



**NATIONAL FISHING and BOATING WEEK
2007 Report
U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**



Overview

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages fish habitat on public lands, including over 144,000 miles of streams and almost 3 million acres of reservoirs and natural lakes. The BLM Fisheries Program conducts highly effective fish conservation activities on diverse water bodies, ranging from desert springs harboring sensitive endemic species to large river systems supporting steelhead, Pacific salmon, and other fish of high commercial and recreational value.

The BLM supports the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) priority of Cooperative Conservation. The BLM Fisheries Program also supports the DOI Mission to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage. We support this priority and mission by working with partners to protect, enhance, and restore natural resources, and by improving our accessibility on BLM-managed lands. Environmental education and stewardship plays an important role in making the public more “aware” and appreciative of the value of these natural resources.

The BLM continues to improve recreational fishing opportunities on BLM-managed waters, support public outreach and education, and encourage public participation in fisheries conservation. The BLM Fisheries Program advances these goals in part by supporting and participating in National Fishing and Boating Week (NFBW) events across the country.

National Fishing and Boating Week 2007

The BLM has been working with its partners in industry, the general public, with private conservation leaders, federal and state natural resource agencies, and many others since the start of NFBW in 2001, and its predecessor, National Fishing Week events since 1979, to introduce young people to fishing and boating, and to encourage aquatic stewardship.

The BLM was an active partner of the NFBW Steering Committee in 2007. The BLM held twenty-two events during NFBW in ten states with significant amounts of BLM-managed lands. In 2007, slightly less than 5,000 students and their families participated in NFBW events that were either hosted or sponsored by the BLM, which is approximately one thousand less participants than 2006, with one-third less events. The next page provides a chart depicting each state's participation in NFBW events. This report summarizes the activities conducted by the BLM offices that participated in NFBW events in 2007, which was celebrated June 2nd – June 10th.

