

## Worth Keeping

*Craig Flentie, Lewistown FO*

The Lewistown Field Office is pleased to announce that on January 29, 2009, the Frank Hagadone Homestead site was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The well-preserved homestead sits on public land about 20 miles north of Winifred, Mont., and is one of the features that contributes to the uniqueness of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

The homestead sits on a small bench overlooking the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River. The setting is remote and quiet, except for the wind. At times it is beautiful, but still a constant reminder of how harsh this environment can be. It is also a rich source of this area's cultural history.

The center of the homestead consists of dug outs, log buildings, frame buildings, old farming equipment, rolls of barbed wire, and other trappings that tell stories of the men and women who worked to carve out a living here. *(continued on page 3)*

### What's Inside . . .

- 2 A Message from our State Director
- 4 Weatherman Draw Land Donation
- 5 Well Pad and Road Disappear Without a Trace
- 6 Mustang Escorts Montana Soldier's Body to Arlington
- 7 Internship Turns Permanent
- 8 Attention BLM Retirees



The Hagadone Homestead has a dug out, as well as log and frame buildings. All three styles are depicted in this photo. *BLM photo*

## State Director's Notes

They claim that life is like a roll of toilet paper; the older you get (i.e., the closer to the end) the faster it goes! Well, here it is, spring! At this rate, I'd better get started on my Christmas shopping.

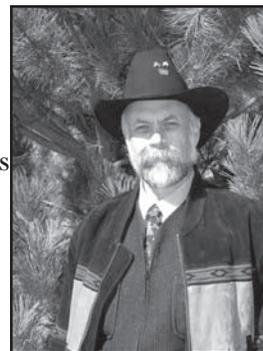
The new administration has asked about projects we can tackle over the next two years that would help stimulate the economy – just another good reason to have some plans on the shelf ready to go. Hopefully, by the time you receive this newsletter, the stimulus package will be in place and we will be moving out on implementation.

With the change in administration comes a change in emphasis. You may have picked up on some of this through news reports or from speeches the Secretary has made. Probably the best example is the increased emphasis on renewable energy. I have reviewed my "Guiding Principles" and "State Director's Priorities," and believe that they still stand. Although I have shared these before, I felt this would be a good time to share them again.

We have also begun to transition into a three-tier organization. Howard and I appreciate the efforts of the State Management Team and employees to come up with an organization that

will have minimal budgetary impact, keep the decision making at the field level, and create consistency on a bureau-wide basis. Our goal is to complete the transition by the end of this fiscal year.

As we move into field season, remember that safety is everyone's responsibility.



It's time to check those risk assessments, beef up the tailgate safety sessions, inspect your work area and equipment, and eliminate safety hazards. Check the list of mandatory training

and complete the courses that you need. It's much better to spend your time this way than recovering from an injury.

In closing, Howard and I want to state again how proud we are of the Montana/Dakotas organization. Everywhere I go, I hear compliments from members of the public about you and the work you do. You are making a difference! Thank you.

### Guiding Principles

Treat People Fairly  
Respect the Land  
Be Involved in Your Community

### State Director's Priorities:

*(not in any particular order)*

- Restore watershed health
- Protect special landscapes
- Use the best science
- Celebrate and protect heritage resources
- Help communities meet future needs
- Enhance habitat for special status species
- Create manageable land ownership patterns
- Resolve conflicts
- Design business solutions to better serve customers
- Provide recreational opportunities
- Contribute to the nation's energy supply

## Worth Keeping *(continued from page 1)*

The site was first homesteaded in 1918 by a gentleman named George Clyborn. Herbert Cameron (Clyborn's brother-in-law) and his family also lived on the place until about 1924, when Frank Hagadone bought it.

