



For America's Heritage

THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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Summer QUARTER 2022

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

It is time to register for our IN-PERSON Annual Meeting. Come join us in Grand Junction, Colorado on September 20-23, 2022. **The deadline for early registration is August 29, 2022.** You can register on-line at www.publicland.org, or by mailing in the registration form enclosed in this edition of the Monitor.

Managing E-bike Use on Non-motorized Trails is the theme for this year's Annual Meeting. And, we have reserved an e-bike ride just for you.

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

Wednesday, September 21st, will consist of a 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 a riding opportunity for tour participants, and a hiking only location.

Box lunch choices for the tour are: 1) Roasted Turkey Sandwich—White bread with Swiss cheese, lettuce and tomato; 2) Roast Beef—French roll with lettuce, tomato and red onion; or 3) Grilled Vegetable Wrap—Tortilla wrap with eggplant, zucchini, tomato, lettuce and spinach. Each is served with whole fruit, potato chips, bottled water, and a cookie.

There will be a Wednesday evening barbecue at the DoubleTree Hotel with a 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. The barbecue includes shredded barbecue beef or chicken breast with a mixed green salad with tomato and cucumber, Italian and ranch dressing on the side, coleslaw, potato salad, buttered corn on the cob, BBQ baked beans, buns, lettuce, tomato, red onion, and Chef's choice of dessert. *(continued on page 4).*



E-bikes, BLM Photo

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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 hope that each and every one of you is having a wonderful summer.



Mary Jo Rugwell

I am so excited to be able to see PLF colleagues in person at the Annual Meeting in Grand Junction from September 20-23, 2022. Registration is now open and can be done online or by mail. Additionally, a block of rooms has been reserved at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 743 Horizon Drive, in Grand Junction where the meet-

ing will be held. We have a packed agenda which includes a Board meeting on Tuesday with a social in the evening (hosted by Tom Allen and Maggie Wyatt), a field tour on Wednesday focused on recreational trail use (including e-biking), a General meeting on Thursday with a banquet, and a Board meeting wrap-up on Friday. Complete details on the meeting can be found in this edition of the Monitor.

Since the PLF has been unable to meet in person for the last couple of years, attendance at this year's Annual Meeting is vitally important. The PLF is celebrating its 35th birthday this year and this gathering will be a pivotal event. Public lands advocacy is needed more than ever in today's fractured political climate. If we are to be the most effective voices for BLM, we need to ensure that our organization is both strong and resilient. Finding new ways for us to grow and adapt can only happen if we have commitment and engagement by a significant portion of our membership. I am asking you to make that commitment by registering, making your travel and hotel arrangements, and attending this year's meeting. I would also ask you to consider ways we can be bolder in our advocacy mission. I plan to discuss this topic at our Annual Meeting.

Next, I want to highlight a very important event that occurred in June. PLF founder George Lea celebrated his 95th birthday on June 17th! The PLF celebrated his birthday, together with George's family and friends, by recording a lengthy video greeting and compiling digitized photos provided by George's

daughter Diana. The PLF Eastern and Mid-West State Representative Jeff Holdren and Director-at-Large George Stone attended a celebratory event at George's home organized by daughter Tarey Lea where participants enjoyed viewing the video. The video is an hour long and includes many wonderful tributes by current and former PLF Board members, along with George's relatives and friends. You can watch it online at



George Lea, Founder PLF

<https://www.tribute.co/george-lea/>. Congratulations, George! I need to thank George Stone for his efforts in arranging for the production of the video greeting and for this information about the celebration.

The PLF Development Committee under the leadership of Henri Bisson is continuing its important work on behalf of the organization. That group, along with the Finance Committee, is making significant progress in setting up the organization for financial success and stability in the years to come. I recently signed the *PLF Endowment Fund Resolution* drafted by the Development Committee and approved by the Finance Committee and PLF Board. The new PLF Endowment Fund is intended to grow over time from investments of the principal and new donations and bequests. Only a small percentage of the PLF Endowment Fund will be identified in our annual budget each year to support our programs. It is expected that amount will increase over time as the Endowment grows. I want to thank Henri for his leadership and for this information. Stay tuned for more updates.

