

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States**



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## **Land Use Plan Completed for Wisconsin**

*Story and photo by Howard Levine, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Milwaukee Field Office*

**O**n March 2, Eastern States Director Gayle F. Gordon signed the Wisconsin Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment/Decision Record (Wisconsin Plan). Having approval, the Milwaukee Field Office (MFO) can now begin the process to transfer 12 parcels of land in the State of Wisconsin to other agencies and private individuals. It was decided that it would be in the public interest to transfer the properties out of BLM ownership, pending site-specific analyses. If the analyses reveal that the environmental impacts of transfer are unacceptable, then BLM has the option of retaining properties and developing its own management plans.

Under the Wisconsin Plan, prospective landowners can file site-specific plans for each tract with the BLM. Applicants must then follow a set of terms for acquisition, known as “disposal criteria,” which ensures that any transfer is in the public interest and does not create undue or unnecessary impacts to the environment. “Disposal criteria” include laws and planning issues identified during the plan and analyzed in the environmental assessment.

Four properties in Door County in Wisconsin contain lighthouses which have been

declared surplus by the U.S. Coast Guard. These historic structures are subject to intense public interest, and many people in the Great Lakes area are actively involved in the restoration, preservation, and operation of the lighthouses and nearby buildings as historic sites. Consequently, through cooperative and volunteer efforts by non-profit groups, many lighthouses in this area have been saved from destruction and have been preserved as important pieces of American History.

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**Cana Island Light was built in 1870 and is located in Door County, Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin.**

***Guardians of the Past — Stewards for the Future  
... sustaining the public lands in the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River.***



# State Director's Message

**W**inter is definitely over at the Eastern States Office in Springfield, Virginia! Spending several hours recently helping to organize equipment for the upcoming Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) camp outs was a clear signal that we are into a new season. The WOW program has planned 12 camp outs for this season with our Federal and local partners—a substantial increase over last year's 7 very successful events. Other signs of a new season include the Jackson Interagency Hot Shot Fire Crew's fuel reduction work in Florida and Arkansas as well as the cadastral survey crews gearing up for a very busy summer field season.

We are making good progress on our local land acquisitions. We are sponsoring a workshop on collaborative community-based planning for stakeholders included in the Lower Potomac River Project. This will give public and private sector stakeholders an opportunity to discuss and begin resolving interests and concerns about how to use future BLM/State land in the lower Potomac area. The workshop will build on the memorandum of understanding signed by BLM, Maryland's Department of Natural Resources in Charles County, and the Conservation Fund. There continues to be widespread local and Congressional support for this endeavor.

The Meadowood Farm donation in northern Virginia is also moving along well, and we are meeting with local stakeholders to plan the details of how we will use and manage this unique parcel. The primary use will be to showcase BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program, but we also intend to include environmental education activities and possibly low-impact, open-space recreation.

The Wild Horse and Burro Program is one of our most important programs, and we have already held 15 highly successful adoptions in 10 states since the first of the year. Maintaining reasonable wild horse and burro herd sizes on public lands is a major challenge for BLM if we are to maintain the health of the rangelands. The Bureau counts on the East to do almost half of its annual adoptions. Last year, we placed 2,200 horses in good homes. (Follow-up visits are a key part of the program.)

On April 1-4, Eastern States helped support the Joint Spring Eastern Lands and Resources Council/Western States Land Commissioners Association Conference in Washington, D.C. This annual event provides us with an excellent opportunity to meet with State representatives and to address a variety of land and resource management issues. This meeting was particularly lively because of participation by Senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln (D-AR), and Congressmen James Hansen (R-UT) and Frank Lucas (R-OK). We also had a chance to hear from Regional Foresters from the U.S. Forest Service.

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Cover: Land Use Plan Completed for Wisconsin

The General Land Office (GLO) Web Site celebrated its 100 millionth hit in March! The site has received more than 2.9 million visitors since its debut in 1998. The GLO System supporting the site is one of BLM's largest and most active national systems, containing data on approximately 5 million land patents nationwide and actual images of 3 million patents.

BLM's Eastern States, like the rest of the Federal Government, is concerned about its future workforce and being able to meet the increasing expectations of its customers. To ensure that we are well positioned for the future, we have been going through an extensive process of re-examining our core work, identifying potential future roles and responsibilities, and considering our workforce demographics. The Eastern States Management Team will meet in May to approve the final plan, which will truly be a road map to our future.

**Director, Eastern States**



## Tool Kit Offers Help to the Public

*By Faye Winters, Wildlife Biologist, Jackson Field Office*

Introducing BLM to our eastern public can be tough, especially when many in the audience see little connection between their lives and our westward-leaning agency.

To help bridge the gap, we have put together a "What Do We Do" tool kit that helps to make our national role more understandable. The tool kit includes over 20 BLM resource statistics with props to help make the connection—for example, a canoe paddle, representing the 20 percent of the nation's Wild and Scenic Rivers that BLM manages; a lump of coal, representing BLM's 1/3 of the nation's coal production; a sleeping bag for the 16,698 BLM campsites; a model wild horse; binoculars for Watchable Wildlife Sites, a well-worn Hot Shot helmet, to name a few.

