

## Shepherd Ah Nei Reopening Pleases OHV Riders

Mary Apple, MSO

They had almost given up hope. Since April of 2004, Shepherd Ah Nei, a popular OHV (off-highway vehicle) area near Billings had been closed, and it looked like it might stay that way for a long time to come. But OHV riders got some unexpected good news in late September. The area would reopen in mid-October.

Perhaps some history is in order. In late 2002, an adjacent landowner sued the Bureau of Land Management over the noise, dust, and resource damage resulting from OHV use at the Shepherd Ah Nei OHV area north of Billings. In 2004, the court ordered that part of the area be closed until the Billings Field Office analyzed the environmental effects of OHV use. Because the area has no interior fences, the BLM had to close the entire 1,000-acre area to ensure there were no violations of the court order.

After a year of public meetings, on-site visits with OHV riders, and inventorying and mapping the area, the field office released its environmental analysis and travel plan for the area in May 2005. Plans to re-open the area and implement the travel plan came to a halt when the same adjacent landowner appealed the plan to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) and also asked for a stay of the decision, meaning the area couldn't reopen until the IBLA ruled on the appeal, a process which usually takes several years.

The OHV riders began to believe the area would never reopen. But Lynn Anderson, Billings Field Office outdoor recreation planner, didn't stop working on her plan. With the help of volunteers, including the Montana Conservation Corps and the Families for Outdoor Recreation, Anderson began closing and reclaiming trails which paralleled other routes or were prone to erosion. They built an information kiosk in the parking area with donated materials.

In late September, the IBLA lifted its stay. The OHV community was ecstatic, and plans for



Young riders enjoy the newly reopened Shepherd Ah Nei OHV area. Photo by Lynn Anderson

the reopening moved into high gear. Around 50 people showed up for a work day a week before the scheduled opening in mid-October. They completed several major projects including the installation of signs and barriers to permanently close six acres; the reconstruction of the parking lot fence; installation of permanent closures on about three miles of trail; and the creation of a young riders' area next to the parking lot. A second volunteer work day was held in late October. Anderson also established a 24-hour hotline so riders can find out if wet weather or fire restrictions are temporarily restricting use.

The IBLA still has to rule on the appeal. Meanwhile, Anderson says a sense of ownership is growing among the volunteers who helped with the many projects and they, in turn, are helping to ensure that other OHV riders act responsibly. The BLM plans to institute a permit system in 2006 with all funds going into maintenance and operation of the area.

Anderson says that working on the plan, interacting with the OHV community, and finally seeing everyone's efforts pay off has been the highlight of her career. Several OHV riders have thanked her for the BLM not giving up on the area and just leaving it closed. "Watching the families ride through the gate on opening day was a truly rewarding experience."

We send warmest wishes to Marty and Jerry, our retiring state director and associate. Both with the Montana/Dakotas BLM for about 3 years, their tenures were both characterized by strong and able leadership, and good humor to the end. Farewell. We'll miss you both.



Jerry Meredith, BLM Montana/Dakotas associate state director, walked quietly out the side door on September 1, hopped in his car and drove away toward retirement after a 34-year career with BLM. Jerry's zest for life, work and people will be missed throughout the organization. In honor of his distinguished career, Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton recognized him with a Meritorious Service Award, noting, "His career in BLM has been marked by his absolute integrity, unfailing honesty, superb leadership, and an unmatched enthusiasm for the job itself and the people he serves with." We wish him and his wife, Kathy, the best in their new life in Utah, near their four children and nine grandchildren.



Marty Ott, Montana/Dakotas state director since January 2003, retired on October 2, after a 36-year career with BLM and the National Park Service. He and his wife, Eileen, will settle near Kanab, Utah. BLM's national director, Kathleen Clarke, wrote of Marty, "You'll be missed for your good humor, your eloquence, your hard work, for the high standard of performance that you set. You'll be missed for your keen intellect, the wisdom you brought to the job each day, your accessibility, and your ability to inspire others to work a little harder, stretch a little more, and give something that they might not have known they had. You'll be missed in countless other ways, but as a genuinely modest man, you'd also be the last one to acknowledge it."