I recently received confirmation from BLM that the PLF membership brochure was added to BLM retiree packets starting on May 5th of this year. I received this information from Ms. Shelia Grady, the BLM Human Resource Services Division Chief at the National Operations Center. Thank you to everyone who has tried to get this done over the years and to Courtney for drafting our updated PLF membership brochure. This is a huge accomplishment and will hopefully increase our membership moving forward.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *(continued)*

I also wanted to mention ways that we have engaged in our advocacy mission since the beginning of this year. We have signed letters encouraging Secretary Haaland to appoint a retired BLM land manager to the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission, a letter of support for the renewal of the Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council Charter, a letter of support and appreciation for the BLM Colorado Wild Horse Management Actions, and an AWCP letter in support of the Pittman-Robertson Act (American System of Conservation Funding).

In addition, we submitted supplemental written testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee to advocate for additional funding for grazing permit renewals and written testimony on BLM's FY 2023 Appropriations to the Senate Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations.

We continue to engage with the BLM's leadership

to support the organization. I reached out via email to all State Directors in late May with an offer of assistance. We hosted a reception on behalf of the BLM at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming during the Outdoor Writers Association of America's annual meeting in May. See the Executive Director's article for more information on that event. We stand ready to assist BLM in any way that we legally can.

I am continually amazed at the work being done by the PLF. Our Executive Director Courtney is doing a great job, but she is only one person. Several Executive Committee and Board members spend countless hours assisting the organization in a myriad of ways. I am so fortunate to have their help, and cannot thank them enough for all they do. That said, since "many hands make light work," there is always room for more workers. Thank you for reading and I sincerely hope to see you in September in Grand Junction!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE COURTNEY LYONS-GARCIA

Thirty-five years and counting! This year we are celebrating the Public Lands Foundation's 35th Anniversary and we are not slowing down. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers, the return this year of the John Freemuth Student Congress is going to be very impactful for the next generation of public land stewards. We had more than 100 students apply to be part of this year's Student Congress, the most applicants ever!

In May we were honored to sponsor a reception for BLM at the Outdoor Writers Association of America annual conference. This reception, held at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, WY was the final event in our celebration of BLM's 75th Anniversary.



PLF President Mary Jo Rugwell and BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning

Attended by more than 150 participants, it was a wonderful opportunity to talk to writers about our amazing public lands. Moreover, PLF President Mary Jo Rugwell was able to attend the banquet dinner with BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning and visit with BLM staff about PLF activities.

We have also been busy with our advocacy efforts, issuing press releases on responsible critical minerals development, oil and gas leasing reforms and our Landscape Stewardship Awards. We continue to sign on to letters to Congress and the administration supporting our colleagues and partners on issues important to the future of the public lands, and we are updating all of our issue statements on the PLF website. Advocacy continues to be a critical piece of our work.

I hope you can join us at the PLF Annual Meeting in Grand Junction in September to hear about the work of the PLF moving forward, and to learn more about this year's topic of E-bikes. We have a great lineup and you will not want to miss the return of an in-person meeting! I look forward to seeing you there.

2022 PLF ANNUAL MEETING *(continued)*

A full-day meeting to address the theme is being planned for Thursday, September 22nd. The BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning has been invited to talk about BLM activities and priorities.

The Thursday luncheon buffet includes tri-color tortilla chips with house made salsa & guacamole, tossed greens with tomato and cucumber with avocado dressing on the side, Santa Fe chicken burritos with house made green chili, succulent beef fajitas with peppers and onions, warm flour tortillas, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, sour cream, refried beans, Spanish rice and Chef's selection for dessert.

The Thursday evening banquet choices are: 1) Duo Plate—Sliced flank steak and butterfly shrimp served with baked potato and green beans; 2) Chicken Antoinette—Grilled chicken breast and grilled shrimp in a lemon butter sauce, served with rice pilaf and broccoli florets; or 3) Vegetarian, vegan, or gluten free meal—Chef's choice. Please indicate your banquet selection. The dinner is served with Classic Caesar Salad with Parmesan cheese and croutons, and New York Cheesecake with raspberry coulis for dessert.

A **silent auction** and **raffle** will be held Thursday evening. The PLF 2022 Meeting Committee is soliciting donations of items for the silent auction and raffle. Proceeds from these activities are a significant part of the funds used for the George Lea Scholarship Fund, which supports students in natural resource fields. Items can be mailed to Maggie Wyatt, 1959 Stone Canyon Court, Grand Junction, CO 81507. **Donations should be mailed to arrive by September 16th**, if possible, or may be brought to the meeting if you are attending. If you plan to donate an item(s), please let Maggie know by emailing at 51booklover@gmail.com. We need to know what you are donating, how it will be delivered, and if possible, the item's worth and a suggested minimum bid.