The tool kit has been used at teachers-in-service training and, most recently, when the Jackson Field Office (JFO) personnel spoke to the Jackson State POWER Club, a service group of Education honors students at Jackson State



University. The goal was to introduce these future educators to the role which public lands play in the nation's economy and in providing for recreational uses and natural resources. Even though several people at the training had heard of BLM through involvement in the Piney Woods School Tutoring Program in Mississippi, the kit gave them a better understanding of what our agency provides to the nation's taxpayers.

Except for a venerable old transit (provided by BLM Surveyor Corky Rodine), the tool kit can be shipped and is available for use by contacting Faye Winters in the JFO at (601) 977-5400.

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### *Wisconsin Plan...continued from page 1*

Although the Wisconsin planning effort brought together many diverse groups and government entities to forge a vision to show how these properties should be managed, it was just the beginning of a long-term process that will result in the transfer of the tracts. Guided by site-specific issues and the disposal criteria, BLM will help local groups and agencies develop plans for each tract.



Besides lighthouses, the plan also covers eight other parcels of land in the State. Some of these tracts may be sold to adjacent landowners to resolve longstanding title conflicts, or they are tracts that lack legal access. It is unlikely that the general public will be allowed to bid on any of the tracts. It is anticipated that most of the parcels will be transferred to other government agencies to preserve the lands for wildlife habitat, open space and recreation. As with the lighthouse tracts, all applications for these lands will need to conform with the disposal criteria.

For a copy of the Wisconsin Plan, visit the MFO's Web Site at <http://www.es.blm.gov/mfo/planning-nepa/planning.html>, or call Howard Levine at (414) 297-4463.



## General Land Office Continues to Make Strides in Service to Customers

By Cathy Rodine, Public Affairs Specialist and Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, Eastern States

The General Land Office Records Automation Web Site recorded its 100 millionth hit during the week of March 12 and has had more than 2.9 million visitors since its debut in 1998. The Web Site offers information on the initial transfer of land from the Federal Government to individuals—homesteads, cash sales, military bounties and other historic conveyance documents. More than 2.5 million official land title documents dating from the late 1700's can be researched by surname or land description for the Public Land States; and images of historic documents can be viewed and printed. Genealogists, family historians, government land management agencies, and title companies can discover a wealth of historical data by visiting the Web Site at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>.



### Customers Write About the General Land Office Web Site

"Hello, You have done a great job. The search engine is fabulous, and the information has helped in my genealogy research. Your web site sets the standard for a government site. Every visit is a pleasure, and I have linked to your site from mine. Keep up the great work." (*Jeff Allen*)

"I bought a new computer recently and can now navigate your super good website. My old computer would not process it because of the outdated browser. On your site I have found many records of my ancestors and their siblings obtaining Government land. The earliest was in 1841. Not only does this pinpoint where these folks lived but also helps with their name usage. With this information I can easily find where they lived back then. This site is a gold mine for the family history researcher. I feel that my tax dollars have been well invested in this website. Keep up the great work." (*Larry Smith*)

"Dear Staff at the Records Department: Please forward this to all of you and especially to your supervisor and to the new Secretary of the Interior. I wish to express my appreciation for all your hard work to provide the service of making the land patent information available through the internet. I am a genealogical researcher who lives in a remote spot in South Dakota and this service has been of great aid to me. I have located numerous ancestor's records through your site. Your hard work to provide this service to me and the nation is worth every penny as I as a tax payer have sent. Thank you again! You all truly are what makes America Great! Sincerely," (*Joyce M. Carlsen*)

"Thank you for this locator site. I have found 3 ancestors and their donation land claim or cash sale township/range info. This has been a great help in tracing our family migration. Sincerely," (*Carol Reid*)



## Small Tracts of Land Withdrawn in Southern Alabama

Story and photos by Sharon Fakkema, Realty Specialist, Jackson Field Office

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has requested that the BLM withdraw seven small tracts of land in southern Alabama. Once withdrawn, these small tracts would be incorporated into the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge located close to Gulf Shores, Alabama.

The FWS made the request because each parcel is habitat for at least one of several threatened/ endangered species and/or provides resting and feeding areas for migratory birds, especially shorebirds. The seven tracts are located along the Gulf of Mexico and contain beach and dune habitat. These areas are important nesting areas for sea turtles, including loggerhead and green sea turtles; potential wintering habitat for the piping plover; and year-round habitat to the Alabama beach mouse. The FWS has prepared a recovery plan to protect these species. Shorebirds, including piping plovers that move through the refuge, may also use these parcels during spring and fall migrations.

Under the Federal Land and Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), Section 102, the BLM is charged with managing public lands "...in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental...resources...; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals..." FLPMA also directs that "regulations and plans for the protection of public and areas of critical environmental concern be promptly developed." The



A stake marks the south line of two of the Government tracts with ocean frontage along the Gulf of Mexico.



Dune habitat, on a tract along the Gulf of Mexico, provides nesting and feeding areas for a variety of threatened and endangered species and other wildlife.

desire of the FWS and the BLM is to protect these threatened and endangered species and other wildlife by keeping these lands in their natural condition. By incorporating these small tracts into the refuge, they can be managed by the FWS personnel located in the area.

