

Providing information about America's lands and resources and on the actions, activities and accomplishments associated with the use and care of those resources.

BLM Elko Leadership

District Manager
 Ken Miller

Associate District Manager
 Steve Dondero

Tuscarora Field Manager
 Dave Overcast

Wells Field Manager
 Bryan Fuell

Fire Management Officer (Acting)
 Dylan Rader

Operations Manager
 Tom Warren

California Trail Center Manager
 David Jamiel

ADM Support Services
 Adam George

Public Affairs
 Lesli Coakley

Inside this issue:

Tuscarora Field Office	2
Wells Field Office	3
Division Of Operations	4
Division of Fire and	5
California Trail Center	6
Division of Support	7

From the Elko District Manager..

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a safe and joy filled Christmas holiday. It is a pleasure to enter 2011 and face the challenge of caring for and using America's Public Lands with you. May 2011 be safe and successful for all who care about the issues, uses, and great natural and cultural resources of northeast Nevada.

As part of the New Year, Elko District's Leadership Team looked at the workload before us to consider what should have priority. It is a reality that because BLM has many programs, driving many different taskings, we always have a number of activities that are of high priority. Within that structure, we move forward with the following as deserving of high priority status.

- Responsible energy development, such

as wind energy or energy transmission projects.

- Completing and maintaining American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Projects
- Maintain and improve rangeland health, with efforts that benefit riparian areas and sage grouse habitat and by completing wild horse herd monitoring and gathers
- Participate in efforts to develop projects on a landscape level basis.
- Work with private land owners to entertain new and innovative ways to care for America's wild horses.
- Improve relationships and the government to government consultation process

Continued on Page 8

Donaldson receives Leadership Award

**By Richard Brown,
 BLM State Office**

Gabriel "Gabe" Donaldson is the fifth recipient of BLM Nevada's annual Kevin Hull Fire Leadership Award.

Donaldson led the BLM Elko District's Ruby Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew since he was detailed into the Superintendent position in September 2008. He was officially promoted into the job in May 2010.

"The leadership and mentoring that he provides to the members of the crew and supervisory staff is paramount in the success, accomplishments, and safety

Continued on Page 7



Photo by Ken Miller

Gabe Donaldson receives his award from State Director Ron Wenker during a Nevada State Leadership Team meeting in Battle Mountain, Nev.

Tuscarora Field Office

Non Renewable Resources

By Deb McFarlane, AFM, Non-Renewable Resources

Minerals Management - Five mining plans of operations are currently in various stages of NEPA analysis, including:

- The Emigrant Final Environmental Impact Statement for Newmont Mining has been published to the Federal Register December 17, 2010.
- The Genesis Final Environmental Impact Statement for Newmont Mining is currently scheduled for release in winter 2011.
- The Dee Arturo Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Barrick Goldstrike Mines is currently scheduled for release in the Spring 2011.
- The Hollister Draft Environmental Impact Statement is currently scheduled for release in the Spring 2011.
- Midas Mine Environmental Assessment will be started in December 2010 with an introduction of the proposed action to the ID team by Newmont on December 17.

Oil and Gas Management

EQ Energy submitted a Notice of Staking and an APD for a new oil well in the Bull Run Mountains. They have changed the location for the proposed well and submitted a second APD in November..

Lands & Realty - Rural Telephone.

The Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record for the Elko Waste Water Reclamation Reuse Site was signed in December 2010 to patent approximately 807.5 acres of land to the City of Elko.

Renewable Resources

By Wendy Fuell, AFM Renewable Resources

Livestock Grazing Permit Renewals – The Tuscarora Field Office completed 3 Environmental Assessments to analyze livestock grazing management and project implementation alternatives for the Bellinger, Bottari, and Hog Tommy Allotments. The public review period has ended for the Bellinger and Bottari Allotment EA. The public review period for the Hog Tommy Allotment ended on Dec. 20th. No comments were received on the Bellinger and Bottari EAs.