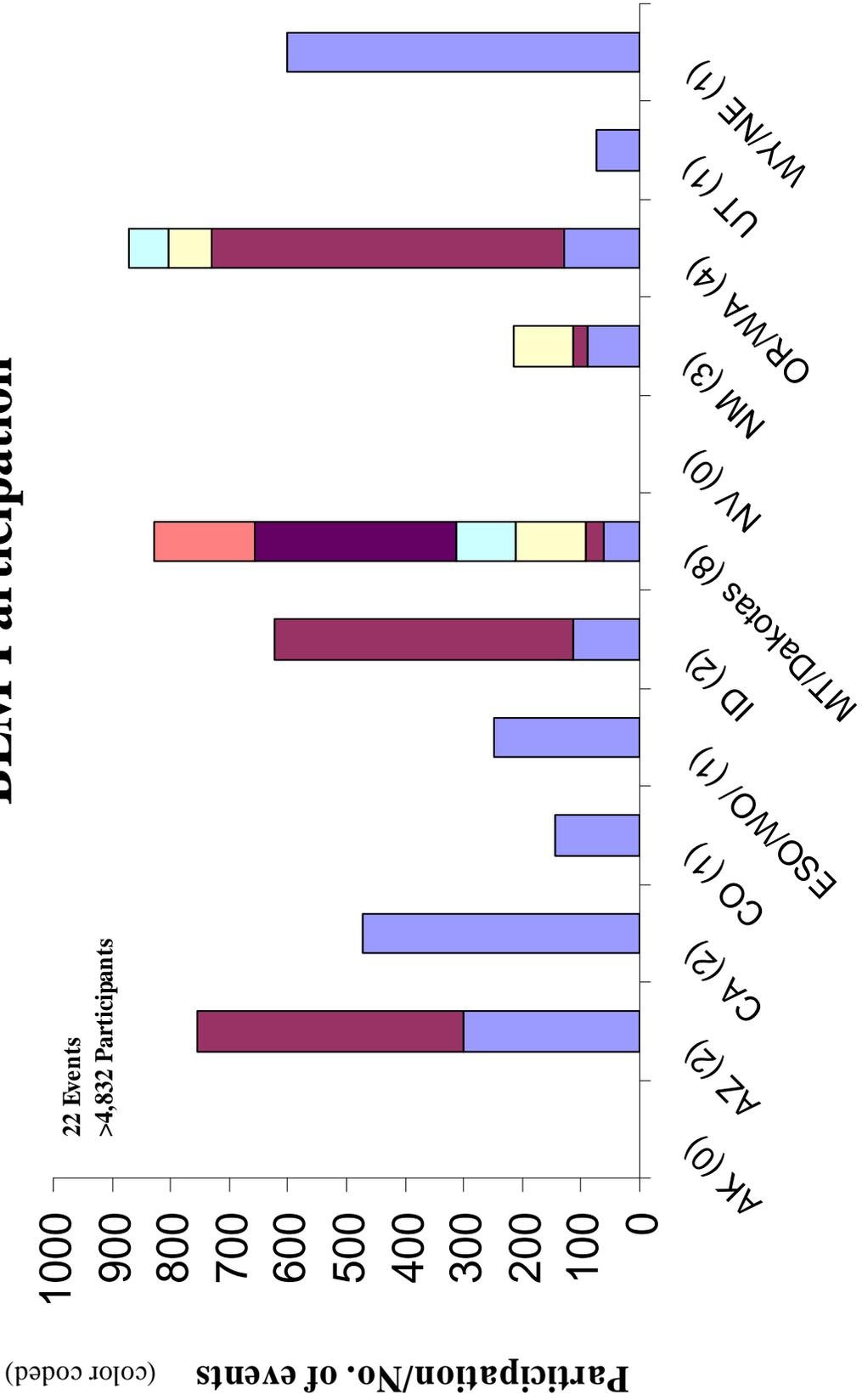
National Fishing and Boating Week 2008

The next National Fishing and Boating Week is celebrated June 1 – June 8, 2008. The BLM has been proud to participate in National Fishing Week and NFBW events for more than twenty-six years. The NFBW 2008 celebration incorporates the “*Passport to Fishing and Boating*” educational program, developed by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF), and their “Take Me Fishing” campaign. Safe fishing and boating are taught to the youngsters along with environmental stewardship at NFBW events, so that participants may develop a better appreciation for the environment.

We look forward to working with all our valued partners to continue the success of National Fishing and Boating Week in 2008 and beyond.

National Fishing & Boating Week 2007

BLM Participation



Participating States (No. of events)

ARIZONA

Lake Havasu Field Office

La Paz County “Take a Kid Fishing Day”

The LHFO recreation branch supported the 26th annual La Paz County “Take a Kid Fishing Day”, traditionally held on Presidents Day. Several members of our staff helped community organizers and Arizona Game and Fish Department officials treat over 300 kids and family members to a memorable day of catching rainbow trout, donated by AZGFD, and stocked in three ponds located in La Paz County Park (BLM R&PP lease), on the banks of the lower Colorado River.



Long time Havasu Fisheries Program partner Brad Jacobson (AZGFD) working the ticket lottery cage, and event coordinator Walter Shontz on the Bull horn.



Brother and sister with a good morning at the pond.

National Fishing and Boating Week

During National Fishing and Boating Week the BLM coordinated awareness events at local elementary summer school program sessions with the Lake Havasu City Parks Department. During June 5 – 8, Kirk Koch visited five local schools to spread the message about fishing, National Fishing and Boating Week, and Free Fishing Day on June 9th. He also spoke about fish habitat and free fishing facilities developed on Lake Havasu for the benefit of the public. Arizona Game and Fish, and California Fish and Game Departments provided handouts, posters and give-away items for the kids. Approximately 456 students got the message directly, and showed enthusiastic support for the subject.

CALIFORNIA

2007 Susan River Junior Fishing Derby How Do You Measure Success? 18 years of Family Fun

On Saturday April 21, 2007, 472 young people ages 2 through 15 participated in the 18th annual Susan River Fishing Derby, held on a 2.5 mile segment of the river that flows through the middle of Susanville and the outskirts of town, on lands managed by the Eagle Lake Field Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It is always a pleasure to know that our management of public lands provides access for such positive events as this one.

The 10-hour long Derby provided incentives to get young people interested in healthy outdoor activities. Even after 18 years, the community anticipation was contagious; the young people couldn't seem to wait to have that all important family day on the river. We might think it is about who wins the prizes or how many fish someone catches, but that is only part of the attraction. I believe that the old saying "sometimes it's more about the fishin, than the catchin" sums up the most important part of the event. Catching fish seems to come in second to spending time with Mom or Dad. I must admit that if your child was the one to catch the lunker, the fish that almost breaks their rod and that takes 15 minutes to land, that the memory of this day takes on a whole new meaning. Planning for the Derby starts as soon as the last one ends; over the next year funds are raised by the Lassen County Sportsmen Club to provide money to stock trout in the Susan River.

Local businesses donate prizes and local grocery stores donate food for a free breakfast and lunch for the young people. Thanks to recommendations from local sportsmen, the State Department of Fish and Game authorized the Derby to be held the week before the opening of the regular fishing season, so that only young people that entered the Derby are able to fish on the designated segment of the Susan River.

If the success of the event could be measured in smiles, we had smiles as wide as the river.



COLORADO

Take A Family Fishing June 9, 2007 Lake Lehow, Littleton, Colorado

Take a Family Fishing (TAFF) is an educational program for families with kids ages 5 and up sponsored by a partnership of eight federal, state and private entities. Committee members represent: Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Denver Water, and the Wright and McGill Company, manufacturers of Eagle Claw fishing equipment.

This year we celebrated the 14th anniversary of our Colorado fishing event and 5th year at Denver Water's Lake Lehow, the permanent home of TAFF. In addition, we marked our third year as a Take Pride in America event. Thanks to the continued dedication of our volunteers Dick Crysedale and Darrell Cauley (retired, BOR), Jay O'Shea (retired, NPS) and John Turley (retired, Marathon Oil Company), we were able to accommodate our participants on a limited amount of shore access due to high water from very high spring runoff. These volunteers have plans to begin additional site improvements this fall to enhance erosion control and shoreline access.

The goal of TAFF is to introduce youngsters and their families to fishing and the aquatic environment through a positive learning experience. Our final registration showed a total of 260 participants, of which 145 were children. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful sunny day with temperatures in the low 80s -- a perfect fishing day! In spite of the high lake water levels, there was plenty of room for everyone to fish and nearly everyone caught fish!

