

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BLM



BLM's 2006–2007
Volunteer Annual Report



Letter from the Director



Dear BLM Volunteers:

It is my pleasure to share with you the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Volunteer Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006. This publication presents highlights of a winning year for our BLM volunteers: working individually, in teams, and in partnerships, for days and even months at a stretch, you

contributed more than 1.3 million hours of time and talent in 2006. That's equivalent to the work of more than 700 full-time agency employees.

In these days of pervasive technology and sedentary pursuits, BLM finds itself on the leading edge of one of America's most pressing challenges: how to reconnect our nation's children with their natural environment. Luckily, we are blessed with 258 million acres of BLM public lands, which—through our "Take It Outside: Connect with Your Public Lands" initiative—can offer our children premier opportunities for learning, recreation, physical exercise, tranquility, and a renewed sense of awe. And of course, BLM's mission work—improving the health of forests and rangelands, preserving native species, guarding our fragile biological and heritage resources, supporting economic activities through our forestry, grazing, and energy and minerals programs—is always at the core of what we do.

With such a full plate, it's obvious that BLM staff cannot possibly carry out all the day-to-day agency responsibilities and pursue new initiatives alone. We gratefully rely on the help of interested citizens such as you, who believe in our mission, who love the public lands, and who are willing to volunteer time and energy in a spirit of cooperation. We think you'll be amazed—at yourselves!—when you read about the BLM volunteer accomplishments described on the next few pages. Whether in the short term or over the long run, what you do *matters*.

As humorist Will Rogers once said, "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." Thanks to our outstanding volunteers, that's one thing BLM doesn't have to worry about.

Jim Hughes

Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management

Volunteer Activity for Fiscal Years 2001-2006					
Year	Total Hours	Value to BLM (\$)	Work Years ²	Value of 1 Work Hour (\$) ³	Value of 1 Work Year (\$)
2006	1,346,674	25,277,121 ¹	748	18.77	33,786
2005	1,292,859	23,323,176	718	18.04	32,472
2004	1,506,365	26,436,706	837	17.55	31,590
2003	1,553,014	26,696,311	863	17.19	30,942
2002	1,231,245	20,364,792	684	16.54	29,772
2001	1,119,038	17,960,560	622	16.05	28,890

¹ The 2006 volunteer program was accomplished at a cost of \$1,008,536, for a return of about \$25.06 for every \$1.00 expended.

² 1 work year = 1,800 hours

³ The value of volunteer contributions is calculated annually by Independent Sector (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, Fiscal Year 2006			
State	Hours	Value to BLM (\$) ¹	Work Years ²
Alaska	44,376	832,938	25
Arizona	150,884	2,832,093	84
California	227,775	4,275,337	127
Colorado	210,422	3,949,621	117
Eastern States	25,939	486,875	14
Idaho	38,398	720,730	21
Montana/Dakotas	40,309	756,600	22
Nevada	93,218	1,749,702	52
New Mexico	146,962	2,758,477	82
Oregon/Washington	280,789	5,270,410	156
Utah	54,354	1,020,225	30
Wyoming	33,295	624,947	18
National Interagency Fire Center	175	3,285	<1
Totals³	1,346,674	25,277,121	748

¹ Based on a rate of \$18.77 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org)

² 1 work year = 1,800 hours

³ Totals may be slightly off as a result of rounding

BLM's Volunteers

VOLUNTEERS

BLM is privileged to have a truly vital volunteer corps assisting with agency work. In Fiscal Year 2006 alone, BLM's "second workforce" contributed more than \$25 million in services to the public lands. From campground hosting to river patrols, from cultural resource protection to trail rehab—the contributions of our volunteers and partners have shown that real dedication can translate into a lot of on-the-ground action.

Our volunteers and partners see jobs that need to be done: graffiti that needs scrubbing, weeds that need pulling, debris that needs carting. But seeing grime is sometimes the easy part. Our volunteers' greatest gift may be their ability to see the sparkle beneath—the damaged habitat that can again be a home, the young visitor who may grow to be a devoted steward. When they spot potential gems, our volunteers and partners do the difficult work of polishing them into radiance. They *act*.

