

Northwest Passage Volume 1, Issue 2 – November/December 2008

Cover

Take It Outside!

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The Bureau of Land Management Magazine for Oregon and Washington

Nov/Dec 2008

National Public Lands Day! Americans Come Together to Lend Nature a Hand

You Can Have it Your Way with the Western Oregon Plan Revision

America's Multicultural Migration West: Finding History's Forgotten People

A Shipwreck Rises from the Grave! Winter Winds Uncover a Mystery on the Oregon Coast

Naturally Delicious...

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[Photo of a Hand Holding Blackberries]

[Image of BLM Logo]

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Welcome back to Northwest Passage, the bimonthly Bureau of Land Management Magazine for Oregon and Washington. Greetings to new readers joining us for the first time. We’re very pleased to have you.

Fall is always an exciting time in the Pacific Northwest. The weather gets a little crisper as rich forests along our rivers turn from green to gold to bronze. And after the hustle and bustle of the summer months, fall is known as a time when the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) leads and participates in a number of exciting volunteer opportunities.

In September, the BLM served as an integral partner in the 2008 National Public Lands Day. We joined seven other federal agencies to deliver the largest volunteer effort of its kind in the nation. Seeing our fellow Americans come together on public soil and roll up their sleeves alongside their neighbors was truly inspirational – especially during an election season.

Then in October, the BLM held our Annual In-Service Volunteer Day. We worked with the US Forest Service and other partners on a three-year project along the Pacific Flyway where the Sandy and Columbia Rivers converge. Now families and visitors to the Sandy River Delta can stroll along our path to a special new bird blind. This viewing platform was created by Maya Lin, designer the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as part of The Confluence Project commemorating the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

In addition to reaching out to our constituents and communities, the Oregon and Washington BLM reaches inward to our own folks as well. Because this magazine is the first of its kind for us, we wanted employee feedback on Northwest Passage. And we knew it’d be equally important to all our constituents and stakeholders

that our story include the full palate of voices from our staff – from archaeologists and biologists to foresters and IT experts.

We got some great feedback. Most of our staff said they prefer to read the paperless version of Northwest Passage on the web to help preserve our natural resources. They also saw our magazine as a way to improve communications. We heard loud and clear that the best way to share our own story is by reporting and showing photos from all of our ten districts across the great states of Oregon and Washington.

I hope you'll enjoy our second issue of Northwest Passage. In addition to breathtaking photos from our volunteer events, we've got some fascinating feature articles. A ghost ship rose from the sea. The Western Oregon Plan Revision helps our communities. And the BLM is uncovering the multicultural migration of the United States. We even have a hint where you can find a holiday tree this season!

Let's read.

Edward W. Shepard
State Director
Oregon/Washington
Bureau of Land Management

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Take it Outside!

Volume 1, Issue 2

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mission

The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Oregon and Washington, the BLM provides innovative leadership in managing natural resources of the Pacific Northwest.

Our Contributors

[Six Photos of Contributors]

1: Megan Harper is the Public Affairs Officer for the BLM's Coos Bay District Office. You'll notice in her photo above that she's valiantly attempting to take a snapshot of Michael Campbell, her coauthor/nemesis from last issue's piece on the New Carissa (Sep/Oct '08). Cooperative as ever, Michael provides his most flattering side. In our current issue, Megan covers the mysterious shipwreck which returned from a watery grave at the behest of harsh winter storms (Page 11).

2: Michael Campbell smiles for the camera. Yes, that's his smile. Why do you ask? Did you have something you wanted to say? Oh. Okay. We'll let him know. In this issue, Michael took a break from his usual Congressional and media inquiries about the Western Oregon Plan Revision to...write about the Western Oregon Plan Revision (Page 14). In addition to writing about forests, Michael, an avid outdoors fan, loves hiking in them.

3: Upon leaving his beloved hometown of Pommefrites, France, writer Jerry Hubbard (pronounced Zher-ahrd Hoo-bahrd) came to the United States via tramp steamer learning English from an old copy of The BLM's Billion Dollar Checkerboard that he found under the ship's fo'c'sle. What the heck's a fo'c'sle? Oh, and Jerry kept Michael in line long enough to finish their co-authored article (Page 16). Clearly, Jerry is up to any and all challenges.

4: Associate District Manager Stephen Robertson hails from Prineville where he interviewed the BLM's foremost metalworking artisan, Jack Frederiksen (Page 8). The two originally met each other when Steve's old band ordered a metal replica of Stonehenge. Unfortunately, someone wrote the units of measurement wrong, and...well, let's just hope Steve and Jack are fans of Spinal Tap...

