



For America's Heritage

THE PUBLIC LANDS *Monitor*

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VOLUME XXIV, No. 4

WINTER QUARTER 2011/2012

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2012 COMMEMORATION OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE AND THE HOMESTEAD ACT

Boulder, Colorado, is the place you will want to be during the week of September 10, 2012. That is where the PLF, BLM, the Center of the American West, and the University of Colorado will be sponsoring the 2012 Commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the General Land Office and the 150th anniversary of the passage of the Homestead Act. You don't want to miss it. And if you volunteer and help, you can participate for FREE (your Symposium Registration Fee will be waived).

The Commemoration activities will replace this year's regular PLF annual meeting agenda, and the PLF Board of Directors will be meeting Friday afternoon, September 14, and Saturday, September 15.

Plan on arriving in Boulder on Monday, September 10 or Tuesday morning, September 11. An orientation and scheduling of assignments for PLF volunteers are planned for early Tuesday afternoon, September 11. Activities begin Tuesday afternoon with a reception for Student Congress participants. The Student Congress meets with policy makers on Wednesday morning and the Symposium begins that afternoon at 1:00 p.m. and continues until 3:00 p.m. Friday, September 14.

The Symposium includes a welcome by Bruce Benson, University of Colorado President; a Keynote Address by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar (invited); a Native American perspective by Walter Echohawk; and an interview of BLM Director Bob Abbey.

Symposium sessions include the following topics:

- "Clerks and Cowboys: The General Land Office and the Shaping of the U.S."
- "Burning Man Meets Managing Man: The BLM and the Energy of American Art"

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The Public Lands Foundation advocates and works for the retention of America's Public Lands in public hands, professionally and sustainably managed for responsible common use and enjoyment.

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN



Henri Bisson

So, does anyone know what the actor Tom Cruise and the BLM have in common? Well...Tom Cruise played a key role in a movie about settlement of the West. The movie was called *Far and Away*. Two other movies depicting the 1893 land run, *Cimarron* and *Tumbleweeds*,

are based on a novel by Edna Ferber. The forefather of the BLM, the General Land Office (GLO), played a role in the history upon which these movies were based.

Far and Away is about two Irish immigrants who participated in the Land Run of 1893. Also known as the Cherokee Strip Land Run, this historical event marked the opening of the Cherokee Outlet by the GLO at noon on September 16, 1893. More than 100,000 people took their chances by chaotically dashing on horses and wagons to stake claims on federal land in Oklahoma. The GLO set up land offices in Perry, Enid, Woodward and Alva for the settlement of 6.5 million acres. Seven Oklahoma counties, Kay, Grant, Woods, Woodward, Garfield, Noble and Pawnee, were named

following the run. Prior to the run these seven counties had been identified by the letters K through Q. It was the largest land rush in United States history! Oklahoma became a state in 1907, when four additional counties were created in the Cherokee Outlet, using existing land from Woods, Kay and Woodward counties. Throughout the West, the GLO played a significant role in shaping our future.

This year the PLF and the BLM are commemorating the 200th anniversary of the GLO and the 150th anniversary of the passage of the Homestead Act by hosting events in Boulder, Colorado and in Phoenix, Arizona. We are going all out! Over the years we have really missed significant opportunities to celebrate various BLM anniversaries, including the BLM’s 50th and 60th, and the 30th anniversary of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). Minor celebrations were held, but not to the extent our rich history in public land management deserves. We should take great pride in having worked for so many years for the betterment of the lands and resources we managed. And...we should celebrate our roots! BLM is far and away our Nation’s oldest public land manager!

2012 COMMEMORATION

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- “Reconciling the Treasures of Resources with the Treasures of Beauty and Biology: The BLM and the Art of American Energy”
- “Science vs. Emotion: Making Informed Decisions in the Midst of a Stampede”
- “Respecting Posterity’s Property”
- “The Nation’s Great Experiment: Enhancing Conservation in Multiple Use”

On Thursday evening, September 13, we are planning

a re-enactment of the General Land Office in 1812, 1912 and 2012 and a pre-enactment of the General Land Office in 2112. This will be a special treat!

On Friday, we will have Roundtable Sessions made up of well-known dignitaries, such as former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt; Luther Propst, Executive Director, Sonoran Institute; Dale Bosworth, former Chief, U.S. Forest Service; Johanna Wald, Natural Resources Defense Council; a former Senator and Governor, and others.

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PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

American Forest & Paper Association
American Hiking Society
Bureau of Land Management (liaison member)
Independent Petroleum Assn. of Mountain States
Izaak Walton League of America
National Association of Counties

National Environmental Education Foundation
National Rifle Association
National Wildlife Federation
Northwest Mining Association
Public Lands Council
Western States Tourism Policy Council
Wilderness Society

**2012 COMMEMORATION OF THE
GENERAL LAND OFFICE AND THE
HOMESTEAD ACT**

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The Student Congress and the Symposium all take place on campus at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Mark your calendar. This will be an exciting and informative event, and we need your help to make sure the Symposium runs smoothly.

Lodging has been arranged at the **Best Western Boulder Inn**, 770 28th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80303. It is conveniently located directly across from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and it provides guests easy access to the city's principal attractions, shopping, and dining. The Inn provides a complimentary hot breakfast, free high-speed internet access, 40-inch LCD TVs, and 24-hour business center and health club privileges. It has an outdoor heated swimming pool and hot tub. It is a two-story hotel with no elevator. Anyone having problems with stairs needs to request a room on the first floor.

