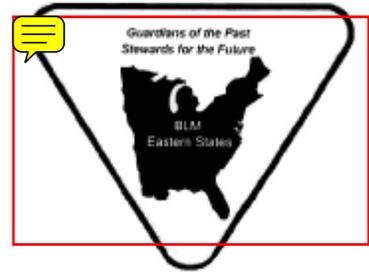


VANTAGE



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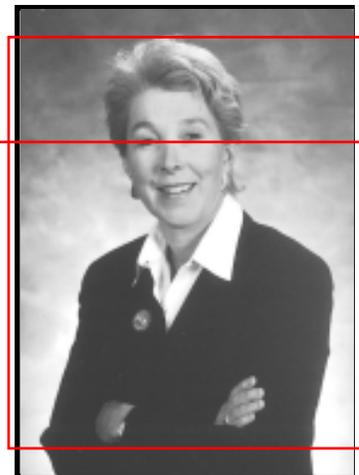
Secretary Norton Applauds Confirmation of Rebecca Watson as Assistant Secretary for Land & Minerals Management

By John Wright, Office of Communications, Office of the Secretary

Interior Secretary Gale Norton praised the Senate's confirmation of Rebecca W. Watson to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Interior Department for Land and Minerals Management. Watson was nominated by President George W. Bush in November 2001, and confirmed by unanimous consent of the U.S. Senate on January 25, 2002.

"Rebecca Watson has the background and professional qualifications that are critical to this challenging and very important position," Secretary Norton said. "She is a consensus builder that listens to all sides to find common ground to bring a balanced and sensitive approach to resolving important public land issues."

Continued on page 3



**Rebecca W. Watson, Assistant
Secretary, Land and Minerals
Management**

Public Meeting Held to Discuss the Draft Planning Analysis/ Environmental Assessment on Meadowood Farm



Meadowood Farm in Virginia

Eastern States held a meeting on April 30, at Gunston Hall in Lorton, Virginia, to discuss the issuance of the draft Planning Analysis/Environmental Assessment for Meadowood Farm. The draft plan assesses the management alternatives for 800 acres of land on Mason Neck in Fairfax County in Virginia.

The public comment period for the draft plan begins on May 3 and ends on June 2, 2002. The projected release of the proposed plan is expected in August, with a protest period ending in September. Final issuance of the plan, after any protests are resolved, is expected sometime in October.

Written comments may be hand-delivered to the BLM's Eastern States office in Springfield, Virginia, or submitted by email to Meadowood Farm at es_meadowood@es.blm.gov



Acting State Director's Message



This spring edition of *Vantage* contains excellent material about some of the exciting programs and activities we're doing here in the eastern half of the country for the BLM. And like spring everywhere, this is a vibrant time of renewal, new growth, and a fresh outlook.

I had the pleasure in mid-April to attend the Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) annual joint conference with the Western States Land Commissioners Association, held in Washington, D.C. The theme of the conference was "Transcending Boundaries—Collaborating on Land Management." The theme fit perfectly with Secretary Norton's four C's philosophy—communication, cooperation, and consultation, all in the service of conservation.

Many of you know that BLM Eastern States has had a long and valued association with the ELRC. In fact, we were a charter Federal member of this organization, which formed in 1983. We recognized nearly 20 years ago that such an organization could play a vital role in coordination and collaboration of public land and resources management. Today, 20 State governments are members of ELRC, which provides a unique forum for enhancing land stewardship and conservation and promoting sound policies and practices among those involved in the management and administration of public lands, records, and natural resources.

Our new BLM Director, Kathleen Clarke, gave a luncheon presentation at the conference about how important it is for State and Federal land and resources managers to work cooperatively for our public. Other speakers at the conference included U.S. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth and Associate Chief Sally Collins; National Park Service Deputy Director Randy Jones; Assistant Secretary for Fish & Wildlife & Parks The Honorable Judge Craig Manson; Deputy Assistant to the Vice President for Domestic Policy Karen Knutson; Minerals Management Service Director R. M. "Johnnie" Burton, and several other key officials. All of them emphasized the importance of cooperation and collaboration, something we have worked towards here at Eastern States for many years.

In this edition, you will see many instances of how our valued employees have taken the Secretary's message and incorporated it into their daily work on the ground. That is where it really matters. And like this season of spring, I know BLM Eastern States will renew our efforts, see new growth, and have a fresh new outlook for collaborating with our many partners and associates.

