

Partners Work to Improve Fish Habitat

Paul Hutchinson, Dillon FO

In the Beaverhead Mountains of southwestern Montana is a small, cold water stream called the North Fork of Everson Creek. It supports a small population of native westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) as well as a large population of non-native eastern brook trout. The WCT population is being suppressed through competition for food and habitat and by direct predation by the brook trout.

In 2005, genetic samples from Everson Creek were submitted for analysis, and in early 2006 the WCT population was verified to be genetically pure. This will allow the Dillon BLM, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to move forward with a cooperative non-native brook trout removal starting in 2007.

In preparation for this project, Dillon fisheries biologist Paul Hutchinson, along with seasonals Gary "Buck" Decker and Greg Ferguson, spent five days in July 2006 removing mostly dead willow and alders that were blocking access to the stream channel. Later this summer, after a fish barrier has been installed to keep the non-native population from

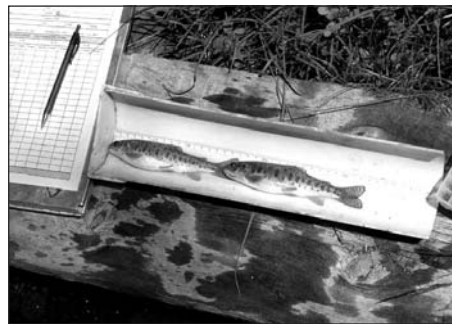
moving back upstream, fisheries crews with backpack electrofishing gear will remove the brook trout along the two-mile cleared section. Once the non-natives are removed, woody debris will be replaced if natural re-growth of willows and alder is insufficient for good habitat conditions.

Another population of potentially pure WCT exists in Harris Creek in the Tobacco Root Mountains of southwestern Montana. Because genetically pure WCT are rare in the Tobacco Roots, and even rarer on lands administered by the BLM, biologists are working to verify the purity of this population and take the necessary steps to preserve and enhance it.

In July 2006, Paul Hutchinson and seasonal employee Emily Guiberson collected baseline population and species composition data along with 25 tissue samples in the form of small fin clips from WCT for genetic analysis. If test results confirm this is a pure WCT population, it will be a potential donor source for future WCT re-introduction efforts in this and other areas of southwestern Montana.



Seasonal employee Emily Guiberson electrofishing for westslope cutthroat trout in Harris Creek in the Tobacco Root Mountains in southwest Montana.
Photo by Paul Hutchinson



If genetic analysis proves these fish are a pure strain of westslope cutthroat trout, they will be used as a donor source for future fish reintroduction.
Photo by Paul Hutchinson

Dillon FO fisheries biologist Paul Hutchinson clears brush from Everson Creek in preparation of a joint BLM, Forest Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks project to remove non-native brook trout.
Photo by Steve Arminger



Emily Guiberson assists with the collection WCT population data and genetic samples from Harris Creek.
Photo by Paul Hutchinson



Greetings to All!

Well, here it is spring, and some would argue that we have not even had winter yet. Things are getting geared up for field season; we have our final budget figures for fiscal year '07; and we are making progress on several major efforts across the organization!

I'd like to take this opportunity to share what I refer to as my "Guiding Principles" as we move forward. These include three simple concepts which have served me well through out my career: **Treat People Fairly; Respect the Land; Be Involved in Your Community.**

The question often arises as to what are the State Director's priorities. My priorities include: **Health & Safety of Employees & Public; Restore Watershed Health; Protect Special Landscapes; Use the Best Science; Celebrate and Protect Heritage Resources; Help Communities Meet Future Needs; Enhance Habitat for Special Status Species; Create Manageable Land Ownership Patterns; Resolve Conflicts; Design Business Solutions to Better Serve Customers; Provide Recreational Opportunities; and Contribute to the Nation's Energy Supply.** These are not listed in any particular order.

These are tiered from the Department's and Bureau's strategic plans. Montana/Dakota's statewide priorities for 2007-2009 can be found on the budget webpage (<http://web.mt.blm.gov/blm.share/records/fy07/07mtm010.doc>) and are consistent with my priorities, and the strategic plans. We need to ensure that our efforts and spending obligations are consistent with the priorities listed in that document.

