



**For America's Heritage**

# THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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**SPRING QUARTER 2022**

## 2022 PLF ANNUAL MEETING GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO SEPTEMBER 20-23, 2022

Mark your calendar for our IN-PERSON Annual Meeting this year in Grand Junction, Colorado on September 20-23, 2022. It has been more than two years since we have been able to meet face-to-face and we are going to have all kinds of fun. The theme for this year's meeting is "Managing E-bike Use on Non-motorized Trails," which has become an interesting challenge for BLM since the off-highway vehicle regulations were amended. We have reserved an E-bike ride just for you!



E-bikes, BLM Photo

Members of the Board of Directors and others interested in attending the Board meeting on Tuesday, September 20, should plan to arrive in Grand Junction on Monday, September 19.

Wednesday, September 21, will consist of a bus tour of several locations in the Grand Junction area to highlight recreational trail use, including mountain biking, mixed biking and hiking, mixed motorized and non-motorized biking, an e-bike demonstration and riding opportunity for tour participants, and a hiking only location. This will be followed with an evening barbecue with local speaker, Zebulon Miracle, an archeologist and historian, that will reflect on the pre-history and history of the Grand Junction area. You do not want to miss it.

A full-day meeting to address the theme is being planned for Thursday, September 22. BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning has been invited to talk about BLM activities and priorities. A PLF banquet and silent auction will be held in the evening. The Board of Directors will meet again on Friday morning through noon, September 23, to complete any unfinished business.

This year's meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 743 Horizon Drive, in Grand Junction. We have reserved a block of rooms at a rate of \$149.00 (plus taxes) per night for either a King or two Queen beds. Please make your reservations early and before the cutoff date of Monday, August 29, 2022, by calling 1-800-222-8733 or by calling the Hotel at 970-241-8888. *(continued on page 4).*

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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

Greetings PLF Colleagues! I wanted to begin my first President's column by providing a bit more



Mary Jo Rugwell

of a personal introduction. I began my BLM career at the Wyoming State Office in December 1983 in the Minerals Division and worked in various jobs there for the next 17 years. In 2000, I headed south to be the Assistant Field Manager for Minerals and Lands in Carlsbad, NM and also served as the Acting Field Manager for eight months. My next BLM job was as the Field Manager in Kemmerer, WY. After four years in that role, I headed to Las Vegas as the Southern Nevada District Manager. In August 2012, I returned to Wyoming to serve as the Associate State Director and in 2015, became the Acting State Director. I was selected as the permanent State Director in April 2016. I also did two details in the Washington Office during my career. Employing the 20-year plan, I obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Management and a Master's degree in Public Administration while working full time and raising a family. I retired in August 2019 with over 35 years of service with BLM and over 46 years of Federal service. I have been married to my supportive husband Darrell for 49 years. We have two amazing adult children (Wendy and John), a great son-in-law (Eric) and two beautiful grandchildren (Jameson and Alana).

Next, I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as the President of the Public Lands Foundation. While the role is busier than I ever imagined it would be, it is also proving to be very rewarding.

With a new administration in place, there have been more opportunities to interact with BLM. Courtney will provide more detail in her Executive Director's message in this edition about our meeting with Tracy Stone-Manning in late January and the new

Foundation for America's Public Lands Board in early March. We are also working with BLM on history initiatives (thanks to Beau, Elaine, Connie, George, and others) and in establishing a framework for coaching/mentoring with the National Training Center via the Experienced Services Program (ESP). We plan to engage with the Director quarterly and I will be doing regular calls with other BLM leadership. We also got permission to include PLF membership application materials in the retirement packages for BLM employees. Stay tuned for more details on all of these topics.

The PLF's new Development Committee, under the leadership of Henri Bisson, is off to a great start! The Committee has met twice now and is actively working to improve the PLF's financial position going into the future. In particular, the Committee is working to develop a PLF Endowment Fund that could provide fiscal stability for many years to come. Thanks to a substantial bequest last year, the Committee has identified options for the endowment that would protect and grow the bequest and other donations over the years ahead.

In addition, the Committee is actively pursuing alternatives to ensure that the PLF provides good service to its members, ensure retention of existing members, attract new members, and stay true to the organization's advocacy mission. They are also working with PLF's Executive Director to develop effective strategies to raise funds or grants for our many efforts to support retention of public lands in public lands, good scientifically-based decisions by BLM and the Department of the Interior, and sound management by BLM leaders.

Finally, I want to encourage all of you to make your reservations for our in-person annual meeting in Grand Junction in September. The organizing committee is doing a great job and there may be an opportunity for us to engage with BLM's Executive Leadership Team as they are tentatively planning their meeting there during our conference. Since we have not had the chance to meet face-to-face for three years, it is way past time for us to be able to see one another without the use of a computer screen. Please plan to join us there and talk to you soon!

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

### COURTNEY LYONS-GARCIA

Happy Spring, I hope you are enjoying sunshine, blooms and a break in the winter weather as the seasons change. It is a time for new beginnings, and the PLF was proud to be part of the public launch of the new Foundation for America's Public Lands on March 3, 2022 in Washington, D.C. (An article on the new Foundation is included later in this



BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning and PLF Founder George Lea attending reception for the new Foundation for America's Public Lands in Washington, DC on March 3, 2022

edition of the *Monitor*.) The PLF hosted a reception to celebrate the new Foundation's first Board meeting and our President Mary Jo Rugwell gave the opening remarks. On hand were Congressman Alan Lowenthal (CA), who co-sponsored the legislation creating this new organization, BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning, and PLF Founder George Lea. In addition to

hosting this celebration, Mary Jo and I were able to speak at the Board meeting, expressing PLF's support for the new organization and offering to be of assistance in getting the organization off to a fast start.