Call the **Best Western Boulder Inn** at 303-449-3800 or toll free **1-800-233-8469** for reservations. Be sure to mention "**Public Lands Foundation**" to get our reduced rate of \$99.00 plus taxes per night for one king bed or \$109.00 plus taxes per night for two queen beds. These rates are good from September 9 through September 16, 2012. Register early, but no later than August 11, 2012. After August 11, rates will be honored upon availability. Rooms must be guaranteed with a credit card. Individual reservations must be cancelled 24-hours prior to arrival to avoid a charge of one night.

The Best Western Boulder Inn is a 45-minute drive from Denver International Airport, and a one hour fifteen minute ride via the Boulder Super Shuttle. (Advance reservations are required, \$25 each way/\$50 round trip. Call 303-444-0808). Also, there are a number of car service transportation companies that can pick you up at the Airport and bring you to the Best Western Boulder Inn.

"Your most unhappy customers are
your greatest source of learning."
—Bill Gates

**PUBLIC LANDS COMMEMORATION
FORUM**

PLF's Arizona Chapter, the BLM, and the Morrison Institute of the University of Arizona have joined to sponsor a Public Lands Commemoration Forum that will take place in Phoenix, Arizona, during the last week in September 2012.

The goals of the Forum are to: 1) inform the audience of the history of the public lands and how the public land laws shaped current land ownership patterns, 2) discuss the roles of the Judicial, Executive and Legislative Branches of the Federal government in public land policy development, interpretation and implementation, 3) relate the history of the public land laws to the State of Arizona's land ownership pattern as it exists 100 years after becoming a state, and 4) discuss the future opportunities and challenges in Arizona as they relate to the role of the public lands.

Professionals involved in public land policy, law school students, students from a variety of colleges and high schools involved in the study of government or natural resource programs, and interested members of the public are invited to attend.

The program will begin with a brief but lively presentation on the history of the public lands beginning with the establishment of the General Land Office in 1812. Key events and legislation will be highlighted and described to show how they affected each person in this country. Panel members will make presentations on the historic and current roles of the branch of the Federal government they represent with regard to public lands. The discussion will focus on their experience and philosophy of that branch's role in the development, interpretation and implementation of public land policy.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor will lead off the discussion on the role of the Judicial Branch. Senator Jon Kyl (*invited*) will speak to the responsibilities of the Legislative Branch. And, former Secretary of the Interior and Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt will represent the Executive Branch perspective.

Following the panel presentation, BLM Director Bob Abbey will comment on BLM's task of responding to these different roles and getting actions accomplished

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PUBLIC LANDS COMMEMORATION FORUM

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on the ground. An opportunity for pre-screened questions from the audience will be provided. Subsequently, an historian will present an overview of how the public land laws resulted in the current land ownership patterns in Arizona.

The three panel members—Justice O’Connor, Senator Kyl, and Secretary Babbitt—will discuss their views on the opportunities and challenges this land ownership pattern presents for the present and the future. Each panelist will discuss their personal connections, family history and roots in Arizona; and their views on the opportunities and challenges this land ownership pattern presents for the present and the future.

The venue, the actual date of this one-day event, and other details are still being developed. More information will be provided in the next edition of *The Public Lands Monitor*. If you are interested in helping, please contact Beau McClure, President of the Arizona Chapter, by e-mail at bcmclure@cox.net or by phone at 623-587-7883.

PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

PLF advocacy activities during the past quarter included five letters to Congress, and a presentation to the BLM’s Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board.

- PLF joined the American Wildlife Conservation Partnership (AWCP) in sending a September 9, 2011, letter in support of reauthorizing the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which leverages federal funds with private sector contributions to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats.
- PLF sent a September 13, 2011, letter to the Congressional House Committee on Natural Resources supporting H.R. 2834, the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act, which establishes that fishing, hunting and recreational shooting are important and traditional activities on National

Forests and BLM lands.

- George Lea, on October 13, 2011, presented a PLF Statement to the BLM’s Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board advocating that significantly more aggressive fertility control be used in the management of wild horses and burros.
- PLF sent a November 2, 2011, letter to Senators Heller, Reid, Risch, Tester, and Udall thanking them for introducing S. 1775, which PLF believes is a good step forward in establishing a renewable energy leasing program.
- PLF joined The Conservation Fund and more than 40 other organizations in sending a December 6, 2011, letter to Congress in support of H. R. 3365, which would reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA). By reauthorizing FLTFA, revenue from the sales of BLM lands identified for disposal will generate funds to acquire high priority land from willing sellers for conservation, outdoor recreation and historic preservation purposes.

Copies of several of these letters and testimony are included below.

PLF Statement to the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board, October 13, 2011

Thank you for providing the opportunity to speak today. My name is George Lea, past President of The Public Lands Foundation. I am here representing our members who have thousands of years collective experience managing natural resources. No one in the Foundation receives pay for Foundation work.

The Public Lands Foundation has carefully reviewed the current wild horse and burro program. My comments today will focus on fertility control.