During review of the withdrawal application, there was some concern that these tracts may have eroded or possibly added land through accretion. Cadastral Surveyors Corky Rodine and Ken Roy, from BLM's Eastern States Office in Springfield, Virginia, conducted an Administrative Survey at Gulf Shores to locate tracts and corners. Jackson Field Office Geographic Information Specialist (GIS) Bob Schooler and I met with the survey team, the FWS Refuge Manager, and other employees from the FWS to look at the tracts so that both agencies would know where these tracts are along with anything found on these tracts.

During the survey, corner markers from previous surveys were found. The survey team identified these markers during this meeting. And while out on these tracts, GIS coordinates were taken on each tract and then used to identify where these tracts are in relation to the Refuge.

For additional information, you may want to visit the FWS Web Site at <http://www.fws.gov>.



## America's Outdoors Sponsors New Attraction at the Milwaukee Sports Show 2001

Story and photo by Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office

In mid-March, BLM-Milwaukee Field Office representatives participated in the Milwaukee Sports Show 2001 which was held at the Wisconsin's Midwest Express Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This year's focus was on recreation information and opportunities to recreate on Federal lands.

America's Outdoors (AO) of the Milwaukee Field Office staffed a booth, along with its five partnering agencies, following a theme entitled, "Recreating on Federal Lands in Wisconsin." About 50 staffers and volunteers distributed information and resources to attendees about recreational opportunities which spanned across other states in the United States. A computer was also available for use by the visitors for surfing the Web Site <http://www.recreation.gov>.

This year AO participated in a new attraction called "Into the Outdoors Kids Adventure Area," which was coordinated through the State Department of Natural Resources. The attraction focused on outdoor educational activities, animals,



Woody Owl assists the America's Outdoors staff to teach children about nature and the environment with outdoor environmental education activities and games at the Milwaukee Sports Show 2001 in Wisconsin.

nature and the environment. Other activities included games to learn about nature and outdoor adventures. America's Outdoors' Forest Service staffers also presented a number of outdoor environmental education activities with the assistance of Woody Owl—and the children were delighted.

America's Outdoors reached over 150,000 attendees, and several people expressed an interest in doing volunteer work at AO.

## Wild Horse & Burro News



Photos by Peggy Riek

Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon (left) and Associate State Director Mike Nedd (far right) pose with Mary Jo Graber and adopted burro "Bart" at the Wild Horse & Burro Adoption in Lexington, Virginia in March.



Nationally-known and respected trainer, Dave Seay, demonstrates gentling techniques at the March Wild Horse & Burro Adoption in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.



## ES Proposes An eCommerce Web Site for the Oil and Gas Program

By Harry Moritz, eCommerce Project Manager and Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, Eastern States

**E**astern States has taken the lead in proposing the development of a comprehensive eCommerce Internet Web Site that would handle all transactions between the public and the BLM involved in leasing and management of oil and gas (O&G) resources on Federal lands. This project will serve as a pilot for eventual BLM-wide use.

BLM has traditionally thought of itself as a land and resource management agency. While this is fundamentally true, the management of lands and resources involves the sale of commodities or the issuance of authorizations that can be considered commodities. Examples of the former include mineral materials, timber and firewood. The latter category is much larger than the former and includes mineral leases; grazing; recreation and special use permits; rights-of-way; and other land use authorizations. Both categories have one thing in common—the desire of the public to obtain something of economic value from BLM.

In 1998, the WH&B Internet Adoption Web Site at <http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov>, was developed by Eastern States and became the first true eCommerce Web Site developed by BLM for resource management use. Its interactivity with the public is limited in that it is used to collect information and accept bids. The Web Site is not, however, used to grant approvals or accept electronic payments.

Traditionally, BLM has also focused its automated Information Resources Management efforts primarily on data management. Specific examples include: Automated Lands and Minerals Records System/Lands and Minerals 2000, the Automated Fluid Minerals Support System, the Wild Horse and Burro Information System, the Recreational Management Information System, as well as other program-specific or resource-specific databases. More recently BLM has branched out into automating work processes, such as the O&G Lease Sale Support, which uses the LR2000-based Premier Software and is intended to help automate the O&G Lease Sale process.

Implementation of the eCommerce Web Site could provide obvious benefits, including the immediate transfer of documents between applicants and the BLM,

safe and secure encryption of information with digital signatures, and save delays and money for postal handling. When ultimately approved, even visiting the State Office for competitive sales could be eliminated. Stay tuned!

### The Web Site would:

- ◆ Provide information on the O&G program and access to electronic versions of forms used in the program.
- ◆ Allow the public to electronically file all documents now filed on paper and receive approvals electronically for all leasing actions from Expressions of Interest to lease relinquishments.
- ◆ Use some form of public/private key encryption Public Key Infrastructure and digital signature technology.
- ◆ Be capable of accepting, processing, and accounting for electronic payments of filing and other fees.
- ◆ Data inputs would be maintained in databases that will be capable of inserting into fields in other applications that would be transparent to the users.
- ◆ Link to existing Web Sites, such as the Well Information System and to internal programs such as the Lease Sale Support System; the Automated Fluid Minerals Support System; and the Land and Mineral records (LR2000). [**Note:** The O&G eCommerce Web Site will not duplicate existing databases or software within the BLM or in the oil and gas program.]
- ◆ Be totally voluntary, at least initially, allowing the public to file electronically or traditionally on paper, as they see fit.
- ◆ Have the capability of selling (auctioning) O&G leases interactively on-line, when the law is changed to allow such sales.

