



# THE PUBLIC LANDS Monitor

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SPRING QUARTER 2023

## 2023 PLF ANNUAL MEETING – CHEYENNE, WY SEPTEMBER 25 – 26, 2023

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This year's in-person Annual Meeting will be held at the **Little America Hotel & Resort** in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on Monday and Tuesday, September 25-26, 2023.

The events will include a Board of Directors meeting and barbeque on Monday, September 25. On Tuesday, September 26, there will be a general meeting open to the public. The theme for this year's meeting will be "Public Land Access & Corner Crossing." A PLF banquet and silent auction will be held on Tuesday evening.

The **Little America Hotel & Resort** is located at 2800 West Lincolnway, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009. We have reserved a block of rooms at a rate of \$119.00 for Deluxe Accommodations and \$149.00 for Preferred Accommodations plus taxes. Based upon availability, these rates are good from September 23 through September 27, 2023. The toll-free reservation number is **1-800-235-6396**. **Reservations must be made no later than August 25, 2023.** Reservations requested after that date will be accepted based upon availability.

Check-in time starts at 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m. Guests arriving prior to 4:00 p.m. will be given access to accommodations as they become available. Little America Hotel & Resort is providing complimentary parking, wireless internet in all guest sleeping rooms, and access to the on-site Fitness Center.

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.



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



Mary Jo Rugwell

I hope that everyone is well and you are looking forward to spring. While we have not had a lot of snow here in Cheyenne this winter, I am ready for warmer temperatures!

I will begin this President's message with news of upcoming organizational changes. In early March, Courtney informed me that she had accepted a

new job. She will become the Executive Director of the Mission Heritage Partners, the nonprofit organization that supports the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and World Heritage Site. While Courtney did not seek out this opportunity, it was offered to her when their current Executive Director decided to retire. She will finish up some pending items for the PLF and transition out the first week of May. I know you will join me in wishing her the best in her new role. In addition to Courtney's departure, Kim Harb has stepped down from her role as Treasurer. We will miss Kim and her contributions to the PLF. We wish her all the best.

In discussions with Courtney and the Executive Committee, it seems that the PLF's most pressing need is handling a plethora of administrative and financial tasks. With that in mind, Beau and Ray have enlisted Margaret Lliteras and Mark Davis to share the finance, accounting, and budget responsibilities with support from the Finance Committee. We appreciate Margaret and Mark stepping up to assist with these critical tasks.

At the end of February, a small group including Mike Ferguson traveled to Washington, D.C., to brief the leadership of the U.S. Forest Service on the 2022 Student Congress. Since the leadership of the Bureau of Land Management was not available, Director Stone-Manning will receive a briefing on the Student Congress in April in Boise, Idaho.

The Membership Committee under the leadership of Scott Florence is actively working to recruit new members, retain existing members and encourage lapsed members to renew their PLF memberships. The membership drive will continue until June. We are so grateful for their efforts to keep the PLF growing and viable.

The PLF continues to work with the BLM to offer our support. I recently sent Mike Nedd, Deputy Director for Operations, an abridged list of willing mentors to use in a Coaching/Mentoring pilot project. I also plan to reach out again to the BLM leadership as there are several new Executives.

With the sudden passing of our friend and colleague, Henri Bisson, the PLF is looking for someone to take the reins of the Development Committee. Additionally, the PLF could use help in handling some administrative tasks with Courtney's departure. If you have an interest, please contact any of the Executive Committee members.

Plans are underway for the 2023 PLF Annual Meeting scheduled for September 25-26 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The meeting will be held at the Little America Hotel and Resort. Please mark your calendars and save the dates so we can see you there!

Take care and talk to you again soon.

## 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.

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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In late February, I was joined by PLF Board members Ed Shepard and Mat Millenbach at the Public Lands Alliance annual conference in Portland, OR. This annual conference focuses on groups that work with public lands and this year's topics included Equity and Access in the Outdoors, Native American Voices, and Embedding Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion into the work of non-profits.

We were also pleased to represent PLF at the first BLM Partnership Forum in more than three years. Acting BLM Assistant Director for National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships, Tom Heinlein, was on hand to address the more than 35 partners in the room. He discussed the Bureau's heightened focus on its 81 million recreation visitors and noted that in Summer 2023, BLM would release its 21st Century Recreation Strategy. Also on hand was Hilary Zarin, who discussed the Bureau's new History Program, of which PLF is an active partner. Heinlein then introduced Marni Salmon, BLM's staff liaison to the new Foundation for America's Public Lands. Salmon discussed the new Foundation's status and plans for the next six months as well as the Foundation's opportunity to receive BLM Inflation Reduction Act funding to build its program work with youth engagement.

Overall the conference was a chance to engage with potential partners on a variety of programs coming

over the next two years, including the BLM History program, as well as America's 250, the official celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Be thinking about how the PLF can engage with BLM on these two opportunities!

I'd like to take this time to thank the PLF Board for their encouragement and support over the last two years. The PLF is a wonderful organization with amazing volunteers from across the country. Even though I am departing the PLF to accept a position with the Mission Heritage Partners non-profit organization, I will remain supportive of the work the PLF is doing on behalf of BLM and the public lands – and I will remain a donor!



Courtney Lyons-Garcia and George Lea, Founder PLF

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## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The PLF is conducting a membership drive to enlist as many people as possible to join us in protecting the future of BLM administered public lands. It does not matter whether you are a retired, former, or current BLM employee or someone who really cares about public lands. If you care about ensuring these lands remain in public hands and are managed sustainably for all their many uses based on the best science available, join the PLF. If you wish to have a voice in the policies, decisions, and future regarding how these lands are managed, then the PLF is the organization for you!