We can only conclude that the present direction of the program is unsustainable in its attempt to meet the requirements of the Act. Populations on the range exceed appropriate management levels and will continue to do so. Gather numbers continue to exceed adoption demand thus creating an ever-increasing cost at holding facilities. There is every reason to believe that the public is tiring

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

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of the program's cost. And, budget cuts are already in the offing.

More aggressive measures must be taken to limit population growth.

PZP is demonstrably ineffective in bringing populations in concert with AML and adoption demand. It is relatively expensive and requires reapplication in two years or significant skewing of sex ratios to keep the number of new foals down when the mares conceive one or two years after treatment.

We continue to recommend that other lower-cost, long term fertility control drugs such as SpayVac or GonaCon be used in conjunction with most all gathers. Use of these drugs would not require significant skewing of male:female ratios. Treated mares will not conceive for four years or longer and could be infertile after a second treatment. Herds treated with these drugs should be carefully monitored to determine their effectiveness in the field and to assess impacts of herd and band relationships.

The five-year research effort involving SpayVac could continue. Information garnered from it on an ongoing basis could be used to make adjustments in its use in herd management areas.

In conclusion, the Public Lands Foundation urges the Advisory Board to recommend to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture that significantly more aggressive fertility control be used in management of wild horses and burros. And, that drugs such as SpayVac and/or GonaCon be used now, not after years of additional research. The significant research regarding effectiveness and toxicology has already taken place.

Horses, burros, wildlife and the health of the land simply cannot cope with minor variations of the status quo when it comes to carrying out the mandates of the Act.

Thank you. Copies of my remarks have been made available to staff.

Letter supporting H. R. 2834, Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act

September 30, 2011

The Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1203 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Edward Markey
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
2108 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman Hastings and Ranking Member Markey:

A number of national **hunting, wildlife conservation, and shooting sports organizations** representing millions of **sportsmen and women recently** sent you a letter of **support on H.R. 2834, the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act. The Public Lands Foundation** would like to add our voice to that letter.

The Public Lands Foundation is a nonprofit national organization incorporated in 1987 to support keeping public lands in public hands, embracing multiple use management of the public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and following sound environmental principles. We are a membership organization whose members are predominantly retired former employees of the BLM. As such, our membership represents a broad spectrum of knowledge and experience in public land management.

The bill establishes that fishing, hunting, and recreational shooting are important **and** traditional activities **on** national forests and public lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service (FS) and the BLM. It provides a

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

(Continued from Page 5.)

clear statutory place and protection of the described activities, similar to those placed in law for most other uses and values occurring on **these** lands.

The provision in the legislation regarding planning activities is essential to the future of recreational fishing, hunting **and** shooting as they are often overlooked or avoided. So, **too**, is the provision limiting liability. Although recreational shooting has a better safety record than **almost every other** use of public lands, **including** hiking, liability is used **as** a reason not to identify **or designate, in the planning process**, those lands that are better suited to that activity.

Our understanding of the wilderness provisions of H.R. 2834 is that **the provisions would not open** designated wilderness and wilderness study areas on BLM-managed public lands **to mechanized or motorized vehicles or equipment or subject these lands to** impairing activities. Nonetheless, we would support language revisions intended to clarify the wilderness sections of H.R. 2834.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,
/s/ Henri Bisson, President

Letter supporting H. R. 3365, Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act

December 6, 2011

The Honorable Cynthia Lummis
113 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
336 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Lummis and Heinrich:

On behalf of our respective organizations, we write to express our support for your legislation, H.R. 3365, the

Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) Reauthorization of 2011. We applaud your leadership to achieve economic and conservation goals for the West and reduce the deficit. We stand ready to help you advance this important bill this Congress.

By reauthorizing FLTFA, revenue from sales of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands identified for disposal will generate funds to acquire high priority land from willing sellers for conservation, outdoor recreation and historic preservation. At no cost to the taxpayer, your FLTFA bill will expand recreational access for hunting, fishing and hiking, while benefiting farmers and ranchers and reducing the federal deficit. With the administrative money that the FLTFA program generates, BLM will be able to sell lands identified for disposal, creating private sector jobs, and generate funding for land conservation at critical areas to promote jobs in outdoor recreation. FLTFA often complements other funding in order to achieve priority conservation in the West, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and other public and private funding. By providing landowners with additional opportunities to sell their lands, FLTFA helps landowners achieve their economic goals.

In a time of increased budget pressures, FLTFA reauthorization is an excellent way to provide a dedicated funding source for land conservation, while also providing a thoughtful, efficient and economical tool that helps facilitate the disposal of public lands, thereby reducing the BLM's operations and maintenance backlog.

Because of FLTFA's benefits for local communities, landowners, tourism, fish and wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation, and historic preservation, we stand ready to support your work to reauthorize FLTFA for the benefit of current and future generations.

Sincerely,

The Conservation Fund, The Public Lands Foundation, and representatives of more than 40 other organizations.

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PLF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

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Letter opposing H. R. 1126 and S. 635, Disposal of Excess Federal Lands Act of 2011

December 8, 2011

(See end of letter for Addressees)

The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) strongly opposes H.R. 1126. Current federal law provides the necessary authority, process and direction needed to meet the objectives of H.R. 1126. Authority resides within the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, and the supporting land use planning process used to implement FLPMA.

