



VANTAGE

Spring/Summer 2004

BLM-Eastern States Leads the Way in the Bureau's Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Compliance Program

By Shayne Banks, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States Jackson Field Office

The Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Compliance program at BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) can easily be called the most successful adoption program within the BLM. Approximately 35 adoptions per year are held in BLM-ES' 31-state area of jurisdiction. Over the past several years we have averaged adopting more than 2,500 animals to good homes every year, or over 37 percent of the total number of horses and burros adopted nationwide.

BLM-Eastern States uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to contribute to successful adoptions. GIS is used to help determine adoption site locations and to conduct trend analyses. Another function of GIS technology is to develop analysis reports that identify patterns that contribute to selecting sites where there are the most people interested in adopting one of America's "Living Legends." For example, by using GIS technology and localized marketing, BLM-ES Jackson Field Office has increased the average number of animals adopted per adoption from 60 animals in Fiscal Year 2000,

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BLM-Eastern States Receives Director's Four Cs Awards in Michigan and Maryland

DOI Secretary Gale Norton, BLM Deputy Director Fran Cherry, and BLM-ES State Director Mike Nedd made a presentation of a Director's Four Cs Award to representatives working on the Michigan Lighthouse Project on June 4, 2004, at a reception at the Great Lakes Campus of the Northwest Michigan College in Traverse City, Michigan. The award was given for the ongoing collaborative effort of six Federal agencies, five State

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DOI Secretary Gale Norton (left), and BLM Deputy Director Fran Cherry and BLM-ES State Director Mike Nedd (not pictured), presented the Director's Four Cs Award to Acting Milwaukee Field Office Manager Aaron Horton at a ceremony held in Traverse City, Michigan.

Photo by Chris Hanson



State Director's Message



Today, more than ever before, we are faced with greater challenges in managing our Nation's rich resources, while at the same time, our fiscal resources are stagnant. To meet these challenges, we have taken a "Business as Unusual" approach. Our goal is to reach out, inform, and get you excited about preserving the Nation's public lands for present and future generations. We hope this excitement will inspire you, as a sponsor, partner, volunteer, or as an employee, to help us in reaching these important goals.

In this edition of *Vantage*, I will highlight one of the key programs of the BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES), the Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Adoption and Compliance program, and hopefully spark a few ideas where you can help.

Here in the 31 States bordering and east of the Mississippi River, the WH&B Adoption and Compliance program is the largest in the Bureau. As such, we play a crucial role in supporting the Bureau's National WH&B Strategy to reduce the number of wild horses and burros on western rangelands. Currently, there are an estimated 36,000 animals on the western rangelands, which have resulted in significant overpopulation. The bottom line is there are just too many wild horses and burros on public rangelands, and our goal is to find good homes for at least 5,000 of these America's "Living Legends" yearly. Dire conditions on the rangelands are imminent, if these animals are not removed and adopted out.

With your help, I believe we can:

- * Significantly increase the number of animals placed with qualified, caring adopters;
- * Incorporate more creative and innovative uses of e-Government technology and expand our already popular WH&B Internet adoptions at www.adoptahorse.blm.gov;
- * Identify adoption site locations that offer the greatest exposure and potential to increase the adoption demands;
- * Form new and sustainable partnerships with educational institutions to help increase outreach, environmental education, and other equine events to assist new adopters, and to build a broader pool of dedicated volunteers and partners with a drive and commitment to support this program in a variety of ways; and
- * Provide a variety of opportunities for young people in organizations such as the 4-H, Pony Clubs, and agricultural programs in educational institutions to learn about caring for America's "Living Legends."

BLM-ES' primary program areas include:

- ◆ Energy and Mineral Resources;
- ◆ Wildland Fire;
- ◆ Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Compliance;
- ◆ Natural Resources;
- ◆ Lands and Realty;
- ◆ Cadastral Survey; and
- ◆ General Land Office Records Automation.

So, as we move forward on this exciting journey, I hope you will join us in our quest, as a sponsor, partner, volunteer, or adopter. For more information, please call our main office in Springfield, Virginia, at (703) 440-1713.