5: Guest feature writer Jill Moran works in Public Affairs in the BLM's Washington DC Office. She's a very welcome addition, but we wonder if she's a spy. Either way, we're not making fun of her since we'd don't want the IRS showing up at our door this year. (Last year was quite enough, thank you.) Jill wrote one of the best articles this year highlighting the role of African Americans settling the Wild West (Page 12). Enjoy her work now before she jumps ship for Vanity Fair. (Okay, Jill. Now can you call off the IRS?)

6: Maria Thi Mai beams for the camera knowing she'll soon have that head of iceberg lettuce removed from her noggin'. And when she's not hobnobbing with Oregon Public Broadcasting, Maria can be found speed racing her bicycle across the tundras on 100 mile treks – six times this year alone! A former aide to Portland's Mayor-elect, Sam Adams, Maria brings her vast experience with the public to interview BLM volunteers at the 2008 Annual In-Service Day (Page 5).

BLMeetup

[Photo of Woman Walking on Wooded Path]

[Five Photos of BLM Employees and Volunteers]

Interviews by Maria Thi Mai & Matt Christenson

Photos by Scott Batchelar & Matt Christenson

We asked Volunteers at our 2008 In-Service Day: “If you could volunteer with anyone in the world, who would you choose to volunteer with?”

“I wish I could have volunteered with ecologist and forester, Aldo Leopold. I’d love to talk to him about his book on conservation, A Sand County Almanac. I try to get everyone I know to read it.”

Camille Duncan

Chicago Botanic Garden Intern

“My grandmother, Liza Bell, and Maya Angelou. Both are women of substance with a great deal of wisdom.”

Karen Wilson

Equal Employment Opportunity Manager

“My dog, Robbie. He’s an eight and one-half-year-old Westie, and he loves to go on hikes. We just did a nine-miler the other day.”

John Keith

Associate Deputy State Director

“My Dad. He passed away 10 years ago. He was an orchardist, a carpenter, and a farmer. He raised berries and loved the outdoors.

Larry Smith

IT Specialist

“Martin Luther King or Langston Hughes. Both men inspired generations through non-violent protest and poem.”

Kris

Youth Volunteer from Rosemary Anderson High School

“Ernesto... “

Roger Bost

Administrative Assistant

Editor’s Note: Ernesto, Roger’s co-worker, “was forced” to stay back in the climate-controlled office “due to work constraints” while Roger labored and sweat for three hours. Roger didn’t seem to mind. Honest!

Turn the page for more ‘08 In-Service photos!

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Public Lands Live

2008 In-Service volunteer Day

[Photos of BLM Employees and Volunteers Building a Path to Maya Lin's Bird Blind]

PHOTOS BY SCOTT BATCHELAR, MATT CHRISTENSON & TOM IRACI

On October 8th, the BLM joined forces with the Forest Service at the Sandy River Delta to complete a three-year project building a path that runs to the brand new bird blind created by renowned artist, Maya Lin, designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Want to see all the photos from the 2008 In-Service Day? Just visit the BLM Photo Library: photos.blm.gov and do a search for "2008 In-Service Day."

OurSpace

Heavy Metal Thunder

BLM Staffer Jack Frederiksen Talks Heavy Metal Art to Prineville Associate District Manager, Stephen Robertson

Story by Stephen Robertson

[Illustration of a Metal Worker at an Anvil]

Art: Tivadar Bote

[Photo of Molten Iron]

[Photo of Metal Artist Jack Frederiksen Standing with a Bronze Deer]

The artist stands with one his creations

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEPHEN ROBERTSON

“I weigh the man, not his title; ‘tis not the king’s stamp can make the metal better.” – William Wycherley, 1677

As I read the first edition of the Northwest Passage last month, I thought most of the articles were interesting and told the story of what was happening within OR/WA BLM. When asked what I thought about the magazine a few days later however, I could hardly recall any of the topics covered.

After assessing my short and long-term memory abilities (both are admittedly weak), I began to think about similar magazines I’ve seen other agencies publish in the past and questioned what made them different from the rest. And the bottom line was that they were all pretty similar and did a good job of sharing information, current events, etc. But I couldn’t recall any of their articles either!

So I asked myself, did any part of Northwest Passage make enough of an impression on me that I still remembered it over a week later?

Yes.

Believe it or not, it was the fact that Rhondalyn Darnell’s hobby was tea hosting. Tea hosting? So why in the heck did that stick in my mind?! (Rhondalyn was the subject of our very first OurSpace in the Sep/Oct ‘08 issue of Northwest Passage. – Ed.) Instead, why didn’t I remember that Ed Shepard’s favorite ice cream flavor is three letters long beginning with the letter “A” and ending in the letter “L.” (hint: the second letter is the same as the first or last letter – but it’s not a vowel) I guess Rhondalyn’s hobby stuck with me because it was something I learned about a person’s life or interests outside of work.