Michael D. Nedd
Acting State Director, Eastern States

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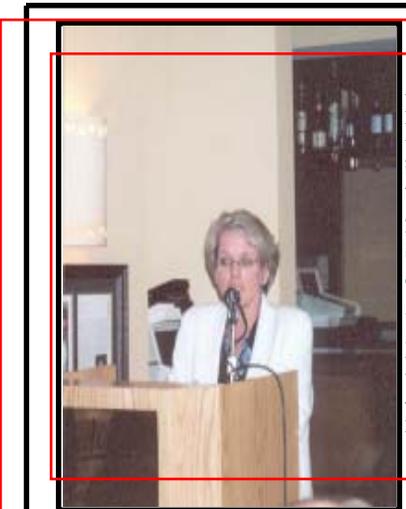


Photo by Joy Pasquariello

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke speaks during lunch to members and guests at the Joint Spring Conference of the Eastern Lands and Resources Council and Western States Land Commissioners Association in mid-April in Washington, D.C.



Assistant Secretary Watson...continued from page 1

Before taking the post at the Interior Department, Watson served as a managing partner of the Gough, Shanahan, Johnson & Waterman law firm located in Helena, Montana. Her responsibilities have included working on a wide variety of natural resources and environmental issues. From 1993-1995, she served as an attorney for Crowell & Moring, a Washington, DC-based law firm, where she worked on issues involving public lands, endangered species, and natural resources. She began her practice of law in Wyoming representing ranchers and western businesses.

Watson served in the administration of George H.W. Bush, where she was appointed Assistant General Counsel for Energy Policy at the U.S. Department of the Energy.

A native of Chicago, Watson is a graduate of the University of Denver, College of Arts and Sciences, where she received her B.A. degree Phi Beta Kappa *Magna cum laude* in 1974. She earned

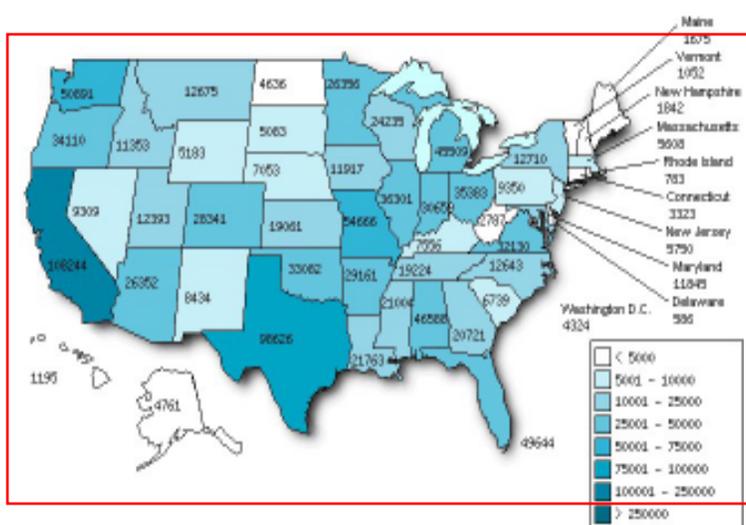
a M.A. degree from the University of Denver, School of Librarianship, and her law degree from the University of Denver, School of Law in 1978.

Watson is listed in *Who's Who in American Law*, and *Who's Who in American Women* and has served in leadership positions in the American Bar Association for more than a decade. She helped to establish Wyoming's first statewide historic preservation organization and served as its president. She is a member of The Nature Conservancy and the National Trust for Historic Preservation and has served as a trustee of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. She is married to Greg Watson, a Wyoming native and fisheries ecologist. They lived on the Little Blackfoot River in Montana.

The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management has administrative and managerial responsibility for the BLM, the Minerals Management Service, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

A New and Improved General Land Office (GLO) Records Web Site Goes Back Online!

By Pat Tyler, Supervisory Branch Chief, General Land Office Records Automation Office



**GLO Records Web Site Logons
By State for April 1998 through April 2002**

On March 20, 2002, at 11:00 a.m., BLM's GLO Records Automation Web site at www.glorerecords.blm.gov became available again. The data and images for over 2 million Federal land patents from all 30 Public Land States, East and West, are now back online. The first month of being back online saw twice the number of logons than in November 2001, and we have had over 37,000 visitors.