In late January, President Rugwell, outgoing President Ed Shepard and I went to Washington, D.C. to meet in person with Director Stone-Manning. In addition to discussing how the PLF can aid BLM in their mission, we renewed our MOU with the agency, furthering our long standing relationship

with BLM and providing structure to our work in the future.



Ed Shepard, BLM Director Stone-Manning, Mary Jo Rugwell, and Courtney Lyons-Garcia (l to r) in Washington, DC on January 26, 2022

In addition to working with BLM, the PLF is also excited to have opened applications for the 2022 John Freemuth Student Congress, which will be held on October 3-6, 2022 at Boise State University. Our volunteer team is putting together an amazing program focusing on Wildland Fire. The schedule is set and the application process has started. If you know a college student that would enjoy and benefit from the Student Congress experience please send them to our webpage to apply. As always, we need sponsors for the event, so please contact me at [clgarcia@publicland.org](mailto:clgarcia@publicland.org) if you want to support our efforts in educating the next generation of public land stewards.

Finally, we are hosting a reception for BLM in Casper, Wyoming on May 22 as part of the Outdoor Writers Association conference. If you are a PLF member and wish to attend, please contact me at [clgarcia@publicland.org](mailto:clgarcia@publicland.org).

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## FOUNDATION FOR AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS

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In 2017, Congress established a new foundation to support the Bureau of Land Management. However, it was not organized or funded until recently. Funding was approved in 2021 and on January 19, 2022, the new **Foundation for America's Public Lands** was announced by Interior Secretary Haaland. Four initial Board members were announced, including former Montana Governor Steve Bullock; Maite Arce, Founder of the Hispanic Access Foundation; Neil Kornze, former BLM Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Champion Advocacy Fund and Champion Foundation; and Stacy Leeds, an experienced leader in law, higher education, governance, economic development, and conflict resolution. Five additional Board members will be announced at a later date.

The new Foundation will help leverage public and private dollars to conserve, protect, and restore land managed by BLM for the benefit of the American people. The **Public Lands Foundation** has been a strong proponent in advocating for the new **Foundation for America's Public Lands** to help provide BLM with the same kind of support that similar foundations do for the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

The **PLF** is a wholly separate organization from the **Foundation for America's Public Lands**. The **PLF** is a 35-years strong national non-profit membership organization incorporated in 1987 that advocates and works for the retention of public lands

administered by BLM in the public's hands; professionally and sustainably managed for the responsible use and enjoyment of American citizens. Members are predominantly retired BLM employees and as such have spent their careers dedicated to the sound management of these valuable public lands and resources. The members represent the broad spectrum of knowledge needed for public land management.

The **PLF** is looking forward to working with the new Foundation and providing support consistent with our mutual missions and interests. The **PLF** has been actively engaged and involved with advocacy efforts in support of BLM and responsible use of the public lands, Public Lands Day activities, outreach efforts with current BLM employees and retirees, support for BLM employee training and development programs, scholarship opportunities for students pursuing degrees in natural resources management, and sponsorship of a Student Congress program to educate college students on the history and current issues related to public land management. It is anticipated that the **PLF** can continue to support these efforts in collaboration with the new Foundation. Donations can also continue to be made to the Public Lands Foundation to support the **PLF** mission.

*Editor's note: The **PLF** hosted a reception for the initial Board members of the Foundation for America's Public Lands in Washington, D.C. on March 3, 2022.*

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### 2022 PLF ANNUAL MEETING *(continued)*

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Be sure to mention the Public Lands Foundation to receive the **PLF** rate. This rate is good two days before and two days after our meeting dates, but these rooms are limited and subject to availability.

Check In time is 3:00 p.m. Check Out is 12:00 noon. Cancellation must be done 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid cancellation fees. The hotel has free Wi-Fi in guest rooms and meeting rooms, free parking for **PLF** registered guests, and it provides shuttle service to and from the airport.

Meeting registration and additional information will be provided in the Summer edition of the Monitor. If you have any questions, please contact Beau McClure by email at [vpops@publicland.org](mailto:vpops@publicland.org), or by phone at (623) 587-7883.

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## LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS UPPER SALMON BASIN WATERSHED PROGRAM (ID)

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The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) presents the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program (USBWP) with its 2021 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation. The PLF 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.

Hawley Creek is a tributary of the Lemhi River, which served as key fish and wildlife habitat before changes in irrigation practices over the past century dried up the creek during summer months. Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon and Snake River steelhead, both protected under the ESA as threatened, were disconnected from this habitat and could no longer spawn or rear in the upper watershed. Riparian vegetation all but disappeared; sagebrush was growing in the middle of the stream.

Over the last 10 years, the 7.5 miles of Hawley Creek have been restored via a major partnership with the USBWP in the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, along with more than 15 Federal and state agencies, nonprofit conservation partners, landowners, and community members.

The USBWP reflects outstanding leadership and clarity of purpose that has enabled more than 20 organizations and local citizens and businesses to work closely together to realize a shared vision. The USBWP coordinated the project and the participation of many local community organizations and citizens who cooperated to achieve the landscape-scale improvements.

The BLM and these partners have dedicated significant time and resources to the project over its lifespan, and all the partners remain wholly invested in the outcome. The creek is now a thriving riparian ecosystem with perennial stream-flows. Chinook salmon and steelhead are starting to return and spawn the next generation. Sage grouse, songbirds, waterfowl, aquatic insects, and a wide range of wildlife are thriving in the new stream environment. Additional benefits include enhanced water delivery systems for irrigators. These significant, systemic improvements will have lasting impact in the entire Lemhi River watershed.

The partners, with the help of Salmon area teens participating in a youth employment program, have installed 100 beaver dam analogs on Hawley Creek. These structures slow water runoff, store water high in the drainage, and release it slowly during summer months. New fish-friendly irrigation diversions have been designed and installed, removing barriers to fish passage. Willows, cottonwood, and other riparian plant species have been planted to rebuild the stream environment and are now flourishing.