During registration, participants received sunglasses, visors, and Take Pride in America tattoos. This year's photo ops included agency mascots Ernie Eagle from Eagle Claw Fishing, the Blue Goose from the Fish and Wildlife Service, and Woodsy Owl and Smokey Bear from the US Forest Service. Families began their fishing event with the education stations at Denver Water's Kassler Education Center. There they learned about Knot Tying and Rigging; Aquatic Ecology; Angler Ethics/Fishing Tackle/Baits/Licenses; Fish Biology/Anatomy; and the Fish Tanks, which contained several species of sport fish for the kids to identify and gently handle. The Boating and Safety station, just outside the education building, was taught by Colorado State Parks rangers. Families learned how to properly fit lifejackets to youngsters, and the kids got to climb aboard the boat.

After a short casting lesson on dry land, participants were escorted across the road to Lake Lehow, where fishing was excellent. An estimated 350 fish were caught, mostly rainbow trout and bluegills.

The young anglers and their families were then treated to a hot dog lunch under the picnic pavilion. Each child received a fishing rod and tackle box full of goodies that included fishing tackle, educational information and fun stuff contributed by TAFF sponsors.

The Colorado TAFF program depends on its volunteers to succeed. This year approximately 90 volunteers showed up to help with all aspects of the program, from parking cars and teaching, to fish cleaning and refreshments. Volunteers were employees or retirees of the sponsoring agencies and their family members. Volunteers also came from Trout Unlimited. Each volunteer received a Take Pride in America brochure and BLM water bottle.

BLM Colorado State Office (CSO) TAFF committee members and education coordinators are Marion Malinowski (Fluid Minerals Geologist and Colorado BLM Environmental Education Coordinator) and Jay Thompson (Colorado BLM Fisheries Program Lead). Educational information presented at the Colorado TAFF event is based on the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's *Passport to Fishing and Boating Curriculum*. CSO graphic artist, Renee Garfias, created our new logo by adding small fry to her original adult fish to reflect our family event. Marion chaired the entire event this year; Jay was the station whistle blower, getting participants from station to station; Candy Willer, CSO volunteer, helped with refreshments; and Marion's NPS husband, Bob Higgins, instructed at the casting stations. Other BLM affiliates included Ed Barbour, Eldridge Hardie, Don White, and Rick Roline at lake fishing; Curt Hoffman, casting; Will Samuel, grilling; and Mary White, registration.



Very full Lake Lehow in Littleton, Colorado



Mascots Ernie Eagle (Eagle Claw Fishing Equipment), Blue Goose (USFWS), Woodsy Owl, and Smoky Bear (FS) pose with young TAFF participants at registration.



Marion Malinowski (BLM), event chairperson, takes a photo op with mascot friends.



Participants learn how to tie a proper fishing knot.



Father and son, Keith & Kamon Kirkpatrick (BOR), team up to teach fish anatomy.



Families learn about aquatic ecosystems and watersheds from Jim & Connie Dubovsky (FWS).



Kids learn how a lifejacket should fit, then enjoy climbing aboard the Colorado State Parks patrol boat.



Youngsters learn to cast on dry land before heading to Lake Lehow.

Family Fishing at Lake Lehow, “Where a Lifetime of Fishing Begins”.





Families enjoy lunch in the Lake Lehow pavilion.



**Children received a tackle box full of goodies, as well as a rod and reel.
At left, Daniel Hernandez (CSO webmaster) and daughter, Sophia.**



Jay Thompson, BLM-CO Fisheries Program Lead, demonstrates bobber juggling during tackle box stuffing for TAFF.



The entire TAFF committee gathers at Lake Lehow. Chairperson, Marion Malinowski (BLM), kneels in the front row in blue; Co-Chair, Michele Radice (Denver Water), in grey, stands directly behind Marion.

EASTERN STATES OFFICE & WASHINGTON OFFICE

Thirteenth Year of Multi-agency and Non-government Partnership for National Fishing and Boating Week Kickoff Event in Washington D.C.



The Anglers Legacy banner was signed by representatives of the various partners to show a commitment to introduce at least one new acquaintance each year to fishing.

The Bureau of Land Management, other Federal, state and local natural resource agencies and non-governmental organizations, have been working together as one team to carry out a mission combining environmental stewardship with recreation by participating in the National Fishing and Boating Week (NFBW) kickoff event, held at the Constitution Gardens Pond in Washington, DC. This year's event was held on Monday, June 4th, with over 150 volunteers assisting approximately 200 middle-schoolers, including a group of 25 kids from the Sharp School hosted by the CAST for Kids Foundation (Catch A Special Thrill). CAST provides an opportunity for disabled and disadvantaged kids to get out and fish, and enjoy the outdoors. There was a lower turnout than expected this year due to early morning showers. But the sky cleared up before the first busloads of kids arrived, so those schools that did risk a potentially soggy outing were rewarded with beautiful weather and great fishing conditions.

Federal agencies included our hosts – the National Park Service, the BLM-both the Eastern States Office (ESO) and Washington Office (WO), the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers, in addition to the DC Division of Fish and Wildlife. Non-government organizations included the Future Fisherman's Foundation, the Recreational Boating and Fishing

Foundation (RBFF), Trout Unlimited, and the American Sportsfishing Association. All students and volunteers were provided hats from the RBFF. The theme for this year's derby was the "Anglers Legacy", where participants are asked to commit to introducing one new acquaintance each year to fishing.