The favorable comments we have received since going back online is a testament to the wealth of information this site is providing. The Web site's new look and additional features include, faster loading pages, simpler site navigation, a search page for beginners, more data fields to search, and much more. The map indicates the astounding number of customers, by State, who have been able to access the site in the past 5 years.



Assistant Secretary Watson Joins Students in Virginia for Earth Day

By Theresa Jefferson, Environmental Education Specialist, Eastern States



Photo by Don Cabrera

Assistant Secretary Rebecca Watson plants a tree with youngsters from Rippon Middle School at Meadowood Farm on Earth Day.

Assistant Secretary for Land & Minerals Management Rebecca W. Watson celebrated Earth Day, on April 22, at Meadowood Farm in Virginia. She also enjoyed the day in the field with about 25 students from Rippon Middle School's Ecology Club from Woodbridge, Virginia, planting several trees in an area that needed restoration and relaxed for lunch with the young group.

The students also participated in environmental activities which included "Urban Leave No Trace" and "Who Polluted the Potomac," and ended the day with a nature hike at Virginia's Mason Neck State Park.

BLM Officially Opens "Fire in the Ecosystem" Exhibit

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, Jackson Field Office

BLM's Jackson Field Office hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 29, at the Mississippi Natural Science Museum to officially open the new "Fire in the Ecosystem" exhibit. Over 200 middle school students spent the day learning about fire at stations set up for the exhibit, which included exploring the role of fire, fire safety, and meeting the Jackson Hotshot Crew.

Acting Eastern States Director Mike Nedd explained, "This collaborative venture highlights three fire-dependent habitats in Mississippi and the role of prescribed fire in simulating natural fire in the ecosystem." He added, "We are proud to be able to partner with the reknowned Mississippi Natural Science Museum to bring this interactive exhibit to the many people who visit the Museum."

Using an interactive touch-screen kiosk, visitors are able to simulate practice in dropping fire-retardent slurry from a plane and in selecting the parameters for prescribed burn. The exhibit also features dioramas of fire dependent plant communities and a red-cockaded woodpecker cavity tree, along with everyone's favorite, a fully-outfitted hotshot mannequin.



Photo by Ray Terry

The "Fire in the Ecosystem," a valuable forum for BLM's national message on fire management officially opened to the public on April 29, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Mississippi Natural Science Museum. National Interagency Fire Center Director Larry Hamilton, Acting Eastern States Director Mike Nedd, and Jackson Field Office Manager Bruce Dawson spoke at the ceremony.

The Museum and the "Fire in Ecosystem" exhibit has already been visited by approximately 260,000 visitors in its first year. Visit the Web site at www.mdwfp.com/museum/



Long-time Milwaukee Field Office WH&B Specialist Heads West

By Jim Boylan, Public Affairs Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office

On April 26, after 13 years, Art DiGrazia, Supervisor & Program Lead for BLM's Milwaukee Field Office Wild Horse & Burro (WH&B) program, will ride off into the sunset and head due West toward Utah, where he will officially take on the position of Facility Manager for the Butterfield WH&B Facility in Salt Lake City on May 19.

Art reported to Milwaukee as a WH&B Specialist in November 1988 and, in 1991, was promoted to Supervisor & Program Lead. There he was responsible for inspection of facilities to be used for all satellite adoptions and compliance checks in the Milwaukee jurisdiction, in conjunction with contractors and the WH&B staff, to ensure that all operations ran smoothly at adoption sites and the animals were properly taken care of.

Prior to this position, he spent 12 years working for the BLM at the California Desert District, where his responsibilities ranged from gathering wild horses and burros and working at adoptions to performing administrative duties such as titling adopted animals. He was also responsible for day-to-day operations of the corrals at the Ridgecrest Center.

In 1976, he received a certificate from the San Diego Sheriff's Department, where he performed duties as a California State Humane Officer Livestock Inspector through Miramar Junior College.

One of the highlights of Art's time with us in Milwaukee, and there were many, was when he was selected to represent BLM and the WH&B program at this year's 2002 Winter Olympic Games. The Olympic



Photo by Lisa Reid

(From left to right) Pat Williams, WH&B Specialist from BLM's Moore, Oklahoma Office; Glade Anderson, the new manager for the Palominio Valley Corrals outside of Reno, Nevada; Gus Warr, WH&B Specialist from BLM's Cedar City, Utah Office; Al Roker, NBC's Weatherman on the "Today Show," and Art DiGrazia, former Milwaukee WH&B Specialist, take a break at the Olympics.