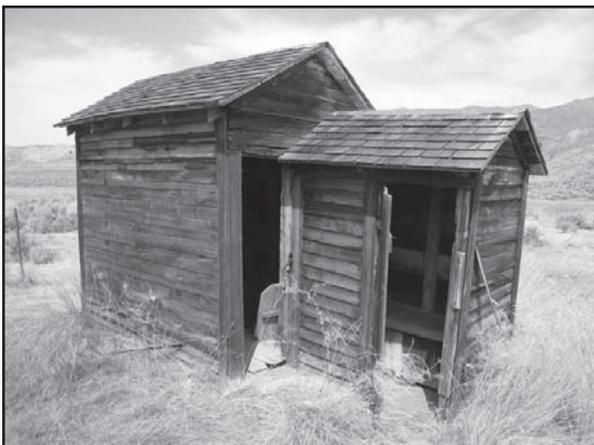
Hagadone kept the homestead for nearly 30 years. Throughout that time he used additional homesteading conveyances to enlarge the original claim (eventually owning 320 acres) and built additional buildings and other improvements to make life more practical, comfortable and sustainable.

Between 1953 and 1980, the homestead and its acreage were owned by several local families. In 1980, the BLM purchased it for its truly unique evidence of yesteryears.

Frank Hagadone was a personality of considerable dimension and was very much a part of this area's early history.

By today's standards, when so many risk little more physical danger in the workplace than a nasty paper cut, Frank Hagadone's life seems almost of novel proportion. Yet upon a second look, perhaps his life adventures were nearly typical of the day for those outgoing individuals who were daring enough to carve a living out of this harsh landscape during the early years.

Regardless of the magnitude, the BLM's Lewistown Field Office feels strongly that these remaining homesteads, stories, and artifacts of the day merit care and sharing. With that in mind, the Lewistown FO has designated a site steward to continue monitoring its condition and to complete minor maintenance. Interpretive signs will be installed inside the buildings this summer.



BLM photo

## The Story of Frank's life:

- Born in Nebraska in 1875.
- Moved to Fergus County in 1903, after trailing cattle north from Texas.
- Traveled for a while with William Cody's Wild West show as a marksman.
- For a time, made a living breaking horses.
- In 1917, settled with his wife and three daughters on a different homestead located downriver from what would eventually become known as the Hagadone place.
- Saved the life of one of his daughters by slashing her lower leg with a straight edge razor and sucking out the poison after she was bitten by a rattlesnake. The snake had been resting under a tarp which served as a rug over the dirt floor in their living room.
- In 1924, bought and moved upstream to the Clyborn homestead -- his wife and daughters stayed on the original homestead until 1927, when they moved into Winifred.
- Built barges and filled them with supplies in Fort Benton, then sold the goods and the lumber used to build the barges as he floated downriver.
- Was a carpenter of some accomplishment and helped build many homes and buildings in the growing community of Winifred.
- Became a pretty good gardener and made money by raising vegetables on his homestead and selling them in Winifred.
- Worked tirelessly with a Fresno Scraper and team of horses to build a road from his homestead up to the bench above.
- Rode a horse or walked from the homestead to the upper bench where he kept a '36 Chevy coupe parked.
- Never drove his Chevy much over 10 miles per hour.
- Could roll a Bull Durham cigarette with one hand while driving with the other.
- At age 78, while on a trip to Fresno, Calif., to visit his sister, Frank scuffled with a couple of fellows who tried to roll him in Las Vegas. One telling of this story indicates everyone involved in the incident--including Frank--was carrying a handgun.
- Frank died of injuries from the fight a few days later at his sister's home in Fresno.

# Land Donation Secures Access to Weatherman Draw

*Mary Apple, MSO*

It's not often that the Billings Field Office gets a Christmas present. Sure, sometimes a box of candy shows up (the contents of which disappear in mere seconds), and there's usually a smattering of Christmas cards taped up around the office. But this year it received 615 acres (the box was HUGE, and the gift wrap alone must have cost a fortune!).

