

Northwest Passage Volume 1, Issue 3 – January/February 2009

Cover

Take It Outside!

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The Bureau of Land Management Magazine for Oregon and Washington

Jan/Feb 2009

The BLM Lends a Hand: Federal Employees Give Back to Their Local Communities

We're an American Band! BLM Musician Corey Plank performs at President Obama's Inauguration

Riding for the Brand! Cowboy Poet Howard Lemm's Paeon to a Life of Service

Surveying Public Lands! Training Future Cadastral Experts

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[Photo of a Mountain]

[Image of BLM Logo]

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[Photo of an Oregon Plateau by Twilight]

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Happy New Year! Can we really be publishing the third issue of Northwest Passage already? Yes! And we’re having fun with this...

If you’re joining us for the first time, let me welcome you to Northwest Passage, the Bureau of Land Management’s bimonthly Magazine for Oregon and Washington.

As we stand together at the horizon of a New Year, I’ve got three things on my mind – the past, the present, and the future.

During 2008, the BLM saw a number of major accomplishments (including the launch of this very magazine). In this space, I’d like to focus on one of our most expansive endeavors: the Western Oregon Plan Revisions.

From the very beginning, our stated aim was to complete the Western Oregon Plan Revisions during 2008. And I am proud to announce that we achieved and exceeded this goal.

When we fully implement these six land use plans, we anticipate increased timber harvests from the current levels while also meeting the conservation needs of the northern spotted owl, enlarging habitat for the marbled murrelet, maintaining water quality, and improving habitat for Federally-listed fish. The end result will boost receipts to the historic Oregon & California (O&C) Counties which will enhance economic stability in rural communities.

We are confident that this planning effort appropriately addresses the BLM’s obligations to provide for permanent forest production on the O&C lands while achieving water quality standards and contributing habitat

to the recovery of listed species. The plan also provides a full range of other social and ecological benefits. While not all those interested in the management of these lands will find that the plan adequately satisfies their personal interests, we believe most who give the plan an objective review will find the plan worthy of their support, or at least deserving a chance to be tested on the ground.

Revising these Western Oregon Plans has been a singular achievement and a team effort. It touched nearly every discipline within the BLM, and involved cooperators from the full array of scientific and community interests. We remain committed to working closely with our partners and the State of Oregon to resolve issues and concerns as the plan is implemented. Because of the important social, economic, and ecological values of these lands and the unique relationship between the BLM and the O&C Counties, we intend to continue to make this plan a priority.

And speaking of New Year's resolutions, what's next for the Oregon and Washington BLM?

In the coming year, the Spokane, John Day Basin, and Baker Resource Management Plans will all be moving forward with updates. The stewardship of these public resources is a vital expression of our multiple-use mission. We understand that people use public lands for both work and play, and that some areas may be more suitable for one activity than another. The BLM will continue to support initiatives that energize America's youth to enjoy outdoor activities. We're part of a national campaign to encourage people to "Get Outdoors! It's Yours." We'll also join our neighbors in celebrating Oregon's historic Sesquicentennial with many events and educational efforts to honor 150 years of statehood.

With so many exciting events unfolding, where do we get started? How about right here and right now, with issue three of Northwest Passage? Alongside gorgeous winter photos, you'll find captivating features chronicling our past, present and future.

From our past, read about 95-year-old retiree Howard DeLano who helped create a 60-mile road to the top of Steens Mountain. In our present, immerse yourself in cowboy poet Howard Lemm's opus to the BLM, Riding for the Brand. And speaking of the future, let's look forward to our new administration as one of our own staff, BLM cartographer Corey Plank, takes a trip to Washington DC to play music at the inauguration of President Obama!

We all stand together in this time of great change. A new year, a new President, a new Congress, a new set of goals in service to public lands. In looking back at our long, successful history, the BLM is fully poised to help write a successful future.

Let's get started.

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

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Take it Outside!

Volume 1, Issue 3

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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.

This Month's Cover

see the ripple?

Right Side Up

[Image of an Arrow]

[Reproduction of Magazine Cover]

Did you notice anything curious about this month's cover of Northwest Passage? When you looked at it, did something appear just a little, well, "odd?"

Ace photographer Scott Batchelar shot this photo of Mount Adams as a breathtaking reflection in Takhlakh Lake. We're seeing the real thing upside-down and reflected in a clear blue lake.

Don't believe us? Just take a close look at Scott's original shot of Mount Adams' reflection in the lake. We even circled the telltale ripple where a fish had jumped a split-second before Scott clicked his camera...

And speaking of photos!

Do you have a shot you think would look perfect as the cover on a future issue of Northwest Passage? If so, we want it! Please send your BLM-related photos, artwork, and ideas to or_northwest_passage@blm.gov.