Some items will be assigned to the raffle prize pool. The silent auction has always been a fun, friendly competition so let's try to continue success as we bring this event back with our in-person meeting! The silent auction and raffle will be held as part of the banquet on Thursday night, as we wrap up what we hope will be a great "Welcome Back!" meeting. Questions regarding the silent auction or raffle can be directed to Maggie Wyatt at 51booklover@gmail.com, or call 435-260-2922.

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, Grand Junction, Colorado. 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 directly at 970-241-8888. Hotel reservations can also be made through a link on the PLF Annual Meeting website page. Be sure to mention the Public Lands Foundation to receive the above-mentioned 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 Grand Junction airport.

The meeting registration form is provided as an insert in this edition of the Monitor and on our website at www.publicland.org. If you have any questions, please contact Beau McClure by email at vpops@publicland.org, or by phone at (623) 587-7883.

STUDENT CONGRESS IS ON – WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Public Lands Foundation, the Andrus Center for Public Policy, and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees will be hosting the John Freemuth Student Congress on October 3-6, 2022, at Boise State University with the generous help of the National Interagency Fire Center. This year's Congress will focus on wildland fire management to explore critical issues such as reducing wildfire risk throughout the country, protecting homes and communities, managing wildfire, and wildfire response.

Twenty-five undergraduate and graduate students have been selected from colleges and universities across the country to ensure a diverse group of students. Students do not necessarily have to be studying natural resources-related fields, but they must have an awareness of and interest in public lands management. As in the past, we expect this to be an eye opening and life changing experience for the participants. Selected students' travel and participation expenses are covered by the generosity of donors, grant funding, partners, and through the Andrus Center for Public Policy at Boise State University.

Like all of you, we are seeing a significant increase in anticipated student travel and lodging expenses for the event this year. So far, we've raised over \$50,000 for this year's Student Congress, with another \$15,000 to go. Will you help us get over the top with a contribution to the Student Congress fund? Donating is easy on the Public Lands Foundation website—just click on “donate” and indicate that your donation is for the Student Congress. You can also contribute by sending your donation for the Student Congress to the Public Lands Foundation at the address listed in this Monitor or on our website. Your generous support ensures a bright future for the next generation of public land managers.

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS PLF LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

The PLF is currently accepting nominations of private citizens/groups who deserve to be recognized for their sustained contributions to the conservation and management of public lands administered by BLM. The PLF 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. Organizations and individuals outside of government are often the catalysts for demonstrating effective approaches for achieving good stewardship of these lands and resources.

PLF members, partner organizations, and BLM employees are encouraged to submit nominations by August 1, 2022. You can find information on the PLF website at www.publicland.org about the award, nomination process/selection process, evaluation factors, a copy of the nomination form, and the guidelines for nominations. Winners will be determined at the PLF Annual meeting in September and will be announced and recognized soon thereafter.

Please send nominations by August 1, 2022, by e-mail to dmari@publicland.org

GEORGE LEA FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The PLF completed the review and award of the 2022-2023 George Lea Founders Scholarships, for the ninth consecutive year. The \$5,000 scholarships this year were awarded to Kyla Baldrige and Alyssa Rawinski. Scholarship funds will be applied to tuition and related expenses, beginning in the Fall of 2022.

Kyla Baldrige, a Senior at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, is studying Rangeland Ecology, Watershed Management, and Environment and Natural Resources.



Kyla Baldrige
University of Wyoming

Kyla's future employment goal is to work with a Federal agency on public lands. As a wildlife biologist, she is interested in conducting research and reviewing management practices to further the future conservation of wildlife and resources on

the public lands. Kyla has a special interest in big game and carnivores.

Alyssa Rawinski, also a Senior, is studying Biology with an emphasis in Wildlife and Conservation,

at Western Colorado University in Gunnison. Alyssa expects to attend graduate school, studying wildlife biology and conservation. She hopes to secure a position involving ecology research or wildlife management and conservation, with a research station or Federal land management agency. Alyssa states she wants to make a difference through wildlife management and conservation to better the health and sustainability of our environments.