The Public Lands Foundation is a nonprofit organization that advocates for the retention of America’s Public Lands in public hands, professionally and sustainably managed for responsible common use and enjoyment. Our membership represents a broad spectrum of knowledge and professional experience in public land management.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has developed and implemented a resource management planning process that inventories and evaluates the natural and cultural resources on the federal public lands. In a collaborative process with the public, the BLM develops Resource Management Plans that include identifying land parcels that are suitable and needed for local public and private purposes. In FLPMA, Congress gave BLM the land sale and exchange authorities to make land disposals when and where needed.

We are concerned that the “identified Federal Lands” list of 1997 is outdated and may not represent current land use planning decisions or the value these lands now have as part of the National System of Public Lands.

This legislation will also put the federal government in the position of competing with the private sector, which is also trying to sell land. Further, the expectations of this legislation to offer significant amounts of public land for sale could effectively flood the market in many areas, further depressing already diminished private land values. Local interest and need, not national legislation, should provide the primary impetus for decisions about when and how much public land that is proper for

disposal should be sold. Sale actions should originate in local communities through an open and transparent public process such as that provided in BLM land use planning.

We are including two of our Position Statements on these matters for your reference—PLF 2010-10, *Keep Public Lands in Public Hands*, and PLF 2010-14, *Public Land Disposal through Legislation*.

Sincerely,

/s/ Henri Bisson, President

Enclosures

- 1) PLF 2010-10; 2) PLF 2010-14

Letter sent to Congressmen Chaffetz (UT), Bartlett (MD), Bishop (UT), Campbell (CA), Duncan (SC), Farenthold (TX), Flake (TX), Flores (TX), Garrett (NJ), Gohmert (TX), Hartzler (MO), Herger (CA), Huelskamp (KS), Labrador (ID), Lundgren (CA), Mack (FL), McClintock (CA), Rogers (WA), Myrick (NC), Pompeo (KS), Ribble (WI), Rigel (VA), and to Senators Lee (UT), and McCain (AZ).

PLF’S 2011 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

Each year the Public Lands Foundation recognizes deserving individuals and organizations that have worked to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include public lands administered by the BLM. Three organizations recognized in 2011 for their commitment, leadership and initiative to enhance the stewardship of public resources are the **Copper River Watershed Project (Alaska)**, **Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative (Oregon)**, and **Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Ambassador Program (Arizona)**. The awards were presented in ceremonies at Anchorage, Alaska, Medford, Oregon, and Phoenix, Arizona. The Citations read as follows:

Copper River Watershed Project - Alaska

The Public Lands Foundation presents the Copper River Watershed Project with its Landscape Stewardship Award.

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PLF'S 2011 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

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The Foundation grants this award to honor private citizens and organizations that work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include, in whole or in part, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Copper River Watershed encompasses 26,500 square miles south of the Alaska Range, from 200 miles east of Anchorage to the Canadian border and south to the Gulf of Alaska. Twenty-three towns and Alaska Native villages dot the watershed along major tributaries to the Copper River. One of the last intact watersheds in North America, the watershed supports diverse wildlife habitat and critical spawning habitat for three species of wild salmon that are the foundation of the watershed's ecosystem, culture and economy.

With extraordinary vision and purpose, the members of the Copper River Watershed Project worked with the BLM to help advance Youth Initiatives sponsored by the Department of the Interior and the BLM. They provided both time and money to create a youth stewardship project that gives teens a 10-day outdoor experience that exposes them to the history, wildlife, fisheries, cultural history and economies of the communities along the Copper River. The students also learn about issues and solutions surrounding operation and oversight of the TransAlaska Oil Pipeline, which passes through the watershed, and land and resource management issues that cross state, federal and Alaska Native corporation boundaries. This beneficial experience exposes youth to natural resource management careers and encourages them to consider becoming the next generation of land and resource managers.

To build public awareness of the need to care for the Copper River Watershed, project members created a stewardship program and Discovery Room pen-pal activities to connect students living up and down the river so they see themselves as citizens of a much larger watershed community. Members also collaborated with state, federal, Alaska Native villages and corporations, and other nonprofit organizations to develop wayside interpretive signs that will help visitors understand the ecosystem as they travel through the greater watershed and will hopefully lead to a greater sense of stewardship for the region's resources.

Thanks to the group's rerouting of the Fish Creek trail near Paxson, all-terrain vehicle riders can now travel mostly on land, crossing the stream only one time instead of seven times. They also constructed a salmon-viewing platform on the Gulkana River to reduce bank erosion caused by tourists crowding close to the river's edge to see fish.

The Copper River Watershed Project provided exceptional service to the BLM and partnering agencies by training and managing volunteers over a 4-year period to collect water quality and human use data in the Copper River watershed streams, lakes and rivers. The group also created an efficient and cost-effective culvert-ranking protocol and mapping tool that helps agencies and landowners prioritize culvert replacements that will provide the best benefit for fish passage and greater protection against soil erosion.

Thanks to the leadership and networking skills of the Copper River Watershed Project, the BLM has strengthened traditional partnerships and developed new community partners, leading to more coordinated and effective management of the Copper River Watershed.

In recognition of these and other valuable services, the Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present the Copper River Watershed Project with this Citation and Plaque for their invaluable stewardship of America's public landscapes.