Well, that got me thinking about how we choose to use our time away from work. Did you know if you work an average of 8 hours a day, five days a week and exclude holidays and annual leave, you’re left with a whopping 79 percent of your time that’s discretionary? So what do people do with all their free time? I suppose a portion is

spent on our “required maintenance” like sleeping, eating, chores, etc. But that still leaves us with a fair amount of time to pursue other interests and things we like to do which brings us to my point.

Folks who work for OR/WA BLM have a multitude of interests, talents, and hobbies that they have developed outside of work that are really worth sharing with others. Whether it’s building custom fly rods, dancing, quilting, painting, singing, volunteering, or, yes, tea hosting, there’s something unique to you which would probably surprise and even inspire a lot of folks you know. So how about sharing your talents with the rest of us? I know most of you’ve either watched or heard of the television program, America’s Got Talent. Well, how about “OR/WA BLM’s Got Talent, Too!” I’ll kick it off with one of our employees here in Prineville who has a talent that I never would have guessed – metal sculpting!

Jack Frederiksen is an employee who has worked on the Prineville District for the past 10 years. Jack does a multitude of tasks for the District including maintenance on our wildlife guzzlers, building and repairing gates, and just about anything else that involves welding.

The first time I met Jack, he struck me as a no-nonsense kind of guy who probably hunted, fished, and tinkered around in his shop during his off-time. Well, I was right about the first two activities – but “tinkering” isn’t how I would classify the latter. Jack takes his welding skills to another level by fabricating pieces of art out of scraps of metal. From beautiful candle holders made from old horseshoes to life-sized wildlife pieces, Jack has a major talent that few of us on the District even realized until recently.

Jack’s early influence with metalworking came from his dad who was a blacksmith and boilermaker at the Shevlin Hixon Lumber Company in Bend, Oregon. And Jack first became interested in metal art on a family vacation to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in the early 1980’s. After visiting several local shops and art galleries, Jack thought “Hey, I can do that.” Then Jack further honed his metal fabrication skills during four years as a ship fitter/welder in the Navy.

After returning home, Jack’s first metal art project was a set of Kachina doll candle holders cut from a quarter-inch steel plate. From there Jack went on to fabricate western style tables, lamps, saddle stands, and fish & wildlife silhouettes. While these art projects were enjoyable, Jack wanted to “do something more challenging” so he decided to try his hand at three-dimensional sculpting. As you can see in the photo, Jack has more than met the challenge he set for himself.

Jack’s other hobbies and interests? “While I still have many things I’d like to do with metal, I’ve also done photography and oil paintings in the past and would like to go back to them someday.”

When asked what advice he would give to an employee looking to start a new hobby in art Jack replied, “My recommendation would be that you don’t need to have a ‘gift’ for it. Art can be learned like anything else. All you need is the desire. Some people say they can’t even draw a straight line. You don’t need to – there are very few straight lines in nature.”

District Round-Up

2008 National Public Lands Day

Welcome to News from Around the Districts! This issue, we bring you a report from the 2008 National Public Lands Day

[Photo of a Young Girl and a Man Painting a Bench]

[Four Photos of BLM Staff and Volunteers Cleaning Wooded Fields]

[Photo of Volunteers Painting a Bird Blind]

[Photo of Volunteers Carrying Lumber]

[Photo of BLM Staff and Volunteers Cleaning a Beach]

[Photo of Three Walkers on a Path Beneath a Tree]

DISTRICTS UP CLOSE

From Top Left: Vale America kicks off the 2008 NPLD by sharing painting skills between generations; Burns removes old fence and garbage to repair the OHV area; Eugenites know paint makes their bird blind look brand new again; Lakeview shows off their muscle to haul logs; one of Medford's many first-timers begins a tradition of volunteer stewardship on America's public lands.

PHOTOS BY BLM STAFF

The 15th annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) was held on and around Saturday, September 27, 2008. Americans of all ages and from every walk of life came together in the largest hands-on volunteer event in the nation.

To thank them for their hard work, participants received a free National Public Lands Day t-shirt as well as a "fee-free" coupon good throughout the next year for admission to a site managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, or the Army Corps of Engineers.

We checked in with each of the Districts throughout Oregon and Washington to see how this event improved their communities.

Burns, OR

blm.gov/or/districts/burns

- The Harney County High Desert Wheelers partnered with Burns BLM for the club's first ever National Public Lands Day project. Their clean-up of the Radar Hill Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) area was a total success! Seventeen volunteers from the club and community removed two full loads of scrap metal and several truckloads of garbage – for a combined total of nearly 3,000 pounds of debris.

- Eight volunteers from the Oregon Natural Desert Association accumulated 240 hours removing two miles of unnecessary fence in the Steens Mountain Wilderness in just under five days!