[**Note:** The Solicitor's Office has ruled that the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Lease Reform Act does not currently permit on-line lease sales. A legislative modification is being considered.]



## Jackson Field Office Hosts 10th Annual Black History Month Program

By Patrice D. Junius, Outreach Specialist, Jackson Field Office

The Jackson Field Office's (JFO) 10th Annual Black History Month Celebration was graced with encouraging words from Dr. Jayne Sargent, Superintendent of Education for the Jackson Public School District and an inspirational performance by the Mississippi School for the Blind.

"Educational Pathways Through Cultural Heritage" was the theme for this year's celebration. The program for the day included a speech by Dr. Jayne Sargent, a native of Mississippi, who has worked in several school districts throughout the State. She had many words of wisdom to share. "In the past, I have told children not to take things personal," said Dr. Sargent. "Today I come with a message for the future. Take things personal when it comes to doing something positive and getting involved in the community."

Then, six students from the Mississippi's School for the Blind performed a skit, "Imagi-Nation Revelation." The students highlighted the lives of African-Americans from the past who have made a difference in Black History, some of whom included Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Langston Hughes, and



Photo by Lisa Flanagan

**Dr. Jayne Sargent has been the Superintendent of Education of Jackson Public Schools since 1997.**

George Washington Carver. Doug Sullivan, field representative from U. S. Senator Thad Cochran's Office in Jackson was among the visitors who congratulated the students on their performance.

The program was followed by a Soul Food buffet, compliments of the JFO

employees, set in a room that was decorated with African tapestry and artifacts from the Smith-Robertson Museum and Cultural Center located in Jackson, Mississippi. The program was designed by Victoria Craft, and featured black history facts and the names of the first African-Americans to hold notable positions in the JFO, and its partnerships with minority organizations.

In addition, employees and visitors received a "Soul Food Cookbook," designed by Charlotte Graham and a poster-size collage of Black History articles and photos that was designed by Mary Weaver, who greeted visitors at the door.

Jess Bryant of the JFO Wild Horse and Burro Program also gave a presentation on Buffalo Soldiers and a brief history of African-Americans in the West.

Members of this year's JFO Black History Committee were Victoria P. Craft, Chairman, Mary Weaver, Charlotte Graham, Patrice Junius, Cozette W. Archie, and Jeanette McGrew.

## ES Employees Take a Step Back in History

By Eastern States Staff

**Eastern States Office employees who participated in the "WHO AM I?" Trivia Contest share a moment for a group photo.**



Black History Month, also referred to as African-American Heritage Month, originated in 1926, when Carter G. Woodson of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History in Washington, D.C. established "Negro History Week." Its purpose was to encourage African-Americans to study, appreciate and celebrate their heritage and bring National attention to the contributions that African-American's have made to American History.

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## Plants Out of Place--A Spreading Problem

By Martha Malik, Public Affairs Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office

In early March, a "Plants Out of Place" Conference was held for the Upper Midwest Region in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The BLM participated in the conference by sharing a weeds education exhibit with the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Milwaukee County Park People's Director of the Weed Program, Betty Czarpapata. Other agencies and organizations also showcased exhibits on weeds.

The purpose of the conference was to provide the opportunity for participants to expand their knowledge of invasive plants through the sharing of current information on ecology, control and management. A collaboration of non-profit organizations, Federal, State and county agencies sponsored the conference.

The conference also provided an opportunity for Wisconsin land managers, researchers, landowners and educators to participate in an organizational



Sylvia Jordan, Natural Resource Specialist in the Milwaukee Field Office, shows off weeds brochures and information at the "Plants Out of Place" Conference in Wisconsin.

meeting for the purpose of developing a membership-based network to coordinate statewide activities dealing with invasive plants. In one productive afternoon prior to the conference, participants established the "Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin," elected a board of directors, and identified several task groups.

The enthusiasm of over 500 conference attendees about "Whose problem is it with weeds?" conciously made them aware that weeds are a global concern. Weeds are a considerable economic burden to everyone, and it's everybody's problem. We all share the responsibility of preventing the spread of these plants that are out of place.

Today, nearly every corner of the globe is impacted both economically and environmentally by invasive, exotic plants.

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### ***Black History...continued from page 8***

In February 2001, Eastern States Office employees celebrated Black History Month with a variety of activities throughout the month—poetry readings, watching a film on black entertainers who have paved the way for today's modern entertainers, a bake sale, Black History Trivia Contests, artwork, and a special program on February 22, which included a delicious Soul Food Feast.

We came together at the State Office for the special Black History Celebration Program with this year's theme, "Creating and Defining the African-American Community through Family, Church, Politics and Culture." Mistress of Ceremonies Regina Berry opened the celebration by leading everyone in singing the Black National Anthem, and Eastern States Associate State Director Mike Nedd gave opening remarks.

Employees also enjoyed a couple of songs by Spiritual Singer and Entertainer Shelton Hawkins, the "WHO AM I?" Trivia Contest (won by LaShawn Barber), and closing remarks by Equal Employment Officer Lynda Nix and Associate State Director Nedd.