This is an opportunity to leverage your personal interest, experience, or expertise in working for BLM to advocate before Congress, present and future Administrations, and the public for sound

management practices, robust budgets and modernized regulations. As a member of the PLF, you can help preserve the history of public land management in this country by adding to the holdings of our historical archives. You can keep updated on national issues or help us prepare or update our position statements. Through PLF membership, you will be able to connect with current and former BLMers or meet and catch up with them at various PLF sponsored events.

In addition, there is an opportunity to impact future public lands managers by volunteering to assist or supporting our investment in educating young adults through the PLF George Lea Scholarship program or the John Freemuth Student Congress. All members are encouraged to actively participate



in our various committees focused on national public land management issues, legislation, fundraising, or awards and special events.

If you are an existing member, we encourage you to reach out to a family member, friend, former colleague, or current BLM employee to join the PLF or renew their membership. If you are not a member, we encourage you to visit our website at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org). There you can find out more about who we are and what we do. You can also click the membership banner and join us on our journey!



Wild Horses on the Public Lands

## ELECTRONIC MAILING ONLY

At the Annual Meeting in September 2022, the PLF Board decided to go to an all digital distribution of the quarterly *Monitor* to save on printing and mailing costs of our newsletter. The Fall 2022 and Winter 2022 / 2023 editions of the *Monitor* were the last printed and mailed versions of the newsletter. This current edition of the *Monitor* and future editions will be distributed electronically to all members. The PLF Annual Report, however, will continue to be printed and mailed to all members. The PLF is also working with BLM on a process to ensure that a digital copy of the quarterly *Monitor* is still made available to BLM offices and employees.

We wish to thank those PLF members in the Washington, D.C. area that gathered each quarter to assemble and label the *Monitor* for mailing purposes. These PLF members gathered for a last “mailing party” of the Winter 2022 / 2023 edition of the *Monitor* on March 10, 2023.



PLF Monitor Mailing Party, March 10, 2023

## NEW WILD HORSE MODELING TOOL

The BLM and U.S. Geological Survey on March 1, 2023, announced the release of a new modeling program designed to predict the potential outcomes of using various methods to manage and protect wild horses roaming on the public lands. The new modeling tool, *PopEquus*, provides predictions that will help inform the use of various population-control methods used by BLM to protect animal and land health from overpopulation impacts. The *PopEquus* tool is an open-source program and uses peer-reviewed information to model expected outcomes for a given population of wild horses and the cost associated with that outcome. The model can project, for example, what the population size of a given wild horse herd will be after 10 years using a fertility-control vaccine to prevent pregnancy in a proportion of mares, as well as the expected cost. The BLM can use this information to compare different possible management strategies for different wild horse herds. As of March 1, 2022, BLM estimated there were more than 82,000 wild horses and burros on the public lands – more than three times what is sustainable. A series of public webinar sessions will be held on April 5 and April 25, 2023 to demonstrate the *PopEquus* tool and answer questions about the model. More information about the *PopEquus* tool and the BLM’s efforts to use science and technology to improve the management of wild horses and burros on the public lands can be found at [BLM.gov/WHB/science](http://BLM.gov/WHB/science).

### 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. Message us at [info@publicland.org](mailto:info@publicland.org), or call at 703-935-0916.

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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 update our Legislation and Regulations webpage on our website under the “Advocacy” link and provide 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 2 of the EO requires the review of regulations and policies for reducing methane emissions in the oil and gas sector. The BLM on November 28, 2022 announced the publication of a Proposed Rule on venting and flaring to address the waste of natural gas and reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations on Federal lands. 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 to prepare a supplemental EIS for the ANWR Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program and a Draft EIS is expected to be released soon for public review and comment.

**PLF POSITION:** *The PLF on January 23, 2023 provided comments on the venting and flaring Proposed Rule and will be closely tracking future actions and providing comments 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. The BLM on June 1, 2022 announced the release of reduced acreage rental rates and megawatt capacity fees for wind and solar energy authorizations on the public lands. The BLM on December 8, 2022 published a Notice of Intent to update the 2012 Solar Programmatic EIS for the western states and potentially identify additional solar development areas. Public scoping meetings are currently being held. The Draft EIS is expected to be released in Summer 2023 and the Final EIS in Spring 2024.

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

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November 26, 2021 released a report on Federal oil and gas leasing and identified reforms. Future lease sales will include new terms consistent with provisions required under the Inflation Reduction Act (P.L. 117-169) signed on August 16, 2022, that includes increased minimum royalty rates (16.67 percent), increased minimum bids (\$10 per acre), and increased rental rates (\$15 per acre after nine years). The BLM also issued IM 2023-008 on November 21, 2022 that implements the provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act.

**PLF POSITION:** *The PLF on February 28, 2023 provided public scoping comments on the Notice of Intent to prepare an updated Programmatic EIS for solar energy development on the public lands and will be closely tracking future actions and providing comments as appropriate. The PLF has prepared Position Statements on the oil and gas leasing program and on solar and wind energy development on the public lands. These Position Statements are available on the PLF website.*

### **MODERNIZING ACCESS TO OUR PUBLIC LANDS ACT (MAPLAND ACT) P.L. 117-114**

**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.

**PLF POSITION:** The PLF supported both the Dingell Act and the MAPLand Act. A Public Land Access Position Statement is available on the PLF website and provides additional recommendations for addressing public land access issues. *The PLF is closely tracking a court case in Wyoming that involves public land access to checkerboard lands, commonly referred to as “corner crossing”. The private landowner in this case is seeking \$7.75 million in damages, citing diminished property values due to the alleged “corner crossing” trespass. A jury trial in this case is scheduled for June 26, 2023 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming. Public land access will also be the theme for the PLF Annual Meeting to be held in Cheyenne, WY in September 2023.*

### **MINING LAW REFORM – 1872 MINING LAW**

**STATUS:** A Federal Register Notice announcing formation of a Mining Law Reform Interagency Working Group published March 31, 2022 by Interior. *The BLM is expected to release a draft report from the Interagency Working Group in spring/summer 2023.*

**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 Federal Register Notice also invited public comments to help inform the efforts of the Interagency Working Group.