Approximately 1/3 of the BLM volunteers were corralled for about thirty seconds to take this group photo. They didn't stay still for long before heading off to their tasks. Jim Dryden, Deputy Division Chief for Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation is kneeling

The BLM Fisheries Program provided polo shirts to the 48 BLM volunteers that came from both the Washington Office (WO) and Eastern States Office (ESO). Rich Bulavinetz (WO) and Cindy Kahn (ESO) provided coordination for the BLM. Breakfast was provided to all of the volunteers that arrived early enough to assist with the setup, and both volunteers and students took a break around noontime for a wonderful lunch. Four regions were set up around the pond, each containing five educational stations, and 40- 50 youths were assigned to each region to learn basic fishing techniques and boating safety under RBFF's *Passport to Boating and Fishing* program. After spending about 10 minutes at each station, the kids grabbed fishing poles and made their way to the pond for some fishing. The pond had been previously stocked with bass and bluegills three days earlier by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and there was a good success rate of catching fish. At some point, the students took a 15 minute break from fishing to observe and participate in a live-reptile show. The first busloads began to depart after 1:30 PM, and each student received a goody bag. All in all, it was a great day for the students and volunteers alike.



Tom Mendenhall, BLM National Fish Program Lead, “checkin’ things out” while Trina Newby-Baker rigs up fishing rods.

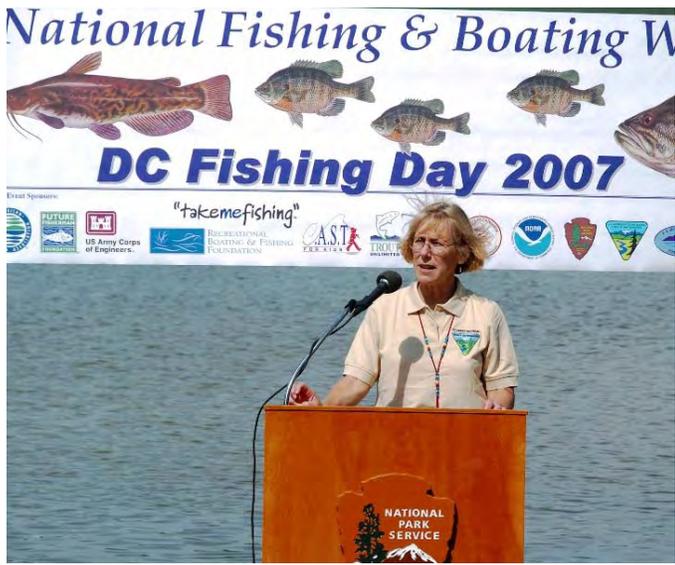


A nice bluegill

Here we go! The first group of students makes their way down to the stations after registration



Antonio Harris (BLM Management Analyst) and Antonio Jr., with some good quality time, fishing at the Constitution Gardens Pond, with the view of the Washington Monument in the background – not bad!



Susan Giannettino, Deputy State Director for Resources in the BLM Idaho State Office, provided some opening remarks while on a detail in Washington during the Derby.



Both the kids and volunteers were mesmerized by the animals from the reptile show.



While keeping their distance, the large lizard is always a favorite of the kids....



One lucky young man was able to get "up-close and personal" with a large constrictor snake.



A nice bass on a fine day.



Smokey making the rounds pond-side.



A little later, the NOAA fish mascot stops to admire a girl's "mighty catch."



"Would you like roast beef, turkey or ham?" Arnita Warren passes out sandwiches to the lunchtime crowd.



While their group of kids settles down for lunch, some volunteers get a quick bite to eat before the rush is on once again.



Rich Bulavinetz (soon with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) swaps out a tangled rod for a new one, while the skilled angler deftly handles a rod in one hand and an apple in the other.



Friend Gray of the RBFF happily unhooks a bluegill for a proud angler.



Eric Lawton of the USFWS (formerly with the BLM) assists a CAST (Catch A Special Thrill) student.



USFWS Director Dale Hall works with a young angler hosted by the CAST Foundation. Director Hall was arguably the most successful “fishing buddy” of the day, with a rumored 100% catch rate with his fishing partners. Senior agency representatives each worked with a fishing buddy during the event, to ensure both had a wonderful and memorable time.



Winners of the raffle received a new fishing combo.

CAST President Jim Owens and a proud angler admire her bluegill.





Smokey the Bear and Woodsy Owl pose with another Forest Service pal.

The team from the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. Frank Peterson, Jr., President & CEO of RBFF is in back row, center.



Some proud anglers show off their catches.

IDAHO

SALMON Field Office – Idaho Falls District

2007 Kids' Ice Fishing Derby

“Hey I got a bite!” “Look, I caught a fish!” “You better go weigh that fish - it looks pretty big!” Those were some of the sounds you heard throughout the morning at the 16th Annual Kids' Ice Fishing Derby held Saturday, January 27th at Hyde Creek Pond. The ice fishing derby was a great success, in large part due to hungry fish that kept the attention of both parents and kids throughout the morning. There were 115 girls (40) and boys (75) who registered for the event, ranging in age from 1 to 15 years old. More than 40 adults, including moms, dads, grandparents, neighbors and friends, accompanied the young anglers from places as far away as Preston, Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, and Rigby. All those present seemed to be in good spirits in spite of temperatures below freezing. When taking a break from fishing, popular gathering areas included the hot chocolate station and the warming fire.