As we enter the field season, and along with it, fire season, we need to pause and think about how



we can accomplish our work in the safest manner possible. If you are like me, inactivity over the winter means I need to be extra cautious when it comes to lifting items and also means I need to reacquaint myself with the equipment I will be utilizing. Take the time for the safety tailgate sessions and talk safety with your co-workers. It's time well spent.

We have a number of efforts facing us, including "Managing for Excellence." We are in the process of establishing a small team to develop some recommendations on the state's organizational structure for the State Management Team's (SMT) consideration. These will also be shared with you to obtain your comments and concerns for the SMT's deliberation. This will occur prior to August, when our proposal is due for submission to headquarters.

I've been in this position for about six months and am thoroughly enjoying being part of your organization. I have had the opportunity to meet many of you in my travels around the state, as well as many of the members of the public who have an interest in our management of the public lands. I am

impressed with your dedication and enthusiasm you reflected for the jobs that you do! One of my first goals on the job was to get to each office and have the opportunity to meet the employees. I have made it to all but two offices, and I hope to visit them in the next few weeks. I want to thank those I have met with for the wonderful reception you have given me. I look forward to future meetings and the change to work with you.

Gene R. Terland
State Director

Theresa Hanley Named Deputy State Director for Resources



Theresa Hanley

Theresa Hanley became the new Deputy State Director for Resources on January 7.

Theresa, who was raised in New Mexico, graduated from New Mexico State University with bachelor and master degrees in anthropology. Her BLM career began in 1989 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She was the Burley (Idaho) Field Office Manager before coming to the Montana State Office in 2003 as the Branch Chief of Planning and Biological Resources. Over the last year, she also served details as Acting Associate State Director and Acting Miles City Field Manager.

Outside of work, Theresa enjoys outdoor activities such as cross-country skiing with her husband, Steve, and kids Sarah (13) and John (11).

Congratulations, Theresa!

Miles City BLM Installs New Field Manager

Mark Jacobsen, Miles City FO

Elaine Raper was formally sworn in as the field manager for the Miles City Field Office in a short ceremony held at the BLM office in Miles City on March 27. BLM Montana State Director Gene Terland officiated over the proceedings.

The ceremony was attended by BLM staff, state and local government representatives, family members and friends.

Raper was previously the field manager of the Umpqua Field Office in the Coos Bay District in Oregon.

Raper replaced David McIlroy as field manager for the Miles City Field Office which oversees more than 2.7 million acres of BLM-administered public land in eastern Montana.

Raper started her career in natural resource management in 1976 with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and later became the agency's first female wildlife biologist. Her assignment areas with the WGF included the Bighorn Mountains and later—as a wildlife management coordinator—the southwestern part of the state.

She later transferred to the BLM and worked as a district wildlife program lead in Wyoming's Rock Springs District. She subsequently transitioned into a special projects coordinator position and worked in partnership projects and collaborative management planning. In 1997, Raper transferred to the BLM Coos Bay District as a natural resource staff administrator, a position she held for four years until becoming the Umpqua field manager in 2001.

Raper holds a Master of Science in zoology and wildlife management from the University of Wyoming, Laramie and a Bachelor of Arts in zoology from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Elaine Raper

Mike Mooney of Dillon Named Weed Fighter of the Year

*Marilyn Krause,
Western Montana Zone*



Each year the Montana Weed Control Association conducts a conference in Helena during which individuals and groups are recognized for their exemplary work in the management of noxious weeds.

This year's Agency Weed Fighter Award went to BLM's Mike Mooney of Dillon. Nominated by Beaverhead County Weed Supervisor Jack Eddie, Mike was recognized for his diligence, leadership and aggressiveness in the control and management of noxious weeds since he started with the BLM.

The award is given to an individual working for a local, state, or federal agency who is a proven leader and who cooperates well with other departments, agencies and people; has instituted an aggressive attack on weeds; and uses unique and innovative approaches.