**PLF POSITION:** The PLF on April 24, 2022 provided the PLF Position Statement, in response to the Federal Register Notice, on recommendations for amendments to the 1872 Mining Law. The PLF and the National Association of Forest Service Retirees on August 29, 2022 provided joint supplemental comments on the hardrock abandoned mine lands (AML) program in response to a Interior request for comments. The PLF also participated in the Public Listening Sessions with the Interagency Working Group on July 19, 21, and 26, 2022. The PLF Position Statement and supplemental AML comments are available on the PLF website. *The PLF on March 24, 2023 signed onto a joint letter, with several other organizations, to both Senate and House Appropriations Committees to request funding of \$287 million as a budget line item in the FY 2024 appropriations bills for the Section 40704 abandoned hardrock mine reclamation program in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The PLF on March 24, 2023, forwarded to the Interior Mining Law Reform Interagency Working Group a copy of comments prepared by Bob Anderson on the Small Miners mining claim assessment waiver program.*

### **CONSERVATION REGULATIONS – 43 CFR 1600 AND 6100**

**RULE STATUS:** *The BLM on March 30, 2023 announced the release and publication of a Proposed Rule on Conservation and Landscape Health under the 43 CFR 1600 and 6100 regulations. The White House announced that BLM would be publishing this Proposed Rule as part of the administration’s initiatives in Strengthening the Stewardship of America’s Public Lands.*



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**RULE SUMMARY:** *The Proposed Rule would clarify and support the principles of multiple use and sustained yield in the management of the public lands, restore degraded habitat, and apply land health standards to all BLM-managed public lands. This rule would incorporate climate resiliency and restoration through conservation and preservation in the management of the public lands pursuant to FLPMA and other relevant authorities. This rule within 43 CFR 6000, which includes Conservation and Preservation, would also revise existing regulations to prioritize designating and protecting Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and provide an overarching framework for multiple BLM programs to promote ecosystem resilience on the public lands. The Proposed Rule would also provide for the use of “conservation leases” to support mitigation efforts and promote the protection and restoration of public lands.*

**PLF POSITION:** *The PLF will review the Proposed Rule and provide comments as appropriate.*



American Basin ACEC – Colorado (BLM photo)

### **METHANE REGULATIONS 43 CFR PARTS 3160 AND 3170**

**RULE STATUS:** A Federal Register Notice of Proposed Rule was published on November 28, 2022.

**RULE SUMMARY:** The Proposed Rule includes provisions to reduce the waste of natural gas from venting, flaring, and leaks during oil and gas produc-

tion operations on Federal and Indian oil and gas leases. The Proposed Rule describes the reasonable steps that operators of Federal and Indian oil and gas leases must take to avoid the waste of natural gas and would also provide for royalty payments of any waste of natural gas.

**PLF POSITION:** *The PLF on January 23, 2023 provided comments on the venting and flaring Proposed Rule, which are 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 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.

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## NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT – NEVADA

The President on March 21, 2023 designated the Avi Kwa Ame (ah-VEE-kwah-may) National Monument in southern Nevada as the newest BLM National Monument on public lands. The designation proclamation was made under the authority of the 1906 Antiquities Act and sets aside 506,814 acres around Spirit Mountain and the surrounding ridges and canyons of the Mojave Desert, which the Fort Mojave Tribe and 11 other tribes consider sacred lands. The Avi Kwa Ame National Monument is considered to be one of the most ecologically diverse parts of the Mojave Desert and is home to the world's largest Joshua tree forest. The area provides habitat for the Mojave Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep and the largest known population of golden eagles in Nevada. The area has been designated as an Important Bird Area by The National Audubon Society due to its diverse bird species and is a major bird migration route along the Pacific Flyway because of its proximity to the Colorado River to the east.

This newest BLM National Monument becomes part of the BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) of special management areas and will create an important wildlife corridor of protected lands connecting the existing Mojave National Preserve, the Castle Mountains National Monument, the Mojave Trails National Monument, the Dead Mountain Wilderness Area in California, and the Lake Mead National Recreation Area along the Colorado River.



Avi Kwa Ame National Monument – Nevada  
(The Washington Post photo)

## NOMINATIONS FOR 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 July 15, 2023. Winners will be determined at the PLF Board of Directors meeting in September, and they 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. 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 PLF's Landscape Stewardship Award honors the work done by private citizens/groups who work 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 at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org). Go to "Programs", "Awards", and "Landscape Stewardship Awards/Certificates of Appreciation



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Recipients” for further information about the award, nomination process/selection process, evaluation factors, a copy of the nomination form, and the guidelines for nominations.

Please send nominations by July 15, 2023, by email to [dmari@publicland.org](mailto:dmari@publicland.org).

### NOMINATIONS FOR LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

The PLF is seeking nominations for its 2023 Lifetime Service Award. Every year the PLF honors one or two individuals for their lifetime career achievements. Any career BLM employee is eligible, regardless of job, grade, or profession. Nominees should be retirees who had a career that lasted at least 30 years, with at least 20 years having been with BLM. The award can be granted posthumously.

Recipients of this prestigious award are those who have demonstrated exceptional performance in furthering the management of public lands, inspiring public and employee participation, and providing leadership that "made a difference." Full criteria for nomination for the award can be found on the PLF website at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org). Go to "Programs" and "Awards" on the website for further information on the award, nomination process, and a copy of the nomination form. The award is normally presented at the PLF annual meeting in September.

Nominations are welcome from any source including BLM employees, PLF members, interest groups, and local and state government officials. Nominations are due July 15, 2023, and should be submitted to Maggie Wyatt at [mwyatt@publicland.org](mailto:mwyatt@publicland.org). Questions about the award can be directed to Maggie at 435-260-2922.