Coos Bay, OR

blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay

- Tires....gone! Beer bottles and pop cans....gone! Noxious weeds....gone! Nearly 90 people gathered a dumpster-load worth of trash during the Coos Bay District's NPLD beach clean-up on the North Spit. Trekking nearly two miles up and down the beach, participants picked up trash, pulled noxious weeds, and maintained a portion of an equestrian trail. Bagel sandwiches, cookies, and soda topped off a picture perfect and (thanks to the participants' help) cleaner day on the Oregon Coast.

Eugene, OR

blm.gov/or/districts/Eugene

- The West Eugene Wetlands Watch reports that in Eugene, "nearly 80 community members rolled up their sleeves to help clean-up and enhance the Stewart Pond Natural Area in the West Eugene Wetlands." Check out their full report with more photos at wewwild.blogspot.com.

Lakeview, OR

blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview

- At the Christmas Valley Sand Dunes, the Lakeview Resource Area held its '08 National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 20. Fifteen volunteers from the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Christmas Valley and Lakeview communities repaired and extended a fence, installed a new kiosk, removed vandalized signs, and cleaned up!

Medford, OR

blm.gov/or/districts/Medford

- Medford hosted the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Public Lands Day. Volunteers from the BLM and the community tackled everything from trail work and fencing to range projects and general maintenance.

[Photo of a Flower]

[Photo of Volunteers Standing by Truck]

[Photo of Military Volunteers Cleaning a Beach]

[Photo of Volunteers Building an Outdoor Stove]

[Photo of a Child Standing at an Outdoor Cooking Site]

[Photo of a Volunteer Trimming Bushes]

[Photo of Volunteers Cleaning Fields]

[Photo of a BLM Staff Member Standing with a Volunteer]

[Two Photos of Youths Building a Path]

[Image of an Oregon Map Highlighting the BLM's Districts in Oregon and Washington]

DISTRICTS UP CLOSE

From Top Left: Prineville BLM joins forces with our military; bring your burgers! Roseburg's got shiny, new cookout spots; Salemites of all ages restore a creek bed at the Marmot Dam; Spokane is dumpin' trash and plantin' trees; the youth of (Vale) America are building new paths to their future.

PHOTOS BY MARIAH LEUSCHEN & BLM STAFF

Now here's the rest of the story...from the 2008 National Public Lands Day around the Districts!

Prineville, OR

blm.gov/or/districts/Prineville

- Prineville worked at the Biak Training Center and the Mayfield Pond Recreation Area. The BLM staff, our military, and volunteers alike came together to restore vegetation areas, repair road closures, fix fences, remove trash, and beautify public lands. Was it successful? Just look at the smiles on these faces!

Roseburg, OR

blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg

- The First annual Cow Creek clean up is "in the bag" as Roseburg netted 46 large sacks of trash, a car battery, seven tires, one large sofa, a bench car seat, an electric cook stove, a lawn chair, and one dead calf (with flies). It's not too early to mark your calendars for next year's clean up – be there or be square!
- In other Roseburg news, 25 volunteers provided over three hours of service each to install ten hardened surfaces around both fire rings and grills in five campsites at the Susan Creek Campground. A hardened surface around each feature makes it easier for people in wheelchairs to use the site. And slight ridges between the bricks will provide a non-visual cue for people with visual impairments that they are approaching something hot – and hopefully delicious!

Salem, OR

blm.gov/or/districts/salem

- Volunteers from all around the Salem area traveled to the Marmot Dam to assist in the former dam's rehabilitation on the Sandy River. The BLM staff and folks from the community came together to spread topsoil, restore a creek bed, and haul away quite a few loads of trash!

Spokane, WA

blm.gov/or/districts/Spokane

- The Wenatchee BLM field office hosted volunteers at McLoughlin Canyon. The BLM initially created a trailhead at this site, but later NPLD events have focused on fire restoration, spreading grass seed over the area affected by the 2007 Tunk Grade fire. This year, 14 volunteers also planted 100 Ponderosa Pine seedlings and 100 Douglas-fir seedlings. Seedlings were protected by biodegradable screens to enhance moisture and protect trees from

browsing animals. The group also installed an informational bulletin board at the parking lot and picked up 30 tires and other debris dumped at the site. What a productive day!

Vale, OR

blm.gov/or/districts/vale

- In Vale, 27 Boy and Girl Scouts along with their pack leaders, family members, and local volunteers from the community worked for over five hours at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Their work completed a whopping 142 yards of gravel laid down on the Ascent Trail, with another 2.5 miles of rehabilitated bench and trail maintenance. Even after their full day of challenging labor, Vale's volunteers said they were already looking forward to coming back next year!