In the nomination Mr. Eddie stated that "Mike Mooney has shown the commitment toward the War on Weeds. With dropping funding levels he goes out and looks for other funding sources to help. Just a few examples: \$4,000 grant to help with a hunter car wash, (offering a free car wash to hunters for three days before hunting season, then a reduced rate during the hunting season). A \$30,000 grant to hire two seasonals to work in one of the wilderness areas. Mike also will do anything that the counties ask to help with weed control in Montana."

Congratulations, Mike!

Rare Plant Found in Southwest Montana

Brian Hockett, Dillon Field Office



Alkali primrose is a delicate white flower found in one area of BLM land in far southwestern Montana. *Photo by Brian Hockett.*

Once believed extinct in Montana, alkali primrose (*Primula alcalina*) was recently rediscovered on BLM lands in Beaverhead County.

Alkali primrose is at high risk of extinction due to very restricted range and very few populations. There are presently only six known populations in east-central Idaho and one in southwestern Montana.

Alkali primrose appears to be restricted to alkaline meadows that are sub-irrigated by adjacent spring-fed creeks, as well as on low benches with "hummocky" terrain. In addition, a certain degree of small-scale disturbance seems to be necessary to support viable primrose populations. Frost heaving appears to have been the primary cause of this small scale disturbance. Grazing by native ungulates probably also contributed to this process.

In the spring of 2006, rangeland management specialist Brian Hockett led a two-day monitoring effort that established baseline studies in three alkali primrose subpopulations. The group mapped a total of 22 acres of occupied alkali primrose habitat.

Alkali primrose inhabits unique wetlands; it occupies very specific, relatively stable microsites within wet meadows, a habitat that is highly susceptible to disturbance. By monitoring the effects of BLM management activities, the Dillon Field Office hopes to ensure that the newly discovered Montana alkali primrose population remains healthy.



Counting white flowers while avoiding stepping on alkali primrose or alpine meadow-rue (another sensitive plant) reminded Kipper Blotkamp (left) and Brian Hockett of playing a game of "Twister" while wearing hip boots. *Photo by Tanya Thrift.*

The rare alkali primrose is found in the "hummocky" terrain near spring fed creeks. *Photo by Brian Hockett.*



Multiple Interests, Common Goals

Community gets involved with BLM forest health projects

Bruce Reid and Craig Flentie, Lewistown Field Office

The Judith and North and South Moccasin Mountains form a scenic backdrop for Lewistown. Postcard photos looking north-east from the top of Lewistown's Main Street prominently show the forested ridges and valleys of the Judith Mountains rolling toward the city's doorstep.

What happens on this stage has become more and more important to a wide list of interests including local residents, visitors who recreate there, downtown businesses, landowners, ranchers, loggers, miners and public land managers.

The decision record for the Judith/Moccasins Landscape Analysis (signed in June 2006) cleared the way for several thousand acres of forest health treatments to improve forest health in and around these smallish mountain ranges

"Historically, we would complete our NEPA requirements, and start implementing treatments. Even though our planning is a public process, adjacent landowners and others would eventually start calling and want to know what's going on and why," offered Bruce Reid, a BLM forester in Lewistown.

"That's exactly the type of communication gap we're trying to avoid by involving people with the design and implementation of these projects," said Jennifer Walker, a fire ecologist in the Lewistown Field Office.

Collaboration is not new to federal agencies. For decades, the BLM and other land managing agencies have pursued various forms of collaboration as a means of involving the public early and often in public resource management. However, this may be the first time the Lewistown FO has offered the public the opportunity to be involved with forest health project design and implementation. The Lewistown FO fuels and forestry staff, with the cooperation of the Fergus Conservation District, has hosted a two public meetings/workshops this so far spring to foster this work relationship.

During the first meeting, the BLM discussed the benefits of working together with partners, agencies, landowners and even project opponents to design, implement and monitor activities that affect public lands in our backyards. Almost 60 people attended this meeting and expressed an encouraging interest in working on BLM projects.

At the second meeting, which more closely resembled a workshop, the audience shared ideas and concerns about forestry projects, then collectively selected an area in the Judith Mountains to treat first.