The pond was stocked prior to Saturday with approximately 300 rainbow trout from the Mackay Fish Hatchery. Of the 300 fish stocked in the pond by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 30 of those fish were in the 2-3 pound category. The overall biggest fish of the day was caught by Sung Woo, a foreign exchange student from Korea. He won the age 12-16 category with a fish weighing in at 1.37 pounds. Other big fish winners included: Age 0-5 - Masenn Cockrell at 1.16 lbs; Age 6-8 – Shea Schuldts at 0.93 lbs; and Age 9-11 – Trenton Beyeler at 1.36 lbs. All four big fish winners were awarded a fishing rod and reel combo, with a tackle box donated by the Salmon Region - Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Along with additional prize donations from the Salmon-Challis National Forest, Idaho Fish and Game, and money generously donated from the Lemhi County Soil and Water Conservation District toward the local purchase of fishing supplies, no child went home empty handed. Prizes, totaling over \$1,200 in value, were awarded to registered youth present at the end of the derby by means of a drawing.

In addition to the prizes awarded at the end of the derby there were 30 tagged fish swimming around in the pond waiting for lucky anglers to catch them. Those tagged fish were worth a \$50 savings bond if caught during the derby, sponsored by very generous local merchants and businesses. To everyone's surprise, out of the 70+ fish caught during the ice fishing derby not one had a tag.

This year's Ice Fishing Derby was sponsored by the Salmon-Challis National Forest, Salmon Region – Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game, Salmon and Challis Field Offices – Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program-Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District and Hooked on Fishing, International and its many National Sponsors.

TWIN FALLS District – Jarbidge Field Office: 2007 Free Fishing Day IDFG Hagerman State Hatchery

The Bureau of Land Management, Twin Falls District - Jarbidge Field Office participated in a Free Fishing Day event held Saturday, June 9th at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game State Fish Hatchery in Hagerman, Idaho. There were 507 people registered for the event, with 20 percent of participants being new anglers. Approximately 120 fish were caught, and the largest fish weighed over 10 lbs. The clear skies and temperatures in the mid 80's helped make the event a great success.

All registered Free Fishing Day participants were given a goodie bag provided by Hagerman National Fish Hatchery, and most anglers won either a fishing rod and reel, or lures that were provided by Trader Jacks in Hagerman, Idaho. Approximately \$1,000 in prizes were given away. The University of Idaho Culture Station donated 185 large (3.2 lb. avg.) trout, and Whitewater Fisheries donated 115 trout averaging 4.5 lbs.

Volunteers for the event included employees from the Hagerman National Fish Hatchery, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Fish and Game Regional Office, Magic Valley Bass Masters, Magic Valley Hatcheries, Hagerman Boy Scout Troops 107 and 108, one military reservist and four local adult volunteers. Doug Young, a local artist, made water color prints for everybody who wanted a print of their fish. Free Hot dogs were donated by Falls Brand, and drinks/chips were provided by Pepsi. Additionally, Bud Ainsworth and Walt Rast cooked fresh trout, which everyone enjoyed. A great time was had by all, and hopefully some new anglers got hooked on fishing.



A proud angler and her even prouder dad show off a nice trout.

MONTANA & the DAKOTAS

The Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted eight fishing/boating events (two non-reporting) for local communities in the three states. Over 1,110 students, volunteers, teachers, community partners and public participants took part in these activities. These fishing events were made possible with Challenge Cost Share grants and community partnership support.

Some of these events took place outside the established June 2-10, 2007, National Fishing and Boating Week. Many of these programs are done in conjunction with our partners and are offered for school-age children. In addition, BLM participates in other fishing events sponsored by other agencies throughout the year. For more information regarding our outreach efforts, please contact Chris Miller (406) 896-5038 or Gayle Sitter (406) 896-5024.

Montana

Lewistown Field Office says “Take A Kid Fishing”



Kenny Williams with Walleyes Unlimited talks about catch and release and the differences between native fish species, sauger, and introduced walleyes.

The BLM Lewistown Field Office participated in two Kid's Fishing Day activities this summer. These events are intended to get kids interested in fishing and being in the outdoors.

First, the Lewistown Field Office teamed with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) to host Kid's Fishing Day on June 30th at the Frog Ponds in Lewistown. BLM & FWP volunteers conducted educational stations for the young anglers to demonstrate fish identification, casting techniques and water safety. Sixty kids ages 5-12 enjoyed lunch and fishing at the Frog Ponds. Each angler received a fishing pole and was entered into a drawing for other prizes.

The second event occurred August 11th at Petrolia Reservoir, drawing 33 kids and their parents to this fishing event. BLM and Walleyes Unlimited volunteers drew interest with the young anglers by having a casting contest, knot tying, boating safety and fishing tackle & tips. Donations to make this activity possible come from BLM, FWP, Crooked Creek Chapter Walleyes Unlimited, Don's Store, Sports Center, Reids, Tammi's Travel, Hilger Meats, News-Argus and Ballyhoo. After a nice lunch, the anglers were taken out in volunteer's boats to fish for the afternoon. Prizes were awarded for the largest fish caught, and each angler participated in a drawing for additional prizes.

