

*Making a*

# DIFFERENCE



# BLM's 2011

Volunteer Annual Report



*From the  
Acting*

# DIRECTOR



With such a full plate, we gratefully rely on the help of interested citizens who believe in our mission, who love the public lands, and who are willing to volunteer their time and energy in a spirit of cooperation. Our volunteers' list of achievements is immense, ranging from documenting cultural heritage sites to trail design and development, from the construction of historic replicas to invasive weed control. Our volunteers also forge important

links between the BLM and local communities and stand as shining examples of what citizen-centered stewardship and community-based conservation can achieve.

As President Obama proclaimed on National Public Lands Day 2011, "By joining in [our] legacy of conservation, Americans young and old protect not only our lands, but also the promise that future generations will be able to carry forward the spirit of adventure that lies at the heart of our Nation."

Our outstanding volunteers exemplify that philosophy perfectly, having contributed their energy, creativity, and hard work to make the world a better place. On behalf of the BLM and the people we serve, I offer my sincere thanks to our volunteers for their contributions to America's public lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Pool". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "P".

**Mike Pool**  
BLM Acting Director

On behalf of Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and all of us at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), I am pleased to present the BLM's "Making a Difference" Volunteer Annual Report for fiscal year (FY) 2011. This publication presents highlights of an impressive year for our BLM volunteers; they contributed more than 1.1 million hours of time and talent in FY 2011. That's equivalent to the work of more than 650 full-time agency employees.

In these days of pervasive technology and sedentary pursuits, the BLM finds itself on the leading edge of one of America's most pressing challenges—how to reintroduce our nation's children to the natural environment and healthy lifestyles. BLM public lands offer premier opportunities for learning, recreation, physical activity, tranquility, and a renewed sense of awe. And, of course, the BLM's mission work—conserving special places, improving the health of forests and rangelands, guarding fragile biological and heritage resources, and supporting economic activities through forestry, grazing, and energy and minerals production—is always at the core of what we do.







# Selected HIGHLIGHTS by BLM Program

## RECREATION

**Glennallen Field Office, AK:** The BLM partnered with a 10-person Student Conservation Association youth crew to construct a new hiking trail to Swede Mountain. The crew members volunteered 1,680 hours of labor, gained valuable natural resource management experience, and produced a superior hiking trail. Recreationists have already begun to utilize the new 1.5-mile trail for hiking and berry picking and as an access route for other activities.

through arroyos, and installing signs. The new trail segment enhances local recreation opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians.

**El Centro Field Office, CA:** More than 1,300 volunteers gathered in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area over the 2011 Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday weekend for the 14th Annual Dunes Clean Up, providing approximately 5,200 hours of volunteer service. Volunteers scoured the sand for trash throughout the recreation area and were given a raffle ticket for every bag of trash collected, with prizes donated by community sponsors.

**Winnemucca District Office, NV:** The BLM cosponsored the 7th Annual Black Rock Rendezvous, an event that offers a weekend of fun, education, and exploration at the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. The rendezvous celebrates the diversity of uses and history of the Black Rock Desert region, while fostering stewardship through volunteer projects. At the May 2011 event, volunteer efforts included building buck-and-rail fencing to protect a sensitive dune area, habitat restoration, and spring monitoring.

**Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area, NM:** In 2011, the conservation area enlisted 66 hosted youth workers for a project that included widening and rerouting approximately 27 miles of nonmotorized trail. The BLM provided youth grant funding to cover the costs of personal protective equipment, hand tools, and training for work crews.

**Lower Potomac Field Station, VA:** On National Trails Day in June 2011, the Lower Potomac Field Station sponsored a mountain bike trail-building work day at the BLM's Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Lorton, Virginia. More than 20 volunteers removed roots, overhanging branches, rocks, and debris along 1,000 feet of trail, and a second crew widened another segment. These combined trail-building events added to the nearly 14 miles of preexisting routes on the Meadowood site.