*They proceeded on . . .*

## Winter 1805 -1806



### December 25

An entire continent between them and home, the expedition celebrates Christmas in its new quarters, Fort Clatsop, named for a neighboring Indian tribe. The captains hand out handkerchiefs and the last of the expedition's tobacco supply as presents.

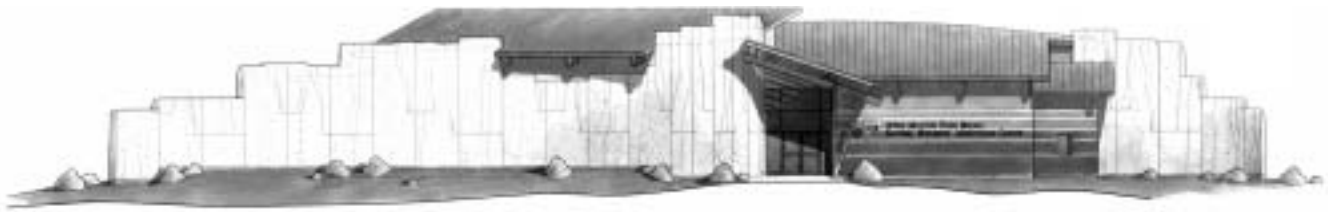
### January 1

In his journal entry, Lewis exhibits the homesickness that seems to afflict everyone during the rainy winter, during which there are only 12 days in which it doesn't rain. "Nothing worthy of notice" soon replaces "we proceeded on" as the most common phrase used by the diarists.

### January 4

In the East, President Jefferson welcomes a delegation of Missouri, Oto, Arikara, and Yankton Sioux chiefs who had met Lewis and Clark more than a year earlier. Jefferson thanks them for helping the expedition and tells them of his hope "that we may all live together as one household." The chiefs respond with praise for the explorers, but doubts about whether Jefferson's other "white children" will keep his word.

(source: [www.PBS.org](http://www.PBS.org))



## Partners Play Key Role in New Interpretive Center

*Craig Flentie, Lewistown Field Office*

Construction of the Interpretive Center of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument took another step forward recently when the BLM's Lewistown Field Office, the City of Fort Benton and the River and Plains Society signed a memorandum of understanding clarifying roles and responsibilities for maintaining and operating the center.

The City of Fort Benton and the River and Plains Society have been "remarkable partners" in making this facility a reality. They have also stepped up to help with maintenance and operations needs such as grounds maintenance and staffing when the center opens.

The new interpretive center is currently under construction in Fort Benton, Montana, and is scheduled to open in mid-summer 2006.



Fort Benton Mayor Rick Morris signs the maintenance and operation memorandum of understanding as Lewistown Field Manager June Bailey and Jack Lepley of the River and Plains Society look on. *Photo by Craig Flentie*

## BLM ASSISTS WITH EAGLE BANDING PROJECT

*Marilyn Krause, Western Zone*

For the last two years the BLM has been a partner with several other agencies in a raptor banding project near the Rocky Mountain Front. The project is headed up by the Raptor View Research Institute under the direction of Rob Domenech.

BLM has provided funding for satellite devices to collect data on home ranges and distribution of golden eagles. Some Missoula Field Office employees have assisted Domenech for a day or two in the field to help spot raptors.

The golden eagles are trapped using live birds as "bait" to lure the birds in where

they can be captured in a special hoop trap that snares both bait and raptor. The traps are set up near Rogers Pass east of Lincoln, one of the most active migratory routes used by golden eagles.

Following the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the biologists put a numbered band on the eagle's left leg. Measurements are taken and data gathered to provide information to a national database for researchers to share.

One of the key components to the project this year is the participation of students from Seeley-Swan High School. After

field trips to assist with the eagle banding project, the students will develop research projects of their own to better understand raptor behavior.



A young golden eagle is released near Rogers Pass after measurement and banding. *Photo by Michael Gallacher of the Missoulian; reprinted with permission*

# What Did You Uncover This Summer?

Archaeology is one of those specialties that is involved in nearly every BLM project but is rarely in the limelight. Most often archaeologists do their work behind the scenes using a variety of research techniques and, when they're lucky, spending some time in the field doing their own investigations.