District staff attended the Nevada Landscape Approach Workshop on Dec. 2nd and 3rd at the State Office. The workshop provided direction and guidance on the Landscape Level approach to planning the BLM is moving toward and the importance of implementing it at the District level for future funding opportunities and reporting requirements. The workshop emphasized an interdisciplinary/program approach to planning and multi-subactivity funding of projects. In order to effectively take advantage of the type of funding that will be available in the future, we need to have projects on the shelf with all NEPA requirements completed.

The Tuscarora Field office initiated consultation on fifteen allotments scheduled for permit renewals. Letters were mailed to recognized

Tribal governments and non-tribal governmental agencies.

On Dec. 13th, the Elko County Commission formally adopted the Public Land Use and Natural Resource Management plan produced by the Natural Resources Management Advisory Commission. The District is working with the County to determine how we can incorporate recommendations of the Plan in regard to our Agency framework and mission.

Welcome to the Elko District office – Phillip Reiersen will report on January 16th. Phillip will be filling behind Justin Rodgers as a Rangeland Management Specialist in the Tuscarora Field Office.

Gaining Cultural Awareness



Photo by Steve Craddock

Thomas Tom, a grass dancer, performs a traditional Native American dance for Elko District BLM employees as part of a Native American month celebration. The dancers were escorted by Roberta Sam of the TeMoak Diabetes Prevention Center. Sam provides a Healthy Native Dance Class which emphasizes good nutrition and physical education

Wells Field Office, by Bryan Fuell

China Mountain Wind Energy Project - Renewable Energy Resources of North America is proposing to construct electrical energy-producing windmills within the Twin Falls, Idaho and Elko Districts. The project proposal includes a right-of-way for approximately 25 windmills in Nevada and 150 in Idaho, each producing 2.5- 3.5 megawatts. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared and is expected to be released for public comments by March 2011.

Hubbard-Vineyard Allotment Evaluation Environmental Assessment (EA) - An EA was issued to the public for review in January 2010. The EA discusses the action of renewing the Boies Ranches grazing permit in regard to the Hubbard Vineyard Allotment. The EA further discusses grazing strategies to obtain/maintain the allotment objectives, as well as standards and guidelines for range land health for the allotment. A decision to approve appropriate management guidelines was issued in April and was protested by an affected party. Protest points are being addressed, and a final decision will be issued in January 2011.

Fronteer and AGNICO Eagle Exploration and Plan of Operations - Fronteer Development Inc. and AGNICO Eagle Ltd. are both conducting exploration operations on the Pequop Range west of Wendover. The Elko District has received plan amendments from both companies to request expansions to their current Plans of Operations in 2011 to broaden their exploration activities. EAs addressing potential impacts will be available for public review in 2011.

Antelope Complex Wild Horse Gather - The Elko and Ely District Offices are preparing to conduct a wild horse removal. The Antelope Complex Gather is proposed to begin in mid January and run through late February 2011. The Complex includes four Herd Management Areas (HMAs) the Antelope, Antelope Valley, Goshute and Spruce/Pequop HMAs. The planned action is to gather approximately 1,917 to 2,278 wild horses and leave no less than 427 wild horses in the Complex. Also all released mares will be treated with PZP, a short term fertility drug. The four HMAs comprise approximately 1.3 million acres of public lands south of Wells and Wendover.

Spruce Mountain Recreation Planning - The Wells Field Office will be initiating recreation management in 2011 for the Spruce Mountain area. An EA will be prepared to address the issues of designating the Spruce Mountain Area as an Extensive Recreation Management Area. A public open house will be scheduled in early 2011 to start the planning process.

Wild Horse Sanctuary - Madeleine Pickens has purchased the private property and associated grazing privileges for the Spruce Allotment south of Wells. Mrs. Pickens has proposed converting her grazing permit from cattle to wild horses and creating a sanctuary. We will be working with the Ms. Pickens to create a plan for management of the Allotment. This plan will identify how the allotment will be used and how objectives for rangeland health will be met. Once a plan is built, the process to potentially create a sanctuary will start the public process to fully involve all interested publics.

