, it clicked; we could see the channels cutting in and kind of visualize what it looked like 67 million years ago,” said Campbell. “This is a river system that would have been three times bigger than the Mississippi river system.”

Concordia College from Moorhead, Minn., also worked under BLM permit in Garfield County. Staff from the University of Montana were excavating and gathering data this summer near Haxby Point as well.

Also in the field this year were crews from the Burpee Museum from Rockford, Ill., who were sampling the fossil-bearing layers of the Hell Creek Formation in Carter County. Museum field staffers and volunteers have been working to recover the remains of “Homer,” a juvenile Triceratops—or “Trike” as Triceratops are commonly called. So far, the group has discovered three promising locations containing the remains of Edmontosaurus (a type of crestless duck-billed dinosaur), Therapods (bipedal, primarily carnivorous species) and Trike specimens.

The Burpee Museum is credited with the discovery of “Jane” in Carter County in the summer of 2001. For a period of time the specimen created quite a stir in the scientific community and was initially considered to be a new species. At first dubbed “Nanotyrannus lancensis” or “Pygmy Tyrant,” Jane was later classified as a juvenile *T. rex*.

Jane, named after a museum benefactor, is 51 percent complete and considered one of the finest specimens of its kind. A full-sized cast of Jane’s skull is on permanent display at the BLM office in Miles City.



St. Louis Community College-Meramec Field Supervisor and Physical Science-Geology faculty member Carl Campbell (right) discusses the remains of a Triceratops under excavation with Aaron Jacobsen (left), a field crew volunteer from Miles City, July 14. Crews have been working over several seasons to uncover the bones, which are headed into the hillside. The uncovered remains have been covered with a plaster jacket intended to support the bones and prevent further deterioration until they can be removed to a preparation lab for processing and preservation. *Photo by Mark E. Jacobsen*

The BLM issues permits primarily for vertebrate fossil specimens (organisms with a backbone), scientifically significant invertebrates (organisms without a backbone), and plant fossils. The permits are generally issued only to professional paleontologists who must agree to preserve their finds in a public museum, a college, or a university because of their relative rarity and scientific importance.

Visitors to public lands are welcome to collect reasonable amounts of common invertebrate and plant fossils without a BLM permit. No permit is needed for plant fossils, such as leaves, stems, and cones, or common invertebrate fossils, such as ammonites and trilobites. Petrified wood can be collected too for personal use—up to 25 pounds each day, plus one piece, but no more than 250 pounds in any calendar year.

These materials must be for the finder’s personal collection and cannot be sold or traded. For more paleontology and fossil collecting information call the BLM Miles City Field Office at (406) 233-2800 or visit us on the web at: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/CRM.html>.

NEW INTERPRETIVE PANEL HIGHLIGHTS MÉTIS

*Ann Boucher, MSO; and
Rod Sanders, Lewistown FO*

Nearly 70 people listened appreciatively to the smooth, sweet sounds of a fiddle and a guitar drifting up through the trees. It was a fitting close to a National Public Lands Day event at the Ear Mountain interpretive site along the rugged Rocky Mountain Front 25 miles west of Choteau.

The July 31 gathering began with a few maintenance projects before moving on to the day's biggest attraction: the dedication of a newly installed interpretive panel about the Métis ("MAY-tee" or "may-TEE") Indians.

The Métis, a distinctive group of mixed blood French/Scottish and Indian people, evolved during the 17th century French/Canadian fur trade era. Their ancestral homeland – then known as "Rupert's Land" – was a large area which drains into Hudson Bay, including what is now known as the Red River Valley of

North Dakota and Minnesota.

In the 1870s, many of the Métis moved into Montana due to conflicts with European and Canadian immigrants, and eventually made their homes in some of the secluded canyons

were provided by the Louis Riel Institute in Winnipeg, Manitoba. John Lemieux from the BLM National Sign Center in Rawlins, Wyo., designed the layout of the panel with guidance from Rod Sanders and

MSO's interpretive specialist, Ruth Miller. The result is an attractive, informative synopsis of the Métis culture.

The dedication ceremony included remarks from Willy Frank, Lewistown Assistant Field Manager; Richard Hopkins, manager of the First Peoples Buffalo Jump near Great Falls and BLM Great Falls Field Station Manager when the trail and kiosk were constructed; Al Wiseman, a Métis descendant who lives nearby; and Rod Sanders. Jim Fox and



Al Wiseman, Jim Fox and Vince Fox close out the ceremony dedicating a new interpretive sign about the Métis.
Photo by Benjamin Miller

along the Rocky Mountain Front. Until about 1920, there was a thriving Métis village near the Ear Mountain site.