But beyond their day-to-day hard work on the public lands, our volunteers also help BLM by connecting the agency with local communities and forging alliances with those who live most closely with the resources under BLM's care. As explosive population growth in the western U.S. places ever-increasing demands on public lands, such community connections become all the more crucial.

Our volunteer force is so large, and our partner list so long, that, unfortunately, it's not possible to mention individuals in the pages of this report. Instead, a list of the many partner organizations cited for special acknowledgement by our State and Field Offices is available on the BLM Volunteer Program website at www.blm.gov/volunteer/partners.

National Volunteer Totals for Fiscal Year 2006			
Program	Volunteer Hours ¹	Donated/Hosted Worker Hours ¹	Total Hours
Recreation	488,863	58,226	547,089
Biological Resources	113,123	49,790	162,913
Wild Horses and Burros	92,509	85,192	177,701
Cadastral Survey	5,568	0	5,568
Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas	74,474	367	74,841
Riparian/Watershed	20,399	9,602	30,001
Cultural/Historical	126,984	10,234	137,218
Minerals	8,194	707	8,901
Support Services	46,441	27,412	73,853
Environmental Education/ Interpretation	64,185	23,052	87,236
Other	28,671	12,681	41,352
Total²	1,069,411	277,263	1,346,674
Funds Expended²	\$735,328	\$273,209	\$1,008,537
Value of Work^{2,3}	\$20,072,844	\$5,204,277	\$25,277,121

¹ As used in the rest of this report, the term "volunteer" includes "donated/hosted workers." Volunteers work for BLM without being paid; they donate their time and, in some instances, equipment and money to assist BLM with a variety of jobs. Donated/hosted workers, by contrast, are paid by another organization but work for BLM at no charge to BLM. Donated/hosted workers accounted for about 20 percent of total volunteer time in 2006.

² Based on a rate of \$18.77 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org)

³ Totals may be slightly off as a result of rounding.



Selected Highlights by BLM Program

RECREATION

GLENNALLEN, AK: At the Canyon Rapids Portage along the Gulkana National Wild River, American Hiking Society volunteers used their log-hewing skills to build a boardwalk across impassable areas.

LAKE HAVASU, AZ: In 2006, BLM's Lake Havasu Field Office hosted America's first underwater National Public Lands Day project. Volunteers, including Boy Scouts, students, and local community members and businesses, gathered and recycled both trash and treasures from Lake Havasu.

BISHOP, CA: Twenty-five Whitman College students partnered with BLM, the Friends of the Inyo, and the Wilderness Society to rehabilitate and camouflage a 2,000-foot hill-climb up to picturesque Conway Summit, a Sierra highway pass.

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO: Volunteers teamed up to remove nearly eight tons of garbage from the Fravert Reservoir and JQS Trail areas. The annual clean-up is a cooperative effort among BLM, High Country 4-Wheelers, White River National Forest, and a host of local businesses and off-highway vehicle groups.

GRAND JUNCTION, CO: Colorado Plateau Mountain Biking Association volunteers contributed many hours to layout, design, maintenance, and patrolling of BLM trails. They also completed a trail project in the Bangs Canyon area for National Trails Day.

(ES) LORTON, VA: Volunteers, including Girl Scouts, assisted BLM with building and clearing new hiking and horseback riding trails and constructing a campfire pit at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area.

TWIN FALLS, ID: The North Rim 2006 Great American Cleanup involved volunteers from the local community and the Southern Idaho Off-Road Association (SIORA). Two large containers were filled with several tons of trash, and over 200 tires were removed from the public lands.

BILLINGS, MT: On National Public Lands Day, volunteers from the 3-Rivers Back Country Horsemen and the Montana Youth Challenge contributed more than 150 hours of labor to clean up an old miner's cabin and build a horse corral for public use under BLM's Recreational Cabin Rental Program.

CARSON CITY, NV: On Earth Day 2006, BLM participated in the Great Truckee Meadows Community Cleanup; fifty volunteers contributed 320 hours to clean up over 130 cubic yards of debris and more than one dozen abandoned vehicles as part of a larger Earth Day cleanup in the Reno area.