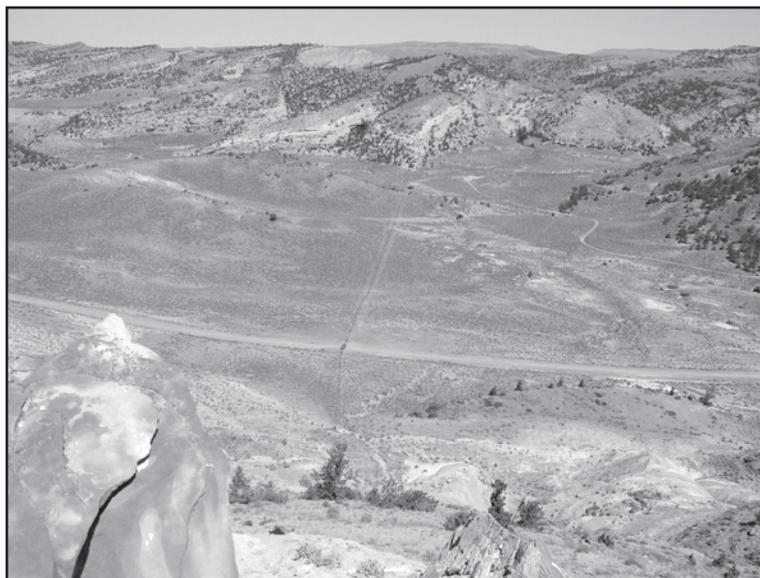
Perhaps the timing was a coincidence, but it felt like Christmas when the field office, on behalf of the United States, accepted the gift of 615 acres adjoining the Weatherman Draw Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in late December. Weatherman Draw is located in southern Carbon County approximately 80 miles southwest of Billings. The newly-acquired land provides legal access to the ACEC, which contains the largest collection of polychromatic (many-colored) pictographs in the Northern Plains. The area is considered sacred to several American Indian tribes and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

For years, the BLM and the public, without written authority, have used a parking area and a quarter-mile long foot trail across the private parcel to access the Weatherman Draw public

lands. The landowners tolerated the unauthorized use, but when they decided to sell the parcel, that access was threatened. Alternative legal access to Weatherman Draw requires a longer hike around the private property and makes management of the cultural sites located in the west portion of Weatherman Draw difficult. The donation legalizes the traditional use of the parking area and foot trail and secures the most direct access route into the Weatherman Draw for the public, American Indian religious practitioners, and the BLM.

Rather than see the parcel sold and possibly developed or subdivided into ranchettes, a very generous individual offered to purchase the land and donate it to the BLM for the public's benefit. The donor had a couple of requests—that the land would be managed at the same level of protection as the adjoining Weatherman Draw ACEC and that the donation would remain anonymous.

Billings Field Manager Jim Sparks said, "This was a really good deal, and I especially want to thank the landowners, Rodney and Josephine Crosby, their realtor, and our anonymous benefactor. They were all great to work with."



A portion of the 615-acre acquisition at Weatherman Draw.  
*Photo by Carolyn Sherve-Bybee*

## Well Pad and Road Disappear Without a Trace

*Craig Flentie, Lewistown Field Office*

The tract had been leased for oil and gas development and the leaseholder filed an application to drill a wildcat well.

It's a common scenario across our public lands, and while some leases are more easily developed and restored, others provide many complications.

The proposed site for the 1-33-19 well (public land about five miles northeast of Chinook) was an absolute maze of complications. These badlands, which sit above Battle Creek, a tributary of the Milk River, are a more fragile environment than their name implies. Highly erosive soils, important visual resources, raptor nesting habitat, crucial big game winter range, paleontological resources, archaeological resources, and extremely delicate vegetative cover were just a few of the values in the mix.

A host of BLM technical specialists (Josh Sorlie, Jody Peters, Brandi Hecker, Mike Montgomery, Jerry Clark, and Craig Miller) all played important roles in this challenging project. However, because most of the resource values involved in this project “rest upon the soil,” Josh (a BLM soil scientist in Malta) became a key contributor to the group effort.

Collectively, this group analyzed several alternatives for pad site locations and access routes; added important mitigation measures; and wrote reclamation and monitoring plans that would protect and restore this fragile environment while allowing the

lease holder to pursue the right to develop.