**Las Cruces District Office, NM:** A local Boy Scout troop volunteered more than 300 weekend hours in September 2011 to build a 2.5-mile northern extension of the Sierra Vista Trail. The troop's work included initial scouting of the trail, cutting

## CULTURAL and PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**Safford Field Office, AZ:** BLM and other scientists completed the excavation of a glyptodont fossil discovered in 2010. Large relatives of the modern armadillo, glyptodonts lived in the San Simon Valley during the Pleistocene Epoch, about 2 million years ago. Participants in the dig included volunteers from the Arizona Museum of Natural History, members of the Southwest Paleontological Society, Northern Arizona University students, and local community members.

**Gunnison Field Office, CO:** The BLM worked with volunteers from the Hinsdale County Historical Society and the Hinsdale County Road and Bridge Department to salvage timbers from the Bonanza-Empire Chief Mill site on the Alpine Loop Back Country Byway. The late-19th-century property was destroyed by an avalanche in 2008, but much of the debris was determined to be usable for historical construction and stabilization projects. Recovered materials were transported to the Hinsdale County Museum for storage.

**Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, NV:** The Friends of Red Rock Canyon, a team of volunteers committed to protecting the environmental integrity of the area, assisted with the restoration of an archaeological site off of Lost Creek Trail that had been vandalized with graffiti. The volunteer team was able to complete cleanup in 367 hours of labor during a period of 6 days. The team members hauled a generator, air compressors, water, and other equipment and supplies to the site and also assisted with graffiti removal.

**Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, UT:** A Site Stewards program was initiated in the monument in 2011 under the direction of a BLM archaeologist and paleontologist, with coordination by two partner-sponsored hosted workers. The stewards, who already number more than 25, reported on site conditions, provided a presence in the field, and provided community education on the importance of archaeological and fossil sites.

**Lander Field Office, WY:** The BLM sponsored a volunteer event at the Castle Gardens Rock Art Site that provided service-learning opportunities in archaeology and heritage education. In addition to cleaning up the site and replacing aging signs, volunteers toured the site with BLM specialists who discussed rock art, archaeology, the importance of heritage preservation, and how the volunteers' work fits into planned visitor facility upgrades.

**National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, WY:** During the 2-day Pioneer Days reenactment event in 2011, frontier army reenactors and numerous volunteers performed drills and discussed the hardships and rigors of frontier military

life. Other living history topics included the Pony Express, artillery, and "snake oil" salesmen. The event drew approximately 800 visitors.

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

**Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, CA:** At the 14,000-acre Dos Palmas Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), the BLM and volunteers joined the inventor of the Groasis "waterboxx" to test the technology's effectiveness in this extreme environment. The waterboxx is designed to mimic microhabitats that promote seedling growth in arid environments. Over the years, much effort has been directed toward removal of invasive plant species in the ACEC. In 2011, approximately 210 waterboxxes were installed in cleared areas.

**Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, ID:** Fifteen volunteers planted 550 bare-root Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* Nutt. ssp. *wyomingensis*) plants at Dedication Point in 2011. The native Wyoming big sagebrush islands will augment fire rehabilitation efforts begun in 1999. Followup plantings of pollinator-specific species were conducted on National Public Lands Day.

**Southeastern States Field Office, MS:** In 2011, a local zoologist and his wife contributed their time at Florida's Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area to develop an extensive photo database of flowering plants around the natural area, which they update regularly. In addition, the couple created a list of species associated with the tract.

**Malta Field Office, MT:** A high school teacher documented 41 observations of reptiles and amphibians (herptiles) on public lands in Phillips County. His 2011 species list featured eight herptiles, including the rare Woodhouse's toad (*Bufo woodhousii*), each listed by habitat, body length, and location. This project has already provided hundreds of herptile records for the Montana Natural Heritage Program's database.



**Montana State Office:** Seven volunteers helped with native plantings at the Special K Ranch, a residential facility that provides vocational training for developmentally disabled adults. The BLM has an agreement with the ranch to grow native plants for restoration and rehabilitation projects. Volunteers helped plant 15,000 sagebrush, grass, and native wildflower seedlings in individual pots. The plants will eventually find homes on BLM-Montana/Dakotas public lands.



**Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, UT:** The Native Plant Restoration Project is a science-based partnership effort to restore native vegetation on the monument. In fiscal year 2011, high school students worked on reestablishing stands of winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*), a native shrub that is highly valuable for erosion control and as browse for livestock and wildlife. By the end of the 2011 season, the project had benefited from more than 2,572 hours of student volunteer labor in the classroom, laboratory, greenhouse, and field plots. In the process, the students were exposed to the scientific process and skills used by land management professionals. The volunteer efforts will ultimately reestablish sources of seed and provide information for future revegetation projects.