A Shipwreck Rises from the Grave: Winter Winds Uncover a Mystery on the Oregon Coast

Story by Megan Harper

[Photo of a Shipwreck on a Beach Surrounded by Visitors]

Visitors rush to see the Ghost Ship before it returns back to its nautical burial ground

[Photo of a Man Inspecting an Ancient Shipwreck]

A history detective looks for clues to identify the mysterious shipwreck

[Photo of a Shipwreck Covered by the Tides]

PHOTOS BY MEGAN HARPER

Only the bold detective work by a team of archaeologists could solve this riddle from the sea...

As a particularly tempestuous New Year began to unfold, the dark wooden bow of an old shipwreck emerged from its sandy grave on the southern Oregon Coast.

At first, only a couple feet of the ship's hull and the top corners of a porthole were visible. But harsh winter storms unforgivingly pounded the seawall, eroding almost 30 feet of dune over a ten-week period.

With the sand washing away, more and more of the shipwreck returned from the grave. Now almost 30 feet of the bow of the old lumber schooner is visible showing two anchor holes, three portholes on each side, a large mast, antique wiring, and beds – also known as “racks.”

For months investigative minds began asking, “What was the name of this ship?” and “How did it end up buried in the sand on Coos Bay's North Spit?” and of course, “Where's the treasure?”

Solving this nautical mystery would require serious detective work by an interagency team of archaeologists. Thus did a team of scientists from the Bureau of Land Management, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, and the Coos County Maritime Museum come together to comb through historical photographs and newspaper articles to discover that the true identity of what was now being dubbed by locals “the Mystery Shipwreck” was, in fact, the George L. Olson, a lumber-carrying schooner built back in 1917.

“Once we put a current picture of the shipwreck next to a historical photograph of the Olson, we were able to say ‘Yup, that's it,’” said Steve Samuels, Archaeologist with the Coos Bay District. “The position of the portholes, the unique bolt pattern on the bow...they were all an exact match.”

The George L. Olson was built in San Francisco at the Stone Shipyard and was originally named the Ryder Hanify. At 223 feet long and nearly 44 feet wide, the ship was one of the largest wooden ships built to date at this

location. Then the George L. Olson worked as a lumber carrier in the Pacific Northwest for over 20 years, hauling 1.4 million board feet of lumber at a time.

The schooner's fate was sealed on a seemingly benign day in June of 1944 when it struck Coos Bay's North Jetty and drifted aground on a nearby rock. There were no casualties when the ship wrecked, but it was declared a total loss. The lumber cargo was salvaged over the next several months, and then in December 1944, the hulk of the George L. Olson was towed to sea and cut adrift with the intention that she beach on the North Spit.

Dune build-up over the next several years buried the wreck. Historical records indicate the ship was visible for a short time in 1946 and then again in 1960.

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For additional photos, a map of the shipwreck, and much more, check out the BLM Coos Bay Newsroom at: www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/newsroom

America's Multicultural Migration West: Finding History's Forgotten People

Story by Jill Moran

PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA PLANK

[Historic Black & White Photo of a Woman Holding a Baby]

In 1902, medical pioneer Dr. Justina Warren Ford (1871-1952) became Denver's first African American female physician.

[Black & White Reproduction of a Historic Newspaper Clipping Showing the Photo of a Man]

Escaping slavery via the Underground Railroad, Barney Ford (1822-1902) became one of the most successful businessmen in Colorado and was recognized nationally for his political and civil rights activism.

[Historic Black & White Photo of a Woman]

Possibly the first African American woman to cross the plains into Colorado during the Gold Rush, freed slave Clara Brown (1800 - 1885) became known for both her entrepreneurial success and her remarkable acts of charity.

IMAGES PROVIDED BY THE DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY WESTERN HISTORY COLLECTION

The great early migration to America's Western Frontier readily conjures up images of white American pioneers traveling by covered wagon into perilous and unknown territory, relying on rugged individualism, persistence, and sacrifice in search of a new life.

Films, stories, and even history books perpetuate this image – often at the expense of the critical contributions made by the diverse groups who made settlement of the West possible. In particular, the role of African Americans has remained widely underreported. But thanks to efforts by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Coppin State University, this deficiency is being remedied.

Dozens of individual accounts of African Americans settling the West have been uncovered in a recent publication produced by Coppin State University working in partnership with the BLM Division of Cultural and Paleontological Resources and Tribal Consultation. Entitled *Finding History's Forgotten People: The Presence of African Americans in the Settlement of Colorado, c. 1534 to 1954*, the publication is the result of months of extensive research revealing vast amounts of little known, yet highly valuable information concerning the role of African Americans in the development of the American West.