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program with its 2021 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.

Edward W. Shepard, President  
September 15, 2021



Upper Salmon Basin Watershed award presentation on November 18, 2021. *l to r* Lucy Littlejohn, BLM Fish Biologist (retired); Daniel Bertram, Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation; Jane Sandstrom, Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District; Linda Price, BLM Field Manager, Salmon Field Office; and Bob Minton, Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District (retired).

*The editor apologizes for not including this award presentation in the previous edition of the Monitor.*

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## LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARD MIGUEL ROMERO (NM)

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The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) presents Miguel Romero with its 2021 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation. The PLF 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 Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in northern New Mexico was designated in 2013. It is approximately 15,000 acres of dry conifer forest, Pinyon-Juniper woodlands, sage flats, and pockets of aspen. Private land exists within the monument boundary, including land owned by Miguel.

Miguel has committed substantial time and effort involving fire management on this landscape over the past 15 years. His participation in NEPA analyses, fire planning, and fire projects has helped significantly in carrying these efforts to completion on the adjacent Federal land, and this is the case for both wildland fires and prescribed fires. In addition, he has employed the same thinning prescriptions on his private land that are used on Federal lands by strategically placing the thinning treatments to further the success of managed and prescribed fire, thus promoting forest health and wildlife habitat improvement.



Miguel Romero, left, receives the Landscape Stewardship Award in New Mexico on October 22, 2021. BLM Fire Management Officer, Kyle Sahd, and Jesse Juen, PLF, present the Award.

He has helped in the management of wildland and prescribed fires on both Federal land and his private land by allowing the use of existing roads, thereby reducing costs. He has also willingly granted access to his property for studies and resource research endeavors.

He has taken the initiative to schedule field visits to learn about prescriptions, science, and ecological concepts, and he has applied this knowledge on his private land with no contributing funds or subsequent benefits, except for benefits that accrue to the ecosystem, lands, forests, wildlife, and other intrinsic values.

He has been instrumental in motivating other landowners to participate in planning efforts and on-the-ground treatments, including the New Mexico State Land Office and New Mexico State Forestry.

He understands and has total commitment to the long-term strategy and vision of landscape management that will improve resiliency of lands for generations to come. Miguel's efforts enhance public resources across the landscape, blurring the jurisdictional boundaries that cross watersheds, waterways, forest stands, and wildlife habitat.

The Public Lands Foundation is pleased to present Miguel Romero with its 2021 Landscape Stewardship Award and this Citation for invaluable contributions to the stewardship of America's public landscapes.

Edward W. Shepard, President  
September 15, 2021

*The editor apologizes for not including this award presentation in the previous edition of the Monitor.*

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## OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LANDS PROFESSIONAL AWARD GARY TORRES (UT)

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The Public Lands Foundation recognized Gary Torres, BLM Green River District Manager, Vernal, UT with the 2021 Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award in the previous edition of this newsletter. The Award was subsequently presented to Gary at a ceremony in the BLM Utah State Office on January 21, 2022.

This is a photo from that Award presentation.



Gary Torres, left, receives Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award in Utah on January 21, 2022. Bill Lamb, PLF, and Greg Sheehan, BLM State Director, present the Award.

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### REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS PLF LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

The PLF is accepting nominations of a private citizen(s) or group(s) who deserve to be recognized for their sustained contributions at a landscape scale to the conservation and management of public lands administered by BLM. PLF members, partner organizations, and BLM employees are encouraged to submit nominations by August 1, 2022. Winners will be determined at the PLF Annual meeting in September and will be announced and recognized soon thereafter.

The BLM has a variety of land use plans and projects that are intended to address the use, allocation and improvement of the public lands administered by BLM. Organizations and individuals outside of government are often the catalysts for demonstrating effective approaches for achieving good stewardship of these lands and resources. Good stewardship may be defined as an ethic that embodies cooperative planning and management of resources by agencies, organizations, communities, and others actively engaged to prevent loss of resources and facilitate their improvement in the interest of long-term sustainability. The Landscape Stewardship Award honors the work done by private citizens/groups to advance and sustain community-based

stewardship on a landscape scale that includes, in whole or in part, lands administered by BLM. The focus on landscapes is intended to be broad in nature versus small-scale, local, project-oriented efforts.

The organizations, groups and individuals typically envisioned for this award are those who took a leadership role to address landscape-scale issues. Emphasis is on individual local citizens or groups comprised of people who are typically all-volunteer without paid staff. A good example would be a coalition of individuals or citizen groups joining together to address issues within a certain landscape to bring about improved stewardship.

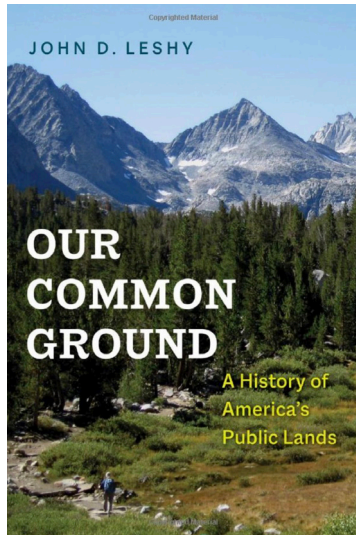
The award is a citation acknowledging the nature and significance of the organization's, group's, or individual's achievements. The nomination form and guidelines can be found on the PLF website. You will find information about the award, candidates, nomination process/selection process, evaluation factors, a copy of the nomination form, and the guidelines for nominations.

Please send nominations by August 1, 2022, by email to [dmari@publicland.org](mailto:dmari@publicland.org).