(NM) AMARILLO, TX: At the high-visitation Cross Bar Cooperative Management Area—the only BLM lands in the entire state of Texas—volunteers contributed more than 15,000 hours of work in closing and rehabilitating old roads.

CEDAR CITY, UT: On National Public Lands Day, volunteers performed a cleanup at the Three Peaks Special Recreation Management Area and planted trees and constructed a fence at a mountain-bike trailhead.

CASPER, WY: BLM and the Casper Self-Help Center teamed up in the "Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education" (CORE) program for local youth, organizing several two- to four-day trips to BLM recreation sites for volunteer projects and environmental education programs.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ANCHORAGE, AK: A summer volunteer at the Campbell Creek Science Center gave 200 hours of her time to transform the area around the Center entrance from a patch of weeds to a robust garden.

YUMA, AZ: Boy Scouts, including Eagle Scouts, assisted in the mechanical removal of the invasive weed *Brassica tournefortii* from several areas in the Field Office's jurisdiction. And as part of an Environmental Science curriculum, students from Arizona Western College removed buffelgrass (*Pennisetum ciliare*) from the Yuma Conservation Garden.

McINNIS CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA (NCA), CO: Thirty-one members of the Tamarisk Coalition (Mesa State Task Force) volunteered 250 hours to help eradicate tamarisk in Devils Canyon, an important hiking area in the NCA.



BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

(ES) BALDWIN COUNTY, AL: Over 70 local volunteers participated in a dune restoration project on one of the Fort Morgan Beach Tracts. The BLM-Jackson Field Office partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to host a hands-on class in reestablishing dunes and dune habitat. Approximately a half-mile of sand fence was constructed around plantings of sea oats and other native species.

SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NCA, ID: On National Public Lands Day, volunteers and NCA staff began work on a project to improve habitat for the sensitive yellow-billed cuckoo and other birds and mammals.

COEUR D'ALENE, ID: During "Eagle Watch Week," volunteers helped monitor birds along Lake Coeur d'Alene, provided information to visitors, and ensured that spotting scopes offered the best possible views of eagles in nearby trees.

MILES CITY, MT: Volunteers helped eradicate invasive species on Howrey Island. The project involved spraying weeds and tree stumps and removing debris around Russian olive tree stumps to prevent weed re-growth.

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT, UT: Student Conservation Association workers and Wilderness Volunteers helped to remove invasive trees along the tributaries of the Escalante River. Teams were responsible for surveying, monitoring, and treating Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), tamarisk (*Tamarisk ramosissima*), and Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*). Overall, the crew was successful in covering 970 acres in eight different drainages.



WILD HORSES & BURROS

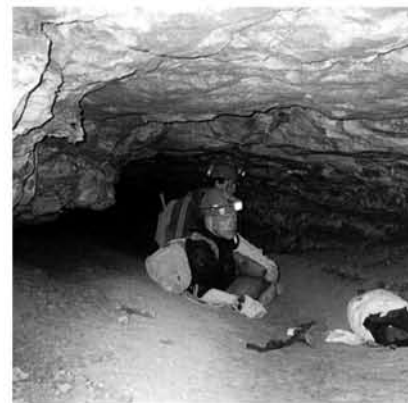
GRAND JUNCTION, CO: Friends of the Mustang contributed 3,758 hours to the management of the Little Bookcliffs Wild Horse Herd.

KREMMLING, CO: Ten volunteers from the University of Missouri's Alternative Spring Break program devoted 160 hours to maintenance and fencing jobs in the Spring Creek Wild Horse Herd Management Area.

BATTLE MOUNTAIN, NV: Volunteers helped BLM conduct a wild horse gather and on-site adoption by contributing 240 hours to duties ranging from stuffing envelopes to handling wild horses to helping BLM staff freemark horses and draw blood.

(NM) MOORE FIELD STATION, OK: Inmates from the James Crabtree Correctional Center in Oklahoma and the Hutchinson Correctional Facility in Kansas worked to gentle and train wild horses, which were then offered for adoption. Inmate volunteers represented a significant share of the over 44,700 hours of BLM volunteer work conducted in Oklahoma in 2006.