From grueling duties as participants in the earliest Westward expeditionary parties in the 16th century to remarkable acts of ingenuity and entrepreneurship in the following centuries, the stories of African Americans, both enslaved and free, provide a rich and necessary addition to the complete national narrative.

Many African Americans sought opportunity and equality in the budding communities of the West, often looking to farming and ranching as a means to prosperity. Frequently found in small numbers, these new Westerners organized rich cultural lives and created extensive social networks and church groups that helped develop their communities.

Not limited to rural areas, many African Americans also recognized and capitalized on the labor demands of Western cities and towns. By 1870, Denver, Colorado, had attracted a sizable black middle class to include a number of physicians and lawyers. In fact, Denver's first black female physician, Dr. Justina Warren Ford, arrived as early as 1902. And Dr. Ford's achievements were paralleled by equally enterprising black men and women whose vast contributions to the advancement of the West included prospecting, land management, and community development.

American history has often overlooked the critical contributions of many groups in settling and cultivating the American West. But the Coppin State University research project hopes to rectify this hole in history by bringing to light the role of African Americans in areas such as homesteading, mining, cattle-ranching, and entrepreneurship. In this area, Coppin State has uncovered advancements made by early African Americans on the BLM's western public lands. And this research has done much to help the BLM create a more inclusive Western settlement narrative that includes the role of African Americans in the shaping of this country.

In its first phase, the Coppin State research team focused their attention on the State of Colorado. The team detailed the lives and struggles of individual African Americans who faced and overcame obstacles and, through successes as well as failures, contributed to early Colorado society.

In addition to uncovering our American history, Finding History's Forgotten People also outlines the commitment of the BLM's Diversity Executive Orders Program to advance equal opportunity in higher education, to enhance access to Federal programs,

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For more information on "Finding History's Forgotten People," contact BLM Historian Michael Thomas, (202) 452-5192.

For more information on the BLM's Diversity Executive Orders Program, contact Steve Shafran in the BLM's Office of Civil Rights, (202) 254-3315.

A Historic Promise, A Plan for the Ages

Story by Jerry Hubbard & Michael Campbell

[Illustration of a Forest, a Mountain, a Train, a Land Surveyor, a Fisherman, a Fish, a Woman, a Girl, a BLM Ranger, and a Truck Carrying Lumber]

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID GARCIA

“...living up to our mandate – a sustained yield supporting sustainable communities and producing a sustainable habitat.” – Ed Shepard, State Director, OR/WA BLM

[Historic Black & White Photo of an Oregon & California Train]

Oregon & California here I come, right back where I started from...

[Image of a Map of Western Oregon Highlighting the “Checkerboard” O&C Lands]

Western Oregon’s O&C Lands are often called the “Checkerboard” due to their odd/even sectional land divisions

Forestry is just one of those things that conjures up very definite opinions, thoughts, and memories.

Everything from forestry’s history and traditions to its science to the pros and cons of different sustainable plans lends to an entire laundry list of topics for Oregonians to pick apart and put back together again. And should you combine forestry with land-use planning? Then you’ve got yourself a very powerful topic guaranteed to inspire some polite and not so polite discussions.

The BLM’s own planning handbook helps us spark these discussions, reminding us that “the process is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment.” Sometimes the planning process goes ahead, well, “as planned.” And sometimes it just doesn’t. The recently released final Environmental Impact Statement for western Oregon is truly an example where the process has worked – and worked well.

Way back in 1866, Congress established a land grant to promote the completion of the Oregon and California Railroad between Portland, Oregon, and San Francisco, California. And since 2003, the BLM has been hard at work on the most comprehensive planning analysis ever completed on BLM-managed lands in western Oregon. The recently released planning analysis is supported by the latest biological studies, updated resource data, and new modeling tools that have been used to support the plan’s decision-making.

The majority of the BLM lands in western Oregon fall under the direction of the Oregon & California (O&C) Lands Act of 1937. Established by Congress, this Act mandates that the BLM manage these western Oregon lands for permanent forest production in conformity with the principles of sustained yield. Specifically, these forests contribute to the economic stability of local communities and industries and provide other benefits such as recreation and management to watersheds and stream flows.

It should come as no surprise that the O&C Lands Act of 1937 has been responsible for a truly unique relationship between the BLM and the 18 counties in western Oregon that rely on a sustainable flow of timber and the sharing of timber-related receipts to fund services such as libraries, law enforcement, public health services, and roads.

While the BLM's relationships with western Oregon counties have withstood the test of time, other facets of our land management framework have not. The BLM's current land management framework is rooted in the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. And an oft-forgotten fact is that the Northwest Forest Plan had dual purposes: to both maintain the late-successional/old growth ecosystem as well as to provide a predictable and sustainable supply of timber.