People can participate by helping with administrative tasks such as organizing meetings and other logistics to doing field work such as marking and cruising timber or monitoring treatment sites.

"The possibilities for public involvement are widely varied, with the only requirements being that BLM will retain ultimate responsibility for the projects on public ground and our treatments must stay within the parameters outlined in the NEPA document," said Brad Eckert, a BLM forester in the LFO.

The fuels and forestry staff anticipates a few more meetings/workshops to help the group focus on how to implement certain treatments and how to involve themselves in the process. "However, by this spring and summer we fully expect we'll be organized and working on the ground to set up projects with some projects being implemented by late

summer or early next fall," Eckert said.

For more information you can contact:

Bruce Reid, forester,
538-1960

Brad Eckert, forester,
538-1927

Jennifer Walker,
fire ecologist,
538-1982



Jennifer Walker, Brad Eckert and Bruce Reid find time for a little field work.
Photo by Craig Flentie

Miles City Turkeys Head West

Mark Jacobsen, Miles City Field Office

BLM staff and volunteers from the Miles City Field Office teamed up with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks personnel to capture 68 turkeys Jan. 27 for transplant to western Montana. The endeavor was part of a wider effort to establish populations of Merriam's turkeys in suitable habitat across the state.

The birds were netted in a frigid early morning operation on private land southeast of Miles City. The sharp-eyed fowl had been baited with corn for several days and habituated to the capture set which consisted of a line of rolled netting, its edge anchored to the ground along one side. The system used a series of short-range rockets and weights linked by electric wire, initiated from a blind located approximately 100 yards from the bait site.

Once the birds were in the capture zone, the pyrotechnic system launched the weights, flung the net over the flock and quickly enveloped the birds. Personnel scrambled to secure the net and the turkeys were soon sorted by sex into shipping boxes and loaded into a stock trailer for transport.

A volunteer from the National Wild Turkey Federation met the crew in Miles City within a couple of hours and the birds were soon on their way west. Later that day a mixed flock of 32 birds were released near Whitehall. The following morning, the remainder was set free west of Missoula.

Personnel from the Miles City Field Office, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and National Wild Turkey Federation facilitated the private landowner coordination, both on the giving and receiving ends of the state.

Once the birds successfully adjust to their new habitat, Montana residents will have yet another opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of wild turkeys in their natural element.



MCFO employee Carmen Drieling hefts a turkey prior to placing it in a cardboard shipping container. The bird was one of 68 others trapped for transplant Jan. 27. *Photo by Mark Jacobsen*



Volunteer turkey trappers pause prior to loading the boxed birds for the drive into Miles City. Kneeling (left to right): BLM volunteer Jaime Alejandro, BLM Volunteer Ann Tribby, FWP Staffer John Ensign, FWP Volunteer Jimmy Ensign, MCFO Rangeland Management Specialist Carmen Drieling. Standing (left to right): MCFO Wildlife Biologist Kent Undlin, MCFO Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist Dale Tribby, FWP Staffers Scott Hemmer, Todd Anderson and D.J. Drieling. *Photo by Mark Jacobsen*

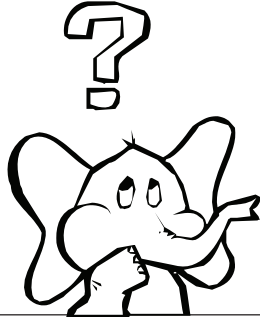
This Project Was For the Birds

Boy scouts and volunteers got together in February to install some nesting boxes at Matthews Recreation Area along the Yellowstone River near Miles City. Part of an Eagle Scout project, the effort also extended to state land. The Miles City Field Office supplied an assortment of wood duck and kestrel nesting boxes while the scouts and accompanying volunteers supplied the labor. BLM wildlife biologist Larry Apple supervised. *(Photo by Mark Jacobsen)*



Find It in the Public Room

Ann Boucher and Teri Bakken, Montana State Office



- You know that your great-grandfather homesteaded somewhere in central Montana, but you're not sure where.
- There is a disagreement about access to a particular parcel of land, and you wonder about the historic use of a given road.
- You saw an ad in a magazine and would like to know more about the cheap BLM land for sale.
- There is some gravel on your land. Can you legally sell it? What about landscaping rock?
- You want to know if you can lease the oil and gas under that right-of-way.