Alyssa Rawinski
Western Colorado University

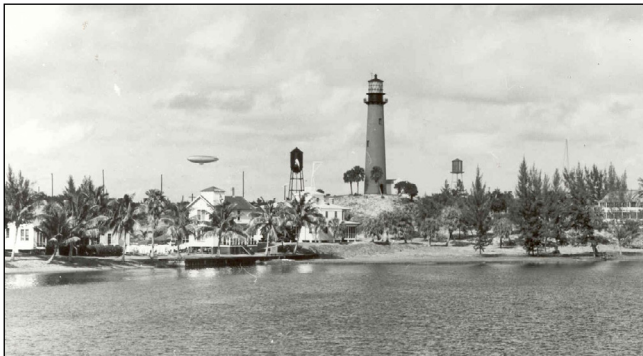
In addition to their university studies, Kyla and Alyssa both have a substantial and varied involvement in extracurricular activities at their universities, in their communities, and in their employment while in school.

The PLF received 38 applications for scholarships this year from students at 18 colleges and universities in 10 western states. Applicants included 15 graduate-, 10 senior-, and 13 junior-level students. Each of the applicants was well-qualified, making for a challenging selection process. Each application was independently reviewed and rated by the PLF selection committee members; Connie Stone, Ray Brady, and Dave Stout.

JUPITER INLET LIGHTHOUSE—SPY STATION

*This article is a reprint of an article from the Summer 2014 edition of the BLM **My Public Lands** magazine, originally prepared by Bob Gillcash, BLM Eastern States Office.*

Today, the island of green at Jupiter Inlet, north of Palm Beach, Florida, stands as a peaceful waylay for tourists looking for tranquility away from Spring breakers, motorcycles, and urban development. But don't be fooled. The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, managed by the BLM Eastern States Office, has a secret past few have ever known. Back in World War II, the lighthouse served as a U.S. intelligence spy station.



Jupiter Lighthouse during WWII
BLM photo archive

During WWII, merchant ships departed from the Port of New Orleans carrying vital war supplies to U.S. troops in the European theater. These ships were forced to travel dangerously close to the Florida coastline to avoid being attacked by German submarines lying in wait for them. The first year of the war was particularly dangerous and costly. Ships such as the SS Republic and the SS W.D. Anderson were sunk off Jupiter Inlet killing 42 people.

In anticipation of the increasing threat from lurking German U-boats, the U.S. Navy established a secret intelligence listening post known in the intelligence community as "Station J", where the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area managed by

BLM stands today. The crew at "Station J" intercepted German radio messages to provide crucial information to help protect U.S. merchant vessels and allied ships and aircraft. "Station J" was even able to pinpoint the locations of hostile German submarines when they surfaced each night to charge their batteries and send reports back to Germany.

The American spies who intercepted this information relayed the information to U.S. tactical units. As a result, the U-boats were caught by surprise on the surface by U.S. aircraft whose swift air attacks significantly reduced the effectiveness of German patrols in that portion of the Atlantic ocean.

In 2008, Congress passed legislation that designated this remarkable site as the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area to protect the unique scenic, scientific, educational, and recreational values of the area. The lighthouse is part of the BLM National Landscape Conservation System and is one of only three sites afforded the Outstanding Natural Area designation. Today, this unlikely spy station welcomes some 80,000 visitors each year—many who have no idea of the lighthouse's James Bond past.



Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area
BLM photo

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

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 Summer 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 to improve Federal agency coordination and streamline reviews of renewable energy projects on public lands.

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. The Department of the Interior on November 26, 2021 released its report on federal oil and gas leasing and identified reforms that should be made in the program. *The BLM on April 15, 2022 announced the offer of 173 oil and gas lease parcels on some 144,000 acres of public land in eight western States and an increase in the royalty rate for these leases from 12.5 percent to 18.75 percent. (A coalition of environmental groups on June 28, 2022 filed legal action for this lease sale citing violations of NEPA and FLPMA.) The BLM on April 25, 2022 also announced the signing of a new Record of Decision for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) that will reinstate a 2013*

leasing plan for the NPR-A with more protective lease stipulations and operating procedures. The GAO on April 20, 2022 also released a report on Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Development (GAO-22-104759) that included recommendations for BLM to require gas capture plans, similar to State requirements, for operations on Federal lands.