### NOMINATIONS FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LAND PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

One of the goals of the PLF is to recognize and publicize BLM employee professionalism in public land management. We believe it is important the general public understand the dedication and integrity BLM

employees bring to their jobs each day. If our public lands are to be managed for future generations, it is imperative our career professionals be publicly recognized and respected for their outstanding contributions to public land management.

To achieve this objective, the PLF has established two Professional Awards, one for Managerial/Administrative employees and one for Technical (Resources)/Operational disciplines. This will be the 33rd year the PLF has given these national awards to active or recently active employees who have demonstrated outstanding professional performance during the past three years. These awards are focused on recent accomplishments rather than a career of service with BLM. We have encouraged the BLM to circulate these Award opportunities to all BLM managers. Outstanding employees deserve recognition. Thank you, in advance, for taking the time to nominate your best!

We invite you to nominate, no later than July 15, 2023, those individual(s) that, in your opinion, are deserving of these prestigious awards. Full criteria for nomination for the awards can be found on the PLF website at [www.publicland.org](http://www.publicland.org). Go to "Programs" and "Awards" on the website for further information on the awards and nomination process. An optional digital photo may be included for our use. Send nominations to Jim Currivan at [jcurri-van@publicland.org](mailto:jcurri-van@publicland.org). Questions about the awards can be directed to Jim at 775-385-4699.

The PLF Awards Committee will review all nominations, select awardees, and secure concurrence from the PLF President. An appropriate Awards Ceremony will be scheduled and announced later.

### GEORGE LEA FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP

The PLF each year awards two \$5,000 scholarships to deserving college students pursuing degrees aligned with BLM public land resource programs. Thirty five applications from 18 colleges and universities were submitted to the PLF for the 2023 George Lea Founders Scholarship by the deadline of March 31, 2023. The PLF Scholarship Committee is currently reviewing these scholarship applications.

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## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

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### CAMERON BROWN

Cameron Brown (Boise State University) was a student participant in the 2022 session of the Student Congress in Boise, ID and is sitting on the planning committee for the 2024 John Freemuth Student Congress. We would like to recognize her in this edition of the Monitor.

Hi, I'm Cam! I am originally from Wyoming but have called Idaho home for the past four years. I recently graduated from Boise State University with a degree in anthropology and minors in environmental studies and Native American and Indigenous studies.



Cameron Brown

I'm beginning a position as a climate resource assistant for the White River National Forest in Colorado. I plan on attending graduate school in the fall 2023 to pursue a master's degree in environmental studies. At the 2022 John Freemuth Student Congress, I enjoyed collaborating with many diverse environmental leaders on wildland fire policy. The congress encouraged

me to think critically about all the factors that play into changing policy and find middle ground between different perspectives. I am honored to help plan the next John Freemuth Student Congress and excited to see all the driven, young environmental leaders that care deeply about creating change. In my free time, I love recreating on our public lands, whether that is backpacking, skiing, or rock climbing!

### BETSY BLACK

Betsy Black (Northern Arizona University) was a student participant in the 2022 session of the Student Congress in Boise, ID and was selected as the student representative to present the findings and recommendations on Fire Management from the Student Congress in briefings in Washington, D.C. with BLM and Forest Service officials. We would like to recognize her in this edition of the Monitor.



Betsy Black

Betsy Black is a Masters degree Biology student at Northern Arizona University. Her research investigates the effects of a widespread shift in forest composition on wildfire carbon combustion in the boreal forests of Alaska and the Yukon. Prior to beginning her graduate research, Betsy encountered wildfires while working as a park ranger at Haleakalā National Park in Hawaii and while interning at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. Betsy grew up in upstate New York, received her Bachelors degree in Biology from Amherst College, and immensely enjoys—but is terrible at—recreational botanizing.

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**BEAR ATTACK – ALASKA 1985**  
by Diane Nelson as told to Chip Calamaio

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*Editor: This story was originally prepared by Chip Calamaio, retired BLM National Training Center (NTC), to include in the BLM History book but was never published. Diane Nelson and Chip were co-workers at the NTC and still get together to share stories about BLM. The story has been edited from the original version to remove some of the more graphic and violent images of this bear attack in the Alaska wilderness. Our thanks to Diane for sharing her story with the PLF.*

Our July 24, 1985 morning commute from base camp flew us across Alaska's salmon rich Lake Iliamna to the Alaska Native Allotment we were surveying. Once the chopper flew off, John Pex, Kyle Scholl, and I stood on the shore and took in the majestic landscape. I noticed bear prints on the beach, probably from a salmon feast. We were used to working in grizzly country and making our presence known. If they hear you, usually you go your way and they go theirs. We'd spent a hard day cutting line on steep slopes and surveying the Native Allotment. We made noise all day running our chain saws and talking.

Around 4:00 PM in the afternoon the helicopter came back to pick us up. By radio the pilot directed us to a meadow where he'd land. We cached our saws and moved down a drainage. Kyle led, I was in the middle, and John brought up the rear. We worked our way through alders, spruce, and thick patches of thorny devil's club. After about fifteen minutes I spotted the clearing. "Hey Kyle!" I shouted, "This way! I see the meadow!" He'd just pushed through thick neck high grass and was suddenly facing a huge 800 pound grizzly.

"Bear!" he shouted. The sow stood, bellowed for her two, almost full grown, cubs to scatter, then charged. Her head and Kyle's orange backpack flashed through the woods. He ran hard then dove down and curled into a ball hoping his pack would protect him and that she'd run by. Instead she straddled him and furiously tore into his pack demolishing a surveying theodolite before biting on his head. She tried to turn him over. Her sharp claws cut deep into his shoulders and arms. Her attack was fast and incredibly violent. As he weakened she suddenly stopped. When he moved to see if she was gone she lunged again, biting into his thigh and right leg.

