BLM

Making a DIFFERENCE

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BLM's 2012 Volunteer Annual Report

From the Principal Deputy DIRECTOR

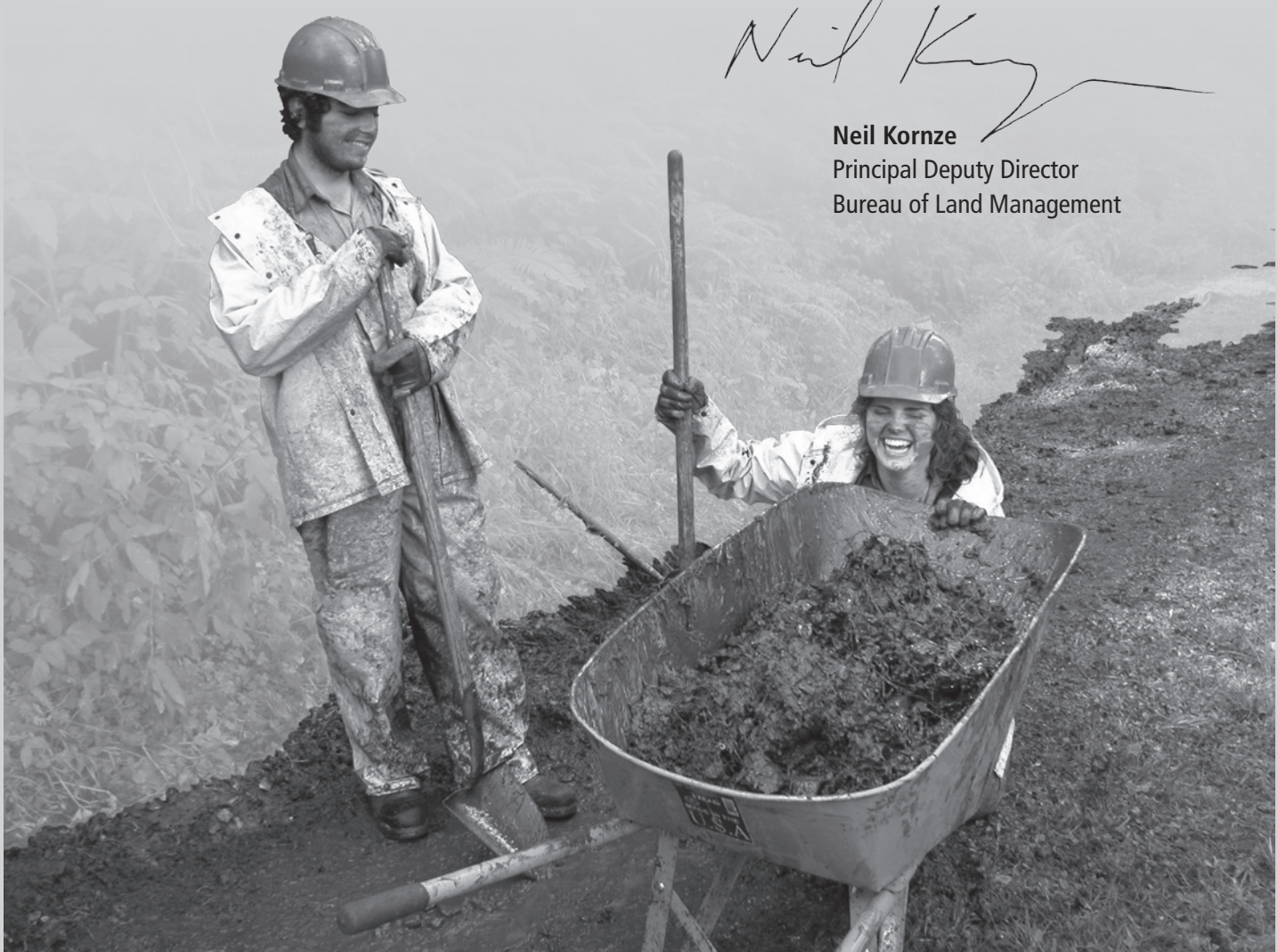
On behalf of the Secretary of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), I am pleased to present our agency's "Making a Difference" Volunteer Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012. The contributions of volunteers are critical in helping the BLM fulfill its core mission: to manage public land uses and resources for current and future generations of Americans.