Each field season, archaeologists have a list of areas that need to be surveyed before projects

can be implemented. They also work hard to increase our knowledge of those that came before us to boost our awareness and appreciation of our cultural heritage.

This summer archaeologists in the Montana/Dakotas once again took to the field and research libraries, and their findings were interesting to say the least. Following is a sampling of the "treasures" they uncovered this year.

## DILLON FIELD OFFICE

### Prehistoric Points Found Near Lima Reservoir

About the only benefit of the drought in southwest Montana was the unusually low level of water in Lima Reservoir that allowed investigation of nearly 900 acres and nine miles of exposed shoreline. According to archaeologist Mark Sant, the most significant find consisted of two sites where PaleoIndian projectile points were found that dated between 8000 and 6000 BC!

A partner in the project was the Tribal Preservation Office of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation. One of the sites recorded extended for over a mile of shoreline and included several possible prehistoric trail segments at a natural crossing point of the Red Rock River. This fall Sant provided tribal elders with a tour of several prehistoric site locations.



Using high tech equipment, surveyors record sites near Lima Reservoir south of Dillon.  
*Photo by Mark Sant*



A member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes assists with site recording near Lima Reservoir. *Photo by Mark Sant*

## BUTTE FIELD OFFICE

### Bootleggers for Butte

*Terri Wolfgram, Archaeologist*

During prohibition, people often took the production of liquor into their own hands. Keep in mind that at the time, Butte was a city that never slept – copper mines operated 24 hours a day along with the bars. Prohibition drove the bars underground (literally) and the opportunity to make money by selling or running bootleg liquor to those "speakeasies" as they were known often provided a living in hard times.

During the 2005 field season, the remains of a bootlegger's still were located on BLM land along the east flank of the Highland Mountains south of Butte. While copper vats and tubing were missing from the site, more than 105 barrel rings, pipe, hose, buckets, cans and sheet metal were still present.

As you might guess, information regarding the bootlegging activities is difficult to come by.



Some people see garbage; archaeologists see a great cultural find! The remnants of a bootlegging operation found in the Highland Mountains south of Butte may have a connection to a former chief of police. *Photo by Terri Wolfgram*

Most, if not all, of the people associated with the activities are long since deceased. Those with secondhand knowledge are often reluctant to share information not wanting to tarnish a family's name. But, research has shed some light on a few of the operations.

According to an interview with a woman who grew up in the area, there were at least two bootlegging stills near her parents' homestead during prohibition. The larger of the stills was said to belong to Jere (The Wise) Murphy, the Butte chief of police!

The woman reported that the still workers bought a gallon of milk every few days from the homesteaders and the kids would leave the milk in a certain place in the creek where a quart of liquor would be waiting in trade.

Mr. Mike Byrnes of Butte, who is presently writing a book about the speakeasies of Butte, has related that Jere Murphy ran a speakeasy on Montana Avenue during prohibition. If true, this was the most likely destination of the liquor produced at his still near the Highland Mountains.

The isolation of the creek drainages and the proximity to Butte provided the perfect opportunity for a bootlegging district to develop. Efforts are ongoing to research and document the bootlegging operations along the east flank of the Highlands along with others in southwest Montana. Stay tuned!

## MISSOULA FIELD OFFICE

### Garnet Still Holds Treasures

In the summer of 2005, Phase I of the Garnet fuel hazard reduction project was started with the goal of reducing fuels around the National Register-eligible Garnet Ghost Town to reduce the risk of losing the town to fire. The challenge is to remove the fuels without compromising the high concentration of historical mining features in the area.

One of the sites within the project area that needed evaluation was the Mountain View Mine/Mill site. It had a 30-year history of activity dating from 1909-1939 under various owners and partners.

During project implementation, a large bottle with a glass stopper was found mostly buried next to a tree near one of the features of the Mountain View Mine/Mill site. The feature consisted of a collapsed structure with a rock foundation supporting the front wall. All that remains of the structure is a small wooden stairway and a small concrete slab at the east end - indicating an entrance - and the high bank where the rear of the structure was excavated into the hillside. In 1991, ceramic crucible frag-



This complete bottle with stopper, a rare find these days, was unearthed at Garnet this summer from a site believed to be an assay shop. *Photo by Maria Craig*

ments found on the edge of this feature indicated that this site was most likely an assay shop.