MEDFORD, OR: For a February wild horse adoption in Grants Pass, volunteers assisted with advertising and shared adoption success stories with the public. Other volunteers supported the actual auction, acting as runners, monitoring safety concerns for both horses and the public, inspecting trailers, assisting in the loading of horses, and directing traffic.



WILDERNESS

GUNNISON GORGE, CO: Volunteers assisted BLM river rangers with Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping and inventory of campsites, gathering data on use impacts, erosion, and weed invasions. BLM uses the data and photos to evaluate progress in protecting wilderness values.

CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NM, CO: Volunteer Wilderness Study Area (WSA) monitors regularly reported on conditions in the Monument WSAs.

BURNS, OR: Nine volunteer work parties from the Oregon Natural Desert Association, Sierra Club, and Wilderness Volunteers accomplished a variety of projects in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management Protection Area, including 10.75 miles of fence removal and rolling of another three miles of downed fence.



RIPARIAN/WATERSHED

GUNNISON GORGE NCA, CO: Gunnison High School students built a new trailhead in the NCA. The project included installing a gate and pedestrian walk-through to protect the Gorge's wilderness qualities, riparian areas, and trout fishery from the impacts of motorized vehicle use.

RIPARIAN/WATERSHED

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO: A New Mexico Tech doctoral student has been conducting a Saguache Creek water quality study from which BLM is receiving results and recognition as a contributing agency.

(ES) LORTON, VA: Many partners and volunteers participated in the 19th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, during which over 208 tons of trash and 2,134 tires were collected.

MISSOULA, MT: The Blackfoot Home and Community Club provided over 100 volunteers to clean up litter on the twelve miles of the Blackfoot River under BLM management. In one day, volunteers collected several thousand aluminum cans, numerous bottles, shoes, hats, flat inner tubes, and one pickup-truck-load of steel, car parts, and other debris.



CULTURAL/HISTORICAL

GLENNALLEN, AK: Student Conservation Association archaeologists helped to survey prehistoric campsites and observation sites used by ancient hunters in the Tangle Lakes Archaeology District. Volunteers also documented the remains of Gold Rush-era structures.

KINGMAN, AZ: Arizona Site Stewards and other volunteers assisted a BLM Archaeologist in documenting cultural sites in the Black Mountains. Documentation included detailed drawings of artifacts and identification of less obvious features of the sites.

LAS CIENEGAS NCA, AZ: On National Public Lands Day, the Empire Ranch Foundation hosted its annual Roundup Open House and Western Art Show in the Las Cienegas NCA. This year's event, with the theme "Western Ranch Life: Women on the Empire," featured special exhibits on the women who have made ranches into working enterprises and comfortable homes. Volunteers donated over 2,000 hours of work to prepare and staff the event at the historic ranch complex.



PALM SPRINGS/SOUTH COAST, CA: On National Public Lands Day, local BLM staff and volunteers with both BLM and Old Town San Diego State Historic Park staged a living history re-enactment on the exploration and surveying of western public lands.

CARRIZO PLAIN NM, CA: The Carrizo Plain National Monument Native American Advisory Committee provided volunteer consulting services to the Monument. The committee, comprising Chumash, Yokuts, and Salinan Tribal representatives, were active participants in the development of interpretive trail signage, brochures, and cultural exhibits, and in assisting with public tours.



CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NM, CO: Monument volunteers worked to monitor the condition of cultural resource sites; monitor wilderness study areas; and reclaim areas impacted by new unauthorized trails. Site Stewards helped to preserve cultural resources through education, community involvement, and partnerships. Alternative Spring Break students rerouted and reclaimed user-made trails to protect impacted cultural resources.

KREMMLING, CO: University of Wyoming students continued research at a square-mile site once used by Paleolndians for hunting, foraging and camping. Documented stone artifacts, numbering more than 35,000, include projectile points and flake tools.

(ES) MILWAUKEE, WI: BLM-Eastern States established partnerships with the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe and the 1854 Treaty Authority, an inter-Tribal natural resource management agency, to manage and protect archaeological and Tribal resources within Minnesota's Lake Vermilion Recreation Area. Forty volunteers from two Minnesota Tribal communities have completed Heritage Training sessions to enable them to provide BLM with monitoring reports and condition assessments for islands hosting cultural resources.