John had the rifle but was way behind us. He'd fallen and stopped to tend to a banged knee. I was approximately 50 feet from Kyle, when I turned around and started yelling, "John! Bring the gun! A bear's on Kyle!" He couldn't

make out all I was saying but he fired a shot into the air. As he fought his way through the brush towards my voice one of the cubs ran by so close he could have touched it. Thinking that was the bear he slowed back down to a walk. I kept yelling, "John! Bear! Over here!" The bear was still ferociously mauling Kyle. When I turned back towards Kyle the bear was just inches from my face. Her mouth was open and her fangs were lunging right at me! She slammed into me hard as she clamped her teeth on my head.



Diane Nelson with Chip Calamaio

Once my head was firmly in her mouth she just shook me back and forth like a rag doll. Covered in blood I tried to shove her away. It was futile. I thought, "This is it. She's going to kill me."

John broke through the trees. With the 30-06 he hit her in the shoulder. She dropped me, made a final bite into my left arm, and charged him. His next shot hit her head, which brought her to her knees and giving him precious time to chamber another round. She lunged at him again and he shot her once more, only seconds before she would be on him, and she finally dropped. She rolled downhill and stopped against a tree.

Somehow Kyle managed to get to his radio and contacted the chopper. "Get the Medics!" Kyle and I were in bad shape and deep in the wilderness. Within four hours we were in an Anchorage hospital. Both of us needed thousands of stitches and several surgeries. They were able to save my left eye, but I have some permanent double vision. Kyle also suffers from some long term nerve damage. I retired from BLM as a Geospacial Training Coordinator at BLM's training center in Phoenix, Kyle Scholl continued his BLM career as the Lead Cadastral Land Surveyor for the Northwest and Upper Colorado River District in Kremmling, CO, and John Pex remained as a field land surveyor in remote Alaska.

That day in July 1985 we ran into the wrong bear but we were all very lucky-lucky we were with John Pex who for his bravery received the Department of the Interior Medal of Valor.



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## REMEMBERING – HENRI BISSON

### BLM LEADERSHIP

With the continued changes in the leadership positions of 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
Deputy Director, Policy and Programs	Nada Culver
Deputy Director, Operations	Michael Nedd
Alaska State Office	Steven Cohn
Arizona State Office	Raymond Suazo
California State Office	Karen Mouritsen
Colorado State Office	Doug Vilsack
Eastern States Office	Mitchell Leverette
Idaho State Office	Karen Kelleher
Montana State Office	Sonya Germann
Nevada State Office	Jon Raby
New Mexico State Office	Melanie Barnes
OR/WA State Office	Barry Bushue
Utah State Office	Greg Sheehan
Wyoming State Office	Andrew Archuleta

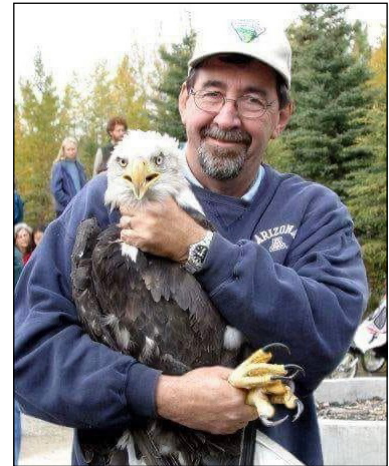
### HENRI R. BISSON PLF SERVICE AWARD

In memory and recognition of Henry Bisson's strong commitment to the Public Lands Foundation of more than 14 years, the PLF has established the Henri R. Bisson PLF Service Award. This is a very special award and it is not intended to be an annual award. This award can be given to any PLF member, partner, or donor who has unselfishly given time and/or money to further the objectives of the PLF. The award will be in the form of a plaque that will be presented during a PLF annual meeting, if possible, or in another appropriate location. Nominations for the award should be received not later than July 15 to be considered. Nominations, not exceeding two pages, should be emailed to Beau McClure at [vpops@publicland.org](mailto:vpops@publicland.org). The PLF Executive Committee will determine the award recipients.

### TRIBUTE

by Mary Jo Rugwell, PLF President

Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity to work with Henri Bisson as an employee at BLM. Of course, I had heard of Henri and knew something of his incredible career, but our paths had not crossed at that time. My first real chance to visit with Henri was when several PLF members traveled to Washington, D.C., in late 2019 to talk to Congress about the ill-advised move of the BLM Headquarters to the west. Even then, I didn't fully understand the extent of Henri's commitment to BLM and the PLF. When I became the President of the PLF in



Henri - Alaska

January 2022, I began visiting with Henri quite regularly as he had agreed to be the Chair of our Development Committee. In spite of the fact that Henri had already served as the President of the PLF for three years after his retirement from BLM, he still had more to give to the organization. He was unselfish with both his time and his personal financial resources. He was constantly looking for ways to bring in additional resources to help the PLF fulfill its critical advocacy mission on behalf of BLM and the public lands. Henri's contributions were too numerous to mention, and his impact was substantial. He will be deeply missed by his colleagues.

### TRIBUTE

by John Fend, PLF Idaho

Henri and I became very close friends after we both retired and discovered we had a number of common interests and friends. Perhaps the best example were our annual trips to Alaska to fish for Sockeye Salmon (Reds) at our Alaska fish camp. Henri's good friends in Kenai allowed three of us, Henri, Larry Brown, and myself along with our hosts to

## REMEMBERING – HENRI BISSON

construct a small cabin on their property that we would come to each summer for the Red's season. Headquarters for fishing and building memories, teasing and story-telling. Each year's fishing adventure produced more than enough good natured ribbing. The most vivid memory I have is Henri with the net... "adventures in netting" we all called it as the turbidity of the glacial-fed Kenai only allowed about 6-12 inches of clarity for netting. It is a bit of a challenge to find the fish and successfully net it for the person playing the fish. Henri excelled at taking his time to net said fish and not infrequently have said fish swim between his legs, entirely missing the net! In fairness, Larry and I were only slightly better than our good buddy. A decade ago when I was invited to join Henri and Larry at fish camp we used spinning rods and Henri offered much instruction to the new guy, me! For those who know Henri, these instructions were often frequent and quite detailed, but rapidly declined when said pupil began catching numerous fish,



Henri - Kenai River, AK

despite the netting adventures mentioned above. I am a fly fisherman at heart, so in short order I transitioned over to a fly rod for fishing for the Reds. Henri steadfastly held to the notion that the spinning rod was the only way to go. Fast forward a couple of years and the teacher became the pupil as he quickly mastered the fly rod technique I was using and his catch rate flew upward.

