From the DIRECTOR

DEAR BLM VOLUNTEERS—

I am pleased to present the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Volunteer Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2007. The "numbers" continue to be impressive. Nearly 30,000 of you donated almost 1.3 million hours—equivalent to the work of more than 700 full-time employees. This publication can only begin to capture the breadth of contributions that you made to BLM last year.

BLM employees and volunteers alike are committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for present and future generations. Given 258 million acres and the vast resources the agency manages, there is no doubt that ours is a challenging mission. We rely on our volunteers to assist us with a multitude of on-the-ground projects. In 2007, for instance, volunteers removed nine tons of refuse from the Denali Highway (AK) and improved jeep trails in Colorado's Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area. They removed invasive weeds in numerous locations and planted sand pine trees at Jupiter Inlet (FL), while in Montana they helped construct fencing to keep cattle out of a Wilderness Study Area. Dedicated volunteers also helped with wild horse and burro adoptions in many states and with a large-scale horse gather operation near Grand Junction (CO).

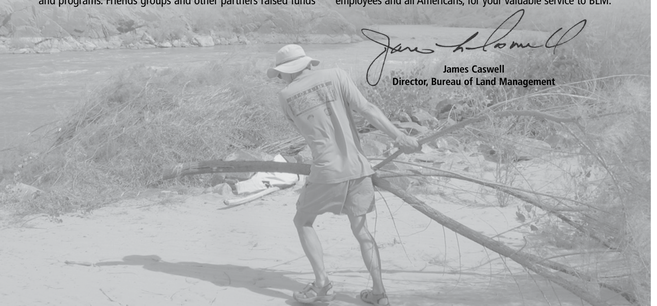
BLM partners continued to play major roles in many projects and programs. Friends groups and other partners raised funds and helped to deliver education programs at the Campbell Creek Science Center (AK) and the Desert Discovery Center (CA). The local Audubon Society helped BLM host popular nature walks at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (ES). Idaho's partnership with Oregon State University has resulted in improved understanding of several archaeological sites.

The Colorado River near Yuma (AZ), the Carson River (NV), and the Rogue River (OR) are noticeably cleaner thanks to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers. And thanks to the Fuente de Vida Riparian Restoration Project (NM), erosion is now reduced and a spring provides reliable water to livestock and wildlife. Many volunteer projects took place as part of special events such as National Public Lands Day, National Trails Day, and National River Cleanup Week. Thousands more individuals, groups, and partner organizations contribute their time and talent on a regular basis.

The work you volunteers do is not always glamorous, but it needs to be done. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne launched the Healthy Lands Initiative early in 2007—an ambitious program to "move ecosystems in decline to renewed vigor and abundance." In key areas across the West, you are taking part in restoration projects and helping us find innovative approaches to resource conflicts. Informed and involved citizens like you, who care about the land and its resources, are key partners with BLM in this important initiative.

One of my top priorities since I became Director of the BLM last year has been to look for ways to improve the way we carry out our mission. As this report makes clear, looking to volunteers makes good sense. You have played a critical role in meeting our mission goals for many years and will continue to do so in years to come. Thank you, on behalf of all BLM employees and all Americans, for your valuable service to BLM.

James Caswell
Director, Bureau of Land Management



Selected HIGHLIGHTS by BLM Program

RECREATION

GLENNALLEN, AK: On the 50th Anniversary of the scenic Denali Highway—the first motor-vehicle access into then-Mount McKinley National Park—120 volunteers met at McLaren River to remove nine tons of roadway refuse.

NEEDLES, CA: A Las Vegas Boy Scout Troop helped spruce up the entrance into Ivanpah Dry Lake. Located on the California/Nevada border in Primm, Nevada, the dry lake is closed to motorized activities but is world-renowned for wind sailing and "kite buggying."