Michael D. Nedd
State Director, Eastern States



WH&B Adoption program at BLM-ES...continued from page 1

to 112 animals in Fiscal Year 2004. Additionally, BLM-ES' Internet adoptions have also become increasingly popular. In Fiscal Year 2003, the Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Web site at www.adoptahorse.blm.gov received over 338,000 hits and adopted 236 animals to good homes.

BLM-Eastern States is also recruiting and using more qualified volunteers to help out at adoption sites with paperwork and customer service. Volunteers are also being trained to assist with WH&B compliance work. In fact, BLM-ES has been able to boast five National BLM Volunteer Award winners for the WH&B program over the last 9 years. BLM-Eastern States has also combined resources with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service to ensure humane care and treatment of adopted wild horses and burros.

During the next 5 years, BLM-ES plans to play a crucial role in supporting the Bureau's Wild Horse and Burro Strategy to achieve Appropriate Management Level (AML), by reducing the total current population of WH&Bs on the public range from about 36,000 to about 26,000 animals. Our successful WH&B adoption



Photo by Judy Perkins

"Winne," a wild horse captured in Winnemucca, Nevada, was adopted by Judy and Charlie Perkins from Covesville, Virginia, at a 1998 wild horse and burro adoption at the Lexington Horse Center in Virginia. Trained in 2000, Winne continues to attend horse shows and win ribbons for talent in jumping.

program is the perfect catalyst to efficiently place many of these animals with caring adopters. Whether we are adopting wild horses, issuing titles, conducting compliance inspections, or looking for new innovative ways to do business, BLM-ES is leading the way.

Director's Four Cs awards...continued from page 1

agencies, four non-profit organizations, and two congressional and State legislative representatives who overcame barriers and multi-jurisdictional bureaucracies to facilitate the timely transfer of historic lighthouse properties in Michigan.

On May 25, 2004, BLM Director Kathleen Clarke presented the Director's Four Cs Award to four groups in a ceremony held in Annapolis, Maryland. The awards were given for work on the Lower Potomac River Coordinated Management Plan for State and Federal lands in Charles County, Maryland. This land use planning represented the first, fully integrated plan between the BLM-ES and a State, and is also the first comprehensive management plan BLM-ES has done in Maryland. Recipients of the Four Cs award included, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Ron Franks, the Charles County Board of Commissioners, Nanjemoy Vision, Incorporated, and the BLM-ES Lower Potomac Planning Team. Team members included Howard Levine, Sylvia Jordan, Troy Ferone, Marcia Sieckman, Lucille Tamm, Singh Ahuja, Jim Engstrom, Geoff Walsh, and Ed Ruda.

The BLM Director's Four Cs Awards are given for significant contributions in conserving our country's natural resources.



Photo by Joe Zilincar

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke presents the Director's Four Cs Award to Maryland Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, Ron Franks, at a ceremony held in Annapolis, Maryland.



2004 Joint Spring ELRC/WSLCA Conference Draws Top DOI and BLM Leadership

Story and photo by Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor, BLM-Eastern States

From March 28-31, 2004, the BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) provided support for Federal and State land and resource managers from across the Nation to meet in Washington, D.C., for the 2004 Joint Spring Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC) and the Western States Land Commissioners Association (WSLCA) Conference. Conferees were provided an opportunity to hear from Federal, State, and local agencies, military personnel, and a variety of private and nonprofit organizations as they related to this year's theme, "Meeting Economic Challenges for Public Land Managers."

Guest speakers at the conference from the Interior Department (DOI) included Secretary Gale Norton, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management & Budget P. Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary for Land & Minerals Management Rebecca Watson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Management & Budget Scott Cameron, BLM Director Kathleen Clarke (luncheon speaker), and BLM-ES State Director Mike Nedd.