Committee and the State of Utah requested a western-type presence at the games at the Soldier Hollow site, where examples of our Western history included a Pony Express Station, camping with a Conestoga Wagon, and showing off and talking about wild horses and burros from Nevada, California, and Utah. Art and his staff were also invited for an appearance on the "Today Show" and spoke to Al Roker, NBC's Weatherman. "This was a once in a lifetime and fantastic experience for me," said DiGrazia.

His wife, Julie, and son, Michael, are looking forward to the move to Utah too. Art will be able to keep up with hunting, fishing, basketball, old movies, especially Westerns, and, naturally horses.

Olympic Display of Animals Adopted via Internet

By Karen Malloy, Wild Horse & Burro Specialist, Eastern States

The highlight of the March 2002 Internet adoption was a group of display animals (9 horses and 3 burros) that were exhibited at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Games. Volunteers from California and Utah gentled the animals to show that average adopters can successfully train wild mustangs and burros. Along with the Olympic Display animals, the gallery also included gentled horses from Wyoming, gentled yearlings and burros from Colorado, and wild horses from Utah.

Seventy-seven of the 79 Internet animals were adopted to 63 high bidders. The bidders came from all corners of the country, including Texas, Washington, California, Florida, New Jersey, and about 20 other States. Forty animals were adopted by eastern bidders and were shipped to the Cross Plains, Tennessee, facility for pickup in April.

Continued on page 6



Olympic Display...continued from page 5

The high bid of the adoption was made for a chestnut gelding, named Dusty, who topped the bidding at \$1,820. Dusty spent 3 weeks at the Soldier Hollow Olympic Display corral and impressed everyone with his kind and gentle personality. Three other Olympic horses brought in more than \$1,000 each. Two gentled horses from Colorado also brought over \$1,000 each, including a grulla gelding with 4 white socks, and an Appaloosa mare that delivered a buckskin colt 1 week before the end of bidding. The total bids for the 77 animals topped \$31,000 and averaged \$409 per animal. During March, more than 50,000 visitors logged onto the Wild Horse & Burro Web site at www.adoptahorse.blm.gov



A 15-year old Appaloosa mare, captured August 2001 in the Warm Springs Habitat Management Area in Oregon, delivered a buckskin colt on March 20, 1 week before the end of bidding on the Internet.

The next Internet adoption will take place in May and will offer both gentled and wild horses.

Hotshots Develop Prescribed Fire Modules

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, Jackson Field Office

One would think that the Jackson Hotshots would be delighted to have a few months of rest and relaxation after a taxing summer of fighting wildfires. Not so for the Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew, who have now developed the capability for conducting prescribed burning during the off-season.

Originally, Hotshot crews were designed and typically used for fire suppression. However, in cooperation with the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), the Jackson Hotshots have established two prototype prescribed burning crew modules. The purpose of these modules was to assist other Interior agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and State agencies with their prescribed fire programs in the southeast. Currently, it is DOI's policy to use prescribed fire in specific situations to reduce the build-up of fuels and to accomplish habitat and vegetation management objectives.

During the 2001-2002 fall and spring seasons, the Jackson IHC successfully fielded two, 8-man-prescribed fire modules. One crew was stationed in Slidell, Louisiana, and the other crew was stationed in Savannah, Georgia. The Hotshots provided ignition and holding support for prescribed burns on approximately 30,000 acres. The burning



(Left to right) Ryan Hagenah, Otis Roberts, and Leroy Kelly, Interagency Hotshot Crew members of the prescribed fire module stationed in Slidell, Louisiana, begin ignition on a prescribed fire.

assignments provided the crews with great experiences and the opportunity to learn more about the application of prescribed fire. In addition, they were able to maintain their wildland fire-suppression skills.

The prescribed fire modules are now winding up their spring season and are gearing up for the much awaited wildland fire fighting season. The crew took a couple of weeks off in April and will returned to duty on April 22 for the much dreaded, very painful pack test, 1 1/2-mile run, sit ups and pull ups.