Dillon Kids Fishing Derby

The annual Dillon kids fishing derby was held June 17th at the kids fishing pond in Dillon, Montana. This year was a record turn-out of 120 young fishers, ranging in age from two to 14. Prizes were awarded in two age brackets: nine and under and 10-14 years old. Prizes were given for the first 10 fish caught, and the first through fifth largest fish caught in each age bracket. Prizes were also given out for tagged fish and in a random drawing. Sponsors for the event were the Dillon BLM, Beaverhead Sportsman Association, Silo Meats, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and other local Dillon merchants. This year's derby ran from 9-2 p.m.; lunch was served at noon and prizes were given out at 2 p.m. Fisheries biologists from the Dillon BLM and MT FWP were on hand to weigh, measure and to ask and answer questions about fish and fishing.

Ennis Fishing Derby

The annual Ennis kids fishing derby was held June 18 at the Ennis Kids Fishing Pond. This year's turnout had about 100 young fishers in attendance. Sponsors for the event were the Ennis Lions Club, Dillon BLM and local Dillon merchants. Prizes were awarded for the largest fish. Lunch was provided to the attendees and prizes were given out afterwards.

North Dakota

Dickinson Nets Its Biggest Fishing Derby Ever

The 660 people who attended the Dickinson Kids Fishing Derby on June 2nd will remember it as the biggest derby ever. Each year the attendance increases along with the fun. A total of 344 kids, 278 adults, and 38 volunteers registered. As always, there were trophies for those who caught the largest fish and an abundance of prizes for everyone. Each kid received a tackle box filled with hooks, bobbers, weights and an assortment of fishing tackle. T-shirts were randomly distributed among the kids who weren't having any luck catching a fish. Smokey Bear stopped by, and everyone who attended got a lunch of hot dogs, chips, cookies, candy and soda.

The derby is sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, Southwest Anglers Association, and the BLM North Dakota Field Office. More than 40 businesses donated to the derby and the donations are still coming in! A big "Thank You" goes out to the North Dakota Field Office employees who volunteered their time.



Happy Anglers at Dickinson Dam,
North Dakota. Photo by Connie
Kolling.

South Dakota

Is it hot out here or is it just the fishing...

About 170 young anglers “tackled” warm temperatures to participate in the Kid’s All-American Fishing Event held June 9th at McNenny State Fish Hatchery near Spearfish, South Dakota.

Besides some great fishing, the agenda included educational talks, hands-on activities, and lunch. The event was a great success and no one walked away empty-handed. Each participant received a goody bag as well as a prize. To finish off a “reely” great day, the kids enjoyed open fishing at Mirror Lakes. Junior anglers caught some large rainbow trout and several smaller sunfish.

The cooperative effort involved several agencies, private business, and other volunteers. Sponsoring federal agencies included the BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery), National Park Service (Devils Tower National Monument), and the Forest Service. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks was also involved, with conservation officers, fisheries management staff, and McNenny State Fish Hatchery personnel assisting with the event. In addition, several members of the High Plains Anglers and the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society volunteered for the event. Boy Scout Troop 17 generously provided parking and traffic control. Many local and national businesses sponsored the event either through direct financial support or product contributions.

Big catch at South Dakota’s McNenny State Fish Hatchery, rural Spearfish.
Photo by Mike Barnes, Fish & Wildlife Service.



NEW MEXICO

New Mexico BLM Fishing Events 2007

New Mexico Fish Fiestas are open to children age 3 to 11 and provide 4 to 6 activities, hot dog lunch and prizes. As in previous years, the Taos Field Office of the New Mexico BLM co-sponsored 3 fishing events - Fish Fiestas - with the Carson National Forest, Town of Taos and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Activities are updated each year to keep the events fresh. This year we changed the fishing to include native fishes, and added fish painting. Kids used paints and pencils to create something to take home. In addition, we had four other activities including water chemistry, bug identification, fire safety and a casting competition split by age group.

2007 Fiestas were supported by more than 16 local businesses supplying food, gear and cash awards. Each event includes 20 to 30 volunteers to assist with activities, set-up and clean-up.

The kick-off event, hosted by the Carson National Forest at Eagle Rock Lake, was held 2 June 2007 to coincide with free fishing day for New Mexico. This event was attended by 90 children. The Santa Cruz Lake event was hosted by the Taos Field Office on 9 June 2006. Twenty-five children participated in this event. The Carson National Forest also hosted an event at Hopewell Lake 14 July 2006. Over 100 children participated and BLM volunteers assisted. In addition, the Santa Fe National Forest cooperated with the Fish Fiestas to include our t-shirt design.



Hopewell Lake – kids looking at bugs.



Santa Cruz Lake – BLMer Pam Herrera-Olivas helps kids paint a fish to take home.



Santa Cruz Lake – Judy Esquibel from the Town of Taos helps kids at the Casting Contest.