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**OUR COMMON GROUND**  
**A HISTORY OF AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS**  
Book by John Leshy, Yale University Press

The PLF included an article by John Leshy in the Spring Quarter 2021 edition of the Monitor, titled “Exploding the Myth that Federal Lands are Unconstitutional”. He has recently completed a political history book on America’s public lands, titled *Our Common Ground* which is available from Yale University Press or purchase from Amazon. We would recommend this book to anyone interested in the history of our public lands and the political, legal, and administrative complexities of public land policy battles from the founding of the United States and the Ordinances of 1784, 1785, and 1787 to the current battles over our public lands. John Leshy served as Solicitor of the Department of the Interior from 1993 to 2001 and is currently an Emeritus Professor at the University of California, Hastings College of Law.



**BLM EXPERIENCED SERVICES PROGRAM**  
by Dwight Fielder, PLF Colorado

As previously reported in the Fall 2019 edition of *The Monitor*, BLM entered into a Cooperative Agreement with a nonprofit partner, the National Older Worker Career Center, to administer the Department’s first Experienced Services Program (ESP). After 25 years of partnering with Federal agencies to run successful experienced worker programs, the National Older Worker Career Center is now known as the National Experienced Workforce Solutions, or NEW Solutions for short. Only the name has changed, which more accurately reflects their long-standing mission.

The original, three-year pilot program has been so successful that BLM has committed to another five-year agreement. A report on the results of the

first three years of the program can be found on the NEW Solutions website at [newsolutions.org](https://newsolutions.org). Overall, the ESP has contributed over 57,000 service hours of full-time work from May 2019 through September 2021. More than 80 experienced individuals have supported BLM as ESP enrollees. This has allowed BLM to complete many important projects such as the 5-Year Sage Grouse Monitoring Report; launching the EcoSurvey system for the forestry program; cruising and appraising timber sales; monitoring and inspecting timber sales; drafting legal descriptions for wilderness areas; and completing gate and culvert inspections. This just scratches the surface of what ESP can do.

For those who are not familiar with ESP, it is a cost-effective way to address the brain drain that many Federal agencies have experienced over the last 10 years, which is likely to continue into the near future. Workers under this program are **not** Federal employees, nor are they employees of NEW Solutions. They have a unique status and are classified as “enrollees” in a Federal work program. Unlike rehired annuitants, enrollees earn an hourly competitive wage and there is no effect on your Federal retirement annuity or benefits. Enrollees do not occupy an FTE, and Federal hiring rules do not apply. Enrollees in the ESP are non-supervisory, full or part-time, working on special projects, backlog needs, workload surges, workforce planning, training or mentoring. Some BLM positions are currently advertised and can be found on the NEW Solutions website. New jobs are advertised as they are approved by BLM, so check back often.

The BLM Director has asked the PLF to help promote the ESP as a way to bring experienced personnel, age 55 and older, onboard quickly to accomplish critical mission-related work. Many of these positions have been remote positions, which can be accomplished from your home through email, phone, and Microsoft Teams.



The BLM, through NEW Solutions, would like to gauge retirees’ interest in participating in this



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program. If you or anyone you know might be interested in working part-time to fill any of the Bureau's needs, please contact Beth Stover at (303) 238-0497 or [bstover@newsolutions.org](mailto:bstover@newsolutions.org); Dwight Fielder at (541) 219-1825 or [dwight.fielder@yahoo.com](mailto:dwight.fielder@yahoo.com); or Kate O'Dell at (303) 242-8668 or [kodell@newsolutions.org](mailto:kodell@newsolutions.org).

Although the ESP has been a successful program, there is recognition by BLM leadership that the program is vastly underutilized. Similar programs in other agencies have far more enrollees in their programs; e.g. Forest Service has over 300 enrollees. If your local BLM office is not participating in the program, please encourage them to take advantage of it and let them know that there is helpful guidance available to them on the BLM ESP sharepoint site. They can also contact the National BLM ESP Program Officer, Celene Nemeroff, at (303) 236-9422 or [cnemeroff@blm.gov](mailto:cnemeroff@blm.gov), or any of the NEW Solutions contacts listed above.

## JOHNNY HORIZON

*This article is a reprint of an article from the Fall 2001 edition of the BLM Alaska Frontiers newsletter provided by Gary Marsh, PLF Tennessee.*

"This Land is Your Land – Keep it Clean." So said Johnny Horizon, the cartoon cowboy-like outdoorsman and symbol for the BLM effort to encourage good outdoor manners. His simple message sought to enlist recreationists to protect public lands from littering, abuse, and vandalism. Many people still remember the Johnny Horizon image emblazoned on litter bags, publications, watches and other products. But who was he and what did he accomplish in his brief career?

Johnny Horizon dates back to the late 1960's when BLM Director Boyd Rasmusson and Public Affairs Chief John Mattoon felt that BLM needed something big to inspire people to help BLM improve the public lands in a positive way. Both men had previous Forest Service experience and the Smokey Bear program was no doubt on their minds. They contracted with an art firm and the image of Johnny Horizon was born.

In 1968, George Gurr, BLM Program Director, was selected to bring the program to life. "All I had to start with was a logo and a theme. I thought the only

way to make it work would be to have a real person speak for the program, so I started contacting people in the entertainment world. One day I got a letter from Helen Ives, the wife of the famous folk singer, actor and entertainer Burl Ives. She said he liked the idea and wanted to help," said Gurr.

Ives later came to Washington to meet with officials in BLM and the Department. It was a match made in heaven. The following day he joined Secretary Walter Hickel at a press conference attended by members of Congress and people from the communications and entertainment industry. Ives declared, "My old guitar pickin' finger has been good to me and now I'm ready to offer my services in whatever way I can." Secretary Hickel said, "We are honored and delighted to have Mr. Ives as a partner in this significant work of litter prevention and cleanup. His ballads of the land, the people and their heritage have endeared him to an entire nation. His musical interpretations of our national folklore clearly reflect his love and respect for the land."