BILLINGS, MT: Volunteers inventoried 1,000 acres in south-central Montana and recorded three National Register-eligible sites. Other volunteers served as Site Stewards, monitoring conditions at important rock art sites both within and outside the area.

TAOS, NM: BLM worked with the non-profit Vecinos del Rio on a two-week petroglyph recording project on public lands on Mesa Prieta. Vecinos del Rio student volunteers used GPS, digital photography, and extensive written documentation to record about 45 panels of petroglyphs that were discovered during the inventory.



CULTURAL/HISTORICAL

LAKEVIEW, OR: A Central Washington University volunteer conducted determinations of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places in the Klamath Wild and Scenic River Canyon. Eighteen historic and prehistoric sites within the canyon will be assessed for eligibility as a National Register Archaeological District.

NEWCASTLE, WY: A student volunteer devoted an average of four hours per day to converting original handwritten field records for Whoopup Canyon petroglyphs into electronic form. The 963 pages of detailed records include descriptions of 102 petroglyph panels as well as condition assessments.



ENERGY/MINERALS

FOLSOM, CA: Folsom's mineral program volunteers worked with BLM minerals staff on the Boston Mine mercury cleanup project. For their efforts, they were presented with the Department of the Interior's Environmental Achievement Award.

BAKERSFIELD, CA: BLM and the Buena Vista Museum of Natural History initiated a program of earth science field trips to points of ecologic, geologic, paleontological, and historic interest throughout central California. Twelve volunteers conducted six weekend field trips aimed at persons of high school age and older. Each trip addressed a full spectrum of environmental and land management topics.



ENVIRONMENTAL ED./INTERPRETATION

BARSTOW, CA: The Desert Discovery Center brought nearly 3,000 local elementary and intermediate students to the Center for half-day and whole-day programs on biology, botany, "Leave No Trace" ethics, and the "Closing the Loop" curriculum.

(ES) LORTON, VA: BLM and the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia initiated a series of monthly nature walks for the public at Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area. During these popular weekend walks, experienced naturalists shared their expertise with the public on a variety of topics, from migratory and neotropical birds to wetland wildlife species.



OTHER

FAIRBANKS, AK: Student Conservation Association workers helped Federal staff at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center by providing highly appreciated customer service, including provision of information about visitor safety and resource protection.

GUNNISON, CO: One volunteer assisted with abandoned mined lands surveys by identifying mining features (tunnels, flowing water, etc.) and determining whether or not the features were on BLM lands.



SPECIAL EVENTS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE" NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS—BLM presented seven "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Awards—six to individuals and groups and one to a two-person BLM employee team—for outstanding volunteer service or volunteer program leadership on the public lands in 2006. The volunteers honored (with the locations of their work) were: Arizona Archaeological Society – Ajo Chapter, Phoenix, AZ; David Burton, eastern CA/northwestern NV; Steve Smith, Ridgecrest, CA; Alan Robinson, Cañon City, CO; Chris Noble, Las Cruces, NM; Mike Satter, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, UT; and BLM employees Ann Boucher and Sandra Padilla, MT. For photos of winners and more information on their accomplishments, please visit www.doi.gov/news/07_News_Releases/070511.pdf.

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA AWARDS—The Take Pride in America awards ceremony was held in September in Washington, DC. BLM was represented among the honorees by Tom Pogacnik, California Wild Horse and Burro Program Manager, who won the "Federal Land Manager" award. In addition, two BLM partner groups, the Student Conservation Association and Arizona's Black Canyon Trail Coalition, were recognized in the "Non-Profit Organization" category.

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY—In 2006, National Public Lands Day engaged the services of an estimated 100,000 volunteers working on projects in all 50 states and several locations overseas. Of these numbers, BLM provided nearly 10,000 volunteers at 109 sites in 19 states, generating more than \$1 million in enhancements to BLM public lands and facilities.



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BLM's 2006-2007 Volunteer Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of BLM-Alaska volunteer Ron Dettmer.

For more information on the BLM Volunteer Program, please visit our website at www.blm.gov/volunteer.

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