The men and women of the BLM work tirelessly to preserve our public lands in many ways. As the nation's largest land manager, the BLM also relies on the thousands of volunteers who offer their time in service to the nation's natural and cultural resources. We are proud to bring so many people together to help sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands.

In Fiscal Year 2012, more than 30,000 individuals gave of their time and energy to help accomplish the complex, challenging work of the BLM. Our volunteers come from all corners of America, serving their nation and communities by removing trash from trails and roads, conducting restoration work, telling the story of the public lands through interpretive projects, serving as campground hosts, collecting data for conservation efforts, and making numerous other contributions. In fact, BLM volunteers contributed more than 1.1 million hours of their time and talent in FY 2012; that figure is the equivalent of 637 work years, a level of support for which we are truly grateful. The BLM deeply values the commitment and enthusiasm of our volunteers, and we look forward to the continued benefits their service brings to our nation and its people.

Sincerely,

Neil Kornze
Principal Deputy Director
Bureau of Land Management



Selected HIGHLIGHTS *by BLM Program*

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Burns District, OR: A hosted worker contributed 1,800 hours as the Strategic Weed Attack Team (SWAT) crew leader. The SWAT is a joint venture between the BLM and other state and federal agencies. This hosted worker trained new crew members, kept equipment up to date and functional, ensured all SWAT vehicles were properly cared for, maintained inventory, and collated all field data. He also ran the BLM's complicated global positioning system (GPS) units and effectively educated new staff members on the software.

Southern Nevada Field Office, NV: Twenty-four BLM employees and volunteers participated in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Christmas Bird Count. More than 1,600 individual birds representing 63 species were identified and counted, including a beautiful male Merlin and another falcon. This "count circle" is one of more than 2,200 areas surveyed at this time of year. Data is submitted to the National Audubon Society and is used for a variety of population studies.

South Dakota Field Office, SD: More than 40 participants representing a variety of partner organizations planted 125 native shrubs to stabilize, beautify, and improve habitat on a steep hill in the Fort Meade Area of Critical Environmental Concern. They also removed 1.5 miles of unneeded, damaged, three-wire fence.

CADASTRAL SURVEY

Eastern States Office, VA: More than 180 volunteers and staff members came together at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in support of National Public Lands Day. Volunteers participated in events over 3 days, including surveying boundary lines. One volunteer crew, led by BLM cadastral survey staff members, traversed through water and brush along the Meadowood boundary to replace boundary line posts.

Burley Field Office, ID: Members of the Cache Peak chapter of Back Country Horsemen of America provided vital assistance to the BLM when they saddled up their horses and installed boundary marker signs in the Cedar Fields area near Burley, Idaho. The challenging landscape and sheer distance of the signage project called for saddle and pack horses to provide the BLM staff and volunteers with better access to the area. Nearly a mile of boundary markers delineating land managed by the Idaho Department of Lands and the BLM was installed in steep, rocky terrain.

CULTURAL and PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Taos Field Office, NM: For the 11th straight year, the BLM worked with a nonprofit group on a 2-week petroglyph recording project on Mesa Prieta. Local student volunteers included Native Americans from the Ohkay-Owingeh and Taos Pueblos, as well as youths from several towns in north-central New Mexico. The youths used GPS technology, digital photography, and extensive written documentation to record hundreds of petroglyphs that were discovered during the inventory. Data recorded during the project has been put into a geographic information system (GIS) database that will become a powerful tool for data curation and research.

EDUCATION and INTERPRETATION

Central Yukon Field Office, AK: The Arctic Interagency Visitor Center in Coldfoot, Alaska, hosted its first group of high school volunteers from Anaktuvuk Pass. The students located and cast animal tracks found along the Koyukuk River and worked with a BLM volunteer biologist to survey local boreal owl nesting boxes for new recruits. Students visited the famous Toolik Field Station to observe scientists engaged in some of the most intensive Arctic research in the world. The students also developed and presented an interpretive program in which they shared an oral history of their lives in the remote village of Anaktuvuk Pass as well as their visions for its future.

California Desert District, CA: A Girl Scout aspiring to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award developed and helped staff a Leave No Trace challenge course and exhibit for the Los Angeles County Fair. The project involved planning the exhibit, constructing props, and conducting training sessions about Leave No Trace principles. This challenge course and exhibit will likely become a permanent part of the America's Great Outdoors exhibit, which will be used during future fairs and visited by students year-round.