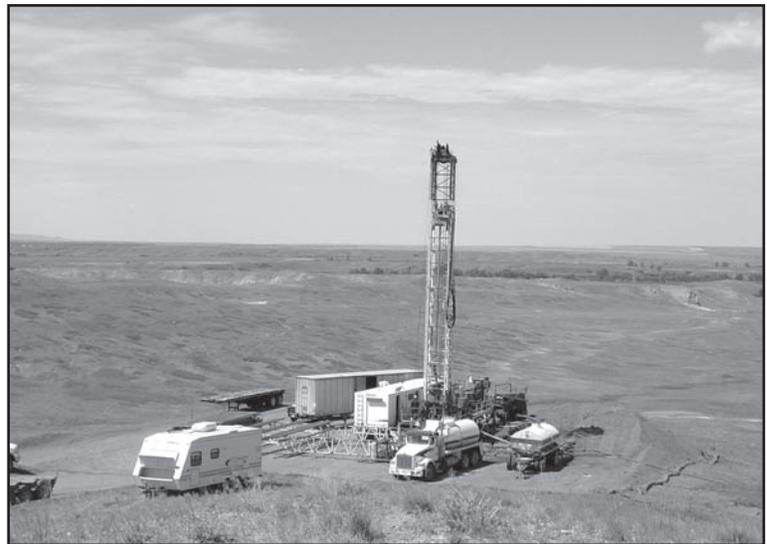
After analyzing these components through the NEPA process several times, these BLM specialists designed a suitable combination of protections and allowances and the well was permitted.

The project then accelerated from the planning phase to the development phase as the lease holder built an access route, constructed a well pad, and drilled the well. However, like

many wildcat wells, the 1-33-19 was a dry-hole. Within a few months—quicker than most imagined—it was time to test the BLM reclamation plan.

The photos below highlight how successful well-designed reclamation can be, even in a very delicate environment.

Congratulations to Josh, Jody, Brandi, Mike, Jerry and Craig for their professionalism in guiding this complicated project to a showcase conclusion.



Well 1-33-19 northeast of Chinook.



Photo taken during the second growing season. The site has been recontoured and seeded with a native mix. Straw wattles capture sediment and an electric fence excludes livestock grazing.

*The following story appeared in the February 24, 2009, issue of the Missoulian and is reprinted here with permission.*

*Mark Sant is a former Montana/Dakotas BLM employee.*

## Mustang to escort Montana soldier's body to Arlington

*By CHELSI MOY of the Missoulian*



Lonesome, a mustang from Montana, has been part of a six-horse hitch in more than 500 military funerals at Arlington Cemetery. *File photo*

When Marine Corps Sgt. Trevor J. Johnson of Forsyth is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on Tuesday, a small symbol of the fallen soldier's ranching roots will help carry him there.

It seems only appropriate that Johnson - a fifth-generation Montanan who grew up riding horses, herding cattle and mending fences - be escorted to his burial plot by Lonesome, a black mustang that once roamed the prairies and forested trails of this state.

Lonesome is one of 52 horses in the Caisson Platoon of the 3rd United States Infantry. Over the past seven years, the mustang has helped pull the caisson for 500 military funerals at Arlington Cemetery, assuming one of two lead spots on a six-horse team.

Prior to his mission out East, however, Lonesome lived in Montana.

How the horse came to assist in Johnson's interment ceremony on Tuesday took some forethought and initiative by a generous Montanan, who although he never met Johnson, wanted the Marine's family to have a symbol of the state as

they mourned the loss of a loved one so many, many miles from home.

"I felt so bad for his family," said Mark Sant, an archaeologist from Silver Star, just south of Butte. "He's just a young ranch kid. He seemed to have liked horses as much as I do."

All Sant knew about the Colstrip High School graduate was what he read in the newspaper after his death. Johnson, 23, a decorated Marine, was killed by a roadside bomb on Jan. 27 while serving in Afghanistan.

Johnson was a father, son and husband. His memorial service was held Feb. 7 at the family ranch southeast of Forsyth. Six hundred people attended.

When Sant read that Johnson would be buried at Arlington, he e-mailed Gov. Brian Schweitzer's office to seek help finding Lonesome - a horse he had donated to the military several years ago.

One of Schweitzer's aides contacted the Montana National Guard, which in turn contacted the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, or Old Guard, which assists in burial services at Arlington National Cemetery.

It's not a request the Old Guard hears often, but one that was easy to oblige, said Major Steven Cole.

