



# Elko Echo

To enhance the quality of life for all citizens through the balanced stewardship of America's public lands and resources.

Volume 7, Issue 1

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

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## From the Elko District Manager..

The BLM Elko District welcomes 4 new and one reappointed member to the North East Great Basin Resource Advisory Council this year. Returning to the RAC is Mr. David Pierce, Energy/Minerals, new appointees are: Mr. Dan Anderson, Energy/Minerals, Ms. Jeanne Nations, Wild Horses and Burros, Dr. John Rice, Elected Official, and Mr. Jeff Williams, Public-at-Large.

I would like to thank our RAC members who departed this year. Mr. Jeff White, Chairmen, Energy/Minerals, Mr. Cyd McMullen, Archaeology, Mr. Larry Hyslop, Environment/Wildlife, Ms. Tanya Renyolds, Native American and Mr. Rodney Davis, Academia.

We did lose some long-standing members of the RAC, but we also are welcoming back some members who have served before. I look forward to once again serving as your Designated Federal Official for this year.

In FY 16 we will continue our mission "to enhance the quality of life for all citizens through the balanced stewardship of America's public lands and resources."

The District, Tuscarora and Wells Field Offices, Operations, Fire and Fuels, Support Services, and the California Trail Interpretive Center are looking forward to an amazing year.

But first I must recognize Mr. Rich Adams, Tuscarora Field Manager, who retired in February after more than 37 years of federal service. Rich devoted his career to

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BLM Elko District wildland fire engine number 1443 and crew participate in the Elko Holiday Elko, NV. More than 3,000 spectators lined the parade route. Engine 1443 was outfitted with lights from front to back and powered of a generator.

# Tuscarora Field Office by Rich Adams

## Looking Forward in 2016

For the Tuscarora Field Office 2016 will be a year of change.

The Tuscarora Field Office will have two managers retiring late this winter. Until the positions are filled we are looking for folks to detail in.

A long-term partnership was recognized by the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. They selected Elko District/Field Office and our partners for their 2016 Riparian Challenge Award. We are being recognized for the efforts associated with the Maggie Creek Collaborative Restoration and Monitoring efforts.

Also, one of our employees is receiving the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award. This is the highest Departmental award a BLM employee can receive. In early May they will take part in an award ceremony in Washington D.C.

We are now in the implementation portion of the Sage-Grouse Land Use Amendment. In moving forward it is more imperative the cooperators and BLM focus on how we implement the changes. BLM will work closely with NDOW to delineate seasonal habitat, work with proponents for best management practices, and help identify potential mitigation. The mining community is proactively looking at on-the-ground projects that will enhance, restore, or protect the sagebrush communities.

Regardless of your feelings related to Sage-Grouse management, everyone is in agreement that the vast acres being converted to a monoculture of cheatgrass is problematic. BLM is partnering with UNR to determine if there is a new tool in suppressing cheatgrass. PFD7 (*Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain D7) is a naturally occurring soil bacterium. In the Midas/Tuscarora area study sites will be developed to compare both traditional techniques, such as applying herbicide and seeding and if incorporating the PFD7 bacterium will provide a longer term affect to cheatgrass suppression. This project is in support of the Secretarial Order 3336 that directs the Department of Interior to stem the tide of the loss of sagebrush communities.

Though the snow packs are above average for NE Nevada, we will monitor vegetation conditions this spring and summer. BLM will continue working with the permittees on livestock grazing strategies and make adjustments as needed.

The Field Office is not anticipating any new mining



Tuscarora Field Office Manager, Rich Adams retired in February 2016 after more than 37 years of Federal Service. Jill Silvey, Elko District Manager (left) presents Rich one of his departing mementos.

permitting operations. BLM is processing several plan amendments, such as reconfiguring pit high walls or developing a small pit within a current operation. Last year the BLM started an EIS for a barite mine along the Carlin Trend that has proposed pit and waste rock dump expansion; which include a partial pit backfill with the waste rock material. In the Cortez area an underground exploration project is in the early stages of review before being permitted.

The Field Office manages three recreation sites. The BLM is continuously upgrading the facilities to make the public stay more enjoyable. In addition, BLM is seeking individuals that would like to be campground hosts that want an opportunity to spend the summer at a campground. The hosts not only spend time outdoors, they provide a valuable public service.

In conjunction with Cedar Creek Clothing and the Forest Service, several hiking events will be held throughout the year. These events range from moonlight snowshoe hikes to summer wildflower hikes.

For 2015, about 8,000 acres burned compared to the 10 year average of 176,000 acres. BLM working with the NV Department of Wildlife implemented stabilization and restoration efforts on about 3,500 acres. The majority of the acres were aerial seeded with a combination of sagebrush, forage kochia, and western yarrow. This effort was coordinated with the permittees and interested publics.

# Wells Field Office by Melanie Peterson

## Looking Forward in 2016

In 2016 we will be replacing Bryan Mulligan as our Assistant Field Manager for Nonrenewable Resources. Until his position is filled we are looking for folks to detail in.