The bottle is machine-made and probably dates between 1915 and 1925, but it was more than likely used after those dates. The shape of the bottle with the glass stopper also indicates that it held some sort of reagent or chemical. Three things make this bottle interesting: 1) it is not only intact, but the glass stopper was found

with it; 2) someone hadn't already taken it; and 3) it was found next to a feature that may have been an assay shop.

Many of the bottles found in the field are broken, so finding a complete bottle is rare. In the 1960s and early 1970s, a lot of the historic mining sites in this area were looted by bottle hunters and antique collectors. Removing bottles and artifacts from sites alters the historic context – making it more difficult to determine a time period when a site was occupied or how a site was used. Because the bottle found at Garnet was intact and still at the site, it provides stronger evidence that this site probably was an assay shop.

## SOUTH DAKOTA FIELD OFFICE

### Military Reservation Turned Recreation Area

Fort Meade was one of 31 forts established by the United States Army on the northern plains in the years following the Civil War. Located two miles east of Sturgis, the fort was set up to deal with conflicts between the Sioux, who considered the Black Hills sacred, and gold seekers. As the years passed and circumstances changed, the fort continued to play a significant role in our nation's history.



Terry Chaplin, fire management specialist for the South Dakota Field Office, helps record a circa WWI-WWII foxhole which was revealed by a prescribed burn this fall. Used for training troops, foxholes have been found individually (used by snipers) and in groups across the southern portion of the Fort Meade military reservation. *Photo by Barry G. Williams*

Early in WWI, Fort Meade was a training camp for the South Dakota National Guardsmen, beginning a tradition which carries on today. Following the stock market crash of 1929, Fort Meade was the state's headquarters for some 34 Civilian Conservation Corps camps. Late in WWII, the CCC camp housed German prisoners of war. In 1944, 66 years after the fort was established, the last of the federal troops were withdrawn and the fort's buildings and grounds were turned over to the Department of Veterans Affairs for a hospital.

In 1948 the 105-acre Black Hills National Cemetery was created in the southwest corner of the 7,325-acre military reservation. The BLM acquired the entire military reservation in 1956 except for 700 acres retained by the VA for the hospital and cemetery. In 1973 the fort was listed as a National Register District.

Over the past couple of years there has been funding from forestry and fuels reduction programs to inventory portions of the fort. Invento-



US Eagle button measuring 7/8" in diameter, probably from a regulation 1874 fatigue blouse which had five brass buttons like this one. *Photo courtesy of Field Research Services*



One of the oldest cartridges found is this .50 caliber US carbine cartridge used in the 1870 trap door Springfield single shot carbine. *Photo courtesy of Field Research Services*

ries have been pedestrian surveys, shovel testing, and prescribed burns in areas to remove ground cover for site identification.

In addition, a metal detector study was done on 100 acres of BLM land located adjacent to the post facilities managed by the VA. The study uncovered hundreds of locations of activities and historic artifacts, such as cartridges from the late 1800s and a US Eagle button, likely from a regulation 1874 fatigue blouse. The finds document the entire period that the U.S. military and National Guard troops occupied the fort. The location of stone tools, rock art and stone rings also indicates the prehistoric use of the area.

Fort Meade Recreation Area is now managed for wildlife, cultural resources, grazing, forestry, and a variety of recreational uses under the multiple use management concept.

## LEWISTOWN FIELD OFFICE

### Blending the Old with the New

Construction began this summer on the new interpretive center for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument in Fort Benton. The new center is located on the site of the town's historic water treatment plant, which was built in 1934 as part of FDR's Works Projects Administration. All that remains of the old facility is the roundhouse. Once preservation work is completed on the building, it will be used as a pump house to irrigate the interpretive center grounds. The BLM plans to provide interpretive information to help tie the old in with the new.



The historic roundhouse from Fort Benton's water treatment plant will serve as the pump house at the new Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Interpretive Center. *Photo by Zane Fulbright*

## Still Standing

Meanwhile, on the banks of the Upper Missouri River, preservation work continues at the Hagadone homestead. First settled in 1918, the site includes a cabin, barn, root cellar and other outbuildings. The Forest Service Historic Preservation Team has been stabilizing the primary structures to preserve their original character and make them safe for visitors to explore.