GRAND JUNCTION, CO: The Hilltop Experiential Learning Project (HELP) provided at-risk youth with a positive learning opportunity that also benefited public lands. Crews of eight to ten young people spent one day a week during the spring and fall, contributing nearly 500 hours of service and building more than a mile of high-quality trail.

GUNNISON GORGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA (NCA), CO: In celebration of National Trails Day, the Western Slope 4 Wheelers co-sponsored an Adopt-A-Trail ride on the NCA's popular Wave-Eagle jeep trail. Volunteers picked up trash, installed signs, brushed the route, and created barricades to prevent all-terrain and full-sized vehicles from entering single-track motorized routes.

BILLINGS, MT: One volunteer single-handedly removed hundreds of pounds of trash from the 17-Mile Recreation Area. In addition, his on-site presence and vigilance so reduced the amount of trash left by others that an annual cleanup was unnecessary in 2007, saving the costs of a large-scale trash disposal project.

BILLINGS, MT: Volunteers cleared trails, trimmed trees, repaired fences, and installed signs at Sundance Lodge Recreation Area on National Trails Day.

RED ROCK CANYON NCA, NV: On Red Rock Day, a large group of volunteers participated in several maintenance and restoration projects sponsored by the Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program and Friends of Red Rock Canyon. U.S. Senator Harry Reid sent a message from the nation's capital to acknowledge and thank local volunteers.

(OR) SPOKANE, WA: In the San Juan Islands, volunteers from 21 different partner organizations contributed time to projects including beach clean-ups, creosote log surveys, cleaning/painting of two historic lighthouses, and trail maintenance. The volunteers, some from as far away as Alaska, traveled via ferry, small boat, kayak, and skiff.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

HOLLISTER, CA: Three hundred volunteers from the Warped Tour "traveling punk-rock concert festival" helped to clean up areas of the Monterey Peninsula. The BLM-hosted festival-goers worked on Fort Ord public lands, where they gathered seeds from native plants including wild roses, and removed invasive species from a fire break.

UKIAH, CA: Nearly 100 students, stakeholders, and community members built a mile-long, 300-foot-wide shaded fuel break along the edge of the 247-acre, old-growth Black Forest. Located on the slopes of Mount Konocti, the forest contains the last stands of old-growth Douglas-fir in the county and is an important peregrine falcon habitat.

(ES) JUPITER INLET, FL: U.S. Congressman Tim Mahoney was one of approximately 100 volunteers who contributed nearly 500 hours at the Jupiter Inlet Natural Area. The volunteers planted sand pine trees, picked up 300 pounds of trash, and pulled over 400 pounds of love vine.

(ES) LORTON, VA: The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia conducted 41 wildlife surveys at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, contributing more than 900 volunteer hours. And 15 mounted volunteers from the Mason Neck Horse Coalition contributed hundreds more hours in monitoring hiking trails for environmental degradation and unsafe conditions.

(ES) MILWAUKEE, WI: On National Public Lands Day, Federal agencies, local partners, residents, and Boy Scouts participated in stewardship projects to restore and beautify 50 feet of prairie mound, eradicate weeds, and plant 300 native prairie plants in the city's Urban Tree House area.

BILLINGS, MT: Volunteers worked with a BLM wildlife biologist and personnel from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to trap and relocate white-tailed prairie dogs from a site south of Belfry, Montana, to a remote area near Elk Basin, Wyoming.

MILES CITY, MT: At Oil Pump Reservoir in southeastern Montana, National Public Lands Day volunteers constructed an aerator windmill to pump air into the water in order to prevent winterkill in the fish. Because the bubbling action could create thin ice, volunteers also erected a fence around the reservoir to keep animals out.

(NM) AMARILLO, TX: West Texas A&M University volunteers set up transect lines and traps in the Cross Bar Cooperative Management Area to count small mammals, birds, and plants. Results will be used to determine the effects of prescription fires, including their timing, duration, and frequency, on area wildlife. In addition, the University has been seining ponds, West Amarillo Creek, and the Canadian River to determine the species present in those waters at Cross Bar.