Over the last 14 years, the BLM has done a great job maintaining the late-successional / old-growth ecosystem but has fallen far short in providing a predictable, sustainable supply of timber production to the local economies. Timber production under the Northwest Forest Plan has yielded less than 50 percent of the predicted harvest level. But with the release of the Western Oregon Plan Revision's (WOPR) final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the BLM can begin to fulfill its historic promise and restore this long-standing commitment to the counties.

In the final WOPR EIS, the estimated allowable sale quantity (ASQ) from the timber management areas would be 502 million board feet per year. Sale receipts generated from the harvest of the ASQ and thinning in other land use allocations (86 million board feet per year for the first decade of the plan) are estimated to

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Did You Know?

The plan would defer from harvest nearly all older and more structurally-complex forests for 15 years, which would provide additional habitat for the northern spotted owl while a strategy to deal with invading barred owls is being developed.

Did You Know?

In 1950, forests on O&C lands contained a standing volume of greater than 50 billion board feet. Fifty years later – after selling 45 billion board feet – the standing volume is now over 70 billion board feet, in part because of sustained yield BLM forest management practices.

Did You Know?

The BLM's modeling tools indicate that harvest levels in the final WOPR EIS are sustainable for no less than 400 years.

A Winter Wonderland of...Green?

The BLM can help you dream of a “Green” Holiday Season!

Story by Matt Christenson

[Photo of an Icy Pine Tree and Bough]

[Photo of a Snow Skier Next to a Pine Tree]

I sing the immortal bard (Bing Crosby – not the other guy) who once crooned, “I’m Dreaming of a...Green Holiday.” Or something like that. Ah, sweet memories. My whole family together. Nestled around a roaring fire of patchouli incense wands. Passing ‘round presents of gently-used dog bandanas and sky-blue Parisian night suits. All the while soaking in the warm, warm glow of knowing that Phish finally got back together. Ah, Phish...

Oh, hello.

Didn’t you see there. I don’t know about you, but my family loves to celebrate being “Green” this time of year. “Green” as in helping the environment. And also “Green” as in greenbacks. Moolah. Dough-re-me? (Psst...money.) We’ve long known the BLM’s not-so-secret secret that makes both our public lands and our private pocketbooks very happy each holiday season.

And can you believe we’re already deep into the holiday season? Who am I kidding? Of course you can. We’ve all been reminded it’s the holiday season since, like, August. (When did stores start selling us holiday lights alongside back-to-school gear?) And if the big box oracles are to be believed, we’re hurtling (hurtling!) towards Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, Yule, Winter Solstice, and all the many wonderful holiday celebrations!

So if you and your family find yourselves looking at how you’ll balance your budget, buy gifts, and perhaps even decorate your home with a festive tree, then we’ve got a suggestion for you.

Did you know you can cut your very own tree on public lands? “’Tis true, I have gone here and there,” to quote the immortal bard (not Bing Crosby – the other guy this time). The Pacific Northwest is famous for our naturally-grown, untrimmed trees that grow wild and healthy across the public lands. Yet you may ask, “if they’re so beautiful, why should I cut one down?”

Great question! Ecologically, one of the reasons why the BLM makes permits available and affordable to families in the Northwest is because our environment actually benefits from thinning targeted forest areas. And your cutting down a tree can improve the health of our forests by ensuring our groves don’t become overly thick and thus more susceptible to fire or disease.

(But, um, wasn’t something said about our pocketbooks also being happy?)

Indeed it was.

Not to get overly “late night infomercial” on you, but how much would you pay to choose your own gorgeous, natural tree in the wild? \$25? \$35?

Actually, the average price of buying a pre-cut tree from a parking lot will run you at least \$40 – and this price may rise to be even more expensive this season due to gas prices and rising transportation costs.

So what’s it cost to cut your own on public lands? Five bucks, my friend. That’s right. The BLM has historically charged \$5 for a permit to cut your own beautiful tree. Cheap.

Plus it’s easy! You just drop by your local BLM office with an Abe Lincoln in hand, and your friendly, neighborhood BLM rep will give you all the necessary paperwork along with a local map where you can cut your tree. The BLM also provides helpful hints to assist you with cutting and preserving a great tree. Just keep in mind that weather and road conditions can change quickly so be prepared for your outdoor adventure.

Then you can head out on your trip to bring home any tree that’s 12 feet high or under. Wait, 12 feet? That’s taller than a one-story house! Remember that a tree which seems small in the forest may quickly become too large for your living room...

How’s all that sound? You can have a little adventure. And you’re doing something that’s both good for the environment as well as your wallet. Hey, maybe your family can even make it a new tradition this holiday season.

And speaking of families, thanks for dropping by, but I better get back to my own. It’s time to stoke the fire. I think our patchouli incense wands are just about to go out.