Public Workshops Held on Lower Potomac River Coordinated Management Plan

By Howard Levine, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Milwaukee Field Office

Two public workshops were held in Charles County in Maryland March 19-20, 2002, on the Lower Potomac River Coordinated Management Plan, with approximately 100 people in attendance over 2 days.

At each meeting, Tom Roland, from Charles County, welcomed the public and provided background on the project from the county's perspective, Mark Spencer from Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) described the acquisition

Continued on page 8

Richardson and Brown Look Forward to a Future with BLM

Story and photos by Patrice Junius, Outreach Specialist, Jackson Field Office

Jerrica Richardson and Aarion Brown are excited about working for the BLM! Through a cooperative agreement between the BLM's Jackson Field Office and Piney Woods School, an historically black boarding school in Mississippi, lots of hard work and determination, mentoring, and an interest in natural resources, two former students now have new careers with the BLM.

Richardson, a native of Columbus, Ohio, and a recent graduate of Mississippi State University is now employed as an archaeologist in the BLM's Kingman Field Office in Arizona. Brown, of Chicago, Illinois, is a recent graduate of Hampton University, and now works as a natural resource specialist at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

The purpose of the cooperative agreement with Piney Woods School, now in its 8th year, is to further environmental education and to encourage minority high school students to pursue natural resource careers with the BLM, and ultimately foster workforce diversity in these fields. So in 1997, BLM-Eastern States offered both students a 4-year scholarship at the time of their graduation from Piney Woods School and selected them to participate in the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP).

BLM Jackson Field Office Geologist Lars Johnson served as a mentor for the students at Piney Woods School and during their 4 years of college. He feels the success of Brown and Richardson can be repeated with more students, and added, "Piney Woods is overflowing with bright young people who are great candidates for the BLM's SCEP program. The school should be a prime target in the Bureau's effort to

increase the diversity of our workforce," said Johnson. "Piney Woods students come from all over the United States, and 95 percent of the students go on to college. We should continue to offer resources that will influence those interested in natural resources to come work for BLM."

Brown and Richardson spent summers in the Jackson Field Office and other BLM field offices to prepare them for the employment with the BLM. Brown has been working at the NIFC for 4 months. As a SCEP student, he received many opportunities with the BLM. "I enjoyed working with the Jackson Hot Shot fire crew for a couple of seasons and I also spent some time in Phoenix, Arizona," said Brown. "The SCEP program molded me and put me in the right direction and I am very grateful for it." Richardson worked one summer for the BLM field office in Elko, Nevada. She said her experience was a memorable one. "It allowed me to get familiar with the things I needed to know as a BLM archaeologist," said Richardson. "I'm looking forward to working in Arizona. The weather is great."

Aarion Brown



Jerrica Richardson





Lower Potomac River...continued from page 7

and planning project, and Howard Levine, BLM's Planning Team Leader, described the BLM planning process. All three individuals answered questions from the public. Mr. Sherwood Shankland, who served as the workshop facilitator, described the meeting format and agenda, and Ms. Kathy McCarthy, from the Nanjemoy Visioning Committee, provided a brief overview the community's ongoing visioning process and findings.

After the presentations, the public divided into small groups, headed by a facilitator from BLM or DNR, to develop a set of issue statements and make a list of opportunities for public land management.

An initial review of the issues and opportunity statements revealed broad public support for public land

management in the area. Some of the more often-stated issues included maintaining the area's rural character while promoting additional recreational opportunities for local residents, providing water access, protecting natural and cultural resources and increasing economic opportunities for the area.

The innovative meeting format proved to be particularly successful in gathering key management ideas early in the planning process. Participants were generally supportive of the approach, and several participants expressed the view that the meeting format was an improved method of public involvement, especially appropriate for a planning process. [For more information about the planning process, call Howard Levine at (414) 297-4463.]

Milwaukee Field Office Welcomes New Assistant Field Manager

By Jim Boylan, Public Affairs Specialist, Milwaukee Field Office

Ruth Welch, new Assistant Field Manager for Administration for the Milwaukee Field Office, reported for duty on February 26, coming from the Denver-based Information Resources Management Directorate.

Ruth was born in Aurora, Colorado. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and English Literature from Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, then matriculated to the University of Colorado at Denver, where she completed her Masters degree in Public Administration.