PLF Position: The PLF will be closely tracking these actions and providing comments during any public comment period, as appropriate. The PLF on April 18, 2022 issued a News Release and Position Statement that provided recommendations for further improvements in the oil and gas leasing program. The PLF Position Statement is available on the PLF website.

MODERNIZING ACCESS TO OUR PUBLIC LANDS ACT (MAPLAND ACT)

STATUS: Approved by Congress and signed by the President on April 29, 2022.

SUMMARY: The MAPLand Act requires the Federal land management agencies to publish within the next four years digital online maps of public lands and information on access to public lands, including easement acquisitions. This legislation and passage of the Dingell Act in 2019 (P. L. 116-9) provide tools to address public land access issues and an opportunity for the public to nominate parcels of land for acquisition to improve access to public lands. The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership in 2018 estimated that over nine million acres of public land in the Western states (excluding Alaska) could only be accessed with the permission of adjacent private landowners. A recent report by the Center for Western Priorities estimated that over 1.5 million acres of public land in six Western states are inaccessible in checkerboard land areas alone.

PLF POSITION: The PLF supported both the Dingell Act and the MAPLand Act. The PLF recently updated a Public Land Access Position Statement that is available on the PLF website and provides additional recommendations for addressing public land access issues. The PLF is also closely tracking a court case in Wyoming that involves public land access to checkerboard lands, commonly referred to as “corner crossing”.

MINING LAW REFORM – 1872 MINING LAW

STATUS: A Federal Register Notice published March 31, 2022 by the Department. Senator Heinrich (NM) introduced legislation on April 26, 2022.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior announced the formation of an Interagency Working Group to gather information and develop recommendations for improving the Federal hardrock mining regulations, laws, and permitting processes. The FR Notice also invited public comments to help inform the efforts of the Interagency Working Group. Senator Heinrich (NM) introduced the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act that would eliminate patenting, require annual rental payments, impose royalties, establish a reclamation fund, and review lands for withdrawal.

PLF POSITION: The PLF on April 24, 2022 provided a copy of a Position Statement, in response to the FR Notice, on recommendations for amendments to the 1872 Mining Law. The PLF also requested to participate in future stakeholder roundtable discussions with the Interagency Working Group. The PLF Position Statement is available on the PLF website.



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 August 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.

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. *The BLM on May 31, 2022 announced the decision to reduce the acreage rent and MW capacity fee for solar and wind energy authorizations. The new policy, issued as an update to the BLM right-of-way Manual, would reduce overall rents and fees by over 50 percent to promote solar and wind energy development on the public lands. The BLM also announced the decision to reestablish a National Renewable Energy Coordination Office in Washington, D.C. and coordination offices in Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah.*

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 BLM decision announced on May 31, 2022 to reduce rents and fees for solar and wind energy authorizations was responsive to the comments provided by the PLF.*

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLAS)

We have reported previously in the Winter Quarter 2021/2022 edition of the *Monitor* regarding the difference in the annual COLA adjustments for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) retiree annuity checks. CSRS retirees received a COLA increase of 5.9 percent and FERS retirees received an increase of 4.9 percent in 2022. The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association has supported legislation that would address this inequity by providing FERS retirees with the same annual COLA adjustment as CSRS retirees. It should be noted that Senator Alex Padilla (CA) introduced Senate bill S. 4221, the Equal COLA Act, in May 2022 that would guarantee Federal retirees in both retirement systems receive the same annual COLA adjustment each year. A similar bill (H.R. 304) was introduced by Congressman Gerry Connolly (VA) in the House last year. If you are interested in these legislative proposals you may wish to contact your congressional representatives.

BLM LEADERSHIP

BLM ALASKA STATE DIRECTOR STEVEN COHN

The BLM on May 6, 2022 announced the selection of Steven Cohn as the new BLM Alaska State Director. Cohn replaces Tom Heinlein who served as the Acting State Director and will return to his



Steven Cohn
Alaska State Director

role as the Anchorage District Manager. Cohn is returning to the BLM from The Nature Conservancy where he was the TNC Alaska State Director since 2018. His Federal career began with BLM more than two decades ago as a Presidential Management Fellow. Before he left BLM in 2018, he was the BLM Alaska Deputy State Director for Resources. He has

held other assignments with BLM including Acting Utah Associate State Director, Division Chief for the National Landscape Conservation System, Acting Branch Chief for Planning and NEPA, Field Manager for the Hassayampa Field Office in Phoenix, Assistant Field Manager in Prineville, OR and Assistant Field Manager in Tucson, AZ. Cohn holds a Bachelor's degree in Government from Harvard University and advanced degrees from the University of California at Berkeley College of Natural Resources.