BLM-Eastern States State Director Mike Nedd and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) Assistant Secretary for Land and Water Conversation Wes Johnson discussed the successful partnership between their agencies for the unique cooperatively managed project at Douglas Point, a 1,270-acre tract along the Potomac River in Charles County, known as Douglas Point. These two groups recently received the BLM Director's Four Cs



Panelists, BLM-ES State Director Mike Nedd (center) and ELRC partner from the MD DNR Assistant Secretary for Land and Water Conservation Wes Johnson spoke at the Spring 2004 ELRC/WSLCA Conference. Seated is Panel Moderator Rick Thompson, Alaska DNR.

award along with the Charles County Board of Commissioners and Nanjemoy Vision, Incorporated, for work on the Lower Potomac River Coordinated Management Plan for State and Federal lands in Charles County, Maryland. Some conference topics included: Initiatives of the DOI, Secretary Norton's Four Cs philosophy, resource and land management issues, DOI's approaches to land sales and exchanges, cost-cutting and income generating initiatives, cost-effective best practices, public and private initiatives for conserving timber tracts, Federal grants, and endangered species habitat.

Patent Signed to Transfer Point Betsie Lighthouse

By Jim Boylan, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States Milwaukee Field Office

On June 5, BLM-ES State Director Mike Nedd signed the patent transferring the 4.05-acre Point Betsie Lighthouse property to Benzie County, in partnership with The Friends of Point Betsie, who will operate and maintain the lighthouse.

BLM Deputy Director Fran Cherry spoke on behalf of the BLM, saying that the transfer was the fourth lighthouse to be transferred in the State of Michigan and the result of exceptional collaboration and cooperation. The transfer also continues BLM's longstanding effort to support local and State governments in addressing the increasing demands for recreational lands and opportunities, adds to the quality of life for Michigan residents, and ensures accessibility for public, protection of resources, and sound resource management.



Photo by Chris Hanson

(From left) BLM-ES State Director Mike Nedd is Master of Ceremonies as BLM Deputy Director Fran Cherry (center) holds the Point Betsie Lighthouse framed patent with Donald Tanner, Chairman, Benzie County Board of Commissioners, at a ceremony in Frankfort, Michigan, hosted by Benzie County, BLM-ES, the U.S. Coast Guard, and The Friends of Point Betsie.



Congratulations to Award-Winning BLM-ES' Volunteer

By Milli Alam, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States



Photo by Shayne Banks

Since adopting her first wild horse in 1988, volunteer Diane Delano has participated in every BLM-ES adoption event in the State of Florida and has also traveled to other States to conduct wild horse gentling clinics for new horse adopters.

Volunteer Diane Delano from Mims, Florida, received BLM's distinguished 2004 "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Award, presented by Director Kathleen Clarke, during a special ceremony on June 5 at the Department of the Interior's historic South Penthouse in Washington, D.C.

Diane has volunteered thousands of hours of service and miles, going to and from adoptions and other outreach events for the BLM-ES Jackson Field Office's Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) program. For the past 16 years, all with a minimal cost to BLM-ES, she has spent many hours participating in education seminars, conducting outreach programs for local schools and youth groups, and hosting several Mustang Awareness Days. Her efforts have been an excellent promotion for the WH&B program.

In addition to her volunteer service to BLM-ES, Diane runs a rescue center for mustangs, which also serves as a training facility for wild horses. Her center is the only one of its kind in the East.

U.S. Capitol Police 6-Horse Unit Trains at Meadowood SRMA

By Jinx Fox, Natural Resource Specialist/Equine Program Lead, BLM-Eastern States Lower Potomac Field Station

On May 2, the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) hosted the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) for final training of their newly-established mounted unit. The unit, authorized by Congress this year, was spearheaded by Senator Ben Nighthorse-Campbell from Colorado. Advanced training of the horses designated to be in the unit is critical to supporting the mission of the USCP as well as the safety of the officers and the public.

The 6-horse unit was stationed at Meadowood SRMA for several weeks during the spring until their stable facilities were constructed. The unit used Meadowood's equestrian facilities, which include pastures, paddocks, stalls, and an indoor riding arena for training and turnout. Initial training was held May 3-5 and included a Large Animal Rescue Training conducted by Clemson University.