WILD HORSES & BURROS

CALIFORNIA (STATEWIDE): Volunteers completed 32 percent of all BLM horse and burro adoption compliance inspections in California. These inspections went beyond evaluating the condition of animals and facilities; volunteers also provided adopter advice regarding veterinary care, gentling and training, as well as general encouragement and support.

GRAND JUNCTION, CO: Friends of the Mustang contributed 3,900 hours to the management of the Little Bookcliffs wild horse herd, including a large-scale horse gather operation in September.

WILDERNESS

ALTURAS, CA: A Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew worked on range improvements in the 17,000-acre Tule Mountain Wilderness Study Area, which required map reading and orienteering, use of global positioning system (GPS) equipment, and miles of hiking in rugged, roadless terrain.

BARSTOW, CA: SCA interns joined volunteers from the Sierra Club, off-highway vehicle organizations, and the BLM Barstow Field Office to restore an old prospector's camp to its former condition as a wilderness of piñon pines and massive granite boulders.

MISSOULA, MT: The Mile High Back Country Horsemen, Montana Conservation Corps crews, and personnel from the 341st Security Forces Group of Malmstrom Air Force Base all worked to construct fencing to keep cattle out of the Humbug Spires Wilderness Study Area south of Butte.

RIPARIAN/WATERSHED

YUMA, AZ: During the "Reverse River Run," a two-day clean-up of the Colorado River shoreline between Yuma, Arizona, and Blythe, California, boaters removed trash from both the shoreline and adjacent backwaters to promote clean and healthy Arizona waterways.

CARSON CITY, NV: More than 200 National Public Lands Day volunteers contributed 1,800 hours to clean up public lands along the Carson River, removing over 150 cubic yards of debris as well as five junked cars.

SOCORRO, NM: The Fuente de Vida Riparian Restoration project, one of eight BLM National Public Lands Day projects in New Mexico, consisted of constructing erosion control gabion baskets, placing erosion control matting, and developing a spring. Ten volunteers filled up eight 21'x6'x3' gabion baskets/erosion control structures with 14 yards of rip-rap each and also built a beautiful spring; piped out of the exclosure, the springwater provides livestock and wildlife with a reliable water source.

MEDFORD, OR: At the 15th annual Rogue River Cleanup on the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River, approximately 175 volunteers disposed of trash and cleaned up riverbanks from Grants Pass to Grave Creek. Over 8,000 pounds of trash, 61 tires, and 500 noxious weeds were removed from the BLM-administered sections of the river. The Jacoby Creek School of Bayside, California, received a BLM award recognizing the school's seven consecutive years of volunteer work on Rogue River Cleanup days.

CULTURAL/HISTORICAL

ANCHORAGE, AK: Volunteers with the Iditarod National Historic Trail assisted with marking the trail and commemorating its centennial.

TUCSON, AZ: Volunteers at the historic Empire Ranch, including Sonoita-area Boy Scouts and their fathers, cleaned up storm damage and salvaged materials for reuse. The Ranch is located within the Las Cienegas NCA.

ARIZONA STRIP, UT: The Sierra Club and BLM-Arizona conducted a weeklong, archaeology-focused volunteer vacation. Sixteen volunteer vacationers completed approximately 300 acres of block inventory within the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (NM) and located a number of small rock art sites.

ARCATA, CA: The eighth annual Weaving Connections basketweaving event was held in the King Range NCA near Whitethorn, California. California Native American groups presented weaving projects and taught participants various traditional and modern basketweaving skills.

GUNNISON GORGE NCA, CO: Students from Western Wyoming College conducted test excavations on prehistoric deposits and archaeological remains at the NCA's Gunnison River Rock Art Shelter site. Samples will be analyzed and prepared for curation at the college. Findings will be interpreted for use in the NCA's Project Archaeology and Living Classrooms programs.