BLM NEW MEXICO STATE DIRECTOR MELANIE BARNES

The BLM on May 17, 2022 announced the selection of Melanie Barnes as the new BLM New Mexico State Director. Barnes has served as the Acting State Director since June 2021.



Melanie Barnes
New Mexico State Director

Barnes began her career with BLM in 2007 as a Biological Science Technician in the Rio Puerco Field Office in Albuquerque and later as a Surface Protection Specialist. She moved to the New Mexico State Office in 2011 as a Planning and Environmental Specialist. Barnes was the Deputy State Director for Land and Resources since

2017, was the Acting Associate State Director, and also served five months on detail in the Washington Office as the Acting Deputy Assistant Director for Resources and Planning. Before coming to BLM, Barnes was a graduate student and teaching assistant at the University of New Mexico where she completed her Doctorate degree in Biology with a focus on plant ecology. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Reed College.

With the continued changes in the leadership positions of the BLM, we would like to provide an update on the current BLM Leadership, including the State Directors that provide the day-to-day on-the-ground management for the public lands. The following are the current Deputy Directors and the State Directors for each of the BLM State Offices:

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

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Merton “Bob” Berry on April 1, 2022, in Moose Pass, AK. Bob was a U.S. Army veteran and worked several years for the BLM Alaska fire service.

Richard “Dick” Betts on April 18, 2022, in Missoula, MT. Dick attended Western State College in Colorado, John Muir College in California, and received a Bachelor’s degree in Forest Management from Colorado A&M in Fort Collins, Colorado. Dick worked for BLM in Eugene, OR and Missoula, MT retiring in 1988.

George John Hirschenberger on April 25, 2022, in Missoula, MT. He graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in Forestry and Range Conservation. George worked for BLM in Malta, Butte, and Missoula, MT retiring in 2007. He also worked for The Nature Conservancy for several years and was actively involved with the Blackfoot Challenge in Montana.

Bobby Gene Hollis on March 27, 2022, in Anchorage, AK. Bobby served in both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army, before moving to Alaska and working for BLM until his retirement in 2010.

Susan Joan Lavin on June 16, 2022, in Anchorage, AK. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Education from the University of New Mexico and moved to Alaska in the early 1970s. Susan worked for the BLM lands and realty program in Alaska until her retirement in 2008.

Steven Nagle on March 23, 2022, in Palm Desert, CA. Steve was the Urban Interface Specialist for the BLM Palm Springs Resource Area office and was instrumental in getting local community support for the Santa Rosa Mountains National Scenic Area, which was later designated as the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument. He was an Urban Planner by degree and also an actor, belonging to the Screen Actors Guild. He later moved to St. Louis, MO and became the Director of the East West Gateway Management Project, developing a plan for the Missouri River.

Robert “Bob” Q. Pickering on February 28, 2022, in Mesa, AZ. Bob moved to Alaska in 1950 and began a career with BLM as a Land Surveyor. He retired in 1985 after 35 years with BLM.

James “Jim” Stone on April 29, 2022, in St. George, UT. Jim graduated from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN with a Bachelor’s degree in Biology and continued his education with a Master’s degree in Botany from the University of Wyoming and his PhD in Terrestrial Ecology from Cornell University. He had a 30 year career with BLM in Socorro, NM; Montrose, CO; Denver, CO; Phoenix, AZ; Las Vegas, NV; and Washington, D.C.

Donald Henry Sweep on June 16, 2022, in Ogden, UT. Don was a U.S. Army veteran and attended the University of Idaho graduating with a degree in Range Management. Don began his career with BLM in Burley, ID and continued his career with assignments in Washington, D.C.; Coeur d’Alene, ID; Shoshone, ID; Cheyenne, WY; Rock Springs, WY; Jackson, MS; Denver, CO; and finally in Boise, ID.