Area. The objective of the project was to install about 300 feet of post-and-rail fence along the wilderness boundary to exclude vehicles. Not only was the work completed on time, but on the last day, volunteers installed an interpretive kiosk as well. The volunteers contributed a total of 220 hours of their time and talent.

## WILD HORSES and BURROS

**Tres Rios Field Office, CO:** The Disappointment Wild Bunch Partners continued to work with the BLM on behalf of the Spring Creek Basin wild horse herd. Members documented the herd, helped reclaim old roads, removed fencing, eradicated tamarisk, and provided education about the area's wild horses. Members also encouraged humane roundup methods and worked with the BLM to enhance water sources for the horses.

**Southeastern States Field Office, MS:** Three young BLM volunteers and their adopted wild horses performed in the freestyle reining portion of the Dixie National Quarter Horse Show, the premier event of the Mississippi Quarter Horse Association, in February 2011. More than 5,000 spectators from across the country witnessed an outstanding performance by these talented volunteers and their horses.

**Prineville District Office, OR:** The BLM and the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) focused enhancement efforts on the Badlands Wilderness and Spring Basin Wilderness. Volunteer work parties were organized up to three times a month in 2011, collectively providing more than 1,400 hours of labor toward projects such as fence removal and sign installation. ONDA volunteers also engaged in outreach activities including presentations in local schools and "meet and greets" at trailheads.

## RIPARIAN and WATERSHED

**Colorado River District Office, AZ:** BLM fire personnel joined the Arizona State Forestry Division and Arizona Western College in hosting more than 100 volunteers who planted 13,000 trees in a 140-acre area ravaged by a 2008 wildland fire. Volunteers installed approximately 5,000 locally grown mesquite trees and 8,000 cottonwood and willow poles in marsh and riparian habitats that had been previously cleared of invasive vegetation.

## WILDERNESS

**Ely District Office, NV:** The BLM hosted the Sierra Club for a 4-day work project at the Becky Peak Wilderness

**Gunnison Field Office, CO:** Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition, and the Crested



Butte Land Trust provided volunteers to measure the Slate River's channel morphology, assess its riparian zone, and sample water in the area of the BLM's Oh Be Joyful Campground. The volunteers were part of a larger effort to study the river, improve the stability of its banks, and return area drainage to premining flow patterns.



**Cottonwood Field Office, ID:** More than 2,680 pounds of metal and almost 1 ton of trash were collected during 3 days of cleanup along the Clearwater River. Volunteers first scoured smaller articles of trash along 16 miles of the river, and then additional crews collected scrap metal and other heavy items. The event was sponsored by the Clearwater Management Council, a multicounty and multiagency board that works to improve the quality of the river.



**Medford District Office, OR:** The 19th Annual Rogue River Cleanup drew more than 240 volunteers, of which 105 were under the age of 18. The Rogue River Cleanup is made possible by a partnership with Josephine County Parks and is supported by more than 40 local businesses. Volunteers cleaned 4 miles of BLM-managed back country byway roads and 27 miles of river shoreline, extracting 11 tires, 1 shopping cart, and greater than 3 tons of other trash. Volunteers also pulled and bagged 6 cubic yards of invasive weeds at three sites along the river.

**National Interagency Fire Center, ID:** To fulfill a requirement for his "Leadership and Community Responsibility" class, a high school student volunteered with the BLM at the National Interagency Fire Center. As part of his service, he interviewed a retired National Park Service fire professional. In addition to fulfilling his requirement, the interview counted toward the student's participation in the Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program, which is sponsored by participating agencies of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

## ENERGY and MINERALS

**Gunnison Field Office, CO:** Aspen trees were planted near the paste repository of the historic Ute-Ulay Mine and Mill, which is approximately 5 miles from Lake City. Seven volunteers participated, adding to the evergreen seedling and shrub planting accomplished the previous year. The paste repository is a specially contained storage site for mill tailings removed from old mine sites in the Lake City area.