Through Ives, the doors to the entertainment world opened wider. Entertainers and other people enlisted in the campaign, which soon mushroomed into a widespread national citizens movement. Special Johnny Horizon concerts were held around the country. The BLM contracted with Columbia Special Products to market licenses for commercial use of the Johnny Horizon character. A Johnny Horizon "environmental test kit" was developed by Parker Brothers and featured in the New York Times and Newsweek magazine. President Nixon signed Public Law 91-419 in 1970 to prevent "the unauthorized manufacture and use of the character Johnny Horizon" and designated revenues from the licensing agreements for use in furthering the Johnny Horizon program.



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The BLM embraced the program and the “Johnny Ho” message began appearing on BLM publications and at booths at state and county fairs. Meanwhile, Ives and Gurr were busy recording dozens of radio public service announcements for broadcast around the country. Stations received certificates of appreciation signed by the Secretary. Ives and Gurr appeared on major TV shows of the day, including David Frost, Johnny Cash, and Johnny Carson. The response was overwhelming. Ives said that Johnny Horizon had to be more than a campaign – it had to establish a way of life by fostering a broader conservation ethic in the public. Program Director George Gurr introduced Johnny Horizon to the Boy Scouts at their 1969 National Jamboree. The Boy Scouts later received the National Johnny Horizon Award for environmental improvement from Secretary Rogers Morton in 1971.

The Johnny Horizon program was so successful that it soon outgrew BLM and was adopted throughout the Department of the Interior. Ives encouraged expanding the program to urban communities, particularly in inner cities. He also supplied a theme for

such efforts, choosing the words that characterized his own response, “I’ll help.” Instead, the Johnny Horizon program hit political obstacles and quietly faded away. Ironically, this was shortly after the passage of FLPMA in 1976. In retrospect, it is amazing that so much was accomplished so quickly. Yet here it was, successfully breaking new ground and advocating personal responsibility and a land ethic that continues today – all two years before the first Earth Day.

Gurr and Ives remained close friends and the two often visited as they both retired to Washington State. Ives died in 1995 at the age of 86. Gurr attended the funeral as a final thanks and bid farewell to the man who gave voice to the silent cartoon character, transforming Johnny Horizon into the inspirational persona that motivated a generation of children and adults to make a difference on the public lands.

*Editor’s note: George Gurr retired in 1987 after a 32-year career with BLM. He worked in Craig and Canon City, CO; Worland, WY; Price, UT; Washington, DC; Vale, OR; and Anchorage, AK. He passed away in 2015 in Sequim, WA.*

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## SAVING STINSON by Ray Brady

*I was recently contacted by another member of our BLM Alaska fire team, Doug Lutz, who currently resides in Albuquerque, NM. Doug had been researching the story of the plane and he contributed to this story.*

My first BLM job was on a summer fire crew with the BLM Alaska Fire Service in 1968. I had traveled to Alaska with a couple of friends that summer, from jobs we had at Glacier National Park in Montana, to earn some extra money for college. We were looking forward to the excitement of an Alaska adventure. I had never been on a fire crew before, but I enjoyed working in the outdoors and willing to try something new. It was an active fire season in Alaska and we were able to get hired on the spot. Our adventure began. My first job with BLM.

One of the fires our fire team was assigned to that summer of 1968 was the Toklat River fire (Z-83) in central Alaska, southwest of Fairbanks. Our mission – protect a vintage aircraft that had crashed near the Toklat and Kantishna Rivers in 1947, while on a

mail run from McGrath to Nenana, AK. The Smithsonian Museum was interested in trying to recover this airplane for future preservation and restoration. The plane was a Stinson Tri-Motor Model A aircraft that was built in 1933, and the only remaining plane of 31 planes that were built.

Our 16-member crew, including myself and Doug Lutz, were airlifted to the site of the Stinson Tri-Motor on August 11. We figured we had about 24 hours to dig a fire line down to permafrost, cut the existing trees down, drag them outside of the fire line, and back-burn the fuel before the fire hit. We thought we were pretty well prepared as the fire reached an old dozer a mile or two away that had broken down trying to get the Stinson out of the area sometime before. With an explosion of the abandoned fuel drums from the dozer, we knew our time was near. As the fire front hit us, the heat, smoke, and wind generated by the fire was my most vivid memory of our experience. The only thing we could do was to constantly walk around the fire line and put out any spot fires that may have jumped the line or burned below the tundra at our feet. The smoke was so intense that visibility was nil, we became disoriented, and we had to drop to

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the ground to breathe. We ran out of food on about the third day, our drinking water was nearly gone, and our radio had broken down. Needless to say, we survived, but it certainly was not a picnic in the Alaska wilderness. As the 100,000-acre, Stage 5 fire finally blew past, we realized that we had “Saved the Stinson”.

A snapshot of our fire crew in front of the Stinson Tri-Motor was taken on the fourth day, August 14, by one of the guys on the fire crew. I have kept that picture as a memory to this day. I also still have the orange steel fire helmet that I wore from that fire season in Alaska in 1968. I am the person standing directly under the center-front engine in the picture of the Stinson Tri-Motor on that day 54 years ago. Doug Lutz is sitting on the ground to my left.

As a helicopter picked us up after the fire, I remember seeing the area within the fire line as a vivid color of tundra and green vegetation. As far as you could see in every direction beyond the fire line was starkly black and burned vegetation. The Stinson

Tri-Motor was proudly sitting in the center of the green circle.

The Stinson Tri-Motor was eventually recovered from the Alaska tundra in 1972, rebuilt, and purchased by the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum in 1988. The vintage aircraft was then later purchased by a private collector in Minnesota and further restored in 1998. Years after this extensive restoration, the Mid America Flight Museum in Mt. Pleasant, TX purchased the plane and currently has it on display at their museum. This only surviving Stinson Tri-Motor Model A aircraft is now flying and maintained on a regular basis by the museum.