As of the end of 2010, the Mrs. Pickens is working to provide specific details on her proposal.

Prevention / Education / Mitigation

Anyone traveling along Interstate 80 or Highway 93 should take notice of approximately 12 new billboards that have been leased by Elko District BLM over the last year in our efforts to increase awareness of the importance of homeowners being proactive in the protection of their property by providing adequate Defensible Space for protection from wildland fire. A secondary benefit of



these billboards will be advertising the phone number for Elko Interagency Dispatch Center for reporting wildland fires during fire season. Quick and early reporting or detection of wildland fires is crucial in being able to quickly and effectively dispatch suppression resources to contain fires early when small.

Both of the billboards that will be viewed by over 10,000 motorists per day (estimate by NDOT) that utilize the I-80 and Hwy 93 transportation routes through Elko District. Go to www.livingwithfire.info for information about Defensible Space.

Division of Operations, By Tom Warren



Lower Rock Creek Rangeland Drill Seeding American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Project, October 2010.

Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R) – The Division of Operations has completed ES &R drill and aerial seeding treatments on the Fox Springs Fire and aerial seeding treatments on Chicken Springs and Bailey Fires. Work continues on securing a contract to remove several temporary ES &R fences after the first contractor defaulted. . In addition, the 44 fire, a human caused fire south of Wells at mile post 44, was drill seeded with native perennial grasses and over seeded with winter fat this past October.

Weeds – The Division welcomes Bryan Mulligan as the new Natural Resource Specialist for Noxious Weeds for Elko District. Bryan comes to Elko from the Vale District in Baker City Oregon where he was the Noxious Weed Specialist for the Field Office. Elko District has plans to complete weed treatments on over 5,000 acres of noxious weeds in FY11.

ES&R Treatment Monitoring - Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation treatment effectiveness monitoring is planned for 2008, 2009 and 2010 fires.

Range Improvement Projects - During fiscal year 2011 several range improvement projects are slated for construction including spring enclosures, pasture fences, allotment boundary fences, water gaps, and spring developments. These projects are being constructed to benefit natural resources including vegetation, wildlife, livestock grazing, and overall health of the land. Other range improvement projects proposed include noxious weed treatments throughout the Tuscarora and Wells Field Office as well as a sagebrush restoration seeding located in crucial mule deer winter range

of NDO Management Area 6.

ARRA Restoration Project - The Division of Operations is taking the lead to implement the Tuscarora Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration project. This project involves eight treatment areas north of Battle Mountain that have been impacted by wildfires over the years in sage grouse and big game habitat. The purpose of the project is to establish sage brush and other shrubs along with perennial grasses and forbs in areas that are currently dominated by cheatgrass and annual forbs.

A total of eight contracts have been awarded. Work has been completed on the seed purchase, cultural inventory, herbicide treatment as well as 12 miles of protection fence, 2,900 acres of Rangeland drill seeding, 500 acres of Truax drill seeding, 3,400 acres of harrowing and 3,400 acres of aerial seeding. The remaining 3,300 acres of aerial seeding is scheduled to be completed mid December.

Other Projects in the District – The Division assisted with Kingsley Mine reclamation dozer work and seeding. In addition, two new vault toilets were installed via contract at Tabor Creek Campground in November.



Successful antelope and mule deer winter range rehab seeding on the 2006 Susie Fire.

Division of Fire and Aviation, by Dylan Rader

Fuels and Vegetation Management:

As fire season comes to a close in early fall the Fuels Program for Elko District BLM ramps up in completion of projects and contracts in an ongoing effort to mitigate the potential effects of large scale and severe wildland fires across both Field Offices. This fall the fuels program has successfully completed multiple projects including:

Boulevard Mowing: 700 acres of sagebrush mowing located in the North West portion of Elko District on the YP Desert. This mowing was contracted out and completed in mid-November.