You've got questions . . . Who's got answers?

For starters, head to the Information Access Center (commonly referred to as Public Room) of the Montana/Dakotas BLM. Its simple name belies the wealth of information housed there – everything from historic survey records to first-hand advice on where to go hiking. The knowledgeable, helpful staff has heard it all . . . in fact, you'd be hard pressed to come up with a question that they haven't heard before. And even if they don't have the answer at their fingertips, they'll likely know where to find it.

The Public Room is often the first – and sometimes the only – contact point people have with the BLM. The services provided by the Public Room staff reflect on the whole organization . . . and they do an excellent job. Customer feedback indicates a very high rate of satisfaction among members of the public, other agencies, and private corporations after conducting business with our Public Room.



Supervisory Contact Representative Teri Bakken assists a customer. *Photo by Mary Apple*

SERVICES AND RESOURCES

While most people know that the Public Room is a good source of high quality maps and brochures, it's a common misconception that printed materials are the only resources available there. In reality, the Public Room offers so much more.

Printed Materials

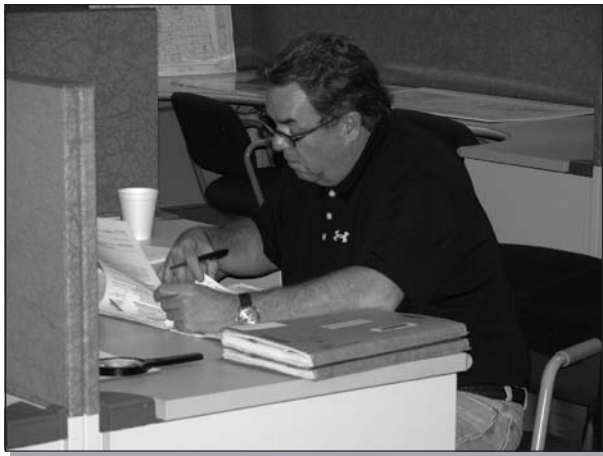
The Public Room stocks a variety of printed materials including maps, floaters guides, brochures and guide books. Some are free, and some require payment of a cost recovery fee. A total of 127 BLM quad maps cover all of Montana and the western sections of North and South Dakota – wherever there is BLM-managed land.

Case Files

The Docket section of the Public Room maintains thousands of serialized case files documenting surface or mineral uses. The majority of the case files are oil and gas



Student Trainee Sara Whitney processes an order by making copies. *Photo by Ann Boucher*



A variety of records are available in the Public Room.
Photo by Mary Apple

related, but other authorizations such as railroad right-of-way files from the early 1900s can also be found. You can also access mining claim recordation files through the Public Room. All these records are available for free inspection, or you can purchase copies.

Genealogy Searches

Find where your ancestors homesteaded and even get a copy of the patent (the title document conveying ownership). The Public Room staff can search by legal description of the land and/or by family name. Researchers are encouraged to check out the GLO (General Land Office) records website at www.glorerecords.blm.gov. Many of the documents are available online, but the Public Room can help you attain records that aren't yet scanned, or provide certified copies.

Survey Records

The Public Room maintains records of survey notes and plats for Montana, and plats for North and South Dakota. Some original surveys date back to the late 1800s. With land access becoming a bigger issue (as subdivisions spread to the remote rural areas), many rely on the survey plats to verify the historical existence of a road or trail. The survey records are a critical resource to private surveyors.

Ownership Determinations

The Public Room maintains land and mineral status records for Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The records track and document federally-owned surface and mineral estates, as well as when a particular resource

transfers out of federal ownership. Once that happens, title transactions are no longer maintained by BLM and need to be researched at the county where the resource is found. Families searching out their genealogy and title companies doing title searches often use these records. Surface owners who want to verify mineral ownership also use these records (if the minerals are federally owned, the surface owner can't legally sell gravel or landscape rocks).