## Status Data Collection Teams Forge Ahead

By Charlie Graham, Lead Land Law Examiner, Jackson Field Office

**D**uring an Eastern States Expanded Management Team meeting last October, status collection was identified as one of the three goals set for the Mineral Resources Team at Eastern States. Goal Number 3, to "Develop an accurate database on Federal Mineral Ownership Status data," fit perfectly into our Eastern States' Mission Statement which says, "Eastern States has and will continue to play a central role in fostering the acquisition, management and conservation of public lands and their resources spanning the 31 States east of and bordering the Mississippi River."

Status collection contains data describing Federal Mineral Ownership in priority areas for mineral development and management within Eastern States jurisdiction, as well as split estate, which includes private, state or local government lands with Federal Mineral Ownership. Collection is well underway, with a significant amount of data remaining to be collected to complete the priority areas identified by both BLM's Jackson and Milwaukee Field Offices (JFO and MFO). As more data is loaded into the system, status data will not only provide mineral ownership identification but will also provide a means for identifying Federal lands within the eastern United States. Along with the land that other agencies may own as documented in Sitemog, which provides generalized descriptions of Federal land holdings, Status data will provide information on the location of Federal lands within Eastern States' jurisdiction.

During the past year, JFO and MFO personnel, along with Geographic Information Specialist Matthew Stewart, formerly of Eastern States

Information Resource Management Branch who served as contract liaison, worked with contractors to rehost existing Status Data Entry and Edit Applications from a dated and undersized Prime Platform to a state-of-the-art NT Server, making the programs Y2K compliant. After rehosting to the new platform, navigation through the forms was re-engineered to a more logical following of the workflow. The application has since been simplified, making it more user-friendly. Modifications will continue to be made to the application to enhance the ability of users to be more efficient and timely in data collection. Other programs were successfully integrated onto the new platform. Both the LR300 Quality Control Program hosted on a Honeywell mainframe and the Reformat Programs, previously on UNIX, are now running from the same application; and many steps have been eliminated.

A Web Page is currently under construction that will 1) give customers access to Eastern States Status Data; 2) provide customers access to a variety of resources that relate to Status data and title determination; and 3) be flexible and user-friendly. The Status Team will continue to add resources as they become available. Many features are in place, but there is still work to be done on the query capability before the Web Page is accessible to customers. The Web Page should be up and running in the near future.

The JFO and MFO Status Collection Teams are committed to bringing a viable and useful Status database program to all Eastern States users and customers. Additionally, they are proud that Status data can play a part in accomplishing the Eastern States' Mission.

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## Oil and Gas Drilling Begins at Mosquito Creek Lake

By Tim Abing, Petroleum Engineer, Milwaukee Field Office

**I**n contrast to the turbulent leasing and permitting process that preceded it, drilling of the first directional well to develop Federal oil and gas at Mosquito Creek Lake began without fanfare on March 22. Drilling at the site, a project managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in northeastern Ohio, was the focus of intense public controversy from the moment BLM first proposed to lease Federal oil and gas there in April 1996. The public was concerned that oil

and gas development posed a threat to the lake, a public drinking water supply for surrounding communities.

During August 2000, BLM issued leases for 128 acres beneath the lake, and Weinsz Oil and Gas, Inc., of North Canton, Ohio proposed to drill seven wells in the area. Six of these wells would be directionally drilled from private surface to Federal minerals, with the seventh well being a conventional

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*Mosquito Creek Lake...continued from page 10*

vertical well on private land. The Milwaukee Field Office approved the six directional applications for permit to drill on January 19. Weinsz Oil and Gas, Inc. finished drilling the first well on March 30 and finished drilling of a second directional well from the same surface location on April 9. A third directional well drilled from a second surface location is scheduled to begin on April 16.

A BLM inspector has been present at each well drilled to witness installation of the surface casing and testing of the drilling contractor's blowout prevention equipment, as well as to generally ensure that drilling activity complies with all other special mitigation measures designed to protect fresh water.

## ES Happenings

In early April, Eastern States Director Gayle Gordon introduced Federal Agencies and participated on a panel to discuss mixed ownership projects at the Joint Spring Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) and Western States Land Commissioners Association held in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Forest Service was the featured Federal Agency. Their representatives spoke to the meeting's theme, "Strengthening Partnerships in a Time of Transition." Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), and Congressmen James Hansen (R-UT) and Frank Lucas (R-OK) provided insights on land exchanges and natural resources issues from the Capitol Hill perspective. The 2001 meeting was very well attended, drawing representatives from 30 States, the Northern Marianas and Canada. The ELRC also announced the readiness of its Web Site at <http://www.elrc.org>.

BLM, Eastern States Cadastral Surveyor Corky Rodine and retired BLM, Eastern States Chief Cadastral Surveyor Lane Bouman conducted an 8-hour training seminar on the foundation of the Public Land Survey System for more than 50 participants at the American Congress on Survey and Mapping Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Rodine and Bouman have conducted this technical training for State agencies and Professional Societies from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota and Ohio.

BLM-ES Jackson Field Office employees met with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service representatives on the Talladega National Forest to review several issues, including mitigation for a threatened & endangered bat due to the proposed expansion of a clay pit, lease renewal, and approval of a reclamation pit.

On April 5, U.S. Customs and BLM employees participated in the Greater Chesapeake & Potomac

Regional Red Cross Blood Drive at our office. Fifty-six whole units of blood were collected.