ROYAL GORGE, CO: The Garden Park Paleontology Society (GPPS) worked closely with BLM to promote stewardship of the world-class fossil and historic resources of the Garden Park Fossil Area. GPPS coordinated volunteers to provide guided tours of the area for school groups and family groups.

BLACK ROCK DESERT-HIGH ROCK CANYON EMIGRANT TRAILS NCA, NV: National Public Lands Day volunteers completed a two-year project to stabilize a historic structure known as the Fox Homestead/Yellow Rock Garage, which has been restored to near-original condition. The rehabilitated building is now a sturdy shelter and an important reminder of our nation's Homestead Era.

(NM) AMARILLO, TX: Texas State University at San Marcos brought six students to a field school at Cross Bar Cooperative Management Area, where they spent eight weeks digging a site that is a prime example of the dwellings utilized by the Antelope Creek People during the 15th century. This site is one of 12 at Cross Bar that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

COEUR D'ALENE, ID: Work under BLM's partnership with Oregon State University continued at the American Bar archaeological site, which has been impacted by severe natural erosion and off-highway vehicle use. Eleven field volunteers assisted with retrieval and recordation of data, as well as collection of samples for developing paleoclimatic temperature, precipitation, and vegetation models.

COEUR D'ALENE, ID: A graduate student at Oregon State University described Elk City historic dredge mining techniques in her Master's thesis, using data generated from BLM lands. Her site descriptions, library research, and remote sensing data contributed to the cultural resources section of an Environmental Impact Statement for a major fuels reduction and stream restoration project.

EL MALPAIS NCA, NM: In 2007, a long-term volunteer completed the field portion of an ambitious rock art project, having recorded 87 prehistoric rock art sites and 17 graffiti/historic inscription sites in the NCA. She also completed the site forms and the draft summary report for all of these sites. One set of the results is now housed at the Laboratory of Anthropology in Santa Fe.

LAKEVIEW, OR: Dedicated volunteers helped to inventory and photograph more than 75 caves, several of them within Wilderness Study Areas. The information gathered will be instrumental in creating a management plan for these delicate resources.

ENERGY/MINERALS

FOLSOM, CA: Mineral program volunteers worked with BLM staff on the Boston Mine mercury cleanup project. For their efforts, they were presented with a 2007 Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Award.

BILLINGS, MT: A volunteer inspected eight abandoned oil and gas wells for adequacy of surface reclamation work. The volunteer worked with a BLM natural resource specialist on the resulting inspection reports, which included recommendations for any additional reclamation work or approval of final abandonment.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/ INTERPRETATION

ANCHORAGE, AK: Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center raised $65,000 to enable low-income schoolchildren to attend programs at the Science Center free of charge.

BARSTOW, CA: The Desert Discovery Center (DDC), a unique partnership, hosted nearly 3,000 local elementary and intermediate students for half-day and whole-day programs on biology, botany, "Leave No Trace" ethics, and the "Closing the Loop" curriculum.

(ES) LORTON, VA: BLM and the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia initiated a monthly series of weekend nature walks at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area. During these popular walks, experienced naturalists shared their expertise with the public on a variety of topics, from migratory and neotropical birds to wetland wildlife species.

SALEM, OR: On Earth Day, volunteers at the Aquila Vista Environmental Education Center created a three-panel information kiosk, which provides local school groups with science-based information on the unique natural resources of the Molalla River Recreation Corridor and surrounding areas.

OTHER

ANCHORAGE, AK: A volunteer who faithfully takes on the unglamorous task of shredding reams of correspondence often spends her days surrounded by huge bags of shredded paper ready to be recycled. Her contributions have helped the Alaska State Office make progress toward becoming a "paperless office."

FAIRBANKS, AK: Bob and Thelma Bowser completed their 15th year at the Yukon River Crossing Contact Station on the remote Dalton Highway. These dedicated volunteers are a welcome sight to travelers heading north to the Arctic Circle, the Brooks Range, and Prudhoe Bay.