We also fished together off San Diego for tuna, another one of Henri's passions. He loved the day and overnight trips out of San Diego down along the Mexican coast and frequently came back with his limits of tuna. My trip with Henri that faithful day was a bust, no fish for either of us. I became the unlucky charm for the tuna boat. He did however invite me back several times, we just couldn't connect for tuna again. Henri each Christmas never failed to gift us some of his special canned tuna. So going to miss this.

But it wasn't all just fishing—we hunted together too. Larry Brown shared with me a classic from Ohio. They were sighting in their shotguns prior to a late fall hunt together at Henri's uncle's farm. Seems Henri set the scope a wee bit too far back in the rings, his eye was too close to the scope, and he ended up with a cut over his right eye – rookie mistake that resulted in much good natured ribbing around the campfire for several years! Henri also hunted with my hunting buddy Mike and me in Idaho several times. He introduced us to an area south of Burley he hunted with his son Jeremy, a rugged area of Pinyon Juniper and lava rock that held some real nice bucks. We saw numerous big elk and even a few moose, walked for miles and miles in search of that wall hanger, but to no avail. "Maybe next year" he would say. We enjoyed much better luck hunting elk together on my son-in-law's family's property in central Idaho. Henri and I harvested a couple of elk and deer together over the years, but the Bear Story is the memory I'll share here. We were working a Ponderosa pine hillside/ridge, I was upslope and Henri was side-hilling below me. We had worked perhaps 300-400 yards across this north slope in the snow following fresh elk tracks. Henri had dropped onto an old logging trail, and I was coming into a side drainage above him when I spooked a large black bear out of the drainage and downhill towards Henri. The bear hit the logging road, not 100 feet from Henri, and turned directly towards Henri. Henri had been expecting an elk and his eyes had to be bigger than saucers (though he denied it) as that black bear hustled towards him. At the very last moment it turned off the logging road and down the hillside back into the timber not 10 feet from him! He was hollering and waving his arms for all he was worth, as I had a ringside seat above the action on the hillside in the Ponderosa pine. Henri had no idea I was watching the events unfold below me. Clearly the bear didn't realize Henri was there until the very last second. We teased him that his good looks and rank smell from several days in hunting camp finally was just too much for the bear to bear!

While we vacationed in Mazatlán with our wives, Henri and I managed two fishing trips. The first, a bass fishing trip on one of the big inland lakes, El Salto I believe, and did we catch the bass. No netting problems here, but while I was photographing some of the local birds Henri hooked a giant bass

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## REMEMBERING – HENRI BISSON

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and was so excited, he was rocking the boat so bad I almost fell out. Henri was focused on landing that fish!

On another trip we went out into the Pacific on a small boat for bottom fish. Henri was in his element and out fished me 3 to 1. We had so many fish the captain called all his buddies before we got to the docks and many families were fed that day. Henri insisted we take several filets back to the resort and the on site restaurant prepared a fabulous fish dinner for us that evening. After Mazatlán, we flew down to Costa Rica to continue our vacationing. The tour we booked together was great and we had several great hikes, meals, and evening visits over a glass of wine or two. Henri had a way with people, I do not believe he ever met a stranger. His personality simply drew people in, one of his real gifts.

One day Henri called and said they had decided to travel to Africa for a photo safari. He remembered I had long talked of going to Africa. Turns out the agency they booked through had a last-minute cancellation and I was able to secure that spot. Henri, Pam and I traveled to Tanzania for a 14-day safari together with a small group of others. Pam and I took hundreds of digital images, we hiked, and sampled many local food dishes daily. Evening entertainment was special, and on several occasions, I remember Henri and Pam as active participants.

It's been several months now since his untimely passing. As I reflect, it's really hard to believe he's gone to be with the Lord. We were planning fishing trips just a week before his passing. I definitely plan to have a beer or two in Henri's honor throughout this year at each of my fishing adventures. In closing let me quote from the Fisherman's Prayer:

*God Grant that I may live to fish until my dying day,  
And when it comes to my last cast, I then most humbly  
pray; When in the Lord's safe landing net I'm peace-  
fully asleep, That in His mercy I be judged as good  
enough to keep.*

You're a keeper my friend – rest in peace.

### MEMORIAL by Dean Bibles, PLF Director-at-Large

*(A Memorial Service for Henri was held in Tucson, AZ on February 25, 2023.)*

While Henri and I worked together for many years with BLM, our friendship spanned years as we shared a common vision of true stewardship of the public lands and a desire to hand the next generation a better place. That work led to a friendship that spanned decades, we were brothers in our shared priorities, interests and values. Henri was a talented and skilled leader who lifted up those around him with warmth and sincerity. Numerous individuals have written and spoken about how Henri supported and encouraged them to achieve their best in life and work. Henri didn't retire, he just kept working for the things he held dear! This is exemplified by his previous service as Past President of the PLF and recent volunteer to head the PLF Development Committee, unselfishly giving his time and talent! He frequently called other Board members with new ideas for improving the organization! He truly made a difference for people and organizations. As we all know, Henri always made good use of his phone!! (I already miss the calls with Henri as we talked often over the last decade or two.)