Boulevard Aerial Herbicide Application: 700 acres of herbicide application to allow for mowed area to regenerate with native species and not allowing cheatgrass to move into mowed areas. This project was also contracted out and finished in November.



View from the Boulevard fuel break located in the YP Desert in northwestern Elko District. This project will provide for protection of critical Sage Grouse Habitat from wildland fire.

Star Ridge Aerial Herbicide Application: In 2004 the BLM mowed roughly 900 acres of sagebrush in the northern west portion of Elko District on the Owyhee Desert. Of these 900 acres several locations had experienced cheat grass encroachment. This fall the BLM aerial sprayed 650 acres of the original Star Ridge mowing. The herbicide application should remove the cheatgrass from the area for several growing seasons and allow for native perennial grasses to become more established.

Ryndon/Osino Drill Seeding: In 2009 the BLM completed a sage brush mowing within the Ryndon and Osino rural areas. In 2009 the BLM completed an herbicide treatment of the previously mowed portions. The herbicide treat-

ment removed/ reduced cheat grass within the previously mowed portions. In the Fall of 2010 The BLM completed a drill seeding operation in which the BLM seeded perennial grasses into the fuelbreak.

Ten Mile Herbicide Application: In 2003 through 2005 the BLM completed a thinning operation to reduced Juniper and sagebrush mowing around the Ten Mile subdivision. These treatments would perform as a fuel break and reduce large amounts of fuel surrounding the subdivision. In 2010 the BLM completed a herbicide application in which would remove/reduce the amount of cheat grass within the fuel break. This herbicide application was contracted.

Izzenhood Phase 4: The 1999 Izzenhood Fire affected roughly 28,500 acres of land in the western portion of the Elko District. Since this fire there have been several multi-phase rehabilitation efforts that have completed the final phase. In the Spring of 2010 the BLM disked roughly 1,700 acres to remove cheatgrass from the area and in preparation for seeding in the fall. In the fall of 2010 the BLM completed the 1,700 acres drill seeding effort that consisted of perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs. This December the BLM completed the final portion of the Izzenhood project and aerial seeding the 1700 acres with shrubs and forbs.

Ruby Mountain Hotshots / Elko Station Barracks

Construction has been completed on the new barracks buildings located south of the District Office complex off of Manzanita Drive. The facilities will provide both office and living space for over 30 firefighters and will allow Elko District BLM Fire and Aviation to provide affordable living arrangements to our seasonal and career seasonal firefighters in a very expensive Elko real estate market. Construction of the Operations Building is ongoing, and estimated completion of this project will be in June 2011.



Completed barracks buildings after a recent snowfall. The Operations Building can be seen in the background. Construction will be complete by June 2011.

California Trail Center, by David Jamiel

On a crisp and clear Friday afternoon in Northeastern Nevada, a mix of cultures banded together with the goal of leaving a lasting and accurate impression for generations of Americans to come.

Several local Native Americans traveled to the California Trail Interpretive Center, Nov. 19, to participate in a workshop designed to share ideas on how to best depict life in the Great Basin during the emigrant movement over the California Trail.

Of great importance to the members was the opportunity for Native Americans to tell their own story. While each attendee did not represent a tribe or community, they attended to relay their own experiences and knowledge.

"It is the story of what happened to everyone involved on this overland trek," said David Jamiel, manager, California Trail Interpretive Center.

Murals, interactive maps and resource panels were some of the many suggestions presented. Along with the indoor exhibit, there is an outdoor recreation of life in the Basin. Attendees were introduced to the existing displays of brush houses and stone fire pits and suggestions were elicited to enhance visitor's experiences.

Another suggestion was to place statues of Native Americans in the hills surrounding the center looking down upon the visitors much like the Great Basin Indians did with the emigrants who trekked through Nevada on their 2,000-mile voyage from Missouri

river towns to California over 150 years ago.

"I would like to see quotes from the Native Americans interspersed with the emigrant quotes," said Donna Cossette, member of the

Fallon Paiute and registrar of the Churchill County Museum and Archives.