Gunnison Field Office, CO: Volunteer efforts to organize and lead activities were integral to this year's Gunnison Sage-Grouse Festival, held at Western State Colorado University. Volunteers offered a dog training seminar, hosted interpretive exhibits, oversaw a kids' craft corner, and hosted a live raptor display. The festival drew approximately 1,000 people.

Billings Field Office, MT: More than 200 volunteers gave 6,500 hours of service at Pompeys Pillar National Monument throughout the year. Volunteers ran the gift shop, greeted visitors, offered interpretive programs (both formal and informal), conducted inventories, and assisted with weed removal and maintenance. The volunteers also helped present environmental education programs to more than 2,000 schoolchildren.

Worland Field Office, WY: As part of an ongoing effort at P Bar Cave, a group of volunteers provided vital assistance in managing the area of critical environmental concern and assessing the bat population. The cave opening is located in the Bighorn National Forest and the karst passages wind through BLM-administered public lands. Volunteers mapped additional karst areas, traced groundwater to determine resurgences of the main cave stream, and carried out bat census work and sonic data logging within the cave.

ENERGY and MINERALS

Buffalo Field Office, WY: Employees partnered with nonprofit and corporate volunteers on a 50-hour, 10-day project in the southern Big Horn Mountains. Participants focused on improving wildlife conditions, fixing water-monitoring systems, conserving mountain mahogany (a native shrub in Wyoming), and educating the next generation of community and energy industry leaders.

RECREATION

Kingman Field Office, AZ: A local Boy Scout organized the installation of a kiosk and a trash cleanup on nearly 100 acres of BLM lands in the Hualapai Mountains, earning the rank of Eagle Scout for his efforts. More than 30 volunteers, including many youths, logged over 400 hours. Interpretive material that focuses on Leave No Trace ethics, camping limits, and illegal dumping was placed in the new kiosk. Since the event, target shooters have been more responsible about picking up their shooting debris and illegal dumping has significantly decreased in the area.

Redding Field Office, CA: Volunteers from multiple local partner organizations completed more than 18 miles of trails along with three trailheads and numerous trail bridges. Trail groups worked throughout the year to clear brush, build bridges, and cut trail tread. This work was the culmination of more than 2 years of trail building, with over $200,000 contributed by BLM's local partners. The trail system links

three trail networks together: the Clear Creek Greenway trails, Swasey Recreation Area trails, and National Park Service's Buck Hollow and Salt Creek Trails located within the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Taos Field Office, NM: Twenty-four volunteers contributed about 10,000 hours to help the BLM ensure a positive visitor experience at the Rio Grande Gorge Recreation Area. Volunteers served as campground hosts; staffed the Rio Grande Gorge and Wild Rivers Visitor Centers; kept facilities clean, safe, and well maintained; and patrolled dispersed recreation sites. One volunteer organized the third annual "A Landscape Perspective" art show at the Rio Grande Gorge Visitor Center.

Lakeview District Office, OR: Volunteers from the Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association built a fence adjacent to the Lost Forest Research Natural Area. The Lost Forest is directly adjacent to the Christmas Valley Sand Dunes Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and while the dunes are open to cross-country travel by off-highway vehicles (OHVs), the Lost Forest is not. To reduce OHV travel into the Lost Forest, volunteers installed several hundred feet of barricade in just a few hours.

RIPARIAN and WATERSHED

Moab Field Office, UT: Students and teachers from the Southwest Open School in Cortez, Colorado, volunteered at a BLM riparian restoration site along the Dolores River. The group cut and planted willows, fixed fences, and watered restoration plantings.

Southeastern States Field Office, FL: Youth volunteers from Jupiter High School's Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy used the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area as part of their Hands on the Land outdoor classroom. Each month, they spent hours getting their hands dirty conducting water quality studies and aquatic species diversity studies in the wetlands. Students collected and compiled data and reported it to the BLM. The youths got hands-on experience and were exposed to natural resource fields of study while the BLM gained valuable research information that would not otherwise be collected.