BLM is partnering with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD-DNR) and the Maryland Delegation on the first Land & Water Conservation Fund effort for Eastern States. The memorandum of understanding was signed with the MD-DNR, and final arrangements have been made for the cooperative planning training for the Lower Potomac River Project, held in mid-April in Waldorf, Maryland.

To promote wild horse and burro adoptions, Eastern States representatives staffed booths at the "Downunder Horsemanship 2001 Tour" in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on March 31, the "5<sup>th</sup> Annual Horse World Expo" at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, Maryland on January 19-21, the "Dixie National Equine Expo," the largest Quarter Horse Show in the country, at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds on February 14-18, and the Equine Expo "Ride with the Stars" in Murfreesboro, Tennessee on February 23-25.

On February 10, BLM-ES representatives attended a meeting with the Mason Neck Citizens Association to discuss issues and opportunities for management of Meadowood Farm as a public facility when BLM assumes ownership of the farm. They met with Meadowood Farm boarders to discuss plans for equine activities at Meadowood. A new information page and FAQs for Meadowood have been uploaded to our Web Site at <http://www.es.blm.gov>.

A group of registry officials from Croatia made a visit to our Virginia office in late January to tour the General Land Office Records. The group was here to study a number of options for modernization and reform of their land registration.

*Continued on page 12*



*ES Happenings...continued from page 11*

Eastern States representatives attended the 2001 National Association for Interpretation Conference and Training Session March 28-31, at the Cape Henlopen State Park, in Lewes, Delaware. With the planned acquisition of Meadowood Farm in Lorton, Virginia, the conference and associated training will help our staff to gain and hone interpretive skills that we can apply to natural resource programs that will be developed at Meadowood Farm.

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A Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale was held at the State Office in Springfield, Virginia, on March 22. Twenty-two parcels of Federal land were offered in the States of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Eleven parcels were sold, generating \$195,813 in revenue. Bonus bids, filing fees, and rental amounting to \$135,812 will go to the U.S. Treasury and \$60,001 will be shared with the affected States. The highest per acre bid of the auction was in Mississippi, with the highest bonus bid at \$350 per acre for 70 acres, totaling \$24,500.

\*\*\*\*\*

In February, a Dependent Resurvey of a portion of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway through the Town of Greenbelt, Prince George's County, Maryland, for the Capital Region of the National Park Service was approved. Another Dependent Resurvey of a portion of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, between Maryland Route 193 and Good Luck Road, Prince George's County, for the Capital Region of the National Park Service, was also approved.

\*\*\*\*\*

A letter of intent was sent to Mississippi's State Forester, Jim Sledge, by the BLM's Director of the Office of Fire and Aviation. The letter expressed the Bureau's intent to provide matching funds over the next 3 years to the State for construction of the Interagency Regional Fire Training Center in Jackson. In addition to state-of-the-art training for a variety of local, state and Federal Agencies, the facility will provide office space, dormitory rooms, covered parking for crew carriers and equipment storage space (cache) for the Jackson Interagency Hotshot Fire Crew.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jackson Field Office employees met with Piney Woods School President Dr. Charles Beady regarding two cooperative agreements with the school. Dr. Beady expressed that implementation of the agreements was highly successful and noted how much he enjoyed having wild horses and burros at Piney Woods.

\*\*\*\*\*

America's Outdoors has received recognition in three national publications for environmental education write-ups about the Urban Tree House at Lynden Hill in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The articles and publications include, "Environmental Education - Urban Tree House Style!," in the **January/February 2001 Volume 12\*Number 1, "Magazine of the National Association for Interpretation;"** "On the Horizon - The Milwaukee Urban Tree House - Exploring New Methods to Address Community Recreation and Conservation Need," in the **2000/2001 "Rivers & Trails - Building Healthy Communities"** (a national publication of the National Park Service); and "An Urban Tree House Grows in Milwaukee," in the **Winter 2001 "GO PARKS - National Park Foundation,"** brochure (given to people who purchase a National Park Pass).

\*\*\*\*\*

Eastern States continues working on outreach to the 107th Congress, making contacts with Congressional and Senate members. In March, the Jackson Field Office staff met with the staffs of Senators Trent Lott and Thad Cochran and Representative Charles W. (Chip) Pickering, Jr., regarding implementation of the national fire plan and an initiative in Jackson, Mississippi to construct an Interagency Regional Fire Training Center with an emphasis on training.

\*\*\*\*\*

Milwaukee Field Office representative, Martha Malik, met with Director Mary Henry and Assistant Director Rhulene Artis of the Milwaukee Urban Systemic Initiative in Science and Mathematics (MUSI) Center, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), to pursue a partnership agreement initiated by MUSI-MPS. Mrs. Artis was invited to the National Public Lands Day 2000 event and was very impressed with "hands-on" environmental opportunities that America's Outdoors presented to urban children going to schools in her administered Milwaukee School District. (The document is in draft form, pending reviews and modifications.)

\*\*\*\*\*

In January, Milwaukee Field Office Manager Jim Dryden and Public Affairs Specialist Martha Malik were honored for their hard work at National Public Lands Day 2000 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Guest speaker Former Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes presented Hammer Awards to them for their continued support and diligent work to make NPLD a success and to promote community involvement and well planned and managed volunteerism.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Team Spirit Prevails!!