**Salem District Office, OR:** In 2011, 74 volunteers contributed 10,837 hours to serve more than 300,000 visitors of the BLM's Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area. Volunteer hosts served as interpreters, led lighthouse tours, provided educational programs, and oriented visitors at the interpretive center. In addition, 10 youths contributed 3,500 hours of service, instructing approximately 5,000 schoolchildren and providing information to visiting family groups.

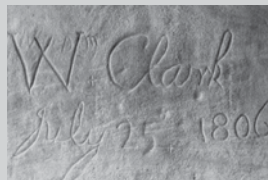
## EDUCATION and INTERPRETATION

**Anchorage District Office, AK:** In 2011, a Student Conservation Association-hosted worker logged more than 900 volunteer hours by conducting programs at the Campbell Creek Science Center, leading educational activities in rural villages, and helping train teachers. She also coordinated volunteer work projects on both National Trails Day and National Public Lands Day at locations on the BLM's Campbell Tract. The intern was later recognized with a 2011 Conservation Leadership Award from the Student Conservation Association.

**Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, UT:** A Grand Staircase Escalante Partners education specialist engaged 12 area residents to coordinate elementary school field trips to monument visitor centers. Utilizing preprinted guides featuring the centers' exhibits as teaching tools, the volunteers directed students through curriculum-based environmental education activities.

**National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, WY:** During 2011, the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center opened its doors to more than 3,100 schoolchildren from school districts in Wyoming and surrounding states. Thanks to the contributions of more than 25 volunteers, each school group received a special orientation and 2-hour guided tour of the facility.

# NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM



The BLM is committed to ensuring that National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) lands and their unique values are kept intact through the application of sound conservation principles and wise collaborative management. Volunteer contributions to designated NLCS units are vitally important to achieving BLM and NLCS mission goals. In FY 2011, volunteers contributed more than 302,500 hours of service to NLCS lands, including national monuments, national conservation areas, wilderness areas, and other treasured landscapes. These hours are included in the figures in the charts presented in this report.

Community support for the NLCS is evident from the thousands of people who volunteered their time at such NLCS sites as Montana's Pompeys Pillar National Monument, which features an inscription by Captain William Clark, the only remaining physical evidence of Lewis and Clark along their expedition route.



## National Volunteer Totals for Fiscal Year 2011

Program	Volunteer Hours <sup>1</sup>	Donated/Hosted Work Hours <sup>1</sup>	Total Hours <sup>3</sup>
Recreation	492,173	140,378	632,550
Biological Resources	45,730	37,991	83,721
Wild Horse and Burro	24,098	93,113	117,211
Cadastral Survey	743	0	743
Wilderness/WSA	32,616	12,124	44,740
Riparian/Watershed	13,313	20,081	33,394
Cultural/Historical	78,107	7,606	85,713
Minerals	4,291	756	5,047
Support Services	35,526	15,487	51,013
Environmental Education/Interpretation	83,436	9,500	92,936
Other	31,863	8,796	40,659
<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>841,895</b>	<b>345,832</b>	<b>1,187,726</b>
Funds Expended	\$582,724	\$255,366	\$838,090
Value of Work <sup>2,3</sup>	\$18,344,881	\$7,535,668	\$25,880,550

## Volunteer Activity for Fiscal Year 2005-2011

Year	Total hours	Value to BLM <sup>1</sup>	Work Years <sup>2</sup>	Value of 1 Work Hour <sup>3</sup>	Value of 1 Work Year <sup>2,3</sup>
2011	1,187,726	\$25,880,550	660	\$21.79	\$39,222
2010	1,244,782	\$26,588,544	692	\$21.36	\$38,448
2009	1,132,936	\$23,621,716	629	\$20.85	\$37,530
2008	1,202,257	\$24,345,704	668	\$20.25	\$36,450
2007	1,285,678	\$25,083,578	714	\$19.51	\$35,118
2006	1,346,674	\$25,277,071	748	\$18.77	\$33,786
2005	1,292,859	\$23,323,176	718	\$18.04	\$32,472

<sup>1</sup> The 2011 volunteer program was accomplished at a cost of \$838,090, for a return of about \$30.88 for every \$1.00 expended.