The original duty of the USCP, created by Congress in 1828, is to provide security for the U.S. Capitol Building. The mission has since expanded to provide the congressional community and its visitors with the highest quality of a full range of police services. In Fiscal Year 2004, Congress authorized the creation of a mounted unit within the USCP.



Photos by Fred W. Fox

Large animal rescue techniques practiced by the U.S. Capitol Police officers at Meadowood SRMA included practice sessions on the use of a sling to upright or lift an injured horse. The horse in this photo was not injured or tranquilized, but is a demonstration horse trained by course instructors Dr. T. Gimenez, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. R. Gimenez, PhD.

The close proximity of the Meadowood SRMA facility to Washington, D.C., and the ability of BLM to make stalls immediately available to the USCP, provided an ideal location for the initial training of the USCP horses.



BLM-Eastern States Partners with BLM's New Mexico State Office

By Peggy Riek, Writer-Editor and John Butterfield, General Land Office Systems Manager, BLM-Eastern States

Top BLM officials took a few minutes at the March 2004 Executive Leadership Team (ELT) meeting held in Anchorage, Alaska, to celebrate a partnering effort between BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) and the BLM's New Mexico State Office. In early March, BLM-ES State Director Mike Nedd presented BLM's New Mexico State Director Linda Rundell a DVD set of scanned Oklahoma Survey Plats and a plaque commemorating the partnership between the offices.

In January 2004, BLM-ES Cadastral Survey office completed a 3-month effort to scan and index Oklahoma cadastral survey plats, dating back to the 1870s. These survey records provide the foundation to title ownership and land management. The scanned and indexed records will be much easier to access and use than the original paper copies, which will be preserved. The project, supported by BLM's Headquarters Cadastral Survey office in Washington, D.C., was a demonstration effort by both offices and is considered an extension of the General Land Office Records Automation program.

The BLM's New Mexico State Office had been using microfiche to provide its contractors with information to collect Geographic Coordinate Data Base data for Oklahoma. The film that was provided was not always readable, and BLM-ES held the needed information contained in the original survey records.



Photo by Myrna Tihonovich, NIFC

BLM-Eastern States State Director Mike Nedd presented a DVD set of scanned Oklahoma Survey Plats and a plaque to BLM's New Mexico State Director Linda Rundell at the March 2004 ELT meeting.

BLM-Eastern States maintains the original survey records for the Secretary of the Interior for all the Western States, totaling 108,000 survey plats and 1.9 million pages of field notes. BLM-Eastern States is working towards scanning the remaining cadastral survey records, which includes 30,000 eastern survey plats and 900,000 pages of field notes.

BLM-ES Highlights Take Pride in America Events



Photo by Shayne Banks

In February 2004, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Rebecca Watson presented Neal White, Coordinator with Jupiter High School and National 2003 BLM "Making A Difference Volunteer" award winner, with a Take Pride in America Secretarial Volunteer Award for over 3,000 hours of service to BLM.



Photo by Martha Malik

This spring, BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office Urban Tree House, through America's Outdoors, coordinated the 3rd Great American Cleanup with the Midtown Neighborhood, at their Take Pride in America Cleanup site, Lynden Hill. Nearly 30 community residents and volunteers participated in the cleanup effort.



Special Trustee Visits BLM-Eastern States

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

On April 1, 2004, BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) State Director Mike Nedd and his Executive Leadership Team met with Ross O. Swimmer, the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Special Trustee for American Indians at BLM-ES, and provided a special tour of the General Land Office (GLO) Records. Also on tour with Mr. Swimmer were BLM Washington Office (WO) Indian Program Manager for Cadastral Survey Doug Haywood and Cadastral Surveyor Jason Racette.

The tour included an in-depth explanation of the valuable land patent records and tract books located in the BLM-ES' vaults, with emphasis on Indian records; a stop at the Bindery, where the group learned about the techniques used in the preservation of the historic land documents; and a visit to the production environment of the GLO, where GLO Automation Team Branch Chief Pat Tyler discussed how her staff was imaging and performing quality control on the historic land records to make them available to the public on the GLO Web site at www.glorerecords.blm.gov.