WILD HORSES and BURROS

Billings Field Office, MT: Volunteers and staff members worked together on the Pryor Mountain Horse Gather and Adoption Team, which led to a 100 percent adoption rate for horses gathered this year. The team spent weeks planning and carrying through a bait trap gather, and they captured close to 150 horses and removed 38 adults and 7 foals. The event was well received for its transparency to the public.

Battle Mountain District, NV: A long-time volunteer with the wild horse and burro program contributed more than 200 hours to two spring gather and adoption efforts, putting in long hours in inclement weather. His knowledge of animal handling and safety, documentation needs, and the controversial nature of gather operations, along with his sensitivity in working with the public, resulted in safe, smoothly run events.

WILDERNESS and WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Gunnison Field Office, CO: In 2012, Gunnison High School students completed a rapid assessment in the Powderhorn Wilderness, documenting campsite impacts along two wilderness corridors. Using GIS analysis and GPS units and cameras, students located and documented impacts at 45 remote back-country campsites. Through this innovative partnership, students applied skills learned in the classroom while helping preserve their local wilderness.

Boise District, ID: More than 60 individuals, from ages 5 to 70, joined BLM employees at Pole Creek Wilderness for National Public Lands Day. These volunteers, along with multiple partner organizations, provided the muscle, energy, and enthusiasm to build 300 feet of fence and install a new information kiosk at the entrance to Pole Creek Wilderness on the Owyhee Uplands Back Country Byway.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY PROJECTS

Fairbanks District Office, AK: The Arctic Interagency Visitor Center in Coldfoot, Alaska, enlisted "star power" for its Adopt-a-Highway cleanup project on the Dalton Highway, Alaska's only road connection to the Arctic Ocean. Visitor center staff and local volunteers were joined by three Carlile Transportation Systems truckers who have been featured on the History Channel's reality television show "Ice Road Truckers." These truckers know the Dalton Highway inside out and are strong advocates for keeping the highway and surrounding public lands litter-free. Despite drizzly weather, the event drew 20 people, who picked up trash along a section of the highway about 70 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The volunteers also helped dedicate the highway's first recycling containers, which will be installed at the visitor center next spring.

National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), ID: A veteran of the war in Afghanistan volunteered with the Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) program at NIFC. He assisted electronic technicians in the calibration and repair of weather sensors used throughout the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands for fire predictive services and fire incident response. The volunteer was placed through the Wounded Warrior Project while transitioning back to civilian life and learned new skills to diversify his resume.

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

In FY 2012, volunteers contributed 488,598 hours of service to National Conservation Lands. This represents an increase of 61 percent from the previous year and reflects a true commitment to the conservation of our public lands. These hours are included in the figures in the charts presented in this report. Volunteer contributions to national monuments, national conservation areas, and wilderness areas are an essential component of the BLM's stewardship of these precious resources.

There are countless examples of steadfast community support for National Conservation Lands. For instance, the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument contributed thousands of hours of service on multiple projects. Their work included an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project, which involved locating the remains of an 1891 schoolhouse near Cordes Junction, Arizona, and unveiling this new interpretive site on February 14, 2012, as part of the State of Arizona's centennial celebration.

National Volunteer Totals for Fiscal Year 2012 [1]

Program	Volunteer Hours	Donated/Hosted Work Hours	Total Hours
Recreation	458,209	129,956	588,165
Biological Resources	39,752	59,993	99,745
Wild Horses and Burros	21,824	93,100	114,924
Cadastral Survey	338	0	338
Wilderness/Wilderness Study Area	24,814	22,769	47,583
Riparian/Watershed	16,947	14,403	31,350
Cultural/Paleontological	72,751	14,364	87,115
Energy/Minerals	4,116	200	4,316
Support Services	36,754	15,557	52,311
Education/Interpretation	65,788	27,904	93,692
Other	17,761	9,134	26,895
Total [2]	759,054	387,380	1,146,434
Funds Expended	$445,270	$525,612	$970,882
Value of Work [2,3]	$16,805,456	$8,576,593	$25,382,049