Henri was a force whose momentum carried those around him, even those who didn't think they wanted to go his way. When the opportunity came for the BLM to acquire the Empire Ranch in southeast Arizona (later designated the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area), shortly after Henri became the



Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, AZ (BLM photo)



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## REMEMBERING – HENRI BISSON

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Phoenix District Manager, he quickly accepted the challenge, marshaled his team and made it happen. This was a complex process which involved the very kind of vision Henri had. The property being acquired by exchange would not be under his jurisdiction but the land being used as exchange to make it happen was! He saw it as an opportunity for the public good.

Henri did the same with respect to other agencies, while he strongly supported the organization he worked for. He strongly supported the idea of assisting in the mission of other agencies where practical. A true public servant with a heart of gold! Henri jumped at the challenge and he managed to not only acquire the Empire Ranch, but the Rose Tree and the Gubler/Frie Ranch in northern Arizona effectively bringing a key property into public hands for access to the Colorado River. He took the field lead in accomplishing the Federal acquisition of a vast amount of land to complete the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, Catalina State Park, and what is now Aqua Fria National Monument in Arizona, plus numerous other transactions.

While what he accomplished in Arizona would amount to a life well lived, it was only a step along the way of what he accomplished in life. In the vast plains of northern Alaska, Henri directed the planning effort on about a 23 million acre area of the NPRA entrusted to BLM. Another high interest, high resource value area where his actions set the stage for protecting some of our most critical and important wildlife and waterfowl nesting areas around Lake Teshepuk.

Henri kept going, accepting the larger challenge of making sense of the land ownership patterns in Arizona but in impacting many other areas, whether in Alaska or the other states and people nationally where Henri succeeded, to put it mildly. As we look around the Nation today we enjoy the benefits of the considerable efforts Henri brought to the mission, and most importantly that future generations will enjoy. Henri answered the call to live according to a higher purpose with an understanding that the public lands are entrusted to us for a short time and that we owe a deep responsibility for future generations.

As active as Henri was in accomplishing so much for others, his personal priorities didn't let up either. He and Pam traveled extensively, whether a photo safari to Africa, travel on the historic Orient Express, Costa Rica, and many other destinations. As a dedicated spinning rod fisherman, he even accepted the fun of fly fishing as well.

There are many people who Henri cared deeply about and lives in whom he made a real difference. I also realize that those who will benefit perhaps the most from his work have not even been born yet. If our lives are our message to the world, then Henri's message will continue to speak for generations to come. He truly exemplified the concept that future generations are to look at us with gratitude for the way we treated others and our natural resources. Henri's time on this planet made a tremendous difference in ways that matter to all of us.

### TRIBUTE

by Richard Schaefer, Board Chair  
Sonoran Institute

The Sonoran Institute expresses our deepest sympathies to the family of Henri Bisson, a Sonoran Institute Advisory Council Member, who recently passed away. Henri's passion was to "make things happen" and he did so throughout his life.

At the Sonoran Institute, Henri provided strong leadership for the Board, Advisory Council, and the entire organization for more than a decade. The Board and staff recall with fondness how time and time again, Henri would say, "I'll jump in here..." to offer sound advice and take on some of our most challenging issues. His wisdom and courage were paired with kindness and loyalty. Henri served as a mentor as well as a friend for all.

We will miss you, Henri!



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## IN MEMORIAM

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**LeRoy “Lee” Lavelle Delaney** on February 8, 2023, in Redding, CA. Lee worked for BLM for 31 years in Wyoming, Montana, California, and Washington, D.C. His favorite job with the BLM was as the Area Manager in the Surprise Resource Area in Cedarville, CA. The family has requested that donations in his memory be made to the BLM Wild Horse and Burro program.

**Andy Dimas** on January 19, 2023, in Santa Fe, NM. Andy served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He retired from BLM after a 30-year career. He went on to become a Deacon in the Catholic Church and was ordained in June 2003. He served as Deacon of the St. Anne Parish in Santa Fe and was also the Chaplain at the NM State Penitentiary for five years.

**Edward R. Evatz** on January 12, 2023, in Reno, NV. Ed graduated from Utah State University with a degree in Forestry Management and after graduation worked for the U.S. Forest Service and trained as a Smoke Jumper. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War. After his military service, he returned to the Forest Service and worked in Eugene, OR and Craig, CO. In 1955 he began his career with BLM, which included construction and management of the Job Corps Center in Price, UT and range management positions in BLM offices in Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Washington, D.C. In 1975 he transferred to Reno, NV as the Deputy State Director, Chief of Resources and retired in 1985.

**W. Vance Greer** on March 21, 2023, in Mountain City, Tennessee. Vance retired as a Geologist after working for both the Office of Surface Mining and BLM in the Department of the Interior. Vance had also previously worked at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

**Martha Jane Harrison** on February 14, 2023, in Salt Lake City, UT. Martha worked for BLM for over 35 years and among other positions, she pioneered the website design for the BLM Utah offices.

**Jesse Dykes Higdon Sr.** on February 7, 2023, in Oregon. Jesse graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with a degree in Forestry and was a U.S. Army veteran. He spent his career in forestry with BLM in Oregon, working in the Coos Bay, Medford, and Roseburg offices.

**Jens Crosby Jensen** on May 17, 2022, in Layton, UT. Jens was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving on the U.S.S. Lunga Point during World War II and attended Utah State University after the war. Jens began his 38-year career with BLM in Cedar City, Utah as a land surveyor. As he advanced in his career at BLM, Jens worked in Monticello, UT, Rawlins, WY, Boise, ID, and Salt Lake City, UT. Jens was the Chief, Division of Operations in the Utah State Office at the time of his retirement.

**Carl William Madison** on February 4, 2023, in Montrose, CO. Carl was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. He worked his long Federal career with BLM in Montrose, CO as a surface protection specialist.