Photo by Bill Davenport

(From left) BLM-Eastern States (BLM-ES) Deputy State Director for Cadastral Survey and General Land Office Records Steve Douglas, State Director Mike Nedd, Public Room Lead Tondi Ballard, BLM's Cadastral Indian Program Manager Doug Haywood, BLM-ES Cadastral Survey Branch Chief for Field Surveys Michael Young, BLM WO Cadastral Surveyor Jason Racette, and DOI Special Trustee for American Indians Ross Swimmer, listen to BLM-ES Legal Assistant Jennifer Spencer while she explains the historic land patent records.

Jackson Hotshots Make A Difference

By Shayne Banks, *Public Affairs Specialist, BLM-Eastern States Jackson Field Office*

When the BLM-Eastern States Jackson Hotshots came on board in May 2004, not only did they stay busy completing their 80 hours of required training, they found time to conduct outreach in three local communities. They spent a day in Jackson, Mississippi (MS), at the Baptist Children's Hospital in the cancer wing, where they delighted children with stories of life as a firefighter, played video games, and watched TV. The children's smiles made this day very rewarding.



Jackson Hotshot crew members play video games with a cancer patient at the Baptist Children's Hospital in Jackson, MS.

The Jackson Hotshots also spent a day with second graders at St. Francis Catholic School in Greenwood, MS, teaching the students about being Firewise and what it takes to be a wildland firefighter. They also helped the students with their schoolwork and served lunches in the kitchens.

In the afternoon, the Jackson Hotshots visited a local Hospice Care Facility in Brandon, MS, where they spent the day building new wheelchair ramps for the facility. BLM-Eastern States views community outreach as an important part of being a Jackson Hotshot. It is important to not only disseminate information about fire prevention, but to show that we are part of the community and that we are stakeholders in the bright future of this country.

Hotshots Provide Training

As the final touches are being made to the new Southern Regional Fire Training Facility, the Jackson Hotshots are already taking advantage of the possibilities. In May, several Hotshots taught a 3-day course, S-212 Powersaw Operations. Over 25 individuals from across Mississippi attended the course, consisting of a day of classroom studies and 2 days of hands-on training. Individuals from the MS State Forestry Commission, the U. S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service attended the course, which focuses on correct and safe ways to operate chainsaws and power saws.



Federal Leases Developed in Michigan

Story and photo by Tim Abing, Petroleum Engineer,
BLM-Eastern States Milwaukee Field Office

Quicksilver Resources, Incorporated, is in the process of completing a 6-well drilling program on Federal oil and gas leases in Oscoda County near Mio, Michigan. The drilling is taking place on "split-estate" lands; the surface is within the Au Sable State Forest, but the minerals are Federally owned.

Quicksilver submitted their applications for permit to drill on August 1, 2003. The BLM-Eastern States Milwaukee Field Office prepared a single environmental analysis (EA) to address the impacts of the 6 Quicksilver wells and approved the applications on January 10, 2004. The EA was coordinated with the State Forest managers to incorporate their recommended measures to protect surface resources. Quicksilver was not able to begin drilling operations until April 26, 2004, because of Michigan's "frost laws" which are annual temporary restrictions that prevent companies from moving heavy equipment on certain roads while the roads are "soft" and susceptible to damage. Drilling each well took about 3 days, and all 6 wells were completed by May 19, 2004.

Quicksilver's wells in Michigan targeted the Antrim Shale formation, which has many similarities to the coal-bed natural gas production currently occurring



A hydraulic arm lifts another section of drill pipe into place as drilling proceeds on Quicksilver Resources, Incorporated's USA Elmer-Clinton #A3-18 well within Michigan's Au Sable State Forest.

in Wyoming's Powder River Basin. Antrim wells are relatively shallow (2,300 feet deep). They produce low volumes of natural gas (75,000 cubic feet per day) and large volumes of waste water. Multiple Antrim wells in a developed field have their well fluids piped to a central production facility (CPF), where the water is separated and the gas is compressed, metered, and sold. The compressors at the CPF are large, represent a significant noise source, and are a continual concern to residents in the Michigan rural-urban interface. Michigan Antrim producers have been pioneers in implementing noise reduction practices at CPF's.