Rod Sanders, outdoor recreation planner for the Lewistown Field Office, researched information for the new panel. Several people contributed to and reviewed his work, including Christi Belcourt, an Ontario, Canada, Métis artist whose work is featured on the state-of-the-art (high pressure laminate) sign. Historical photographs

son Vince of Harlem closed the ceremony with traditional Métis music on the guitar and fiddle.

Several others also deserve credit, including Zane Fulbright, Lewistown FO archeologist, for securing the funding for the new panel; and Sandra Padilla for organizing the NPLD project itself. Other Lewistown BLM contributors were Stan Benes, Mona Driskell, Benjamin Miller, Lori Montgomery, and Abel Guevara.

Hundreds Walk with Ghosts at Garnet Day

David Abrams, Western Montana Zone

Rob Nurre tucked his watch and fob chain in his vest and peered across the counter of the dusty general store at his newest customer, a boy wearing a Spider Man t-shirt. “What’s your pleasure, young man?”

The boy shyly pointed at a glass jar filled to the brim with caramels.

“Excellent choice! That’ll be one gold nugget as payment for your sweet confection.”

The boy handed over a nugget—the size of a grown man’s thumb—and was soon unwrapping one of the homemade caramels which had been a popular hit among customers coming into the store that day.

Nurre and the gold spray-painted rock were just two of the attractions which resurrected the tiny town of Garnet from the dead on June 27 for the annual Garnet Interpretive Day, which is hosted by BLM and the Garnet Preservation Association. Nurre played the role of Frank Davey, the town’s last known permanent resident. Davey passed away in 1947, long after Garnet reached its peak as a mining town in 1898 when it was populated with 1,000 residents, 31 businesses, and 13 saloons.

This year, more than 700 people were drawn to the cluster of buildings nestled in the mountains 35 miles east of Missoula. Some came hoping to glimpse a ghost walking the streets of the abandoned mining town; a few came to learn more about the preservation of Montana’s history; and others came for the hand-made candy, ice cream and old-fashioned games like the egg toss.

On the porch of Davey’s General Store, visitors were treated to cups of vanilla ice cream, hand-churned by volunteers decked out in period garb.

The frozen treats were cooled by ice chipped from 100-pound blocks which employees from the BLM’s Missoula Field Office had harvested from area ponds in February, then insulated in sawdust and stored in the cool back room of the store.

Dick Fichtler, outdoor recreation planner with the Missoula Field Office, said the ice cream social—a new addition to the program this year—was one of the most popular features of the day.

Earlier, an attentive audience gathered to hear Louis Adams of the Salish-Kootenai Tribe talk about the centuries of Salish culture in the area. Other activities included a gold-panning demonstration,



Rob Nurre playing the role of Frank Davey, a turn-of-the-century storekeeper in Garnet, waits for a young customer to choose her candy during Garnet Interpretive Day on June 27. Nurre and several others entertained more than 700 members of the public who came to enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes of the ghost town brought to life during the annual event.

Photo by David Abrams

guided tours of the town led by interpretive ranger Brian Woolf, a pie auction, and a strolling minstrel who crooned cowboy songs on the main street.

Fichtler said attendance at the ghost town’s annual festival was up by more than 200 from recent years. Days like this, he noted, can have a lasting effect on its participants.

“Events like Garnet Day help provide a personal linkage with our past, and by establishing that personal link, we create a deeper appreciation for our historic sites and our collective past. Our goal is to give visitors here a total immersion in history.”

A Journey through the Monument -

Ruth Miller, MSO; and Craig Flentie, Lewistown Field Office

The Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center (MBIC) in Fort Benton hosts a long list of educational, entertaining and informative events each year. Among the most popular is a two and a half day float trip for seventh graders called A Journey through the Monument.

Developed under the Take It Outside program, the float down the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River shows students the public land treasures right in their own back yard. They get to see unique geological formations, Native American tipi rings, homesteads, and Lewis and Clark sites; they learn about topics such as aquatic ecology and water sampling; and they practice journaling, art, Leave No Trace principles, and safe camping and canoeing protocols.

Fort Benton seventh graders have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Almost none of them had seen that stretch of the Missouri River before, and although a few had done an overnight river trip, some had never before been camping. Nearly every participant said they want to return with their

families to float the Missouri again.

The word has spread. Fort Benton School will continue to participate, and other area schools are getting on board as well.



Fort Benton students await paddling instruction before beginning their multi-day river trip. This river trip is supported by Take it Outside funding through BLM. *Photo by Connie Jacobs*



A Journey Through the Monument school group on the Upper Missouri.