What's the difference?

- *Plats* show features – bearings, distances, buildings, roads and streams.
- *Master Title Plats* show federal interests. It is a graphic illustration of current survey and title information.

New Applications and Filing Fees

The Public Room (Accounts) is also responsible for accepting certain land and mineral applications. While the program staffs handle the adjudication of these records, the Public Room serializes the actions, receipts the fees, and deposits the monies.



Contact Representative Cyndi Eide assists a customer over the phone. Photo by Ann Boucher

The Montana State Office conducts six competitive oil and gas lease sales each year, where federally owned oil and gas lease rights are auctioned and awarded to the highest qualified bidder. The Public Room staff collects, receipts, and deposits the associated fees such as the application fee, bonus bid, and advance rental fees (almost 17 million dollars in fiscal year 2006). The case files are also created, maintained, and tracked by the Public Room staff (Docket).

The BLM has also been responsible for recordation of unpatented mining claims since 1976 and these payments are processed by the Public Room. There are thousands of active claims in the states of Montana and South Dakota. Approximately \$2 million was received by the Public Room last year for locatable minerals.

The Public Room also received \$73,000 in map sales and copy fees last fiscal year.

Job Applications

Interested in applying for a federal job, but don't have access to the Internet? You can use a computer in the Public Room to apply for federal jobs.

So....where *is* that cheap land?

The Public Room staff routinely fields calls from people trying to find the free and/or cheap land they've seen advertised. Unfortunately for them, the Homestead Act was repealed in 1976 with the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (the law that mandates the BLM to manage public lands for multiple uses), and the "cheap" land is the subject of misleading advertising by entrepreneurs seeking to sell information that



Teri Bakken oversees Public Room functions.
Photo by Ann Boucher

can be obtained from BLM for free. Although they're generally not for sale, BLM lands are public lands, and open to multiple uses.

Visit the Public Room and check it out for yourself.

Here in Montana/Dakotas, the Public Room is located in the Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive in Billings. You may also call 406-896-5004, log on to http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/res/public_room.html, or email MT_SO_Information@blm.gov.

New Interagency Recreation Pass Now Available

A new interagency recreation pass is available for sale at BLM offices throughout Montana and the Dakotas. The "America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass" combines the benefits of existing recreation passes from five federal agencies—the BLM, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Access to most public lands remains free. The pass applies to those locations that currently have entrance or standard amenity fees and replaces the Golden Eagle and National Parks Pass. The Golden Age and the Golden Access Passports will be replaced with the Interagency Senior and Access passes. Existing passes remain valid until expired or lost.

All of the revenue derived from passes sold at federal recreation sites

will directly benefit the selling agency, and no less than 80 percent of the revenue will remain at the site where the pass is sold. For example, funds from passes sold at Pompeys Pillar National Monument near Billings will be used for maintenance or improvements at the site.

The four different passes in the new interagency program are:

1) a new annual interagency pass costing \$80—For visitors to multiple federal sites, the pass offers unlimited coverage of entrance and standard amenity recreation fees for a year, beginning the date of sale and expiring at the end of the month a year later. This pass does not cover campground fees.

- 2) a \$10 lifetime senior pass for U.S. citizens 62 or over;
- 3) a free lifetime access pass for citizens with permanent disabilities; and
- 4) a new, free annual volunteer pass for volunteers acquiring 500 hours of service on a cumulative basis.

The new interagency pass is good at vehicle-based entry sites for all occupants in a single, non-commercial vehicle. At walk-up sites, the pass is good for the pass holder and three adults (total of four adults). There is no charge for children under 16. This represents a particularly cost-effective opportunity for families traveling to federal recreation sites.

More information about the pass may be obtained at: <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/>.

From Smokejumpers to Snowdumpers

Marilyn Krause, Western Montana Zone

When the snow gets too deep at Garnet Ghost Town, it must be removed from the roofs of the historical structures to keep them from collapsing and to help protect the integrity of the buildings.