For information on permits where you live, please visit blm.gov/or and select the BLM office nearest you.

District Info:

The Coos Bay District Office sells holiday tree permits from the day after Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve. Please call their main line at (541) 756-0100 for more info.

The Klamath Falls Resource Area begins selling permits on Nov 24. Their point of contact is Joan Cole at (541) 883-6916.

The Roseburg District opens the season selling holiday tree permits on Monday, Nov 24 as well. Rebecca Garner is the point of contact at (541) 440-4930.

If your local community BLM office isn’t listed here, check out blm.gov/or to get started! Contact your local BLM office, ask questions, and please have a safe holiday!

A Shipwreck Rises from the Grave

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Before our mystery ship became the George L. Olson, it was harbored in France where it hauled lumber under its previous name: Le Gabriel

“Obviously, the pattern has been for the ship to appear, become buried, and then re-appear for a short time,” explained Samuels.

Starting in December 2007, visitors from across the country flocked to the North Spit in record numbers to see the ship, peering through portholes and taking pictures. Over 10,000 people have visited the shipwreck since it (re)appeared during this year’s winter storms.

“There is a strong connection to the shipping and lumbering industry in this area,” explained Samuels. “This shipwreck is a historical representation of a significant portion of the area’s heritage and people are excited to see it,” continued Samuels.

Now the BLM, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Coos County Maritime Museum will continue their joint effort to document the ship and its unique story – before it again becomes buried by the sands of time.

Megan Harper wrote about the New Carissa in our last issue, making her one of BLM’s rare experts about our more “nautical” public lands.

[Photo of a Shipwreck on a Beach]

Winter winds uncover the mighty jaws of time

America’s Multicultural Migration West

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“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” – Harriet Tubman

and to promote the development of new partnerships. Managed by the BLM Office of Civil Rights, this highly-lauded program encourages BLM managers and employees to identify products and services and to consider how their program may work with a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) such as Coppin State University to meet those needs.

Under the program, BLM managers and employees may submit proposals to the Office of Civil Rights providing a description of their project and the proposed partnership. More and more offices within the BLM are taking advantage of this momentous opportunity. And selection of these partnerships is fast becoming a competitive process where the Office of Civil Rights matches the requesting BLM office with a qualified MSI.

Finding History's Forgotten People has demonstrated that this arrangement creates a true "win-win" situation. After a proposal is approved, centrally-funded seed money may be awarded to launch the program.

Furthermore, this partnership supports professional development and curriculum at the MSIs while reaffirming the BLM's dedication to America's rich history of diversity.

A Historic Promise, A Plan for the Ages

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provide \$75 million per year to local counties. Under this plan, the BLM estimates that the annual receipts generated from these timber harvests will provide approximately 85 percent of the average BLM county payments for the next 20 years.

These receipts can help fund many county activities to include public safety, health and community services, education, transportation, and libraries. In addition to the receipts, the harvest of timber under the plan would also provide new jobs in the timber industry that would ripple throughout the western Oregon economy and bring the BLM a long way toward being a significant contributor to these important local county services.

In the end, all revised plans will comply with all applicable Federal laws to include the O&C Lands Act of 1937, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. And the ultimate plan includes habitat, water, and, yes, timber.

Did You Know?

The majority (70 percent) of the older & more structurally complex forests in BLM's western Oregon lands are within areas not subject to harvest in the proposed plan.

[Image of a Waterfall in the Forest]

Last Issue's Back Cover!

Last issue, we ran a contest to write a caption for our BackCountry photo. The winning submission that made us both laugh and think came from resident IT Expert, Tracy Uemura. Well done, Tracy!

[Historic Black & White Photo of a Truck Whose Bed is Overloaded by Lumber Causing it to do a "Wheelie"]

Newsflash: Statute Of Limitations Runs Out on Earliest Purported E.L.F. Attack

PHOTOS BY BLM STAFF

BackCountry

[Photo of Two Fire Fighters Pretending to Drink Water Dropped by a Helicopter into a Funnel in their Hands]

“Say Cheese!”

What do our hard-working firefighters do when they get a quick break in the action?

Well, I can tell you it’s definitely thirsty work. And back in September of 1987 at a wildfire near Yreka, California, I grabbed a shot of my fellow Interagency Strike Team members Jim “Jaime” Lecomte (Salem BLM) and Terry Vernon (Fremont National Forest) with a pretty lucky, right place at the right time, one-in-a-million photo of a helicopter bucket drop.

That was a cool drink.

It’s a good thing I got the photo as this was the last bucket drop of the day. Plus Jaime kept telling me to hurry. Seems a drop of motor oil had collected at the bottom of the funnel – and it was just about to drop into Jaime’s mouth...

Michael Allen, Salem BLM,
Tillamook Resource Area