Crew members with the Forest Service Historic Preservation Team work on the barn at the Hagadone homestead on the Upper Missouri River. *Photo by Zane Fulbright*

## Unfortunate Loss

When the lightning-caused Knox Fire burned on the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument this summer, it also burned an old log building, leaving nothing more than an imprint in the ground. The site was recorded in 1977, but little was known about the structure. The unfortunate loss emphasizes the importance of locating and recording these clues about our past before they disappear completely.



An imprint in the ground is all that remains of an old log building that was burned in the Knox Fire this summer. *Photo by Karly Krausz*

## BILLINGS FIELD OFFICE

### At Home in Weatherman Draw

Weatherman Draw in south-central Montana is well known for having the largest collection of polychromatic (multi-colored) Native American rock art on the northern plains. The earliest figures found there date back to about 1200 AD.

That distinction has prompted the district's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, a process that requires a careful inventory of the entire area's cultural resources. In addition to the numerous forms of rock art that had already been catalogued, archaeologists came across two new finds this year relatively close to one another physically, but ages apart in history: a coal mine from the early 1900s that was operated with horses and rail cars, and a bison skull that was carbon-dated to about 1300 AD.



Rugged landscape of the Weatherman Draw district. *Photo by Glade Hadden*

On an archaeological scale, the early 1900s is fairly recent; but the previously unrecorded location of a coal mine in an area full of ancient markings took searchers by surprise.

The bison skull was found at a campsite and provides a secure date for early human activities in the area. According to Glade Hadden, archaeologist for the Billings Field Office, the find indicates that people did not separate their everyday lives from their religion. For them, Weatherman Draw was not a place to go just for spiritual reasons; they also lived and hunted there.

Other finds of significance discovered by the joint Western Wyoming College/BLM field team

include two new rock art sites, three prehistoric occupation areas and a historic period horse trap in a blind canyon. The BLM anticipates that this ongoing project will continue for at least another five to seven years before the National Register Nomination process is complete.



Field school crew members record a historic period coal mine in Weatherman Draw. *Photo by Glade Hadden*

## MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE

Cultural resource investigations for the Miles City Field Office this year revealed a wealth of new information. A survey of the 14,000-acre Pumpkin Creek Land Exchange area documented 96 new sites. Reviews of coal bed natural gas projects identified more than 200 new and updated site records. Another 100 or so sites were recorded during investigations for various other projects. Read on for more of the year's highlights.

### Prehistoric Tools Found at Buffalo Kill

Test excavations at the Twitchell Bison Kill resulted in the recovery of stone and bone tools, projectile points, ceramics and two radiocarbon dates of  $1280 \pm 60$  B.P. and  $1160 \pm 80$  B.P. (years before present). Overlooking the Missouri River near Fort Peck, Mont., the site was recorded by BLM archaeologist Jerry Clark in the late 1970s and has been the subject of much digging and pothunting. Archaeologists speculate that bison were driven over the top of the steep slope, then slaughtered and processed at the bottom. Although it is located onto private lands, the site is adjacent to BLM lands and was thought to



possibly extend to public lands. The work was done by Miles City Field Office cultural resources staff in association with members of the Montana Archaeological Society.

## Who Were the Buffalo Hunters?

The Miles City cultural resources staff has also been working with the Montana Archaeological Society on an Undaunted Stewardship project near the mouth of the Powder River in Prairie County. The project includes updating the site record for a marked cemetery where three “Buffalo Hunter” graves are located. Several conflicting stories exist for how the graves came to be located where they are and who is buried there. A report of investigations is being completed. This is part of larger long-term project to document the cultural resources and historic uses of the area around the mouth of the Powder River.

## Homesteader’s Surviving Relatives Speak Up

Another one of the year’s highlights was fencing the Herman J. Neumann Homestead on National Public Lands Day. As part of that volunteer event, 29 scouts and leaders helped record the site, a typical homestead in the area that was reacquired by the government in 1940. An article written by Lori Harbaugh appeared in the *Fallon Times* and prompted surviving relatives of Mr. Neumann to contact the BLM and offer additional insights to the site and its inhabitants.