Bill Lindow (center) accepts Award on behalf of Alaska's Copper River Watershed Project from PLF member Jules Tileston (right). BLM Alaska State Director Bud Cribley (left) participated in the November 17, 2011 ceremony. Photo courtesy of BLM.

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PLF'S 2011 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

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Those attending the ceremony included these faces some of you may find familiar. From L to R: Jim Richardson, Wayne Boden, Susan Lavin, Jules Tileston, Joette Storm, Curt McVee and Bud Cribley. Photo courtesy of BLM.

Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative - Oregon

The Public Lands Foundation presents the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative with its 2011 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation. The Public Lands Foundation grants this recognition to honor private citizens and organizations that work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include, in whole or in part, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

The Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative encompasses representation from the timber and biomass industry, forest workers, contractors and practitioners, local (Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands) and national (The Nature Conservancy) environmental organizations, land management agencies (BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Oregon Department of Forestry), ordinary and extraordinary citizens, and academia. The Collaborative has been meeting regularly for five years.

The Collaborative has been instrumental in identifying the underlying socio-political underpinnings to successful forest management projects, increasing the utilization and emphasis on biomass and small diameter timber, increasing the community capacity to jointly plan successful projects with the agencies, and substantially improving the political climate and awareness to ad-

dress Southern Oregon's forest health issues. The group has produced the *Productive Harmony Standards*—a set of ecological, social and economic guidelines—for agency and landowners to craft projects that are likely to get substantial public support (instead of protest, appeal, litigation, etc.).

Throughout the debate and political wrangling over forest management in Western Oregon, the Collaborative has stayed true to its principles to build collaborative capacity and find solutions to address the forest health issues. In so doing, the group has influenced others in the community in their thinking, approaches and actions toward the agencies. There is increased agreement within the community on projects and approaches to managing local forests. Most important for issues that remain (such as the harvest of larger diameter trees and construction of roads), there is a platform for open discussions and implementation of ideas that foster transparency and learning. Because of the Collaborative's efforts, the Medford District BLM has received many kudos on its process for involving the public in the design, implementation, and planned monitoring.

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present the Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative with its 2011 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.



Jack Shipley (left) and George McKinley (right), Chair and Director, respectively, of Southern Oregon Small Diameter Collaborative, were presented the Award by Dick Prather, PLF Oregon Representative. Photo courtesy of BLM.

PLF'S 2011 LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

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Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Ambassador Program - Arizona

The Public Lands Foundation presents the Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Ambassador Program with its 2011 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation. The Foundation grants this recognition to honor private citizens and organizations that work to advance and sustain community-based stewardship on landscapes that include, in whole or in part, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

In what began as a suggestion from Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) riders, a volunteer program aimed at peer-to-peer education and adding an on-the-ground presence, the Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Ambassador Program was born in 2007. Now in its fourth year, this volunteer organization works with multiple agencies and is supported by staff from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), and is led by the Arizona State Parks.

Serving in a non-law enforcement capacity, Ambassadors provide peer-to-peer education about the proper use of OHVs, area information and generally serving as a bridge between land managers and the recreating public. Education leading to a positive change in behavior that benefits the land is a goal of each Ambassador.

Since its inception in 2007, the Program has trained 99 volunteers in five volunteer training sessions, with 80 Ambassadors remaining in the program. Volunteers have donated over 4,300 hours and approximately 66,640 vehicle miles toward the program, with an estimated value of donated time and resources of more than \$111,000. They have held 172 organized events. They have monitored 4,908 miles of trail, made 6,682 public contacts, found and reported 4 abandoned vehicles to Law Enforcement, reported 11 significant public safety trail hazards, removed 25 trailer loads (50 cubic yards) of trash from public lands, located and recorded 68 abandoned mines, re-

paired 1.5 miles of fence, located and reported 10 fresh cut trails, installed 1 kiosk and repaired two others, installed 124 signs, and reported 17 downed signs.

In an atmosphere of decreasing federal and state budgets, insufficient law enforcement to cover 12 million acres of public lands administered by BLM, the Ambassadors took the initiative, displayed leadership to recruit, organize and perform meaningful work on the ground to improve the landscape.

The Ambassador Program is a successful model to protect an entire regional landscape by promoting values of sustainability for multiple land management agencies.

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present the Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Ambassador Program with its 2011 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.



(L to R) Tammy Pike (Tonto National Forest Supervisor), Louise Congdon (Cave Creek District Ranger, USFS), Robert Cline, Mary Devereaux, Tom Devereaux, Beau McClure (PLF), Tom Dwyer (back row), Jeff Gursh (Exec. Dir., AZ OHV Coalition; accepted Award on behalf of the Arizona OHV Ambassador Program), Chuck King (back row), Ken Waun, Rod Moyer (back row), Tom Palmer (way in back), Tom Bickauskas (Travel Management Coordinator, BLM Hassayampa Field Office), Marge Dwyer (BLM, hidden), Elroy Masters (BLM Biologist), Jody Nikerson, Chris Gammage (BLM Ambassador Coordinator, not in picture).