The Journey through the Monument program has earned Connie Jacobs this year's Silver Star Award for Excellence in Interpretation/Environmental Education. Jacobs, director of the Missouri River Breaks Interpretive Center in Fort Benton, will receive the award from BLM Director Bob Abbey at the National Association of Interpretation annual meeting in Hartford, Conn., in November.



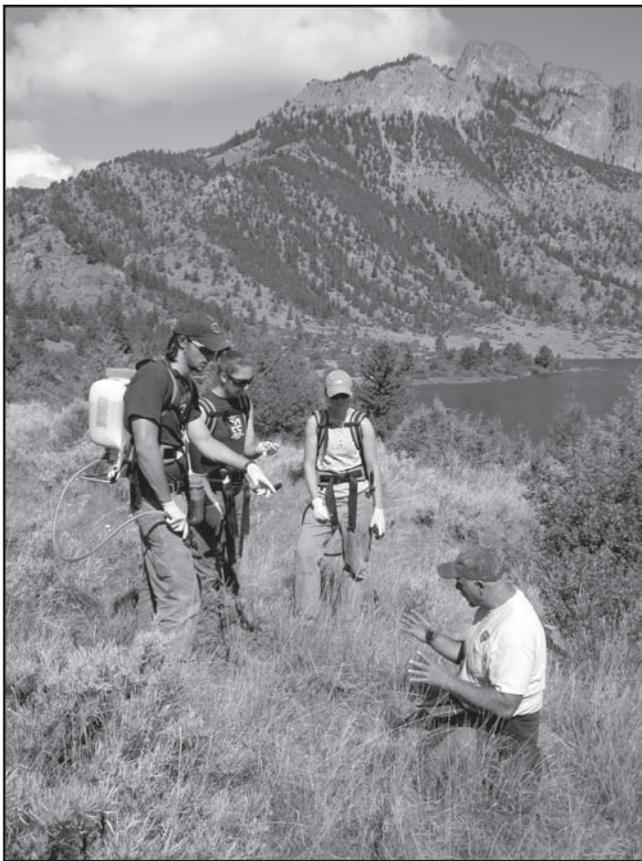
Montana Youth Pitch in on Summer Projects -

David Abrams, Butte FO

University of Ohio student Breanna Kahle could have spent her summer vacation lounging by a pool or partying with her friends every night. Instead, she found herself traipsing through the thick underbrush and blow-down in the Deep Creek area south of Anaconda. Clad in work boots and a hard hat, she moved from tree to tree, tacking packets of verbenone, a beetle repellent, to the sides of the evergreens.

“I wanted to work outdoors and get out of academia,” she said, lifting her staple gun and securing another packet. “I certainly got my wish.”

Kahle was just one of dozens of college-age workers who were lending a hand on BLM projects as part of the Montana Conservation Corps, a service-oriented organization in which, according to its website, “young men and women learn practi-



Jim Karamanos of the Butte Field Office teaches the proper identification of knapweed to a crew from the Montana Conservation Corps before they start spraying the noxious weeds at the Beartooth Landing Recreation Site on Holter Lake. *Photo by David Abrams*



Emily Maurer, a Portland, Ore. native, holds up a noxious weed during spraying operations at the Beartooth Landing Recreation Site on Holter Lake. Maurer was part of the Montana Conservation Corps, which assisted the Butte Field Office in a variety of projects this summer. *Photo by David Abrams*

cal skills, develop positive attitudes for service and work, and become knowledgeable about the environment and their community.”

For BLM, MCC translates into dozens of pairs of extra hands during an already-busy summer season. This year, nearly 300 MCC workers spread throughout the state, assisting in a variety of on-going BLM projects.

Under the supervision of Ryan Ferrill, a seasonal forestry technician with the Butte Field Office, Kahle and her crew spent three weeks working in the woods of southwest Montana, thinning trees and spreading more than 7,000 verbenone packets in an effort to combat the devastating effects of the pine beetle.

“The verbenone is an anti-aggregate that signals to other beetles that the area is already populated and to keep flying around, which makes them susceptible to predators,” Kahle said. “We’re under a time-crunch to get this done before the beetles start flying.”

Meanwhile, 100 miles to the northeast, Emily Maurer and her MCC team were waging the perennial war on weeds on the shores of Holter Lake. The green-shirted college-age workers, splattered with blue dye, spent long days in early June spraying the

knapweed which dotted the slopes above Beartooth Landing Recreation Site.

Maurer, a Portland, Ore. native, said she was going to school in Delaware, but felt there was something lacking in her life.

“I wanted to move back to the West and find an outdoor job,” she said, sweeping her spray-wand across another patch of knapweed. “This is ideal out here.”