**Doug McFadden** on August 3, 2022, in Kanab, UT. Doug started his BLM career in 1976 as the first Archaeologist in the Kanab Field Office and later as the Archaeologist for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. He helped excavate and document numerous Anasazi sites in both the Kanab and St. George districts. In the early 2000s he was a driving force in the development of the Kanab BLM Visitor Center. Doug retired from BLM in 2006 and spent his retirement years conducting contract archaeological work in southwestern Utah and northern Arizona.

**Timothy Miller** on January 14, 2023, in St. George, UT. Tim was a U.S. Army veteran and attended Idaho State University earning a degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. He began his Federal career as a Telecommunications Manager with the Fish and Wildlife Service. He began his career with BLM in the Anchorage District Office and then moved from Alaska to St. George, UT in 2000 where he later retired.

**John Peter Nahomenuk “Nomi”** on March 6, 2023, in Salida, CO. John graduated from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania in 1985 and after graduation started work as a seasonal Ranger with the National Park Service in Canyonlands National Park, UT. He also worked seasonally for BLM as a River Ranger. He finally landed a full-time position with BLM in Canon City, CO in 1994. He worked in a variety of positions with BLM; his last position was the River Manager for the Arkansas Headwaters Recreational Area in Salida, CO. He retired from BLM after 29 ½ years of Federal service.

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## IN MEMORIAM *(CONTINUED)*

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**Mark Nielsen** on February 2, 2023, in Rock Island, IL. Mark received a Bachelors degree in Geology from Illinois State University and a Masters degree in Geology from the University of Iowa. He spent most of his career in IT with various companies and later joined BLM as the Associate Director, National Operations Center in Denver, retiring in May 2021.

**Donald Lafoy Pendleton** on January 14, 2023, in Richfield, UT. Don was a veteran of the Korean War and graduated from Utah State University with degrees in Wildlife and Range Management. Don spent 35 years working with BLM before retiring as District Manager in Richfield, UT.

**Roberta Marie Pensoneau** on June 27, 2022, in Aztec, NM. Roberta had a long career as a Federal employee, serving multiple agencies in several states. She retired from the BLM in Durango, CO in 1995.

**Sharon Gail (McPartland) Prien** on January 24, 2023, in Anchorage, AK. Sharon earned a Bachelors degree in Education from Northern State College in Aberdeen, SD and the University of New Mexico. Her career in public service started as a library technician in Eagle River, AK and then with the

BLM Alaska Resources Library as the interlibrary loan specialist. She retired in 2019.

**James Henry Saladin** on December 20, 2021, in Reno, NV. James was a U.S. Navy veteran and served during World War II as a radioman. He attended Heald Engineering College in San Francisco after the war and began work with the Bureau of Reclamation in California. He moved to Reno, NV in 1961 and started a long career with BLM as a mountain top communications specialist. He retired in 1979.

**Mack Alonzo Snow** on August 26, 2022, in St. George, UT. He attended the College of Southern Utah and Utah State University. Mack had a long career with BLM as a civil engineer on the Arizona Strip.

**Samuel Douglas Wood** on February 13, 2023, in Annabella, UT. Doug received a Bachelor's degree in Range Management from Utah State University. He worked for BLM in Cedar City, Monticello, and Moab, UT. He played a significant role in the development of the Slickrock Bike Trail in Moab, UT.

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).*



## DONATIONS\*

<b>MEMORIAL DONATIONS</b>			<b>SCHOLARSHIP FUND</b>		
<b>RECEIVED FROM</b>	<b>IN MEMORY OF</b>				
Thomas Allen	Jesse Lowe		Barron Bail	Dean Bibles	Carolyn Droscher
Dean Bibles	Henri Bisson		Carol Dye	David Kathman	Gary Marsh
Celia Boddington	Henri Bisson		Beau McClure	Mona Schermerhorn	
	Tyrone Weaver		Skip Renschler	Gregg and Mary Simmons	
John Case	Henri Bisson		<b>STUDENT CONGRESS</b>		
Carol Dye	Henri Bisson		Gary Marsh	Elaine Zielinski	
John Fend	Henri Bisson		<b>MEMBERSHIP DUES ABOVE \$50.00</b>		
Courtney Lyons-Garcia	Henri Bisson		<b>CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS</b>		
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Thomas Allen	Barron Bail	Henri Bisson			
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Courtney Lyons-Garcia	Kim Harb	Ted Hudsons			
Bill Lebarron	David Mari	Gary Marsh			
Mat Millenbach	Tim O'Brien	Mary Jo Rugwell			
Robert Schneider	George Stone	Terry Woosley			
	Gregg and Mary Simmons				

\* This list reflects donations received during the period of January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023. Donations received after this period will be reported in the next edition of the Monitor.

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## DONATIONS

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**Reminder:** 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 rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count. We would like to get more members to participate in this program and generate more donations to the PLF. Just 20 households could potentially generate some \$1,000 per year of donations to the PLF.

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 in 2022 to deserving students. The fund needs to be replenished to be able to continue to offer these scholarships each year.

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, 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.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular .....	\$50
Contributing .....	\$100
Sponsoring .....	\$200
Patron.....	\$500

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

**Editor:** The Winter Quarter edition of the Monitor included a Letter to the Editor requesting more discussions and information on the management of BLM's National Conservation Lands. In response to this Letter to the Editor, several inquiries were received from retired BLM employees that the PLF needs to update the Goals of our organization to reflect the importance and value of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) of public lands. This would update the Goals of the PLF beyond just support for multiple-use management of the public lands under FLPMA. The National Landscape Conservation System Act was signed into law in March 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act and established the NLCS of special management areas managed by the BLM. An update of the Goals of the PLF would reflect this more recent management mission for special management areas on the public lands and would also be in line with the Priority Advocacy issues that the PLF has identified to Improve Management of Special Management Areas on the public lands. The PLF will be considering an update of the organization's Goals statement at the Annual Board Meeting in September 2023, to include an additional Goal that supports the long-term protection, conservation, and restoration of units of the National Landscape Conservation System of public lands managed by BLM.

*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](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) 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.*



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