PLF LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD — GEORGE D. LEA

At the BLM Headquarters Office Christmas Party on December 13, 2011, PLF President Henri Bisson presented George Lea with the PLF's Lifetime Service Award. BLM Director Bob Abbey also recognized George for his many years of outstanding contributions to the BLM public lands. Surprise guests included George's three daughters - Nora, Tarey, and Diana. The citation reads as follows:

George D. Lea—Lifetime Service Award

The Public Lands Foundation grants to George D. Lea its Lifetime Service Award. The Foundation provides this award to deserving members who have perpetuated and enhanced the proud tradition of public service. George exemplifies that tradition through a lifetime of service in managing and protecting the public lands.

George D. Lea was born and raised in Illinois. He graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in Forestry, and joined the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in December 1951, at Baker, Oregon.

The first half of his 30 year BLM career was spent in Oregon, where he served as Range Manager in three eastern Oregon Districts, Range Management Specialist in the BLM's Oregon State Office in Portland, and District Manager at Vale. The second half of his career was spent in leadership positions in the BLM's Denver Service Center and at the BLM's Headquarters Office in Washington, D. C., including Chief, Division of Range Management; Chief, Resource Coordination Staff; Deputy Assistant Director, Resources; and Deputy Director, Lands and Resources.

After retirement, his continued interest and commitment to the BLM public lands led him to establish the Public Lands Foundation (PLF) in 1987. The PLF was originally intended to be a BLM retiree organization whose purpose is to promote and support the proper professional management of the lands and resources administered by the BLM. In 1998, membership in the PLF was opened to anyone who supported the objectives of the organization. George Lea was the first President of the PLF, a position which he held for 22 years.

George was much more than President. He was a "one-



George Lea (left) receives Lifetime Service Award from PLF President Henri Bisson during BLM Headquarters Office Christmas Party. Photo courtesy of Diana Hanna Ed Lea.

man-gang" who for over 20 years did most of the work in fundraising and growing membership in the PLF; finding national officers and filling State and local leadership positions; establishing goals and programs for the organization, and developing position statements on public land issues; testifying at Congressional hearings on BLM budgets and public land legislation; writing letters to BLM, the Department of the Interior and the Congress on public land issues; preparing the PLF's quarterly newsletter; and organizing and conducting the PLF's annual meetings in the western states.

In creating the PLF, George Lea provided a rallying point for BLM retirees to continue to contribute their efforts and support for the agency, for current employees to be informed about the experience of their predecessors, and for the general public to become involved in public land issues which affect them - issues such as keeping the BLM public lands in public hands, and the resource base in balance with nature, while it produces an abundance of multiple resource wealth for the Nation.

Giving an official name to the BLM administered lands was a personal crusade for George Lea, and his persistence culminated in Secretarial Order 3280 which

(Continued on Page 12.)

**PLF LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD —
GEORGE D. LEA**

(Continued from Page 11.)

was signed on December 16, 2008, designating the BLM administered lands as the National System of Public Lands.

At the PLF’s 1998 Annual Meeting in Park City, Utah, the PLF presented George Lea with it first and only Founder’s Award. The citation for that award states in part:

“George Lea rightly foresaw the interest, commitment and need for BLM retirees to remain involved in the issues of public land management, and has insisted that their views be considered. He has used farsighted efforts, persistence, tenacity, presence, salesmanship, diligence and a committed life to accomplish the aims of the Foundation. In all these efforts he has retained a gentlemanly approach, has strengthened friendships, and called attention to land management needs and dangers, and at the same time has led the way in commending good management efforts which lead to improved land management.”

The Founder’s Award was in recognition of his role in establishing and growing the PLF. George Lea’s name also needs to be added to the list of those who have received the PLF’s Lifetime Service Award, for his life-

time of service to the BLM and the BLM administered public lands. It would be appropriate to do this in 2011, which is the 60th year of his “committed life” to the BLM, the BLM lands, and the Public Lands Foundation.

The Public Lands Foundation is honored to recognize George with this Lifetime Service Award, presented this day, December 13, 2011, at the BLM Headquarters Office, Washington, D. C.

**RECENT ADDITIONS TO
THE PLF ARCHIVES**
by Glen Collins, PLF Archives Manager

Over 100 new files of historical materials about the BLM and the BLM lands were added to the PLF Archives during 2011. Included are:

- Records of the BLM’s Missouri Basin Land Classification Study, 1948 - 1954,
- “Early Days of the Taylor Grazing Act,” by Marvin Klemme,
- Burt Silcock files of BLM/Department of the Interior Alaska historical materials,
- Five boxes of BLM reports and materials used in the Bureau’s grazing fee studies in the 1987 - 1993 era,
- The Don and Betty Stough collection of brochures and photos of BLM’s early day recreation sites and areas. Don Stough was one of the first BLM Recreation Specialists, and these materials were gathered by the Stoughs during their tour of BLM recreation sites in the West, after Don’s retirement in 1970, and
- “The Size of the Risk, an Environmental History of the Nuclear Great Basin,” which documents and describes the conflicts between livestock grazing, wild horses, nuclear testing, and environmental protection in Nevada, prepared as a PhD thesis by Leisl Carr Childers, of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.



George Lea with daughters (L to R) Nora, Tarey & Diana at his Lifetime Service Award Ceremony. Photo courtesy of Diana Hanna Ed Lea.

“We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.”

— *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

ARE YOU A DOWNWINDER?