BLM-ES Holds Competitive Oil & Gas Sale in Louisiana



Photo by Shayne Banks

On June 18, BLM-Eastern States held a Competitive Oil & Gas Lease Sale in New Orleans, Louisiana, generating over \$1,428,661 for 101 of the 116 parcels of Federal mineral rights offered for sale. Bonus bids, filing fees, and rental revenue amounting to over \$927,641 will go to the Treasury and \$493,444 will be shared with the affected States. A bid of \$111,360 for 1,740 acres for a parcel in Scott County, Arkansas, was the highest bid of the auction.

DOI Official Scans 1,000,000th GLO Serial Patent on Tour at BLM-ES



Photo by Milli Alam

BLM-Eastern States State Director Mike Nedd led the tour when Patty Morrison, DOI's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, had the honor of scanning the one millionth General Land Office (GLO) serial patent while visiting BLM-ES on June 2. In addition to visiting the GLO, Cadastral Survey, and Public Room offices, Patty also toured Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area.



Clifton Horse Society Hosts Spring Trail Ride at Meadowood SRMA

Story and photo by Jinx Fox, Natural Resource Specialist/Equine Program Lead, BLM-Eastern States Lower Potomac Field Station

The 350-member Clifton Horse Society hosted an inaugural trail ride on March 28, to introduce members to the newly-opened equestrian trails at BLM's Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in Virginia. Riders from the Society, Meadowood boarding stables, and members of the Mason Neck Horse Coalition who assisted the new riders during the trail ride, gathered at the nearby Pohick Bay Regional Park before hitting the trails, where 23 riders took part in an early spring ride.

The trail riders rode the trail network at Pohick Bay and the nearby historic property, Gunston Hall, then rode on the Meadowood trails—*Wood Thrush, Mustang, and Thompson Creek*. The trails wind through open fields, forested hills, and along streams and ponds, providing a variety of wildlife viewing opportunities for hikers and horseback riders on the Mason Neck Peninsula.



Riders from the Clifton Horse Society and Meadowood SRMA boarding stables enjoy a scenic trail ride on the Meadowood SRMA property.

Natural Resources

BLM-ES Offers GPS Opportunities to Local College in Wisconsin

By James Engstrom, Geographic Information Specialist, BLM-Eastern States Milwaukee Field Office

Through a Partnership Agreement between the BLM-Eastern States Milwaukee Field Office and the Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC), located in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, BLM provides “hands-on” experiences with collection of real time data for WLC students in an Environmental Science classroom. BLM-ES Geographic Information Specialist (GIS) Jim Engstrom provides technical assistance and guidance during class time to students in mapping trails in the Wil-O-Way Woods, a 30-acre tract of woods located on the Milwaukee County grounds. This past spring, Jim and GIS Intern Stephen Schmidt, taught four lab sections to demonstrate how to map features in the field with a Global Positioning System (GPS) and then importing the data into the GIS.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) Division of Forestry is purchasing the Wil-O-Way Woods site, and there are future plans to construct a proposed Forestry Education Awareness



Photo by Martha Malik

BLM-ES GIS Specialist James Engstrom instructs students on using GPS during a field session in the Wil-O-Way Woods in Wisconsin.

Center. Currently, WLC has a verbal agreement with the WI DNR, Division of Forestry, to conduct an environmental assessment of the Wil-O-Way Woods site. WLC does not have GIS or GPS equipment or the expertise, so the Natural Sciences curriculum is limited to classroom instruction. BLM's role in this partnership will allow WLC professors to supplement their existing classroom curriculum with “hands-on” field experiences in mapping trails using GPS equipment.