Ruth has been in Federal Service for 13 years, nine of those with the National Information Resources Management (IRM) Center and 4 years with the Office of Surface Mining's Western Service Center in Denver. Her career highlights include working as the Management Analyst to the Assistant Director for Information Resources Management and developing the web site for the BLM Enterprise Architecture project. She recently planned and coordinated the 2001 IRM Seminar that was held at the National Training Center last May. She enjoyed facilitating for the National Information Technology Investment Board and the



Photo by James Engstrom

Ruth Welch, New Assistant Field Manager for Eastern States Milwaukee Field Office

Chief Information Officer's Council, and continues her work as the facilitator for the Bureau's Field Committee. She has produced 9 bureauwide satellite broadcasts at the National Training Center on various IRM-related topics, as well as producing the recent Discover Dinosaurs broadcast as a joint project with the BLM and the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Ruth is married to Mark Welch, and they have two children, Benjamin and Rachel, a dog, and three chinchillas. Her interests lie in yoga, vegetarian cooking, flower gardens, wildlife, hiking, and reading.



Jackson Field Office Celebrates Black History Month

By Patrice Junius, Outreach Specialist, Jackson Field Office

“Celebrating Our Heritage and Our Heroes,” was the theme for this year’s Black History Program held in mid-February at the Jackson Field Office (JFO). In a room decorated with African art and artifacts, employees learned a little more about black history and its heroes.

Goldia Revies, former public relations director for NBC’s local affiliate, WLBT, and host of the station’s “Mississippi Window,” was the keynote speaker for the program. After 23 years of hosting the sounding board for charitable groups who need help from the community, Revies, a hero to African American women everywhere, now realizes her accomplishments were a dream come true. “A career in broadcasting was not something I could even think about because many believed the only career open to an African American was to teach,” said Revies. Mrs. Revies also talked about her life and how she was influenced by her parents and siblings where she grew up in Edwards, Mississippi. “I am proud to tell people that I grew up on a farm,” said Revies. “It is where I had the fondest memories of my life, and it has played a major part of my success.”

Sam Brookes, an archaeologist for the National Forests of Mississippi, also gave some history notes on the Marathon Lumber Company and the role African Americans have played in developing the site, which is now a recreation area for the State.



Photo by Jeanette McGrew

Angela Barnes, Jackson Field Office Information Resource Management Supervisor, shows off the “afro” hair style during the presentation “Heads of Heritage.”

A “Heads of Heritage” presentation was also a part of the program. Jackson Field Office employees and models for the presentation, Angela Barnes, Alexis Sanders and Patrice Junius, introduced old and new hair styles worn by African American women over the years. Styles included a “bandanna” to represent a slave woman; “corn rows” and an African “head wrap” to represent women of Africa and African queens; the “afro” to represent black power; and a “church hat” to represent fashion, professionalism, and black women working in the church.

Alexis Sanders performed Maya Angelou’s most popular poem “Still I Rise.” Following the program, everyone came together for fellowship and a buffet of soul food recipes from family members of employees of the Jackson Field Office.

Milwaukee Sports Show Draws Large Crowds

By Peggy Riek, Writer Editor, Eastern States

Through America’s Outdoors—a Storefront and Information Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin—BLM and its partners, which include the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, participated in the popular 62nd Annual Milwaukee Journal Sentinel 2002 Sports Show, which was held from March 8-17.

Various employees and volunteers from the partnering offices enthusiastically staffed the America’s Outdoor booth by answering questions and providing large volumes of agency materials, such as recreational maps, brochures, handouts, and even small trinkets depicting agency programs, to the large crowds of attendees who were mingling at the booth throughout each day. So many people were excited to grab for the information—just in time for their summer vacation.

Continued on page 10



Employee Feature—Corky Rodine, Branch Chief, Cadastral Survey Operations

By Cathy Rodine, Former Public Affairs Specialist and wife, Eastern States

It is not that unusual to meet a fellow employee whose career has spanned more than 27 years with BLM. What IS unusual is to meet some one whose career has spanned more than 27 years with BLM's Eastern States Office! In an agency that offers job opportunities in the wide open spaces out West, Corwyn "Corky" Rodine, BLM, Eastern States Cadastral Surveyor, found his "niche" surveying public land in the East.