Like most of the others in the MCC program, Maurer signed on for six months and works four 10-hour days during the summer season. The MCC crews spread their time between several different organizations and agencies, including BLM and the

Forest Service. Created in 1991, MCC involves youth in trail work, habitat enhancement, historical restoration, fencing, biological research, and watershed restoration. Along the way, they develop lasting skills and fond memories.

“This is hard work, but everybody out here is really stoked,” Kahle said as she took a break from her forest project at Deep Creek. “I mean, we’d heard of ‘beetle kill’ before, but until you see it first-hand, you don’t really know what it’s like—out of sight, out of mind. But now, being out here, it’s really enlightening and rewarding. We feel like we’re contributing to the world in a tangible way.”

PILOT PROGRAMS GIVE STUDENTS DIRECTION -

Elizabeth (Bitsy) Stiller, South Dakota Field Office

“Are we lost?” was not a phrase heard at the Fort Meade Recreation Area on July 24 when 25 elementary school students tried out a couple of new educational programs. *Map and Compass Orienteering* and *Introduction to GPS* are pilot programs developed under the *Take It Outside* program grant and initiative.

Marcy Reagan-Urban of the Belle Fourche City-run Camp Oasis, BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner Elizabeth Stiller, and U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Rhonda O’Byrne worked together to develop a set of tools and a curriculum for a sharable, sustainable toolkit available to other “Out of School Time” programs. These 25 kids at Fort Meade were the test subjects.

The nine 5- to 7-year-olds were introduced to the concept of mapping and aerial perspective by mapping their resource room the day before the field trip. Once out in the beautiful Fort Meade setting they remembered the four cardinal directions very well, and really liked the aerial view.

However, the compass work was a little beyond their grasp. Following trail markers proved



Thad Berrett, range management specialist from the South Dakota Field Office, explains GPS to eager learners. *Photo by Elizabeth Stiller*

to be a better match for this age group. By the end of the “nature walk,” the “Explorers” could identify where the trail was going and what kinds of uses were acceptable on the trail.

The “Adventurers,” 16 8- to 10-year-olds, were acquainted with the map and compass from an overnight camping trip on the Black Hills National Forest. U.S. Forest Service employees gave introductory talks on contour lines and compass positioning.

When the group got to Fort Meade they were ready for the next step—Global Positioning System. Range Specialist Thad Berrett and

Seasonal Park Ranger Mike Thomas each took a group and explained how the GPS worked. Each pair of Adventurers got their own GPS unit to use. The groups hiked a longer trail and were excited by watching “the little man” on the GPS screen move along with them. Waypoints were marked and named, and compass directions identified.

The children were encouraged to pay attention to their surroundings so the journey was multidimensional. In addition to the GPS, legends about prominent landmarks, ecological niches, early history of the area, animal sign, Leave No Trace principles, and plant identification were discussed on the route. The kids took pictures, wrote journals, and presented what they learned at the summer science fair in August.

The toolkit, including compasses, GPS units, teacher books and a write-up of this experience, will be available for loan. Western South Dakota education groups will be able to borrow the kit from the Early Childhood Connections located in Rapid City.

BLM Working to Resolve Public Land Littering -

Craig Flentie, Lewistown Field Office -

For decades, public lands have served as a backdrop across the stage of the American West. These lands have long contributed to the economic well-being of our communities and served our individual needs for recreation, solitude and relaxation.

In recent years, the importance of our public lands seems to be a more common topic of discussion in many circles. The proximity to public land has become a prominent advertising point for chambers of commerce, realtors, states, businesses, travel bureaus, hospital administrators, and a host of other endeavors wanting to attract people to their doorsteps. The availability of public land has now become a consideration when families move to a new location in the West.

Many Americans have come to consider our nation's public lands as their common backyard and most share a concern about how those lands are used and managed. That concern tends to manifest itself as a sense of pride in your public lands.

However, there are always exceptions. There are a few persistent individuals who still seem determined to literally trash public land. Over the years, there have been repeated dumping incidents in the Maiden and Limekiln canyons in the Judith Mountains near Lewistown, and other scattered incidents on public land across central Montana. The garbage left behind has included furniture, appliances, wooden pallets, nail-filled planks, vehicle batteries, yard/tree debris, tires, scrap building supplies, old lawn

mowers, old fencing materials, vehicles, and on and on.

In one recent instance, an individual chose to unload a pickup full of garbage on the Maiden Canyon Road. Dumping this garbage was not only illegal, but it was also a safety concern, an eyesore, and perhaps expressed just a little contempt for those who find a higher value in

their public land.