I am looking forward to the day I can travel to Mt. Pleasant, TX and touch the Stinson airplane that has such a warm memory in my heart. I had no idea during my fire crew experiences with BLM in Alaska during the summer of 1968, that it would later lead to a long-term career with BLM. The memories of the Stinson Tri-Motor only add to those experiences.



Stinson 1968, photo provided by Ray Brady



Stinson 2021, photo by Doug Lutz

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## LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

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The PLF continues to monitor Congressional legislation, Federal rulemaking activities, and Executive Orders pertaining to the Department of the Interior, BLM, and public lands management. The PLF, as an advocacy organization for the public lands, is actively engaged in providing our perspectives on a wide range of issues including the annual BLM appropriations, any program oversight hearings, proposed amendments to FLPMA and other major statutes affecting public lands management, and proposed regulations regarding BLM resource programs. Reviewing legislation and proposed rules and preparing comments and testimony, when appropriate, is an important part of our advocacy work. We will be updating our Legislation and Regulations webpage on our website under the "Advocacy" link and providing updates in the Monitor on significant actions.



Photo by Ray Brady

### EXECUTIVE ORDER 13990 PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND RESTORING SCIENCE TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

**Status:** Signed by the President on January 20, 2021.

**Summary:** Section 4 of the EO requires the Secretary to place a moratorium on implementation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program in Alaska and conduct a new and comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of the oil and gas program. The BLM on August 4, 2021 published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to prepare a supplemental EIS for the ANWR Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program and announced the start of a 60-day public scoping period. *The Scoping Report was released on December 1, 2021. The Draft Supplemental EIS is anticipated to be released in June 2022 for public review and comment.*

**PLF Position:** The PLF will be closely tracking these actions and providing comments during any public comment period, as appropriate.

### EXECUTIVE ORDER 14008 TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS AT HOME AND ABROAD

**Status:** Signed by the President on January 27, 2021.

**Summary:** Section 207 of the EO requires the Secretary to review renewable energy siting and permitting processes on the public lands and increase renewable energy production on the public lands. *The Secretary on January 12, 2022 announced the signing of an interagency MOU between the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency to improve Federal agency coordination and streamline reviews of renewable energy projects on public lands. The MOU includes establishment of an interagency National Renewable Energy Coordination Office (RECO) and BLM field-level RECO offices.*

Section 208 of the EO requires the Secretary to pause new oil and gas leases on the public lands pending completion of a comprehensive review and reconsideration of Federal permitting and leasing practices and whether to adjust royalties associated with coal, oil, and gas resources extracted from the public lands. *On November 26, 2021, the Department released its report on Federal oil and gas leasing and identified reforms that should be made in the program.*

**PLF Position:** The PLF will be closely tracking these actions and providing comments during any public comment period, as appropriate.

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## GRAZING REGULATIONS 43 CFR PART 4100

**Rule Status:** On January 17, 2020 BLM announced the intent to prepare an EIS to consider proposed revisions to the grazing regulations to improve and streamline the grazing permit process, improve the administration of grazing permits, and also potentially consider the adoption of outcome-based grazing authorizations. *The BLM intends to release a Draft EIS and proposed rule in 2022 and final regulations in 2023.*

**Rule Summary:** The proposed revisions are intended to update, modernize, and streamline the current grazing regulations and provide for greater flexibility in land and resources management. The BLM seeks to improve land-use planning and grazing permitting procedures, strengthen controls to prevent unauthorized grazing, enhance environmental protections, and improve public input opportunities.

**PLF Position:** *The PLF on February 24, 2020 provided comments to BLM in response to the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS to support proposed revisions to the grazing regulations. The PLF on June 18, 2020 also co-signed a collaborative letter with other organizations to BLM providing comments on proposed revisions to the grazing regulations. The PLF will continue to track the development of the proposed regulations and provide comments as appropriate.*



Livestock grazing - Oregon, BLM photo

## SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY AND LINEAR RIGHT-OF-WAY REGULATIONS 43 CFR PART 2800

**Rule Status:** On August 31, 2021 BLM announced the intent to revise the current regulations related to renewable energy permitting and linear rights-of-way on the public lands. *The BLM on December 3, 2021 issued, for public comment, proposed guidance to reduce the rental rates for solar and wind energy right-of-way authorizations on the public lands..*

**Rule Summary:** On August 31, 2021 BLM solicited input on rent schedules for solar and wind energy rights-of-way, competitive process for wind and solar energy rights-of-way, extension of authorizations beyond 30-years, applications processing, and other improvements to the administration of the renewable energy program.

**PLF Position:** *The PLF on January 27, 2022 provided comments to BLM on the proposed guidance to reduce rental rates for solar and wind energy authorizations on the public lands. The PLF will continue to track the development of any proposed rule.*



Silver State Solar - Nevada, DOI photo

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## BLM LEADERSHIP

### BLM WYOMING STATE DIRECTOR ANDREW ARCHULETA

The BLM on January 26, 2022 announced the selection of Andrew Archuleta as the new BLM Wyoming State Director. Archuleta replaces Kim Liebhauser who has served as the Acting State Director and will return to her permanent role as the Associate State Director. Archuleta's career includes 28 years of Federal service, including 15 years with BLM. He most recently served as the District Manager for the BLM California Desert District and previous assignments included the District Manager for the Colorado Northwest District and BLM Acting Division Chief for Fluid Minerals. In addition, he has worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service. He received a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology and a Master's degree in Wildlife Toxicology from Colorado State University.