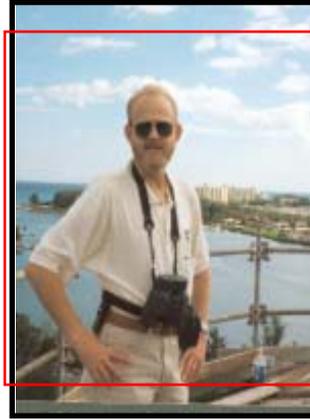
Corky, the youngest of five, grew up on a farm in southeastern North Dakota where operations ran 24/7. He credits his 20 years on the farm for the work ethic and passion for land he carries with him today. A self-admitted "country boy," Rodine enjoys unwashed, dark-blue denim jeans, contemporary country-western music, a good ribeye steak medium-rare, NASCAR, and naps on the sofa—mostly in that order.

In the early 1970's, Corky began his career as a survey aide, cutting brush and running line with a cadastral survey crew in Luddington, Michigan. He spent several years on a traveling survey crew, working in the Lake States during the summertime, then moving to Arkansas or Florida during the winter for other boundary work. He even worked a few months behind a desk in BLM's Eastern States Land Office in Silver Spring, Maryland (which later became the Eastern States Office), where he mastered the tricks of the trade, completed additional classes, and progressed through the cadastral ranks from aide to technician to crew chief.

Corky opened the first Cadastral Survey Project Office for BLM-Eastern States in Ocala, Florida, in the late 1970's. In 1983, he returned to the office environment in northern Virginia, where he embraced the notion of survey automation. He also initiated the first Cooperative Agreement with the University of Maine (UME) for software development applicable to cadastral field work.

Milwaukee Sports Show...continued from page 9

Milwaukee Field Office, Geographic Information Specialist, James Engstrom, watches as "Smokey, the Bear" gets a warm hug from a little girl during Milwaukee's Sports Show 2002 in March. Nearly 150,000 sports enthusiasts attended the show in search of recreational opportunities and to see the latest in outdoor recreation equipment.



Corky Rodine



Cathy Rodine

Together with other BLM surveyors, active and retired, Corky has shared his experiences and knowledge of the laws and history of the Public Land Survey System and the General Land Office with State and private surveyors through special seminars and sessions at professional conferences.

Corky and his wife, Cathy, will be moving to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, where he will reopen a project office on the White Earth Indian Reservation in Minnesota on May 19. Cathy worked for Eastern States for over 19 years—as a secretary in the Renewable Resources and the State Director's Offices and as a secretary, editorial assistant, writer-editor, and public affairs specialist in External Affairs. Since retirement in November 2001, Cathy has been enjoying retired life by keeping busy with the house, dog, and various family activities.

Corky and Cathy look forward to their new adventures in the Land of 10,000 Lakes!

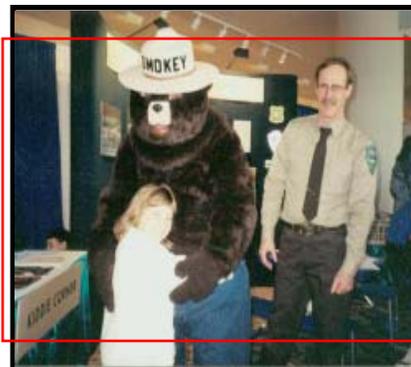


Photo by Sylvia Jordan



ES Happenings

Eastern States Cadastral Survey personnel participated in the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping/International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Conference held in Washington, DC, April 22-24. On April 25, about 35 international surveyors from countries such as Finland, Germany, Korea, and Trinidad visited Eastern States for a tour, focusing on Cadastral Survey and the General Land Office Automation Project.

On April 22, the Milwaukee Field Office observed Earth Day at Mitchell Park Domes in Milwaukee, WI. The theme of America's Outdoors (AO) exhibit at the event focused on "Watersheds," with a display of a model of an interactive watershed. Jean Claussen, U.S. Forest Service representative from AO, demonstrated how the watershed model worked for an onsite interview with WITI Channel 6 during the event, which reached over 1,000 kids and 150 adults.

The Wild Horse & Burro CD ROM, developed by the Jackson Field Office, won Second Place in the CD ROM category at the National Association of Governmental Communicators, 2001 Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Awards Competition, in Washington, DC, on April 4.

Also on April 4, Eastern States employees at the State Office in Springfield, Virginia, along with U.S. Customs and News Channel 8 employees, once again donated the "gift of life," 41 whole units of blood. The Spring blood drive was sponsored by the Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Red Cross.

A Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale was held at the State Office in Springfield, Virginia, on March 28, 2002. Oil and gas development rights on 164 parcels of Federal land in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Illinois were offered for sale. A total of 113 parcels were sold, generating revenue of over \$729,000. Bonus bids, filing fees, and rentals amounting to over \$520,000 will go to the U.S. Treasury; over \$208,000 will be given to the affected States. Bidding opened at \$2 per acre, and J. Bradley Jeffreys from San Diego, California, paid \$36,646 for an 80-acre parcel on the DeSoto National Forest in Mississippi; his bid of \$450 per acre was the highest per-acre bid of the auction.

In late January 2002, Cadastral Survey crews completed and approved the Dependent Resurvey of portions of the boundaries of the Buffalo River National Recreation Area northwest of Marshall, Arkansas for the National Park Service, and portions of the boundaries of the Hiawatha National Forest near Rapid River in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for the U.S. Forest Service.

Employee Scene

(January 1, 2002, through March 31, 2002)

Star Awards

Karen Malloy, Wild Horse & Burro (WH&B) Program Specialist, WH&B Staff, for her significant contribution to the Eastern States WH&B Adoption Program during Fiscal Year 2001. Karen helped to increase Internet adoptions and facilitated the adoption of animals at other BLM locations through the Internet.

Sandra Sacher-Newnam, WH&B Program Specialist, WH&B Staff, for her several significant contributions to the Eastern States WH&B Program during Fiscal Year 2001. Sandi helped to increase the number of adoptions at the Cross Plains facility through enhanced marketing, creation of eye-catching promotional postcards, and selective advertising.

Theresa Coleman, Deputy State Director for Support Services, was awarded a Relocation Home Marketing Incentive Award for achieving tangible savings for the BLM through her initiative and hard work in selling her own home. She saved the Federal Government thousands of dollars in Relocation Service Contract fees.

Comings & Goings

(January 1, 2002, through March 31, 2002)

New Employees. (permanent status)—*Aaron Gornick, Hotshot Crew member*, Jackson Field Office. *Bryce Barlan, Student Career Experience Program*, Geographic Information System Program, Milwaukee Field Office.

Transfers.—*John Butterfield, General Land Office Systems Manager*, Cadastral Survey, from U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C. *Ruth Welch, Assistant Field Manager*, Milwaukee Field Office, from BLM's Information Resources Management Directorate in Denver, Colorado.

Retirements.—None.



Youngsters Show A Burning Interest to Learn About Horses

By Bill James, Former Public Affairs Specialist, Jackson Field Office

About 40 Hinds County elementary students in Jackson, Mississippi, spent their spring break at the Springridge Stables. Under the direction of Ms. Jodi Narrah and her staff, the youngsters were taught the anatomy of a horse, how to clean its hooves, groom and feed the animal, and horsemanship. Many of the kids and their families camped out in trailers at the ranch during the action-packed week. Before the school day began, Ms. Narrah provided an opportunity for the entire class to feed all the animals.

On March 11, Ms. Narrah invited Bill James, former part-time Jackson Field Office Public Affairs Specialist, to the ranch to talk to the students about the Federal Government's Wild Horse and Burro program. His talk not only included a full discussion on the adoption process—from rounding up the animals to the actual adoption—but he also used a trained mustang to explain the freeze brand. James even showed the group a horse video and conducted a question and answer session. Ms. Narrah and her husband have adopted and trained three animals from the BLM.

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, Lands, Renewable Resources, Minerals, and Fire.

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Comment Card/E-mail Briefs

General Land Office—"I appreciate the new look of your site. It is better and faster, much more fun! Thank you so much for getting this great site back online. I use it for genealogy." Sincerely, Marilyn Galvan

Wild Horse & Burro—"The adoption auction in Columbus, Ohio was handled very well. All BLM staff were excellent." Roger Angus

America's Outdoors—"America's Outdoors is a great (and successful) idea! To house the N.P.S., BLM, & Forestry—all in one locale is very smart & a wise use of resources. Your staff in downtown Milwaukee are bright, helpful & knowledgeable! GREAT LOCATION IN DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE (wish we had one in downtown Chicago too!) Thanks for Milwaukee's excellent downtown location—convenient." Rich Mazz

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