OREGON & WASHINGTON

Burns District Office

The annual Free Fishing Day Event at Burns Pond was held on June 9, 2007. Burns Pond is located two miles east of Burns, Oregon on Highway 78, toward Crane. The BLM Burns District partnered with local organizations and agencies to put on the event, including Sportsman's Warehouse, Blackburn Real Estate, Safeway, B&B Sporting Goods, William Foster Construction & Port-a-potty Service, Burns Paiute Fish & Wildlife Department, King's Rite Aid, Big R, Rex and Laurie Draper, High Desert Beverage, Burns Elks Lodge #1680, Harney County Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Forest Service, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. Approximately 130 participants, including seniors, kids, and parents, came out and made Free Fishing Day a fun event for the whole family. Casting and fishing contests were held for youth and senior groups, and a picnic lunch was provided for everyone who participated. Prizes were awarded to top finishers in various age groups for the biggest fish caught, first fish caught, "saddest fishing story", and casting accuracy. In addition, all participants received a "Fishing-is-Fun" kit during registration. Fishers learned about aquatic insects, practiced casting, tying fishing knots, and helped pass the fishing tradition to Harney County's youth. Free camping was offered at all Bureau of Land Management Burns District campgrounds and USDA Forest Service campgrounds within the Emigrant Creek Ranger District, on Friday and Saturday, June 8th and June 9th.



Prizes were awarded to top finishers in various age groups for biggest fish caught, first fish caught, saddest fishing story, and casting accuracy.



The event at Burns Pond created a great atmosphere for passing the fishing tradition on to Harney County's youth.

Roseburg District Office

The 12th Annual Cooper Creek Reservoir Free Fishing Day was held June 9, 2007, four miles east of Sutherlin, Oregon, and 16 miles northeast of Roseburg. It is a 135 acre impoundment built by Douglas County in the early '70s, which has a Douglas County park, and two boat ramps. There were over 600 adults and youth who came out and participated on a rainy day. Contributions and services were provided by: BLM Roseburg District, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Umpqua National Forest, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Douglas County Parks Department. Other contributing partners included: The Umpqua Fishermen's Association, Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby, Larry's City Sporting Goods of Sutherlin, Umpqua Valley Fly Fishers, Price Less Foods, Pure Fishing, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Paul Jackson Wholesale, Bi-Mart, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, Umpqua Community College Educational Talent Search Program, and Douglas County Ice.

A large number of trout were released in Cooper Creek Reservoir prior to the event. A limited number of fishing rods, reels, hooks and bait were made available for those who needed them. Hot dogs and sodas were also provided to participants. Activities included: a kids' spin-casting contest, fly casting, two fishing pools for children four years old and under, an hourly big and small fish contest, hourly door prizes, and a hilarious bumbling fisherman skit.



Kids at Cooper Creek compete for the best spin cast



The “bumbling fisherman” demonstrates safety and stewardship messages to participants.

Medford District Office

The Hyatt Lake Recreation Complex Free Fishing Day event was held from Friday, June 8, 2007 until Saturday June 9, 2007. Hyatt Lake is within the boundaries of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, approximately 15 miles east of Ashland, Oregon. The event included free camping at Hyatt Lake both Friday and Saturday nights! Beginning at 7:00 A.M. on Saturday, a free, hot breakfast was provided at no cost to the 37 special needs kids and their families, for a total of 65 participants. From 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, BLM staff and volunteers were on hand to lend out fishing tackle, life jackets and provided bait at the Hyatt Lake boat ramp. BLM staff and volunteers also took participants out in boats to fish, and provided other activities in celebration of free fishing weekend. Collaborative Partners supporting this event included the United Hunters and Sportsmen's association and the Hyatt Lake resort.

Lakeview District Office

The BLM Lakeview District, in conjunction with the Fremont-Winema National Forest, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Mile High Bassmasters sponsored two fishing derbies to celebrate National Fishing and Boating Week. The first was held on Wednesday, May 30th, at Cottonwood Meadows Lake, located west of Lakeview, Oregon. The second was held on Thursday, May 31st, at Obenchain Reservoir, located near Deming Creek and Campbell Reservoir in Klamath County. Approximately 75 children, including the fourth grade classes from Lakeview and Bly Elementary Schools, participated in the two events.



4th graders learned angling techniques and an appreciation of the outdoors at the BLM Lakeview District events.

UTAH

On June 9, 2007, the Vernal Field Office of the BLM, in conjunction with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) and local radio station X94, held the second annual Free Fishing Day derby at Pelican Lake near Vernal, Utah. Many prizes were awarded to kids that came out. Prizes were contributed by local businesses, UDWR, and the BLM.

Approximately 75 children came by BLM's "Tread Lightly Trailer". Every child was given an informational pack by the BLM that included an activity book, responsible camping practices pamphlet, coloring book, crayons, and a small fishing gift.

The weather was great and the fishing was excellent. Although many fish were caught from shore, UDWR had several boats available. UDWR personnel would take groups out to experience a boat ride as well as fishing.



Tread Lightly Trailer and prizes.



UDWR taking some participants out for a trip.



Happy fishermen.

WYOMING

Cheyenne

On Saturday June 2nd, the Eighteenth Annual Cheyenne Family Fishing Day was jointly sponsored by agencies, local organizations, and businesses. It was a beautiful partly cloudy day in the high 70s and low 80s. Kids and their families showed up in record numbers to fish, see the displays, participate in activities and get free gifts.

Twenty-nine volunteers were involved in setting up, teaching kids, and talking to the public throughout the day. There were over 1,500 participants including just over 600 kids between the ages of 2 and 14.