By Tom Allen

Deeth, Nevada

Nevada was my first home in the BLM in the early 1960's. Nevada was also the home of the federal Atomic Energy Commission's atmospheric nuclear testing program, which was begun on federal lands in the Nevada Test Site north of Las Vegas in the early 1950's. I was a realty specialist who got to the field a lot, and there was no counting the thousands of 4 X 4 mining claim posts that were the plantings of hopeful prospectors who roamed the state with Geiger counters looking for uranium. Most of their claims became known as "fallout claims" because there was no uranium...only enough "nuclear fallout" on the ground to tickle the Geiger counter. And that nuclear fallout also fell on wildlife, livestock, and people who were located "downwind" from the atomic tests.

In 1990, Congress passed legislation to provide financial compensation for a variety of cancer-related illnesses traced to this atmospheric nuclear testing program. Having several friends who may be affected by the fallout from these nuclear tests, the Downwinder question seems like a good one to ask.

You may be a Downwinder if you were physically present and lived in specified downwind counties for at least two years during a period of atmospheric nuclear testing from January 21, 1951, to October 31, 1958, or for the entire one-month period of June 30, 1962, to July 31, 1962, and later contracted a specified compensable disease.

Downwind counties in Nevada include Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Nye, White Pine and the northeast area of Clark County. *Downwind counties in Utah include* Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Millard, Piute, San Juan, Sevier, Washington and Wayne. *Downwind counties in Arizona include* Apache, Coconino, Gila, Navajo, Yavapai, and that part of Mohave County north of the Grand Canyon.

An individual who did not live in these counties but who spent considerable time working in them might also qualify as a Downwinder.

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) of 1990 provides for financial compensation for a var-

ety of cancer-related illnesses. RECA also has provisions for "Onsite Participants" and "Uranium Mining Industry Employees." The University of Nevada School of Medicine operates a Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program (RESEP). For more information, you may contact the University at 702-992-6887, or by email at nevadaresp@medicine.nevada.edu, or you can check their website at www.unr.edu/med/community/resp.

This may be a "better late than never" story, but the existence of the RECA just recently became known to me.

RECENT DONORS TO THE GLO PROJECT

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PLF 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Officers, Term Members and State Representatives listed on the front page of this *Monitor* were elected in the PLF's annual election, which closed on December 15, 2011. The only change for 2012 is that Roland Robison has replaced Jens Jensen as one of the Utah State Representatives. There are still State Representative vacancies that need to be filled in Oregon and the Midwestern States.

SPECIAL DUES PAYMENTS

New Life Members

Alvin L. Burch	Robert Conquergood
E. Dwight Fielder	Robert S. Hall
Kimberly Harb	Eric Janes
David Kathman	Robert H. Lawton
Dave Mari	Curtis S. McVee
Vincent P. Ogurek	Ron Wenker
Sharon K. Wilson	David O. Wolf
Alfred (Al) Wright	Howard S. Gebel, Jr. Family

Contribution Members

Bob Cordell	Sonya Cox
Rita Dolan	Mike Gardner
Karl Kipping	Larry O. Kock
Bill Luscher	Harry M. Miwa
Donald Mueller	Marvin Pearson
John Radosta	William Schowe
Darwin Snell	Martin Zimmer

Sponsoring Member

Louis A. Boll

RETIRED

Theodore (Ted) Bingham, on December 31, 2011, after 54 years of service with the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of the Interior in Los Angeles and Bakersfield, California; Cheyenne, Wyoming; Boise, Idaho; Anchorage, Alaska; Washington, D. C.; and Phoenix, Arizona.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) again contributed \$2,500 each to the Public Lands Foundation (PLF) for distribution to approved BLM 2011 National Public Lands Day (NPLD) projects. These contributions are greatly appreciated by PLF, BLM office recipients and the volunteers that help so much with BLM NPLD projects.

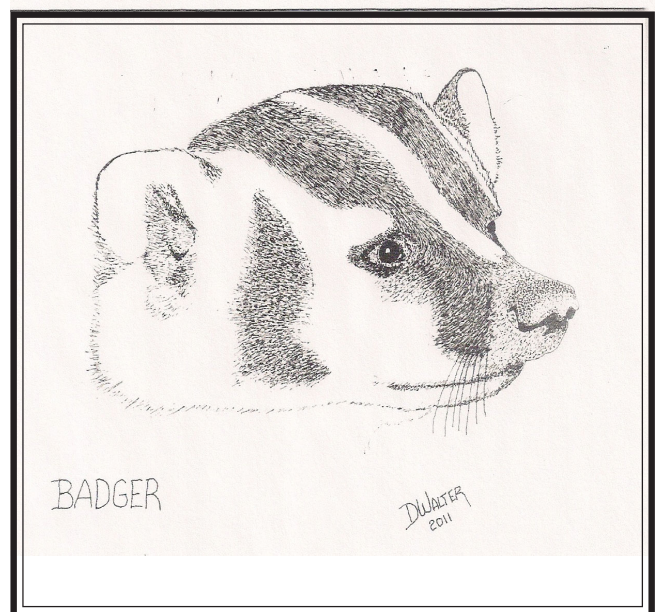
In 2011, PLF received 20 requests for reimbursement

from seven states—Alaska (1), Arizona (2), California (6), Colorado (7), Montana (2), Nevada (1), and Oregon (1)—for a total of \$6,995.49. The actual amount of reimbursements paid out was \$6,085.94. The reimbursements above \$5,000 were made from funds not spent in 2010.

