

# Montana BLM Youth Initiative Requests

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## 1. Provide FO Contact for Youth Initiative

Please send the name of one point of contact for the Youth Initiative to Ruth Miller. You may send more than one name for those you wish to receive the Youth Updates and information; however, we need one person per field office to contact for data calls, due dates, etc.

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## 2. Review Current Youth Programs

Please review the information below on existing youth programs to see if we have missed any that your office is currently doing, and provide any additional information/edits/clarifications with your response. You may edit directly on this attachment (using track changes) and send this back if it is easier.

### **Take It Outside Events**

This year five events were funded for Montana/Dakotas BLM Take It Outside programs. These events will reach hundreds of kids in several field office areas:

- Miles City FO ROCKS summer school program;
- North Dakota FO Envirothon;
- South Dakota FO Taking OST's Outside with Orienteering;
- Lewistown FO Journey Through the Monument (Upper Missouri River school canoe trips);
- Missoula FO Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp.

### **National Public Lands Day (NPLD) and Kids Fishing Day Events**

Many field offices host NPLD and/or Kids Fishing Day events which reach hundreds of school children each year.

### **Interpretive Center School Programs**

The interpretive centers host thousands of school children every year. Many schools participate in environmental education programs at Pompeys Pillar Interpretive Center primarily during month of May, and the Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center has several hundred school children attending environmental education programs.

### **MBIC Hands on the Land (HOL) Site**

The Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center is an HOL site. The canoe trips funded under the Take It Outside program were an idea that came out of the HOL partnership with the schools.

## **History Mystery**

The BLM Heritage Education program in the Montana State Office developed a partnership with the Western Heritage Center to create educational products focusing on the cultural resources in the Yellowstone River Valley. It was decided that the products of the 5-year partnership would be a series of HISTORY MYSTERIES: games or activities where students would be required to fill in the 'Who', 'What', 'When', 'Where', 'Why' and 'How' of a local resource/legend. This first product was a kit focusing on the Sacrifice Cliff (students used the products in the briefcases to research the subject, come to their own conclusions, and write an interpretive sign). The Pryor Mountains Wild Horse kit was the second kit developed; this product is a huge board game! It is one that an entire classroom can fit around, big enough so that pieces are less likely to get lost, and with just enough complex information that educators can adapt the game as needed (i.e., like a trivia game). This is a 5-year partnership with the Western Heritage Center, so three more kits will be developed for the school system.

## **Take Your Kids to Work Day**

Each year the State Office sponsors this event which allows children to see what the BLM does and what kind of careers are available in natural resource management.

## **Student Programs**

Many college students get their first introduction to BLM through the Student Educational Employment Program. Montana has hired, on average 35 to 40 students, including some high school students, in the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) for the summer seasons to help out during that busy field season. Some of these students who show great potential are converted to the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) when there is an identified need for an entry-level employee. Montana in the past 3 years has placed all of our SCEPs into permanent jobs. Currently, we have 10 SCEPs working on their education and work requirements.

## **Seasonal Employment**

Many college students also get their first introduction to BLM through the seasonal hiring that we do every year. On average, Montana/Dakotas BLM hires 185-200 seasonal employees to work the busy summer season. These are about evenly split between firefighters and non-fire resource fields such as range management, wildlife biology, forestry, etc.

## **Curation Center Intern Program**

The Billings Curation Center is the main repository for archaeological and ethnographic collections recovered from the BLM-administered public lands in Montana and the Dakotas. Each year the Billings Curation Center hires several interns to help with processing collections, developing exhibits, etc.

## **Salish Kootenai College Intern Program**

This program is a partnership between the BLM (Lewistown FO) and Salish Kootenai College to develop an internship program to expose Native American students to the

types of careers that are available within the BLM, as well as provide them the opportunity to work in a professional environment where they can gain valuable on-the-job experience, earn college credit, and, hopefully one day, consider a career with the BLM.

### Outreach Programs for Youth

- Lewis and Clark traveling exhibit
- Participation at Laurel Career Days
- Participation in other school career days
- Fire education programs targeted at school children
- Youth weed programs with county weed districts
- Field office programs in response to various requests from schools
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### 3. Provide Funding Needs

Please provide any funding needs for youth programs with your response as well. Include existing FY09 funding and where it is coming from (e.g., Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument has received \$5K in Take It Outside funding the past 2 years for the Journey Through the Monument program). Use the table below for this information. We also encourage you to enter these projects into BPS as time allows.

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### 4. List Any Potential New Projects/Program Expansion

Add any potential new projects designed for youth that your office is currently thinking of implementing (or would like to implement if you had funds). The following table can be used for your response (an example is included):

Project Name	Existing or New Program? BPS #?	Brief Description	FY09 Funding (if applicable)	FY10 Funding Needs
Take It Outside – Journey Through the Monument	Existing - this is the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of the program. No BPS #	Canoe trip with school partners (several different classes) to learn about the Monument and WSR resources.	\$5,000	\$5,000 from TIO \$2,000 from 1711 (to expand program with new partners)