RIDGECREST, CA: Administrative volunteers help keep the front office functioning smoothly by answering telephones, greeting visitors, organizing the library, and scanning photographs.

SPECIAL EVENTS

"MAKING A DIFFERENCE" NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS—BLM presented eight "Making a Difference" Awards for outstanding volunteer service/program leadership in 2007. The honorees were: Black Canyon Trail Coalition, Black Canyon City, AZ; Mark Watkins, Barstow, CA; Brent Owen & Kimberly Hawkins, Redding, CA; Ken Emory, Montrose, CO; 341st Security Forces Group, Ft. Benton, MT; Brian Doyal, Carson City, NV; Harold Scott Richardson, Kanab, UT; and BLM employee Doug Huntington, Eugene, OR. Photos and winner profiles are available on the BLM Volunteer Program website at *http://www.blm.gov/volunteer* as well as the Department of the Interior's "People Land & Water" newsmagazine site at *http://www.peoplelandandwater.gov.*

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY—In 2007, National Public Lands Day engaged the services of an estimated 100,000 volunteers on projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and locations overseas. BLM provided nearly 10,000 volunteers at 105 sites in 18 states, generating millions of dollars in enhancements to BLM public lands and facilities. More information on National Public Lands Day is available at *http://www.publiclandsday.org.*

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

As with all of BLM, volunteer contributions to the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) are highly valued and vitally important to meeting mission goals. In FY 2007, volunteers contributed 276,313 to National Monuments (NM) and National Conservation Areas (NCA), Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Scenic and Historic Trails. These hours are included in the chart below, as are the 27,784 hours spent in Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. Community support for the mission of the NLCS and BLM is reflected in the hundreds of people who volunteered at such units as Sloan Canyon NCA (NV), seen below. Nearby Red Rock Canyon NCA and the San Pedro Riparian NCA in Arizona were each the beneficiary of more than 20,000 volunteer hours in 2007.

National Volunteer Totals for Fiscal Year 2007

Program	Volunteer Hours[1]	Donated/Hosted Worker Hours[1]	Total Hours
Recreation	508,630	67,480	576,110
Biological Resources	69,141	48,191	117,332
Wild Horses and Burros	57,331	89,765	147,096
Cadastral Survey	5,555	0	5,555
Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	19,744	8,040	27,784
Riparian/Watershed	26,956	19,328	46,284
Cultural/Historical	154,485	11,466	165,951
Minerals	7,725	1,768	9,493
Support Services	39,753	8,981	48,734
Environmental Education/Interpretation	63,065	7,824	70,889
Other	37,349	33,102	70,451
Total[2]	**989,733**	**295,945**	**1,285,678**
Funds Expended[2]	**$1,065,308**	**$208,444**	**$1,273,752**
Value of Work[2,3]	**$19,309,690**	**$5,773,882**	**$25,083,572**

Volunteer Activity for Fiscal Years 2002-2007

Year	Total Hours	Value to BLM ($)	Work Years[2]	Value of 1 Work Hour ($)[3]	Value of 1 Work Year ($)
2007	1,285,678	25,083,572[1]	714	19.51	35,118
2006	1,346,674	25,277,121	748	18.77	33,786
2005	1,292,859	23,323,176	718	18.04	32,472
2004	1,506,365	26,436,706	837	17.55	31,590
2003	1,553,014	26,696,311	863	17.19	30,942
2002	1,231,245	20,364,792	684	16.54	29,772

[1] The 2007 volunteer program was implemented at a cost of $1,273,752, for a return of about $19.69 for every $1.00 expended.

[2] 1 work year = 1,800 hours

[3] The value of volunteer contributions is calculated annually by Independent Sector (*www.independentsector.org*), a national leadership forum committed to volunteerism and citizen action. The amount is based on the latest data available on the average hourly wage for nonagricultural workers as published in the yearly Economic Report of the President.