*By Angela Barnes, Computer Specialist, Jackson Field Office*

About a year ago, Lotus Notes Database Development support in Eastern States was falling short of targets. Recognizing the deficiency and in a show of real spirit, Jackson Field Office (JFO) employee Judy Hale stepped up to the plate and offered to help.

After an initial trip to the Eastern States Office in Springfield, Virginia to obtain the specifics of what needed to be accomplished, Judy began her work.

Since that time, she has successfully created, modified, and enhanced several databases which include: the Training Survey, Congressional Contacts, WH&B Adoption Tracking System,

Requisition Tracking System, and the Eastern States Help Desk.

All this work, which fell right in the middle of the Lotus Notes R5 Upgrade, became a full-time job for Judy. She even tested the spirit of the JFO's Information Resources Management Team with rewarding results for not only her, but for teammates Alexis Sanders and Angela Barnes.

Another trip was made in March back to Springfield to coordinate the efforts to remotely redevelop a Human Resources Management (HRM) Tracking System to be used by the HRM staff for Eastern States and the Washington Office.

"It has been a long time coming, and even though we are located in JFO, we are truly an Eastern States Team, said Hale.

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## Employee Feature—Wildlife Biologist Geoff Walsh

*By Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, Eastern States*

If you have spent any time at Eastern States at all, you certainly have heard the words "We need volunteers!" announced by Geoff Walsh on many occasions. Geoff is always looking for volunteers to help out at various Eastern States' environmental events, especially for Earth Day and Kids Fishing Day events!

Geoffrey (Geoff) Walsh joined the Eastern States Office in November 1993, as the State Office Wildlife Management Biologist, in the Division of Resources Planning, Use & Protection. Prior to this job, he worked in BLM's Susanville, California and Monticello, Utah offices as a wildlife management biologist.

Geoff was born in Pico Rivera, California and grew up in Costa Mesa, California, 5 miles from the ocean, where he graduated from High School in 1976. He attended Humboldt State University in Humboldt, California and graduated with a B.S. Degree in Wildlife Management and Zoology in 1981.

In 1983, Geoff joined the Peace Corps, spending a couple of months in Florida, where he first trained to teach fish farming before heading to the hot and arid southeast parts of the Dominican Republic to work as an Aquaculturist. After his 2-year stint, he returned to California for a short stay, then decided to attend North Dakota State University to do some graduate studies prior to beginning work at BLM.



**Wildlife Biologist Geoff Walsh explains basic fish facts to children before the Kiwanis Kids' Fishing Day event held last year in Virginia.**

His primary goals include parenting his two elementary school age boys and providing a good home setting so they can grow up with a good future in the Washington, D.C. area, where he sees many opportunities. He also enjoys coaching basketball teams with his boys.

Geoff is known for his ability to simplify the complicated and get down to the basics, and he uses this approach both in his personal life and at work. He would like to see Eastern States achieve a higher level of morale through more ownership in the resource stewardship arena. Geoff also wants to be part of the group at Eastern States who are interested in the management of local projects such as Meadowood Farm and Lower Potomac River, where the BLM can make a positive contribution to the community.



## Employee Scene

(January 1, 2001, through April 7, 2001)

### Star Awards

**Tim Abing**, Petroleum Engineer, Milwaukee Field Office, for his high level of performance and contribution to the success of the Comprehensive Oil and Gas Final Rule.

**Ray Boteler**, Petroleum Engineering Technician (PET), Jackson Field Office, in recognition of his outstanding performance as a PET in Fiscal Year 2000.

**Dorothy Burnette**, Mail and File Clerk; **Paulette Goodnight**, Staff Assistant; and **Jeanette McGrew**, Administrative Officer, Jackson Field Office, for their fine performance, excellent attitude, and willingness to perform and carry out additional responsibilities in the absence of an administrative clerk.

**Andrea Nygren**, Former Program Analyst, ES, for her outstanding work in support of acquisition of Meadowood Farm in Lorton, Virginia.

**U. J. Parikh**, Supervisory Petroleum Engineer, Jackson Field Office, for his high performance and detailed review of a heavy oil royalty rate reduction case resulting in the recovery of \$44,000 for the period January-August 2000.

**John Reiss**, Petroleum Engineer, Jackson Field Office, in recognition of his dedicated work in Oil & Gas Operations and especially in regards to his work with Automated Fluid Minerals Support System and Monthly Report of Operations data.

**Sue VanZandt**, Management Assistant, Jackson Field Office, for her extraordinary contributions in FY 2000.

### Quality Step Increases

**Barbara Beaudin**, Management Analyst, ES, Division of Cadastral Survey and General Land Office Records

**Lynn Evers-Ertman**, Former Chief, ES, Information Resources Management

**Stephen Kopach**, Former Deputy State Director, ES, Division of Cadastral Survey and General Land Office Records

**Sammy St. Clair**, Business Practices Manager, Jackson Field Office

## Comings & Goings

**New Employees.**— **John L. Douglas**, ES, Chief, Information Resources Management (IRM)

**Horace Traylor**, on detail from BLM's Washington Office to work at ES on the Meadowood and Lower Potomac River Projects

**Transfers.**— **Lynn Evers-Ertman**, ES, Chief, IRM, to the BLM's Washington Office, Washington, D.C. (detail at ES ended)