This year six smokejumpers from the aerial fire depot in Missoula accompanied BLM Park Ranger Dwight Gappert into Garnet by snowmobile and found 28-30 inches of snow on most of the buildings. They spent



the day clearing snow from 20 of the buildings using special snow removal tools and large shovels.

Two of the cabins are available for rent in the winter for skiers and snowmobilers.

In the photos, smokejumpers remove snow from the Hebner and Dahl cabins. *(Photos by Dwight Gappert)*



Society for Range Management Recognizes Dillon Employee

Marilyn Krause, Western Montana Zone

On February 11 at the Society for Range Management Meeting in Reno, Nev., Brian Thrift from the Dillon Field Office was one of 10 young professionals named Outstanding Rangeland Management Employees for 2006.

According to Thrift's supervisor, Pat Fosse, Brian's ability to work with range users on the ground and earn credibility with them is very rare for an employee that has been with the BLM for only two years.

"Brian does an outstanding job of relating to people and working with them to accomplish mutual objectives," stated Fosse. "He has done an outstanding job of monitoring, compliance, project implementation and especially communication, coordination and cooperation with a variety of public land users."

In recognition of his accomplishments, Thrift received a plaque and financial support to attend the national SRM meeting. Brian also serves as one of the Montana directors for SRM's International Mountain Section.



Brian Thrift was recently named the Outstanding Rangeland Management Employee for 2006.

Photo by Angie Morse



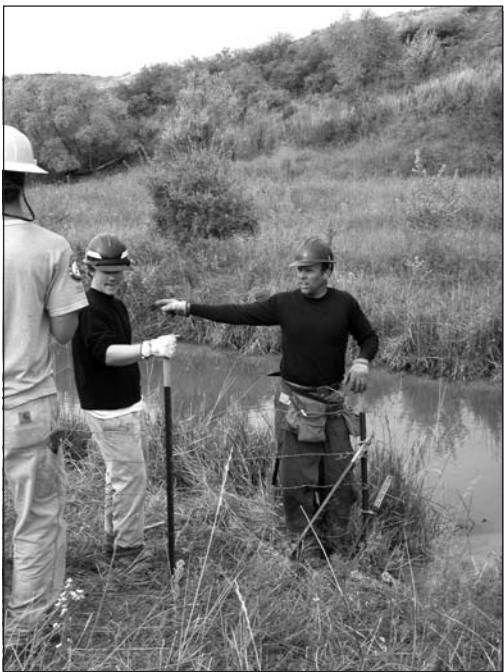
Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Planned in Helena

A wild horse and burro adoption is scheduled for Saturday, June 16 in Helena at the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds. On Friday, June 15, BLM is sponsoring Steve Mantle, a horse trainer from Wyoming, who will provide a seminar on gentling methods for wild horses.

For an adoption application or more information on the event, please contact Nancy Bjelland, Montana's wild horse and burro specialist, at (406) 896-5222.

MCC Assists with Fisheries Projects

A group of Montana Conservation Corps volunteers construct a fence on Hess Island Oct. 10, 2006. Miles City Field Office Fishery Biologist Joe Platz directed the project. MCC volunteers will continue to help with various projects in the Miles City Field Office well into the 2007 season. *Photos by Mark Jacobsen*



Attention BLM Retirees

The BLM Retirees Association meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of even-numbered months at the Guadalajara in the Riverboat Casino (444 S. 24th St. West) in Billings. 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 David Mari, Montana PLF Representative, at (406) 538-7121, or email dmari@earthlink.net. If you send an email, please note "PLF" on the subject line.

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 since December 2006:

Phyllis Brosz – 20 years
Management and Program Analyst, Montana State Office

George Hirschenberger – 33 years
Land Use Specialist, Missoula Field Office

William McDonald – 32 years
Law Enforcement Ranger, South Dakota Field Office

James Mitchell – 31 years
Geologist, Lewistown Field Office

Joan Seibert – 30 years
Land Law Examiner, Montana State Office

Bureau of Land Management
Montana State Office
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, Montana 59107
Phone (406) 896-5011
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/>

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