## CURATION CENTER

### Where Does It Go?

Before granting a right-of-way, before permitting an oil well, before allowing the ground to be disturbed – in fact, before proceeding with nearly any new project on the ground, the BLM checks for the presence of cultural artifacts. Sometimes such items are simply recorded, but other situations call for them to be added to the permanent collection at the Billings Curation Center in the Montana State Office.

The BCC is a research repository. It houses cultural materials that were collected from public lands, primarily in Montana and the Dakotas. Additionally, other federal agencies have contracted with the BCC to catalog and store artifacts discovered while conducting their own cultural inventories. Evidence from criminal investigations related to public land resources is also stored there.

Cultural artifacts include anything touched or modified by humans, as opposed to paleontological items, which include dinosaur and plant fossils. The oldest items stored at the BCC date to about 12,000 BC.

While the BCC isn’t a museum with exhibits, one of its primary functions is to loan out items to enhance the exhibits of other facilities. Artifacts from the BCC have been displayed in county historical collections as well as national museums. Some items are not significant from a research standpoint, but they can be handled and are useful for demonstration and comparison purposes.

Curator David K. Wade says anyone with an interest is welcome to use the BCC’s resources, but since the artifacts are sealed in boxes, researchers need to have a good idea of what they want to see. The center also hosts tour groups and school groups. Just call for an appointment or visit [www.mt.blm.gov/bcc/](http://www.mt.blm.gov/bcc/).

## BLMers Step Up to Help with Hurricane Relief

Their assignments were as diverse as the employees themselves. Several Montana/Dakotas employees have spent time in the south this fall helping with all aspects of hurricane relief. Stationed in Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia and Texas for two to four week assignments, they saw firsthand the devastation caused by recent hurricanes.

So how did BLM employees find themselves helping with hurricane relief 2,000 miles from home? “Red-carded” employees were ordered through the fire dispatch system for a variety of duties. Other employees such as heavy equipment operators and engineers had skills badly needed for the clean-up effort.

*Some thoughts and perceptions from those who helped:*

“Our job was to greet the people brought in from surrounding communities, provide them with short-term necessities such as water, food, toiletry items, diapers, and baby formula. Perhaps most importantly, we sat and listened and tried to comfort many of the evacuees who were without food, money, or gas. Many were trying to locate relatives unaccounted for. They were at the end of their ropes financially and emotionally.”

“In Lake Charles, Louisiana, we were detailed to a clean-up operation where we operated towers which were like weigh stations. We checked the trucks and the site for safety and

issued load tickets which were the basis for payment. I felt we had a major impact on truck safety and the clean-up effort.”

“Humor helped a lot in this high stress situation. I enjoyed meeting people from all over the country. Even with the long days and working conditions, I had a ball!”

“Our fire crew was assigned to Harrison and Hancock counties, two of the areas hardest hit by Katrina and the evidence left over indicates that the tidal surge that decimated neighborhoods was as high as 40 feet and deposited debris up to five miles inland. People lost their jobs, homes and essentially

everything they had. Our task was to operate a warehouse of supplies and distribute commodities from pickup trucks to anyone that needed them. After about a week, I was experiencing sensory overload and fatigue, seeing the wreckage everyday, the strong odor of sewage and the physical aspect of loading and unloading supplies completely burned me out. . . .”

Despite the hardships, there was common sentiment from all the employees about their assignments. They felt it was a rewarding experience and they were glad they had the opportunity to go. Would they do it again? “In a heartbeat!”



These photos show the devastation near the Gulf Coast – a large discount store and a neighborhood in the same area literally flattened by the storm and tidal surge. *Photos by Chad Vetter*

# Native Plant Project Preserves Region's Natural Heritage

*Kaylene Patten and Craig Flentie, Lewistown Field Office*

LEWISTOWN, MT—This past summer, an energetic, three-person crew from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) directed the Lewistown Field Office's participation in a unique world wide program designed to safeguard the diversity of dry land plant species.

The program is called Seeds of Success. On a national basis, the BLM became involved with SOS in 2000 when the agency entered into an agreement with the Royal Botanic Gardens which is based in the United Kingdom.