<sup>2</sup> 1 work year = 1,800 hours.

<sup>3</sup> The value of volunteer contributions is calculated annually by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)), a national leadership forum committed to volunteerism and citizen action. The dollar figure is based on the latest data available for the average hourly wage for nonagricultural workers as published in the yearly *Economic Report of the President*.

## Summary of BLM State Office Volunteer Contributions for Fiscal Year 2011

State	Hours	Value <sup>1</sup>	Work Years <sup>2</sup>	Number of Individuals
Alaska	35,336	\$769,971	20	3,024
Arizona	125,581	\$2,736,410	70	2,157
California	247,536	\$5,393,809	138	10,814
Colorado	227,110	\$4,948,716	126	4,520
Eastern States	23,684	\$516,074	13	810
Idaho	39,203	\$854,233	22	2,124
Montana/Dakotas	32,657	\$711,596	18	584
Nevada	64,105	\$1,396,848	36	6,136
New Mexico	114,234	\$2,489,159	63	444
Oregon/Washington	192,704	\$4,199,009	107	3,075
Utah	67,469	\$1,470,150	37	1,787
Wyoming	17,656	\$384,724	10	1,137
National Interagency Fire Center	452	\$9,849	0	3
<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>1,187,726</b>	<b>\$25,880,550</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>36,615</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on a rate of \$21.79 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)).

<sup>2</sup> 1 work year = 1,800 hours.

<sup>3</sup> Totals may be off slightly as a result of rounding.

◀ <sup>1</sup> The term "volunteer," as used in the rest of this report includes "donated workers." Volunteers work for the BLM without pay. They donate their time, and in some instances, equipment and money to assist the BLM with a variety of jobs. Donated or hosted workers, on the other hand, are paid by another organization but work for the BLM at no charge. Hosted workers made up about 29.1 percent of the total volunteer time in 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Based on a rate of \$21.79 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)).

<sup>3</sup> Totals may be off slightly as a result of rounding.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### **BLM "Making A Difference" National Volunteer Awards:**

Four individuals, three couples, one group, and one BLM employee received BLM 2012 "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards for their public service contributions.

Individual/couple/group honorees were: Catherine Leonard, Glennallen Field Office, AK; David Hicks, Tucson Field Office, AZ; East High School, Arcata Field Office, CA; Bill Baker, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, CA; Craig and Marjorie Purdy, Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, MT; Pat Bruce, Black Rock Field Office, NV; and Sandra and Jeff Freethey, Moab Field Office, UT.

"Lifetime Achievement" Award recipients were Roland and Martha Mace, Farmington Field Office, NM. Martha "Marty" Dickes of Ridgecrest Field Office, CA, was the winning BLM employee. Photos and winner profiles are available on the BLM Volunteer Program website at [www.blm.gov/volunteer](http://www.blm.gov/volunteer).

### **Secretary of the Interior's "Partners in Conservation"**

**Awards:** Four BLM-led partnerships received 2011 Secretarial "Partners in Conservation" Awards for achievements in conservation, resource preservation, land management innovation, and engagement of diverse entities. The winning partnerships were: the Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona, AZ; Permian Basin Memorandum of Agreement Program, NM; Jefferson Conservation Corps, OR; and the nationwide Project Archaeology program. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar presented the awards at a special ceremony in Washington, DC.

**National Public Lands Day:** In 2011, National Public Lands Day engaged the services of an estimated 170,000 volunteers working on 2,067 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Of these numbers, almost 10,000 BLM volunteers performed work on 152 projects at 129 sites hosted by 93 field offices in 17 states. These projects produced millions of dollars in enhancements to the BLM's public lands and facilities. More information on National Public Lands Day is available at [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org).

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**Cover:** In conjunction with their school's natural resource program, young BLM-Oregon volunteers joined BLM and U.S. Forest Service employees to improve Sandy River Delta, a component site of the "Confluence Project." The 300-mile art installation and Columbia River habitat restoration project encompass seven sites that explore and interpret the confluence of art, environment, cultures, and regional history. **(Credit: BLM-Oregon)**

For more information on the BLM Volunteer Program, please visit our website at [www.blm.gov/volunteer](http://www.blm.gov/volunteer).