Summary of BLM State Office Volunteer Contributions, Fiscal Year 2007

State	Hours	Value[1]	Work Years[2]	Number of Individuals
Alaska	44,854	$875,102	25	2559
Arizona	143,551	$2,800,680	80	2,576
California	276,579	$5,396,056	154	10,124
Colorado	211,280	$4,122,072	117	3,962
Eastern States	26,570	$518,381	15	689
Idaho	47,500	$926,725	26	1,155
Montana	32,682	$637,626	18	770
Nevada	77,139	$1,504,982	43	1,936
New Mexico	108,601	$2,118,806	60	698
Oregon	217,323	$4,239,972	121	3,575
Utah	74,424	$1,452,012	41	1,103
Wyoming	24,843	$484,687	14	696
National Interagency Fire Center	72	$1,405	0	3
National Operations Center	260	$5,073	0	5
Totals[3]	**1,285,678**	**$25,083,572**	**714**	**29,851**

[1] Based on a rate of $19.51 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector (*www.independentsector.org*).

[2] 1 work year = 1,800 hours

[3] Totals may be off due to rounding.

◀ **National Volunteer Totals for Fiscal Year 2007**

[1] The term "volunteer," as used in the rest of this report, includes "donated/hosted workers." Volunteers work for BLM without being paid. They donate their time and, in some instances, equipment and money to assist BLM with a variety of jobs. Donated or hosted workers, on the other hand, are paid by another organization but work for BLM at no charge. Hosted workers made up about 23 percent of the total volunteer time in 2007.

[2] Totals may be slightly off as a result of rounding.

[3] Based on a rate of $19.51 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector (*www.independentsector.org*).

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Cover: Young volunteers remove love vine from Jupiter Inlet Outstanding Natural Area, Florida. (Shayne Banks, BLM)

For more information on the BLM Volunteer Program, including a list of partner organizations cited for special acknowledgment by our State and Field Offices, please visit our website at *http://www.blm.gov/volunteer.*

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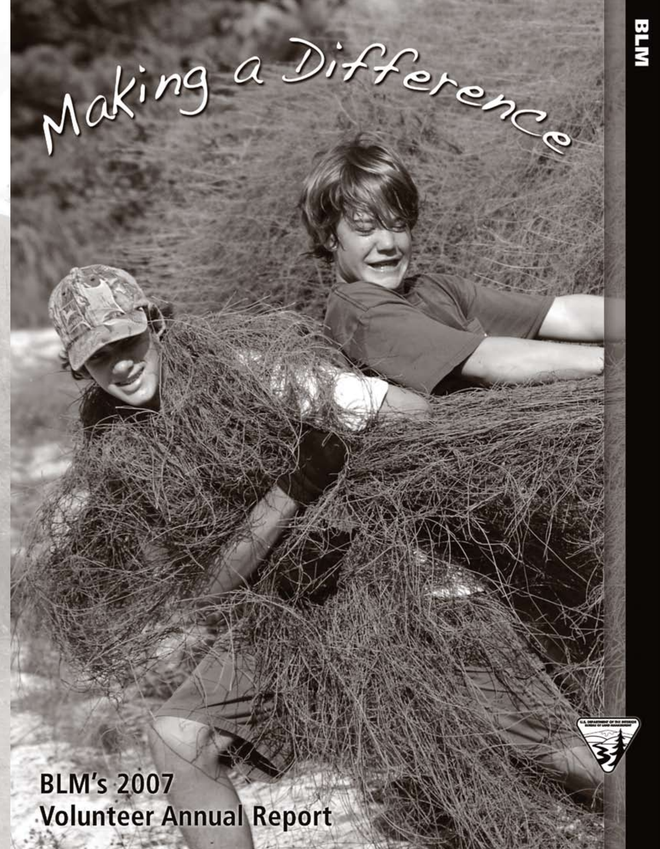

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