Photo Corner

Children Learn Campfire Safety

Photo by Joan Grochowina



America's Outdoors, an interagency "one-stop" center for environmental education, urban conservation, and recreation information, received a request from the Faith Bible Church (FBC) for Smokey Bear to visit their Friday flock to talk about campfire safety to children, ages 2-12 years old. On April 30, BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office employee, Joan Grochowina, her son, Walter (Smokey's guide), and a friend, Eric Johnson (dressed as Smokey) made a visit to FBC to encourage campfire safety using a safe campfire learning tool made from a variety of snack foods. The children also watched a short video cartoon about the "Story of Smokey Bear" to close out the activity.

Youngsters Enjoy a Day of Fishing



Photo by Terri Jacobson

Over 50 excited children traveled through "Pathways to Fishing" at Lefluer's Bluff State Park's Mayes Lake in Jackson, MS. The event was sponsored by the BLM-ES Jackson Field Office and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. New partner, The Magnolia Crappie Club, brought many volunteers to help teach the children angling and casting techniques and how to tie knots. The Mississippi Wildlife Fisheries and Parks stocked the lake with over 1,000 7-pound catfish.

Lower Potomac Field Station Holds 2nd Annual Earth Day Event



Photo by Milli Alam

On April 22, Theresa Jefferson (right), Environmental Education Specialist, BLM-ES Lower Potomac Field Station, instructed children working on an activity during the 2nd Annual Earth Day Event. Students from Virginia's Rippon Middle School's Ecology Club and John Burroughs Elementary School in Washington, D.C., spent the day learning about the environment and working on activities hosted by the Student Conservation Association and Outdoor Creations.

Students Win Honors at Science Olympiad



In April, a team of students from Ridgeland High School in Jackson, MS, won First Place in the high school division. Powell Middle School, also in Jackson, took home First Place for the middle school division of the Mississippi Science Olympiad. This event is a

partnership between Jackson State University and the BLM-ES Jackson Field Office, which provides opportunities for students to compete in various science and engineering-related activities. The Science Olympiad is a national program which was created to increase scores on science achievement tests. Over 50 students participated this year.

Photo by Patrice Junius



ES Happenings

On February 22, representatives from BLM-ES presented two of BLM-ES seven programs at the Western Governor's Reception held in Washington, D.C. at the International Conference Center of the Ronald Reagan Building. Cadastral Survey featured past and present historical photos and information about today's methods and tools used for establishing land boundaries and locations. General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation featured historical photos and information pertinent to today's methods of accessing land records using the Internet at the GLO Records Automation Web site at www.glorerecords.blm.gov. BLMers, in period clothing, also provided attendees with educational information about the BLM-managed lands along the Lewis and Clark trail.

BLM-ES Milwaukee Field Office (MFO) was honored in February 2004 for their participation in a Food Drive for the Second Harvest of Wisconsin event. The MFO staff won the Grand Prize for donating 846 nonperishable food items in the first Annual Gas Light Building Food Drive. Employees enjoyed a lunch prepared and served by senior managers from participating Federal agencies in the area. Second Harvest of Wisconsin is part of a nationwide program dedicated to ending hunger and creating a hunger-free America.

BLM-ES Cadastral Surveyors Joe Beaudin and Ron Eberle staffed a booth at the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) National Convention held in Nashville, Tennessee, April 17-21. BLMers met with various student chapters of ACSM to discuss intern opportunities and current entry-level openings within the cadastral survey community.

BLM-ES General Land Office (GLO) representatives Patricia Tyler, Josie Gyurik and Tondi Ballard, demonstrated the GLO Records Automation Web site and promoted BLM in the East to more than 500 participants at the National Genealogical Society Conference held in Sacramento, CA, the week of May 18. Opening day ceremonies were "kicked off" with guest speaker Dr. Tukufu Zuberi, sleuth for the Public Broadcast Station series "History Detectives" and Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. Overwhelming comments/kudos were received from the participants and organizers of the conference, and there were numerous requests for BLM-ES to automate the pre-1908 Iowa records.

On April 8, BLM-ES and U.S. Customs employees donated 27 units of blood and 30 units of blood on June 24, to help save lives through the Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Regional Red Cross Blood Drive.