Reimbursed purchases included meals, snacks and drinks for volunteers; supplies, such as work gloves, saws, and mortar mix used by volunteers; a shuttle service for volunteers helping on a river cleanup; and live music entertainment and thank-you gifts for volunteers.

National Public Lands Day 2011, again, was a great success, and this reimbursement program continues to help BLM offices accomplish work within the National System of Public Lands that otherwise would not be done.

BLM offices with approved 2012 NPLD projects are encouraged to make their needs known early by contacting Beau McClure, PLF Vice President for Operations, at bcmclure@cox.net, as funds again will be limited in 2012.



IN MEMORIUM

Scott Archer, Air Specialist in the BLM's Colorado State Office in Denver, on December 27, 2011, in Golden, Colorado.

Virginia (Polly) Bailey, Secretary and Land Law Examiner in the BLM Arizona State Office in Phoenix, on December 30, 2011, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Andrew (Dick) Richard Bunch, BLM Land Surveyor, on November 21, 2011, in Boise, Idaho.

Eugene (Gene) Chouinard, BLM Forester, timber cruiser, and wild horse manager at Roseburg and Burns, Oregon, on September 30, 2011, in Dexter, Oregon.

James Patrick (Pat) Clason, BLM Forester at Medford, Eugene, and Washington, D.C., and Associate District Manager at Medford, Oregon, on November 21, 2011, in Medford, Oregon.

Ann Dodson, Land Law Examiner in the BLM's Salem District Office, Salem Oregon, on December 15, 2011, in Leesburg, Virginia.

Clyde R. Durnell, Personnel Manager in the BLM New Mexico State Office, on November 16, 2011, in Sante Fe, New Mexico.

Phyllis J. Eaton, Clerical Assistant in the BLM Portland Service Center, Portland, Oregon, on November 6, 2011, in Estacado, Oregon.

Harold Carl Elg, BLM employee at Idaho Falls, Salmon, and Burley Idaho; Ely and Carson City Nevada; on November 14, 2011, in Eagle, Idaho.

Jean C. Frohlicher, Administrative Assistant in the BLM Washington, D. C. Office, on November 26, 2011, in Fairfax, Virginia.

Merle Good, BLM Lands Program Specialist at Boise, Idaho; Chief of Resources at Elko, Nevada; and Resource Area Manager and Field Manager at Butte, Montana; on December 27, 2011, in Butte, Montana.

Rich Hagan, BLM Outdoor Recreation and Chief, Planning and Environmental Coordination in Anchorage, Alaska, Visual Resource Management Specialist in Nevada and Denver, on November 15, 2011, in Littleton, Colorado.

Jeffrey Jarvis, recently retired from a BLM career, which included employment at Las Cruces, New Mexico, Shoshone, Idaho, the California State Office at Sacramento, the Arizona State Office at Phoenix, and as a Division Chief in the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System in Washington, D. C.; on October 13, 2011, in Annandale, Virginia.

Tommy Joe Kuka, worked at the BLM's Denver Service Center, on October 17, 2011, in Denver, Colorado.

Ray Moberly, BLM lead in Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area and Interpretive Center, on September 16, 2011, in Salem, Oregon

Jamie L. (Jim) Querry, Geologist for the BLM at Canon City, Colorado and Tulsa, Oklahoma, on February 9, 2011, in Tonkawa, Oklahoma.

Laura Preston, employed at the BLM's Idaho State Office, in Boise, Idaho, on December 23, 2011, in Boise Idaho.

Max Rivera, Computer Specialist at the BLM New Mexico State Office in Santa Fe, on December 23, 2011, in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

Robert (Bob) Springer, BLM employee in Worland, Pinedale, and Rawlins, Wyoming; District Manager at Bakersfield, California; and headed up the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program at the Headquarters Office in Washington, D. C., and in Cheyenne, Wyoming; on October 5, 2011; in Buffalo, Wyoming.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Received from:

Dan Baker
Henri Bisson
Stu Carlson
Elvin Clapp
Linda Hofman
Bill Luscher
Mat Millenbach
Judy Reed
Les Rosenkrance

Larry Woodard
Louise Senzel

In Memory of:

Bill Mathews
Don Lotvedt & Bob Davis
Geren Long
Jeff Jarvis & Rich Hagan
Jennie Senzel
Bill Mathews & Boyce Coffey
Ralph Heft
Joan Louk, Al Pierson, Clint Oke
David Lodzinski, Jerry Satterlee,
Alan Dunton, Charles Priest, &
Bill Barker
Bill Mathews
Irving & Jennie Senzel

Public Lands Foundation

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

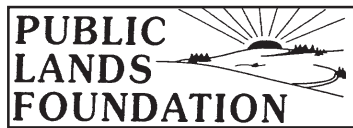
- \$35 Regular
- \$50 Contributing
- \$50 Family
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$200 Sponsoring
- \$500 or more Patron

Public Lands Foundation Goals

- Keep lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in public ownership and open to use by the public.
- Support multiple use management under the Federal Land Policy & Management Act.
- Encourage professionalism by BLM employees.
- Increase the public's understanding of and support for the proper management of the public lands.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE - \$250

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