"It's stories like this that show the depths of care that all Americans have for their service men and women," Cole said. "It took someone saying, 'Can we do this?' and Chief (Anthony) Direnzo saying, 'No problem.'"

Lonesome was born in a Bureau of Land Management holding pen in Montana. Both his sire, a black mustang, and his dam, a paint from Nevada, were among several mustangs repossessed by the BLM from someone with inadequate holding facilities.

A BLM law enforcement officer first adopted Lonesome before Sant bought him several years later.

"He was a good-looking horse," said Sant, describing Lonesome as hardy and strong with tough feet. "I know a lot of people who don't even have to shoe mustangs."

Sant owned several other horses but had always wanted a mustang. He took Lonesome into the Pioneer and Sentinel mountains, hunting, packing and trail riding for several years. But the horse grew too big for recreational activities, Sant said.

When Lonesome was 7, Sant donated him to the Old Guard.

"I thought it'd be a great honor for him to work at Arlington," he said.

Lonesome is now 14. For the past seven years, he has split the time between Fort Myer, Va., adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery, and Fort Belvoir, Va., where the military takes the horses for rest and relaxation.

The Old Guard looks for both gray and black horses younger than 9. Most are draft-quarter horse crosses, Percherons, Morgans or mustangs. Cole said that to his knowledge, Lonesome is the only mustang from Montana.

The Old Guard runs a six-horse hitch on a caisson, which was originally built in the early 20th century to haul military cannons. Today, it's used to haul caskets.

Just as Johnson took the lead in the battlefield, Lonesome will take the lead on Tuesday.

A Montana-grown horse will carry the body of one of Montana's brave soldiers. It's not much, but Sant hopes that connection makes a hard day for the Johnson family a little easier.

Reporter Chelsi Moy can be reached at 523-5260 or at [chelsi.moy@missoulian.com](mailto:chelsi.moy@missoulian.com). Copyright © 2009 Missoulian

## INTERNSHIP TURNS PERMANENT

*Ann Boucher, MSO*

Velvett Cummins is a keeper.

A business student at Rocky Mountain College, Cummins took a temporary position at the Montana State Office last June to fulfill an internship requirement. Although it was slated to last only a few months, the arrangement has turned long term – with benefits all around. Cummins has since landed a permanent job with the BLM, the BLM has gained a skilled employee, and Rocky is claiming another internship success story.

"We brought her on temporarily to help fill in the gaps in anticipation of some

retirements and to be ready for the fire season," said Mary Clark, Branch Chief for Business and Fiscal Services. "But she had such a great attitude and was such a quick learner that we encouraged her to apply for a permanent position."

Cummins did apply, and was hired as a purchasing agent trainee. She finished her degree in December and now is working full time.

"A business education is now a requirement for new hires in the procurement field," noted Clark, "so Velvett is a perfect fit."

Blaire Martin, RMC's director of career services, says the school works hard to place its students in internships that match their interests and talents. In Cummins' case, the

match was so good that Rocky is featuring her in its latest promotional brochure.

For more information about the BLM's Student Career Experience Program, contact Todd Walton at 406-896-5118.



A student internship turned into permanent employment for Velvett Cummins. *Photo by Katie Merwin*

## Attention BLM Retirees

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### Retired since November 1, 2008:

Tom V. Carrillo – 25 years  
Purchasing Agent, Montana State Office

Donovan R. Chorne – 18 years  
Cartographic Technician, North Dakota Field Office

Karen L. Johnson – 36 years  
Supervisory Land Law Examiner, Montana State Office

Sandra A. Kinsey – 35 years  
Administrative Support Assistant, Miles City Field Office

Loretta G. Park – 25 years  
Realty Specialist, Havre Field Station

Larry R. Rau – 30 years  
Rangeland Management Specialist, Miles City Field Office

Stephen J. VanMatre – 30 years  
Mining Engineer, 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>

The *Quarterly Steward* is published every three months by the Bureau of Land Management and distributed in Montana and the Dakotas. It is produced by the External Affairs Staff, Montana State Office.

Ann Boucher, Editor  
Kathy Ives, Graphic Design

FIRST CLASS  
POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PERMIT NO. G-76