On May 5, BLM-ES State Office Customer Service Lead Peggy Riek and Lower Potomac Field Station Outdoor Recreation Planner Jeff McCusker joined BLM Washington Office Customer Service Lead Max Lockwood and members of his Management Systems Group for a tour of Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Jeff gave the group an overview of the Meadowood SRMA, followed by a walking tour of the area on the Wood Thrush and Mustang trails. This on-the-ground experience provided Max and his group a grand opportunity to appreciate BLM-owned land so close to Washington, D.C., and to better understand the wealth of recreational, environmental, and educational potential that this 800-acre parcel has to offer not only to the BLM but the general public. A visitor survey is currently being developed for the Meadowood SRMA.

BLM-Eastern States Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Adoption and Compliance program continues its success with adopting America's "Living Legends" to good homes. Efforts through the BLM-ES Jackson Field Office, Milwaukee Field Office, and Internet adoptions have resulted in 1,954 animals being adopted so far in Fiscal Year 2004, at an average of about 70 animals being adopted per adoption.

From May 13-16, BLM-ES representatives played a significant role at the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature event, "Expedition's Departure," held at Camp River Dubois, in Hartford, Illinois. Representatives provided environmental education and outreach sessions consisting of an interactive reenactment of methods and tools used by Lewis and Clark for surveying, with Rob Nurre, from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, portraying "The Surly Surveyor." BLMers also provided the same environmental education and outreach sessions at the May 14-23 National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature event, "Preparations Complete, the Expedition Faces West," held in St. Charles, Missouri. BLM-ES External Affairs Chief Terry Lewis served as host and moderator for both events, while BLM-ES Public Affairs Specialist Bill Davenport and Michelle Dawson-Powell, BLM National Coordinator for the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Signature events, provided support for the overall educational and outreach effort. Other BLMers helping at the events included BLM-ES Jackson Field Office Geologist Lars Johnson and Cadastral Surveyors Robert Nicolli and James Degenhardt of the St. Charles Project Office.



E-mail Brief

General Land Office.--“First of all, thank you for making these kinds of records available for families trying to piece together the history of ancestors who we never had the opportunity to know. During a recent family gathering, I was showing the Land Patent Details sheet to one of the daughters of Harry Elliott. He homesteaded land (Land Patent 643248). He was originally from England, and it was his heart’s desire to own land in the United States.” Sincerely, *Nancy Elliott, Granddaughter in law to Harry Elliott*

Eastern States Vision Statement — As Guardians of the Past, and Stewards for the Future, Eastern States is committed to sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands spanning the 31 states east of and bordering the Mississippi River for present and future generations.

Vantage is published by the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States, Office of External Affairs, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia. For more information about our office, please contact us at (703) 440-1713. Visit our Web site at www.es.blm.gov Editor: M.M. Riek

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Awards

John Douglas, Branch Chief, Information Resources Management, State Office, received a “Striving for Excellence” award for his leadership role during the Internet shutdown activities during March 19-25, 2004.

Terry Lewis, External Affairs Chief, State Office, received the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Meritorious Service Award for demonstrating innovation through his service to the BLM in the areas of communication and collaboration and showing consistent dedication and leadership within DOI and BLM.

Lamar Liddell, Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew (JIHC) Fire Superintendent, received a Star Award for serving as the Acting Center Coordinator at the National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center, while fulfilling normal responsibilities as superintendent of the JIHC.

Comings & Goings

New employees.—**Cherisse Tabron**, Administrative Specialist, Lower Potomac Field Station; **Christine Solomon** and **Rosemary Waddon**, Human Resources (HR) Specialists, State Office (SO); and **Jacob Braun**, Student Trainee (Land Surveyor), SO.

Transfers.—**Tony Carrow**, Cadastral Surveyor, to BLM’s Arizona State Office; and **Vanessa Smith**, HR Specialist, to Dept. of Army.

Retirees.—**Sharon Fakkema**, Lands & Realty Specialist, Jackson Field Office; **Connie Berry**, Information Technology Specialist, SO.

Welcome to new members of the 2004 Jackson Interagency Hotshot Crew. Have a safe fire season.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



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