**Andrew Archuleta**  
Wyoming State Director

### BLM IDAHO STATE DIRECTOR KAREN KELLEHER

On February 17, 2022 BLM announced the selection of Karen Kelleher as the new BLM Idaho State Director. Kelleher replaces Peter Ditton who has served as the Acting State Director and will return to his permanent role as the Associate State Director. Kelleher's career includes more than 20 years of experience with BLM. She most recently served as the BLM Associate State Director in Arizona and previous assignments have included Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Lands and Minerals Management, BLM Deputy Assistant Director for Resources and Planning, Manager of the Sonoran Desert National Monument in Arizona, District Manager for the Anchorage District Office, and Field Manager for the Wenatchee Field Office in Washington. In addition, she was coordinator of the recent DOI/BLM Sage Grouse Review Team. Kelleher received a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Union College in New York and a Master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University.



**Karen Kelleher**  
Idaho State Director

With continuing changes in leadership positions, we would like to provide an update of the current BLM Leadership, including Deputy Directors and State Directors that provide the day-to-day on-the-ground management for the public lands as follows:

Director	Tracy Stone-Manning
Deputy Director, Policy and Programs	Nada Culver
Deputy Director, Operations	Michael Nedd
Alaska State Office	Tom Heinlein ( <i>Acting</i> )
Arizona State Office	Raymond Suazo
California State Office	Karen Mouritsen
Colorado State Office	Stephanie Connolly ( <i>Acting</i> )
Eastern States Office	Mitchell Leverette
Idaho State Office	Karen Kelleher
Montana State Office	Theresa Hanley ( <i>Acting</i> )
Nevada State Office	Jon Raby
New Mexico State Office	Melanie Barnes ( <i>Acting</i> )
OR/WA State Office	Barry Bushue
Utah State Office	Greg Sheehan
Wyoming State Office	Andrew Archuleta

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## IN MEMORIAM

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### REMEMBRANCE EDWARD F. SPANG

Ed Spang, former Public Lands Foundation Vice President, and past president of the Idaho BLM



Ed Spang

retirees group passed away peacefully in his sleep of natural causes on April 3, 2022. He was 93 years young. Ed will be remembered for his wit and outgoing generous personality. Ed served as a friend, coach, and mentor to many of his employees over his substantial Federal service career with BLM in several western states. Ed was born and raised in Lame Deer, MT and graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman, MT in 1952 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Range Management. He then served in the U. S. Air Force for two years, obtaining the rank of Captain and remaining in the Air Force Reserves for another 14 years.

Ed's career with BLM began in 1954, as a Range Conservationist in Malta, MT. Most of his 41-year BLM career was spent in management/leadership positions at all levels in the organization, from Area Manager to District Manager, State Director of both Nevada and Alaska, and Washington Headquarters Office Division Chief positions. He also led a natural resource advisory team on an overseas assignment in Nigeria.

As a manager, Ed aptly dealt with a variety of sensitive and controversial issues including wild horses and burros in Nevada; livestock grazing issues in the Vale Project in Oregon; environmental and wilderness inventory issues in Arizona; and State selections, Native Claims and Native allotments in Alaska. His leadership style encouraged the development of employees for future leadership by carefully monitoring, freely delegating authority, encouraging open communications, and showing professional interest in those he supervised. During his tenure as State Director in Nevada he also

implemented Coordinated Resource Management Planning to encourage close on-the-ground coordination between public land users and BLM employees in planning and implementation of resource programs.

Ed received numerous awards during his career with BLM, including a Special Unit Team Award for his work in Nigeria, the Department of the Interior's Meritorious Service Award in 1977, and the Department's Distinguished Service Award in 1981. The PLF recognized Edward F. Spang with their Lifetime Service Award in the fall of 2014.

Ed was a lifetime member of the PLF and after retiring from BLM in 1995 was elected to be the PLF Vice-President serving in that capacity from 2002-2016. Ed was also the President of the Idaho BLM retiree's group for several years following his retirement.

Donations in Ed's honor can be made to the Public Lands Foundation or a charity of your choice.

**John Marion Baldessari** on January 21, 2022, in Anchorage, AK. John was a U.S. Army veteran and after his service earned a B.A. in Geology from the University of Colorado. After college, he worked for the USGS Topographic Department in Colorado and then joined BLM as a Cartographic Aid in Alaska. He transferred to a BLM Land Surveyor position in Alaska and retired in 1992.

**Charles Jay "Bud" Baumann** on January 1, 2022, in Billings, MT. Bud attended Dartmouth College and earned a degree in Civil Engineering. After his military service in Germany he continued his education and received a Masters degree in Civil Engineering. He started his career with BLM in Montana and later worked for the Billings Gazette and the Missoulian newspapers.

**Dennis Dwight Bland** on November 6, 2021, in Cheyenne, WY. Dennis was a U.S. Army veteran and worked for BLM as a cadastral surveyor. He worked in Utah, Nevada, California, and Wyoming. He retired in Wyoming in 1995 as Supervisor of Office Operations after 36 years of Federal service.

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## IN MEMORIAM *(continued)*

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**Raymond Frederick Brainard** on June 30, 2021, in Idaho Falls, ID. Ray attended the University of Connecticut where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Forestry and Michigan State University where he earned a Master's degree in Forest Management. He worked for BLM and the Forest Service as a forester for over 30 years and also was a wildland firefighter.

**Victoria "Vicki" Lynn Dixon** on January 8, 2022, in Naples, FL. Vicki was a familiar face in the BLM Washington Office Recreation program where she worked with BLM's recreation partners. In 2000, she moved to the Interior Secretary's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs where she worked on Department-wide outreach efforts, but remained engaged with BLM stakeholder needs. Following her retirement in 2016, she moved to Naples, Florida.

**Rebecca "Becky" Anne Garner** on December 2, 2021, in Roseburg, OR. After attending Phoenix College in the mid-70's, Becky worked a seasonal job at Grand Teton National Park. In 1976, she followed her brother, Robert Stroud, to Alaska to work for BLM in Anchorage. She worked in Fire Support, first in Administration, then as an Equipment Technician, responsible for equipment rental, seasonal fire hiring, fire transportation, and served as Timekeeper on large fires. She also oversaw the District workman's compensation program. Becky relocated to the Phoenix, AZ area in the early 1980s, where she worked a variety of private-sector jobs. She returned to the BLM in 1999 in Roseburg, OR, where she served as Public Contact Specialist until her retirement in 2014.