Families waited for the doors to open.

Kids got to fish in Sloan's Lake with help from friendly instructors using loaner rods or their own gear.

Participants also saw a live fish display from the lake, helping them to learn to identify local species and understand the ecology of the lake. Participants learned about fish biology, fishing ethics, fly tying, fly and spin-casting, as well as knot tying. Volunteers from BLM and Trout Unlimited spent the day giving hands-on lessons in fly tying to youths and adults. Agencies and organizations provided information about fishing throughout the State.



Alan Shepherd, BLM Wild Horse Specialist, points to where the fish are for Marty Griffith, the WY State Office Resources Branch Chief and Chuck Nye, husband of Donna Nye, OA Clerk for WYSO Division of Resource Policy and Management.

Thanks to donations from sponsors and matching dollars from the Bureau of Land Management, over 600 children took home prizes, which included rod & reel combinations. Every youth received a free bag of goodies consisting of a small tackle box, hooks, bobbers, insect repellent, etc, all provided by sponsors and cooperators.



Free prizes waiting for the kids.

We gave away 400 rod & reel combinations and over 200 flashlights, binoculars, tackle boxes and other gifts.

Sponsors included:

AGENCIES

BLM – WY State Office
WY Game and Fish Department
U.S. Forest Service
Cheyenne Parks and Recreation
US Fish & Wildlife Service

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Trout Unlimited

LOCAL COMPANIES

Wal-Mart

K-Mart

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mark Gorges at (307) 775-6100.



Casting practice.



Everyone got to meet Smokey.



Mark Lenhardt, brother of Kristen who is against the wall in cap (WYSO PAO SCEP), ties flies that will catch the big ones.



It may be small, but practice helps.

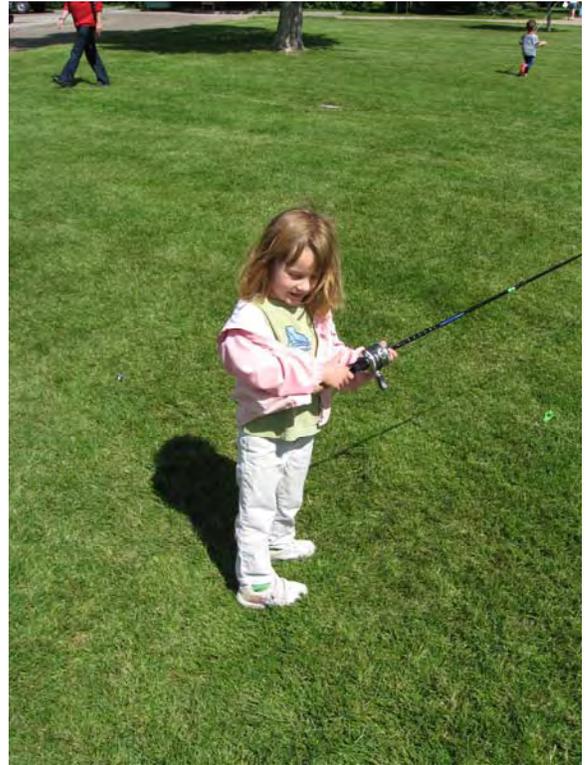


Let's try out those new rod & reel combos.

Additional Pictures



The BLM Public Affairs staff helps get rods ready for casting practice (Kristen Lenhardt WYSO SCEP in the cap and Anthony Sara WYSO STEP).



Is this where I put my thumb?



“This is how it works”, says Alan Shepherd, the WYSO Wild Horse Specialist.



Smokey hugged all the girls, including Pat Dibert, USF&WS biologist, above.



Smokey played by either Chris Hathaway or Eric Pelletier from the Rawlins BLM Fire Crew.



Mary Trautner, WYSO DSD for Support Services, and her daughter Meigan working the check in desk.



You always want to feed the volunteers including Terry Livingston, WYSO Contact Representative, with the sandwich, Sarita Tucker WYSO Purchasing Agent in the blue shirt, and Pat Dibert from F&WS on the far right.

For additional information regarding National Fishing and Boating Week 2006 events in your state, contact the following individuals:

Alaska

vacant
907-271-3348

Arizona

Bill Grossi
602-417-9241

California

Paul Roush
707-825-2313

Colorado & Kansas

Jay Thompson
303-239-3724

Eastern States

Cindy Kahn
703-440-1771

Idaho

Tim Burton
208-373-3819

Montana & Dakotas

Gayle Sitter
406-896-5024

Nevada

Elroy Masters
775-861-6626

New Mexico & Oklahoma

Gregg Gustina
505-751-4707

Oregon & Washington

Joe Moreau
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Utah

Justin Jimenez
801-539-4073

Wyoming & Nebraska

Mark Gorges
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Acknowledgements

We thank all of the volunteers and partners that help to make this program possible. A special “thanks” goes to the parents, teachers, and other mentors who have provided youngsters across the nation with the opportunity to share the outdoors and learn environmental stewardship.

For additional information regarding National Fishing and Boating Week 2007 and future events in your region, please contact Tom Mendenhall at (202) 452-7770. For specific information regarding the 2006 NFBW event in Washington, D.C., call Cindy Kahn at (703) 440-1771 or Hal Hallett at (202) 452-7794.

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