"It is the story of what happened to everyone involved on this overland trek,"

- David Jamiel

Lending their artistic expertise were Jack Mallotte, Western Shoshone, and Micqaela Jones-Crouch, member of the Temoak tribe of the Western Shoshone, both accomplished Native American artists.

Contrary to popular belief, the second leading cause of death on the California Trail was accidental firearm discharge due to limited knowledge of proper handling techniques, said Jamiel. The leading cause of death was from disease, such as Cholera. Early emigrants along the trail were watched from afar and eventually there was interaction between the Native Americans and the emigrants, but it was a friendly exchange.

"It wasn't like the movies or the TV shows," added Jamiel.

While the workshop did not result in a concrete plan for a future Great Basin exhibit, it did provide a path to follow in ensuring the story of the California Trail is portrayed accurately and through the right voices.

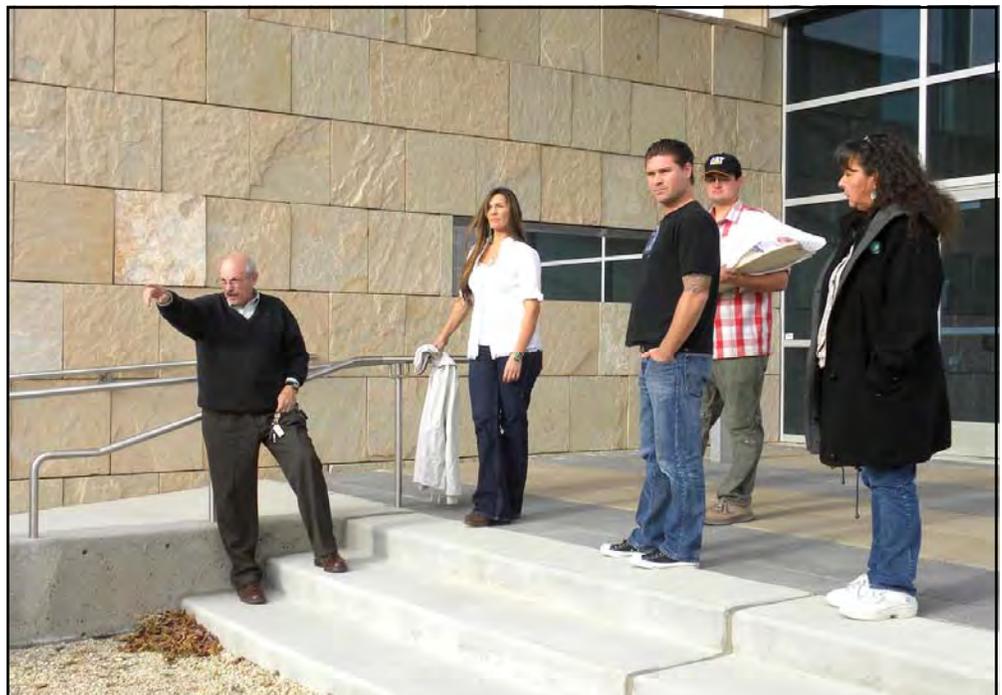


Photo by Lesli Coakley

David Jamiel, California Trail Center manager, points out the location of an upcoming Native American exhibit at the Trail Center. Nevada Native American community members donated their time in ensuring the accurate depiction of Great Basin Indians during the time of the California Trail. From Left to Right, Jamiel, Micqaela Jones-Crouch, Alex Crouch, Seth Jones and Donna Cossette.

Division of Support Services, by Adam George

The Division of Support Services is continuing to work hard to provide necessary support to employees and the public. The Elko District Office recently had new carpet installed in the high traffic and public areas. This necessary upgrade (along with a new paint job in the mailroom and conference room) has spruced up the office!! We will continue to have necessary upgrades and remodeling to help the building be more energy efficient and improve work spaces.

The first quarter for fiscal year 2011 is in the books and Support Services will help all Divisions and Offices understand the implications of many changes that are occurring in the Federal agencies.