Marilu Waybourn on May 30, 2022, in Farmington, NM. Marilu attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, where she earned an Associate Degree in Radio Communications. Marilu began her career in broadcasting with KVBC and KENN radio stations in Farmington, NM and then with the Farmington Daily Times as a publications liaison. She continued her career with twelve years as a writer-editor and computer specialist with BLM in Farmington. Marilu authored and co-authored several books about San Juan County, NM and was a driving force of the San Juan County Historical Society.

Harvey Edsel Wofford on April 13, 2022, in Coquille, OR. Harvey was a U.S. Army veteran and received a degree from the University of Oklahoma in Geophysics. He worked as a cadastral surveyor with BLM in the Oregon State Office and Coos Bay District. He retired in 1991 after a 30 year BLM career.

IN MEMORIAM NOTES

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, 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.

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 e-mail 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. Comments should be limited to no more than 500 words in length. In addition, members are encouraged to use the bod@publicland.org e-mail 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 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

RECEIVED FROM

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Levi Deike
Alex Dohrmann
Michael Green
Courtney Lyons-Garcia
Jim May
Beau McClure
Curtis McVee
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Levi Deike Michael Green Earl Hindley
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Richard Whitley

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Ray Brady Cecil Roberts Thomas Zale
Mona Schermerhorn

LIFE MEMBERS

Tim Burke

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. The PLF awarded 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. 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, 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, Student Congress Fund**, or the **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 Board also recently approved the establishment of a **PLF Endowment Fund** to support the long-term purposes and mission of the organization. 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, or call at 703-935-0916.

Public Lands Foundation
P.O. Box 7226
Arlington, VA 22207



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PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 7226 ARLINGTON, VA 22207

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____
Date _____
Amount Enclosed _____



JOIN US!!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular	\$35
Contributing	\$50
Family	\$50
Sustaining.....	\$100
Sponsoring	\$200
Patron.....	\$500
	<i>or more</i>
Life Membership	\$350

REGISTRATION FORM—PLF ANNUAL MEETING
DoubleTree by Hilton, Grand Junction, Colorado
September 20-23, 2022

Date	Event	No. of People	Per Person	Total Cost
	Early Registration (received by August 29, 2022)		\$55.00	
	No Fee for Spouse Registration*			
	Late Registration (received after August 29, 2022)		\$65.00	
Tuesday, Sept. 20	Board of Directors' Meeting (please indicate attendance)			
Tuesday, Sept. 20	Social Gathering hosted by Tom & Maggie (please indicate attendance)			
Wednesday, Sept. 21	Tour (lunch, drinks, & transportation included)		\$50.00	
Wednesday, Sept. 21	Barbecue at the DoubleTree		\$25.00	
Thursday, Sept. 22	Luncheon		\$25.00	
Thursday, Sept. 22	Evening Banquet at DoubleTree		\$45.00	
Friday, Sept. 23	Half-day Board of Directors' Meeting (please indicate attendance)			
	Remittance Total			

Please Print Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Please indicate any dietary needs such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, allergies: _____

Please select from meal choices on reverse side of this Registration Form

Please register on-line or make your check payable to the "Public Lands Foundation" and send it and this Registration Form to Beau McClure, 6510 W. Lucia Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85083-7406 by **August 29, 2022**. If you have questions, please contact Beau by telephone at 623-587-7883 or by e-mail at vpops@publicland.org. * Spouses not attending the general meeting do not need to pay the registration fee.

MEAL CHOICES

September 21 Box Lunch for Field Trip

Served with whole fruit, potato chips, bottled water, and a cookie.

Choices	No. of Meals Selected
Roasted Turkey Sandwich —White bread with Swiss cheese, lettuce and tomato	
Roast Beef —French roll with lettuce, tomato and red onion	
Grilled Vegetable Wrap —Tortilla wrap with eggplant, zucchini, tomato, lettuce and spinach	

September 22 Plated Evening Dinner

Served with Classic Caesar Salad with Parmesan cheese and croutons, and New York Cheesecake with raspberry coulis for dessert.

Choices	No. of Meals Selected
Duo Plate —Sliced flank steak and butterfly shrimp served with baked potato and green beans	
Chicken Antoinette —Grilled chicken breast and grilled shrimp in a lemon butter sauce. Served with rice pilaf and broccoli florets	
Vegetarian, vegan, or gluten free meal —Chef's choice. Please indicate if you need one.	