**William "Bill" Louis Gilbert** on February 6, 2022, in Las Cruces, NM. Bill attended Humboldt State University and University of Nebraska, eventually receiving his PhD in Plant and Range Sciences from the University of Nebraska. He was a BLM biologist from 1976 - 2006 and worked in Price, UT; Susanville, CA; and Las Cruces, NM.

**Margaret June McDaniel** on November 17, 2021, in Anchorage, AK. Margaret worked for BLM in Anchorage for some 40 years and retired in 2017.

**Keith Douglas Rigtrup** on February 28, 2022, in St. George, UT. Keith attended Brigham Young University and the University of Iowa. He began

his professional career in the Utah Governor's office and in 2003 started working for BLM in Utah. He also coached youth and high school football for many years.

**Edward F. Spang** on April 3, 2022, in Malta, MT. Ed graduated from Montana State University with a Bachelor's degree in Range Management. He was a veteran of the U. S. Air Force and Air Force Reserves. His career with BLM began in 1954, as a Range Conservationist in Malta, Montana. His 41-year BLM career was spent in management/leadership positions at all levels in the organization, from Area Manager to District Manager, State Director of both Nevada and Alaska, and Washington Headquarters Office Division Chief positions.

**Kenneth Robert Steck** on February 16, 2022, in Chugiak, AK. Kenny served in the Marine Corps, attended Alaska Pacific University, and received a Bachelor's degree in Outdoor Studies. Kenny worked as an Education and Outreach Specialist with BLM in Glennallen, AK.

**Debra Taylor (Francis) Stephens** on March 1, 2021, in Boise, ID. Debra attended Boise State University and majored in Journalism and Creative Writing. She had a 35-year career with the Federal government. She began working for the IRS in 1979 and later continued her career as an IT specialist with BLM, where she retired.

The PLF is committed to never forgetting the dedicated employees of BLM who have left us. We do so on our website's Memorial Wall and by publishing names of those who passed away in the Monitor. If you have a death to report, please e-mail us at [obits@publicland.org](mailto:obits@publicland.org), preferably with a link to or copy of an obituary. You can rely on the PLF to keep you informed of topical news on the public PLF Facebook page, our website, other social media sites, and the Monitor newsletter.

*Note: Putting together the Memoriam list in the Monitor and maintaining the Memorial Wall on the PLF website takes a lot of work by PLF volunteers. If you find errors, or if you know of something we may have missed, we apologize, and will correct the record. If you have concerns, please let Ray Brady know at [rbrady@publicland.org](mailto:rbrady@publicland.org).*



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*The Monitor is what we make it and we encourage you to provide Letters to the Editor or provide other reviews and comments on articles included in your newsletter. It is important to hear from our membership, and if you like something or don't like something, let us know. If you do send an email to the Editor, don't be surprised if it winds up as a Letter to the Editor in the next edition of the Monitor. Please provide your comments to [rbrady@publicland.org](mailto:rbrady@publicland.org). Comments should be limited to no more than 500 words in length. In addition, members are encouraged to use the [bod@publicland.org](mailto:bod@publicland.org) email address to communicate with the PLF Board.*

*The Monitor generally reflects ongoing PLF activities, events, updates, awards, and information on former BLM employees. We encourage articles and discussions of issues by posting quality content that also provides a positive exposure of the goals, objectives and mission of the PLF. However, we need to take some precautions when posting information to the newsletter and other forms of social media to ensure appropriate rules of behavior. In keeping a positive experience for our members, we reserve the right to publish only comments, photos, and other material deemed appropriate by the PLF. We intend on maintaining a friendly and professional tone in the articles in the Monitor and any postings of Letters to the Editor.*

## 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 and Management Act.
- Encourage professionalism by BLM employees.
- Increase the public's understanding of and support for the proper management of the public lands.

## DONATIONS

### MEMORIAL DONATIONS

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Debie Chivers  
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Michael Guerry  
Ed Shepard

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and Gary Long  
Delmar Vail  
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### 75TH ANNIVERSARY BLM

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#### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Nancy Haug	Celia Boddington	Jenna Whitlock
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#### LIFE MEMBERS

Mark Stevens	Rachel Wrightson
Myra Musialkiewicz	

## DONATIONS

The PLF continues to request donations to support the George Lea Founder's Scholarship fund. We hope members will make a special contribution to the scholarship fund. We plan on awarding two \$5,000 scholarships this year to deserving students. The PLF received scholarship applications from 38 students from 18 universities in the west this year and currently are reviewing those applications. However, the fund needs to be replenished to be able to continue to offer these scholarships each year.

The PLF is a benefiting non-profit organization under the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Customers with a Kroger rewards card can register and designate the Public Lands Foundation (number DN597) on their rewards card account and purchases will benefit the PLF. Participants just swipe their registered Kroger awards card when shopping for each purchase to count.

You can make a designated donation by credit card on our website at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org), or by check sent to the Public Lands Foundation, P.O. Box 7226, Arlington, VA 22207. In your transmittal, please make sure to mention if your donation is for the **George Lea Founder's Scholarship**, for the **Student Congress Fund**, or the newly established **Executive Director Fund**. Remember, if you are making a donation in memory of someone who has passed away, you can designate your donation to go to one of these funds. The PLF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization. Your donations are tax-deductible to the maximum extent permitted under the law.

### DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION?

Please help us keep our records current and ensure we have your current e-mail address on file. It's easy to do by updating your profile on the PLF Members' Forum, message us at [info@publicland.org](mailto:info@publicland.org), or call at 703-935-0916.

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