Employee News

December's Top Employee

Terri Suiter, purchasing agent, was nominated as the December Employee of the month for her hard work and dedication to the BLM Elko District Office. Terri



is very good at fulfilling her position and has done an outstanding job with the Budget position also. She is always willing to help you with credit card problems, finding PE's, looking up hours, charge codes and many other things. She is always cheerful and brings a smile even

when she is overloaded with duties and deadlines. Her willingness to help and get the job done is a real asset to the office. Terri is a great team member of the Elko District Office. Good Job Terri and Thank you!

New Employees

Donald Blevins is the new Maintenance Worker for Support Services and the California Trail National Interpretive Center. Don brings a wealth of maintenance knowledge and will provide much needed support to all the facilities in the District.

Bruce Haase is the new Informa-

tion Technology Specialist. Bruce has worked in the IT and GIS field and will help all users on the District with their IT needs and support.

Bryan Mulligan is the new Weeds Management Specialist with the Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Office.

Brian Smith is the new Contact Representative and is charged with assisting the public with a variety of information in a friendly and productive manner.

Lesli Coakley is the new Public Affairs Officer. Lesli joins the BLM team after retiring from a 23-year career with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Donaldson, from Pg 1

record of the Ruby Mountain Interagency Hotshot Crew," said BLM Elko District Acting Fire Management Officer Dylan Rader. "Gabe provided leadership on a daily basis. His abilities are demonstrated by his attention to detail in the planning and preparation for training and bringing a diverse mix of employees together as a team."

Donaldson played a key leadership role in the development of a Staff Ride for the August 1999 Sadler Fire, which involved extensive research and preparation of interactive briefing materials. He led the first Sadler Fire Staff Ride at the conclusion of the April 2010 Nevada BLM Preseason Meeting in Elko.

"Gabe volunteered to take on this challenging assignment and went above and beyond my expectations by delivering a superior product for all of those who participated," Rader said. "This staff ride will be an invaluable tool in the training and development of young and up-

coming firefighters and out of area initial attack resources for many years for the Elko District and for BLM Nevada."

Donaldson left a full scholarship at St. John's College in Santa Fe, N.M. to begin his firefighting career with the Larimer County Sheriff's Department, Fort Collins, Colo. In 2000. He became an engine crewmember with the U.S. Forest Service in Fort Collins before transferring to the Elko District Office BLM in 2001 as a crewmember for the IHC. He left Elko for Boise in 2004 to become a member of the Boise Smokejumpers for four years before returning to Elko.

He received a 'Star' award at the conclusion of the 2009 fire season for his performance as acting IHC Superintendent.

As a hobby, Donaldson participates in half marathons and has placed in the top ten for the Dry Creek Half Marathon in 2008 and 2009.

District from Page 1

with Tribal Governments.

- Participate in partnerships that aggressively pursue reduction or control of noxious weeds
- Complete road and sign maintenance to provide safe access for all users and caretakers of public lands
- Complete interpretive exhibit installation and provide personnel at the California Trail Center so as to open it year round by Spring of 2012.
- Develop a youth education or employment initiative program
- Continue to work with local law enforcement agencies so as to provide increased safety for the public and greater care for our natural and cultural resources
- Continue to grow the partnership that is our inter-agency fire prevention and suppression effort

- Initiate work to develop the Spruce Mountain land use plan amendment
- Finalize creation of a partnership to enhance protection of mule deer migration corridors
- Continue 2010's successful effort to improve our safety record. Work to ensure that we bring everyone home at the end of each day in the same condition in which they started. Work towards zero injuries and few, if any, incidents or accidents.
- Complete the Elko sewage treatment and the Elko shooting range Recreation and Public Purpose Act (R&PP) actions and work with our congressional representatives, The Te-Moak Tribal Council and stakeholders to complete work necessary for the expansion of the Elko Indian Colony lands and the Elko Motocross track.

While this list is not all inclusive, it is a brief look at where we are headed. I very much look forward to working with you as we move into the next year.