Our working partnership with the SANE and Soleshoe collaboratives are thriving and doing well. Much work is being completed with the coordination of these groups.

WFO is working with BLM & USFWS in NV, UT and ID to implement the recently signed Goose Creek Milkvetch Conservation Agreement and Strategy.

Working with the NOC on development of plans for replacement of the Orange Bridge to ensure safe passage for full-size pick-ups and fire equipment within SFA.

Newmont's Long Canyon Mine will begin production in 2016 after a long struggle with construction due to cultural issues. The Wells Field Office, SHPO, Newmont and Tribal monitors worked together to bring closure and restoration to some amazing historical properties.

The Wells Field Office is working on several fuels projects in association with wildlife closures and Greater Sage Grouse habitat.

A trespass for unauthorized use was issued in 2015 and work with the solicitors office, BLM Wells Field Office and permittees is being productive resolving portions of the unauthorized use to begin restoration and rehabilitation on public lands before degradation occurs.

The Wells Field Office continues to work with the Air Force to facilitate the transfer of the excess portions of the Utah Testing and Training Range back to BLM management. Once the land is under BLM management the land would then be transferred the land to the city of West Wendover.

**Pictured right.** Built in the 1920's out of concrete, this arrow beacon was constructed to help airmail pilots navigate at night. This technology revolutionized mail service in the early 1900's. Each arrow had a tall tower with a light to make the arrows visible at night. These arrows were placed approximately every 10 miles north and point to the next arrow. The arrow in this photo is located north of I-80 in the Toano Mountain Range and is pointing to Wendover.



Elko District personnel to include the Wells Field Office burned more than 400 piles of PJ covering approximately 25 acres this winter near Spruce Mountain. The winter weather this year provided ideal conditions for prescribed burns.



# Division of Operations By Tom Warren

## Division of Operations

### Roads

The Elko District plans to complete 250 miles of road maintenance this year. To date we have completed about 140 miles since September. A lot of effort was made last fall repairing numerous washouts in the area south of Wendover. We have roads scheduled for maintenance throughout the District and will focus efforts on repairing washouts to maintain access as they develop.

### Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ES&R)

The Elko District started implementation of the 2015 ESR treatments on the Dixie and Boulder Fires in January 2016. We continue with implementation of the 2014 Bootstrap Fire ESR plan, and the five ESR plans for FY13: Wieland, Smith Creek Ranch, North Valley, Red Cow and Water Pipe. Additional contracts will be completed for temporary fence removal on previous year's fires. In addition to monitoring and seeding treatments, we will be completing noxious weed inventory and treatment.

### Range Improvements (8100 Program)



In cooperation with NDOW aerial seeding was completed on the Dixie and Boulder fires in January 2016.

The District plans to construct a number of range improvements this year. A few of the projects we are planning to implement include Hubbard Vineyard spring developments and Enclosures; Evans Flat water development Ruby 6 fence modification and removal and trough modifications; noxious weed treatments; and four cattle guard installations.

### Noxious Weeds

We plan to complete a number of noxious weed treatments. One of three Hubbard Vineyard spring developments installed last fall. Additional work is planned for this year including 2 additional spring developments and spring enclosures. We plan to complete Ruby hoary cress treatment work in the Tuscarora Area utilizing Ruby Pipeline Mitigation Funds and Ormat Mitigation funding. Our in house weed crew plans to continue treatments on a number of ongoing projects such as Frazier Creek Weed Treatment, Carlin Canyon, Cross Ranch, Black Henbane treatments in the north east corner of the district to name a few. In addition we plan to continue treatment of Medusahead infestations near the Lime Fire.



One of three Hubbard Vineyard spring developments installed last fall. Additional work is planned for this year including 2 additional spring developments and spring enclosures.

# California Trail Center

## Looking Forward

2016 is going to be an exciting year at the California Trail Center. In addition to annual programs, such as Trail Days, Native American Market, and the Humboldt River Mountain Man Rendezvous, the Trail Center is developing some new programs that are sure to be a success with visitors.

The Western Emigrant Trails Collection is a new library that will be available to the public some time in FY-16. This collection encompasses many rare and hard to find books and several journal collections focused on life on the trail.

Additionally, Trail Center employees are working to develop some new e-learning materials for educators. These materials will contain short lessons that can be used by any teacher anywhere that is interested in incorporating the pioneer experience into their lessons. A new education plan is also underway that will identify opportunities to partner with educators interested in teaching about the pioneer experience.

This year also marks the first time that the Trail Center will host a traveling exhibit, and the first exhibit will contain Native American art work created by local high school students in Owyhee, NV. Each traveling exhibit will be on display for several months in the South Fork Room with new exhibits continually rotating through the Center.

Finally, the Trail Center is excited about several partner-led programs that we are assisting with developing, and these are a renovation of the Elko Hot Springs to develop interpretive and recreational opportunities, and the adopt-a-trail program that will address maintenance and cleaning needs along the California Trail.