Volunteer Activity for Fiscal Years 2005-2012

Fiscal Year	Total Hours	Value to BLM [1]	Work Years [2]	Value of 1 Work Hour [3]	Value of 1 Work Year
2012	1,146,434	$25,382,049	637	$22.14	$39,852
2011	1,187,726	$25,880,550	660	$21.79	$39,222
2010	1,244,782	$26,588,544	692	$21.36	$38,448
2009	1,132,936	$23,621,716	629	$20.85	$37,530
2008	1,202,257	$24,345,704	668	$20.25	$36,450
2007	1,285,678	$25,083,578	714	$19.51	$35,118
2006	1,346,674	$25,277,071	748	$18.77	$33,786
2005	1,292,859	$23,323,176	718	$18.04	$32,472

1 The 2012 volunteer program was accomplished at a cost of $970,882, for a return of roughly $26.14 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 nonprofit leadership forum committed to volunteerism and citizen action. The dollar figure is based on the latest data available for the average hourly wage for nonagricultural workers as published in the yearly "Economic Report of the President."

Summary of BLM State Office Volunteer Contributions for Fiscal Year 2012

State Office	Hours	Value [1]	Work Years [2]	Number of Individuals
Alaska	45,920	$1,016,669	25.5	2,266
Arizona	141,882	$3,141,267	78.8	1,739
California	233,650	$5,173,011	129.8	7,890
Colorado	222,628	$4,928,984	123.7	4,311
Eastern States	11,959	$264,772	6.6	662
Idaho	42,822	$948,079	23.8	2,251
Montana	41,045	$908,736	22.8	1,089
Nevada	65,413	$1,448,244	36.3	3,553
New Mexico	71,832	$1,590,360	39.9	954
Oregon	166,020	$3,675,683	92.2	3,507
Utah	68,968	$1,526,952	38.3	1,720
Wyoming	32,483	$719,174	18.1	891
National Interagency Fire Center	1,004	$22,229	0.6	25
National Operations Center	808	$17,889	0.5	2
Total [3]	1,146,434	$25,382,049	636.9	30,860

1 Based on a rate of $22.14 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector *(www.independentsector.org)*.
2 1 work year = 1,800 hours.
3 Totals may be slightly off due to rounding.

◀ 1 The term *volunteer* as used in this report includes *donated workers*. Volunteers do not receive pay for their service to the BLM. They donate their time, and in some instances, equipment and money to assist the BLM with a variety of tasks. Donated or hosted workers, by contract, receive compensation by another organization but work for the BLM at no charge. Hosted workers made up approximately 33.7 percent of total volunteer time in 2012.
2 Totals may be slightly off due to rounding.
3 Based on a rate of $22.14 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector *(www.independentsector.org)*.

SPECIAL EVENTS

National Public Lands Day: In 2012, National Public Lands Day engaged the services of an estimated 175,000 volunteers working on 2,415 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Of these, more than 10,000 were BLM volunteers who performed work on 218 projects at 137 sites hosted by 89 field offices in 16 states. These projects produced at least $1.5 million in enhancements to the BLM's public lands and facilities. More information on National Public Lands Day is available at ***www.publiclandsday.org.***

Secretary of the Interior's "Partners in Conservation" Awards: Three BLM-led partnerships received 2012 Secretarial "Partners in Conservation" Awards for achievements in conservation, resource preservation, land management innovation, and engagement of diverse entities. The winning partnerships were the Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial Partnership (Alaska), Phoenix District Youth Initiative (Arizona), and Ute Learning Garden (Colorado). Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes presented the awards at a special ceremony in Washington, DC.

BLM "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards: A record 49 nominations were received for the 2013 annual volunteer program awards, which recognize contributions from volunteers in 2012. The Standard Award honorees were Linda and Ray Panter, Central Yukon Field Office, AK, and Joshua Barlow, Price Field Office, UT. Lifetime Achievement Award honorees were the Upper Ridge Wilderness Association, Redding Field Office, CA; Illa Willmore, Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, MT; and Annette Froehlich, Las Cruces District Office, NM. The winning BLM employee was Warren J. Trogden, Sr., Challis Field Office, ID. Photos and winner profiles are available on the BLM volunteer program website at ***www.blm.gov/volunteer.***

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Cover: Southern Nevada District Office employees and volunteers from Pick Up America joined forces for a community cleanup. Pick Up America has traveled the country promoting trash pickups through activities such as the construction of a 20-foot unicorn in Las Vegas made of used plastic bottles. **(Credit: BLM-Nevada)**

For more information on the BLM volunteer program, please visit our website at *www.blm.gov/volunteer.*

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