The BLM's commitment under SOS is to fund and train seed collecting teams, and open public lands to them. The goal is to collect seeds from 2,000 selected plant species by 2010. The Royal Botanic Gardens' commitment under SOS is to clean, count, and test seed contributions. Half of each collection is returned to the collecting agency for use in local restoration or preservation efforts. The other half remains with the Royal Botanic Gardens.

This is the first year that any Montana BLM office had the opportunity to participate in the SOS program. Jennifer Walker, a fire ecologist in Lewistown, and Vinita Shea, a rangeland management specialist in Lewistown, were instrumental in bringing the program to the Lewistown Field Office and supervising the collection of the seeds.

The field work was completed by three young interns with a wide range of relevant backgrounds, expertise and experience. All three were associated with the SCA, a nonprofit organization that is the nation's leading provider of conservation service opportunities, outdoor skills and leadership training for young people.

This three-person field crew spent the summer in Lewistown while scouring our public lands to locate specific plant populations. When they located a suitable population of identified plants they would monitor for seed maturity, collect the seeds when they matured, and package them to be forwarded to the Royal Botanic Gardens testing and cleaning.

Throughout the summer this team collected seeds from over 20 native species of economically, ecologically or culturally significant plants in central Montana.

In addition to their BLM fieldwork, the team was a great benefit to the community of Lewistown as they all volunteered at the local Boys and Girls Club on their days off and participated in many functions around the community. "It's great to have help from students who provide BLM and the community with so many benefits," stated Vinita Shea.



Andrew and Locero collecting sagittata seed. Photo courtesy of SCA

Crew member Andrew Giunta (from Massachusetts) described his summer's work this way: "Working with SCA and the BLM gives me a chance to get hands on experience in the field of natural resources while also providing me with the opportunity to learn about a diverse environment here in Montana that I've never seen before."

When asked about the SOS program, Nickolas Anderson (a native of Minnesota) said, "It has been a great experience knowing that I'm helping to ensure that native plant populations survive for future generations to see."

According to Locero Beebe-Giudice, who grew up in Maryland and served as the team leader, "The SCA is a living dream that allows young people like me to explore the world they live in and love by actively working to preserve the environment and community."

Each year high school, college and graduate student members in the SCA provide more than 1.5 million hours of service in national parks, forests and other public lands that benefit all Americans and the world beyond. The SCA was founded in 1957, and has nearly 40,000 alumni around the world. As many as 60 percent of SCA alumni become conservation professionals following their SCA service.

"Our BLM office would like to collect more plant species for SOS, but don't know if we'll be lucky enough to get another SCA crew next summer," according to Jennifer Walker.

"If we don't get a SCA crew next field season, we'll continue collecting a few species every year under the SOS program with our existing workforce. We're developing plans to use the seeds from this summer's collections to rehab native rangelands in the near future," Shea added.

## Attention BLM Retirees

The BLM Retirees Association meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of even-numbered months at the Old Country Buffet in Billings. The next meeting will be on February 7, 2006. If you would like to receive email or postcard notifications of these meetings, please call Shirley Heffner at 259-1202, Cynthia Embretson at 252-1367, or send your address to Cynthia at ceatsage@wtp.net.

The Public Lands Foundation offers new retirees a free one-year membership. Please contact Bill Noble, PLF Montana Representative, at 406-656-0267 to join.

Please also help us keep our *Quarterly Steward* mailing list current by contacting Ann Boucher of the External Affairs staff at 406-896-5011 or aboucher@mt.blm.gov with address changes.

Retired from Montana/Dakotas BLM since August 31, 2005:

Arlene Christensen – 12 years – Management Assistant, North Dakota Field Office  
Terrence Holst – 30 years – Rangeland Management Specialist, Lewistown Field Office  
Carol Hubbs – 18 years – Legal Instruments Examiner, Great Falls Oil and Gas Field Station  
Howard Hubbs — 29 years – Supervisory Petroleum Engineer, Great Falls Oil and Gas Field Station  
Martin Ott – 36 years – State Director, Montana State Office  
Vicki Roth – 36 years – Legal Instruments Examiner, Montana State Office  
Dixie Young – 20 years – Supervisory Property Management Specialist, Montana State Office

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