**Jim Gegen**, ES, Supervisory GLO Project Manager, to the BLM Washington Office (WO-300), Denver, CO

**Russell Hampton**, ES, Computer Specialist, to the U.S. Department of Treasury, Washington, D.C.

**Stephen Kopach**, ES, Supervisory Land Surveyor, to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Arlington, VA

**Dana McGee**, ES, Personnel Management Specialist, to the U.S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

**Andrea Nygren**, ES, Program Analyst, to the BLM's Washington Office Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

**Janet Townsend**, ES, Archaeologist, to the Navy Department, San Diego, CA

**Retirees.**— **Linda Brooks**, ES, Supervisory Realty Specialist, General Land Office Records

**Renee Signorelli**, ES, Personnel Management Specialist, Branch of Human Resources Management

**Resignations.**— **Tondi Ballard**, ES, Land Law Examiner; **Kevin LaFollette**, ES, Survey Technician; and

**Lagrase Kelly Murphy III**, Milwaukee Field Office, General Clerk (OA)



## Calendar of Events



<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>May</b> 7-11	“Principles of Modeling Training Course,” 1730-66, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
12	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Mequon, Wisconsin
12	“Pathways to Fishing” Event, Jackson, Mississippi
12-13	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Cross Plains, Tennessee
16	Oil & Gas Field Operations Focus Group, Shreveport, Louisiana
19-20	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Decatur, Alabama
19-20	Wonderful Outdoor World Camp Out, Brentwood, Maryland
18-20	“Fishing Has No Boundaries” Event, Hayward, Wisconsin
19	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Rutland, Vermont
21	Jackson Hotshots’ Pack Test, Jackson, Mississippi
23-24	Wonderful Outdoor World, Cosca Park, Clinton, Maryland
24	Jackson Field Office Health Fair, Jackson, Mississippi
26	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Piney Woods Facility, Jackson, Mississippi
<b>June</b> 2	National Race for the Cure, Washington, D.C.
1-3	“Fishing Has No Boundaries” Event, Eagle River, Wisconsin
12	Great Outdoors/Anacostia Park/Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.
14-17	Equitana, U.S.A., Louisville, Kentucky
16	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Escanaba, Michigan
16	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Piney Woods Facility, Jackson, Mississippi
16-17	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Cross Plains, Tennessee
23	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Mequon, Wisconsin
23-24	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Little Rock, Arkansas
<b>July</b> 7	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
7-8	“Fishing Has No Boundaries” Event, Madison, Wisconsin
14-15	Wild Horse & Burro Adoption, Cross Plains, Tennessee

## Westward Ho.....

Photo by Joy Pasquariello



Jim Gegen, long-time ES employee, and former Project Manager for the General Land Office Records Project, enjoys his going away celebration, in anticipation of his trek westward (like so many pioneers before him) to his new position as Project Manager for the LR2000, working for the Washington Office and duty-stationed in Denver, Colorado.





## An Actor in the ES Group

By Lucille Tamm, Geologist, Milwaukee Field Office

**C**ongratulations to Dave LaChance, Geologist in the Milwaukee Field Office, whose stage play, "Faces in the Raft," was selected to compete at the Wisconsin Association of Community Theatre Fest 2001. On March 3, The Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, presented a 1-hour version of the play. An unproduced screenplay version of the play was also a finalist in the Sundance Institute Feature Film Program in Wisconsin.



**Eastern States Mission** — We will continue to play a central role in fostering the acquisition, management and conservation of public lands and their resources spanning the 31 States east of and bordering the Mississippi River.

Major programs include: Cadastral Survey, General Land Office Records, Wild Horse & Burro Adoptions, Energy & Minerals, and Communication.

For more information about our office, please contact us at (703) 440-1713, or visit our Web Site at <http://www.es.blm.gov/>. Editor: M. M. Riek

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## Comment Card/E-mail Briefs

**America's Outdoors**— "This "America's Outdoors" facility in Milwaukee was wonderful. I am a volunteer with National Parks & Conservation and never knew that there was a single place like this to obtain National Park brochures all "under one roof." The staff...were extremely friendly, courteous and knowledgeable. You should be proud of this staff and the full service facility...(How come it took me 'til now to find this wonderful place!)" (*Rich Mazzuca*)

**WH&B**—"Jinx, We picked Buddy up Saturday at Lake Charles. We got home and put him in the roundpen. He walked right out of the trailer without any problem. We went out there Sunday morning to check on him and my wife walked right up to him and started petting him. We were amazed at how calm and settled he was. We fooled with him off and on all day. We fed him hay out of our hands Monday. Tuesday I had to come home in the middle of the day. One of my friends came with me to see Buddy. When I walked into the roundpen, he walked right up to me. Wednesday he let me currycomb his mane and cut all those witches knots out. I called Cross Plains to ask if anyone had been working with him. They said "no." You hit his personality and disposition right on the head. I took some pictures of my wife petting him Sunday. ...I am glad that I made that call to you. I think he is going to make a great asset to our place. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and Karen for all your help in getting him to me. ...My experience with all the people in your bureau has been more than satisfactory. You all have been very informative and patient with all my questions. I am looking forward to doing business with you in the future." (*John Dale Roberts*)

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Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern States  
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



*Eastern States — committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands in the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River for present and future generations.*