Shortly after learning of the incident, a BLM law enforcement ranger located the individual responsible, issued a hefty citation (slightly less than \$300), and directed the individual to drive back to the site, load the garbage and dispose of it properly. It would have been much easier and less expensive to dispose of



Recent dumping on public land along Maiden Canyon Road in the Judith Mountains. *Photo by Craig Flentie*

the garbage properly the first time.

In this example, the BLM law enforcement ranger was able to quickly locate the responsible party. However, because of the remote nature of most public land, other violations are more difficult to resolve. The BLM enforcement rangers in central and northeast Montana work in an area from Roundup to the Canadian border and from Great Falls to the North Dakota border.

"It's a huge area, but our rangers are constantly on patrol. They do a great job of helping visitors with questions and much of their work involves information and education. They also assist other law enforcement entities when requested, provide a consistent BLM presence on public land, and investigate the violations that occur on public lands. We also receive a helping hand (information) from the visiting

public concerning violations. As more and more people share their sense of pride in our public lands, they tend to become more involved in the public land management process. If you see a violation on public lands, gather what contact information you can (license number, vehicle description, etc.), note the day, time and area then turn the information over for us to pursue," offered Stan Benes, BLM's Lewistown field manager.

"We certainly encourage everyone to enjoy their public lands and to treat those lands just as you would your own backyard. For many, these lands do serve as our backyards and we certainly appreciate the continued help the public can provide when they witness dumping or other violations on our public lands," Benes said.

To report illegal dumping or other natural resource violations, call 1-800-TIPMONT.

Public Lands Foundation Presents Two Lifetime Service Awards - PLF NEWS RELEASE

The Public Lands Foundation presented two Lifetime Service Awards during its annual meeting September 11 in Billings. One went to Billy McIlvain of Huntley, Mont., and another was given posthumously to Vincent Hecker, formerly of Forsyth, Mont.

McIlvain was employed for nearly 46 years with the BLM. He served as area manager in Billings and Belle Fourche. He was also the Rangeland Program Leader in the BLM Montana State Office where he demonstrated outstanding leadership to enhance the proud tradition of public service. In addition to his service with the BLM, Billy started his career in 1966 with the National Park Service and served in the Marine Corps from 1968-1975. For his service in Viet Nam as a Cobra gunship pilot, he received the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V."

"We are pleased to present Mr. McIlvain with this award in recognition of his many years of service improving and protecting the public lands," said PLF President George Lea.

Vince Hecker, originally from Forsyth, Mont., had 31 years of service with the BLM. Beginning in 1963 in Lewistown in land appraisal, he also worked in the lands and realty programs in Portland, Oregon, and Boise, Idaho. In 1967 he was assigned to the Division of Lands in Washington, D.C., and became the Alaska Programs Manager. He provided leadership in a significant time for developing Alaska public land management regulations, polices, and guidance necessary to implement a variety of



Billy McIlvain (left) accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award from Public Lands Foundation President George Lea.

Photo by Jim Lee

legislation. In 1975 he was assigned to the Minerals Division in the Washington Office and finished his career as Chief, Division of Lands/Realty. Vince was a lifetime member of the Public Lands Foundation and served as an officer in the Foundation. He received numerous awards for excellence of service.

"We are pleased to recognize Mr. Hecker in this fashion," said George Lea, PLF President. "Vince retired in 1994 from the position of Chief, Division of Lands/Realty with a career of integrity and honor."

The Public Lands Foundation is a national nonprofit conservation organization whose members are primarily retired former BLM employees. The organization advocates and works for the retention of public lands in public hands, professionally and sustainably managed for the responsible common use and enjoyment of the American people.

Attention BLM Retirees Ê

The BLM Retirees Association

Stay in touch! The BLM Retirees Association has a social gathering 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

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) offers new retirees a free one-year membership. If you're interested, contact David Mari, Montana PLF Representative, at (406) 538-7121, or email dmari@earthlink.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.

Get on the NoteWorthy News Mailing List

The Montana/Dakotas BLM also produces the NoteWorthy News, a monthly electronic newsletter for employees and retirees. If you would like to receive a copy, send your email address to aboucher@blm.gov.

Retired since June 1, 2009:

Loyd A. Bantz—36 years
Civil Engineering Technician, Lewistown Field Office

Dee L. Baxter—35 years
Supervisory Realty Specialist, Montana State Office

John L. Fleharty—36 years
Maintenance Mechanic, Lewistown Field Office

Elaine Kaufman—35 years
Land Law Examiner, Montana State Office

Larry Rau—30 years
Rangeland Management Specialist, Miles City Field Office

Patrick Zurcher—23 years
Outdoor Recreation Planner, Butte Field Office

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

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