## Volunteers

The volunteer program at the California Trail Center grew substantially during FY-15. During FY-15 volunteers worked 3,174 hours with a value to the BLM of \$73,224.

Currently, the Trail Center schedules at least one vol-



Pictured above is the first group of California Interpretive Trail Center Docents on their last week of training in March. The new docent program began this year with six initial participants. The program is designed to provide the next level in interpretive and educational programs at the trail center and in the community.

unteer a day to greet and orient visitors to the exhibits, staff the bookstore, and provide interpretive and educational programs. Volunteers perform a vital service for the California Trail Center, and in the future the program will continue to assist the Trail Center staff with providing a high-quality experience for every visitor to the Center.

## Docents

In FY-16 Trail Center staff have been working to develop a docent program to provide a higher level of service to the many and varied Trail Center partners and visitors.

Six docents have recently completed a 24 hour training, which included a history of the BLM, interpretive techniques, and how to develop an interpretive program.

This year docents will conduct an environmental science program for local junior high students along with a literacy program for first graders. Both programs have classroom components taught in the school and field studies conducted at the Trail Center.

The docents will also provide interpretive and educational programs centered on the history of the California Trail and emigrant experience. The Trail Center staff is always interested in recruiting and training volunteers and docents to assist with both onsite and offsite programs.

## Moonlight Snowshoe Hikes are Back

Elko and the surrounding communities had snow and more snow for the first time in several years. The winter weather allowed the Bureau of Land Management, Elko District Office, the U.S. Forest Service and Cedar Creek Clothing to partner and sponsor three guided moonlight snowshoe hikes, two have already been conducted and have attracted more than 180 eager trekkers.

The first hike took place at BLM's California Interpretive Trail Center in January. The Trail Center hosted more than 120 adults and children. The snowshoe clad hikers had a choice of two hikes, one more suited to families and novice snowshoe trekkers and one for the adventurous group that included a faster pace and more hills. Both trails started at the Trail Center and headed into the hills surrounding the site.

The second hike was located near Wells, NV and in the U.S. Forest Service's Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest at Angel Lake Campground. Even with the location about an hour from Elko, 60 hearty souls braved



Mike Setlock, Tuscarora Field Office, Outdoor Recreation Specialist leads more than 100 participants out behind the Trail Center on the first moonlight snowshoe hike of the year in January 2016.



Nancy Taylor, U.S. Forest Service conducts the safety brief for the second moonlight snowshoe hike in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The hike began at the Angel Creek Campground turn off just outside of Wells, NV. More than 60 trekkers braved the 26 degree temperature for the second hike.

temps in the mid 20's for a snowshoe trek on a beautiful moonlit night. Once again this hike featured an easy trek and a much more difficult trek heading up slope to Angel Lake.

Cedar Creek Clothing in Elko provided free use of snowshoes for both hikes and Duane Jones, the owner also had a fire, hot cocoa and snacks ready to greet the hikers upon their return.

The next moonlight snowshoe trek is scheduled for Lamoille Canyon in the Ruby Mountains near Elko on March 26.

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working with all parties to implement and make changes on the ground. Congratulations to Rich on his retirement.

As you read this issue of the Elko Echo, we are moving forward in the implementation portion of the Sage-Grouse Land Use Amendment. In moving forward it is imperative the cooperators and BLM focus on how we implement the changes. We have hosted one of several meetings already this year with attendees from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife to work the issues we all face as we implement the amendment.

I encourage you to follow this link for all Greater Sage-

Grouse information. [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/prog/wildlife/greater\\_sage-grouse.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/prog/wildlife/greater_sage-grouse.html)

As always, I welcome any input, recommendations or concerns you might have in public land management and I look forward to serving the public of the Elko District.

If you are interested in getting involved, please email us at [blm\\_nv\\_eldowebmail@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nv_eldowebmail@blm.gov) and check out our website at [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html) for upcoming events or news.

*Jill Silvey,*

Elko District Manager

## Fire Prevention Participates in Community Events



Left. BLM Elko District Fire Prevention team hands out a wrist bracelet to a young child as his parents look on. The prevention team has been busy educating the communities about fire danger and handing out, flying rings, gliders, pencils, snap bracelets and information. Recreation shooting activities and prevention of shooting fires has been a focus of the prevention team this winter. Bullets hitting rocks and gravel can cause a spark and start a fire very quickly in dry conditions.

Right. BLM Elko District Fire Prevention team, Clint Mothershead (left) and Glen Uhlig (right) talk about fire prevention to a family that stopped by their booth during the Elko Sportsman Expo at the Elko Conference Center in February. The booth was located at the entrance of the expo and the team were able to reach out to more than a thousand attendees over two days. The prevention team has been busy educating the communities about fire danger and handing out, flying rings, gliders, pencils, snap bracelets and information. Recreation shooting activities and prevention of shooting fires has been a focus of the prevention team this winter.