(No vacation slideshows, please.)

PHOTO BY SCOTT BATCHELAR

Our Contributors

[Seven Photos of Contributors on Image of Corkboard]

1: What can we say about Howard Lemm that hasn't been said before? Howard is the Associate State Director for the BLM in Montana, an avid fisherman and outdoorsman, and an accomplished poet. Wait, poet? That's right, friend. Just read his paean to the BLM's service mission in his modern masterpiece, "Riding for the Brand" (Page 8). You better slide over, Baudelaire. Howard's got some fishin' and poetryin' to do.

2: Roseburg Public Affairs Officer Bob Hall is the guitarist and musical director for the BLM Band, but you might know him better as the original "Hall" in supergroup Hall & Oates. After delighting the world with his sweet soulful vocals and blazing fretwork, Bob dumped Oates to rededicate his musical and writing talents to our beautiful public lands. This month Bob serves as our artist-to-artist liaison with both poet Howard Lemm (Page 8) and metals and wood artist Hugh Watters (Page 14).

3: You wanted the best? We got the best! The best poetry in the world! Continuing this month's theme, Spokane archeologist Madilane Perry delivers this issue's second collection of verse (Page 20) – a magical adventure carrying us north to Washington's Channeled Scablands to visit unique million-year-old river valleys that can't be found anywhere else outside of Siberia!

4 & 5: Why are Kyle Hensley & John Farnsworth smiling? Perhaps it's because, as Cadastral Surveyors, they're happy the BLM assists the Oregon Institute of Technology to help train future land surveyors (Page 18). Or maybe it's because Kyle enjoyed some great bow hunting this year? Then again, it's possibly because John restored his convertible 1973 Triumph TR-6 British sports car and is ready to hit the road. Groovy, baby...Yeah!

6: Photographer Scott Batchelar joins us this month from the U.S. Forest Service where he's well-known for his creative, artistic shots. A recent hire, Scott considers this his dream job, and who are we to disagree!? His spectacular work has already graced many publications and posters for both the BLM and USFS. (Cover).

7: Defender is a four-year-old Aussie Cattle Dog and one of the Oregon Humane Society's most celebrated "therapy dogs." Defender's assistant, BLM retiree Kathy Eaton smiles next to her. When Defender and Kathy aren't helping folks feel a whole lot better, they both like to party! As in writing about the fun celebration for 95-year-old retiree Howard DeLano (Page 23) to recognize his instrumental role in the creation of the Steens Mountain Loop.

Public Lands Live

[Historic Black & White Photos of Men, Women, Horses, a Train, and a Pickup Truck]

Hey You! Tell Your Oregon Story (you just might hear your tale on the radio...)

After over sixty years as an agency, the BLM continues to play a key role in Oregon by helping celebrate the upcoming Sesquicentennial on February 14, 2009. In fact, there's so much to tell we need your help to do it right!

Got a good Oregon story? Or a cool photo? How about a video? Maybe a poem, article, audio report, painting, or other work of art? Great!

Because we want you, good readers of Northwest Passage, to tell your favorite stories of the BLM in Oregon. From the inspiring and poignant to the fascinating and humorous, Northwest Passage will be collecting all the best stories of the BLM in Oregon to share in upcoming issues.

And you can also share your tales as part of the Sesquicentennial "Oregon Stories" project. You might just see your own story reprinted on the Oregon 150 website or hear it reproduced on the radio!

You can find more details at the official Sesquicentennial website at oregon150.org/tell-your-oregon-story. And all submitted stories will form a special collection to be held in the Oregon State Archives after 2009.

Oregon is more than a place – it's a source of inspiration, a setting for adventure, and a journey of discovery. Please share your Oregon stories with us today by sending an email to OR_Northwest_Passage@blm.gov or by visiting oregon150.org.

And remember – all forms of expression are welcomed from your prose and poetry to your photographs, audio reports, and videos!

[Photo of an antique snapshot camera]

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BLM PHOTO DATABASE: www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/bpd.html

Valentine's Day 2009 Kicks Off a Year of Celebrations to Honor Oregon's 150th Birthday And The BLM is Joining in the Fun!

by Maya Fuller & Matt Christenson

[Image of Dotted Line and Arrow]

Start Here...and follow the Oregon Trail West...

[Image of the State of Oregon]

Oregon Is For Lovers (of Public Lands!)

Hey, do you love Oregon? We do, too... And speaking of "love," what are you doing this Valentine's Day? (Hopefully not forgetting to buy a card until the very last minute and then trying to pick through the leftovers at your local drugstore hoping you'll find something...anything! D'oh!)

So why not plan ahead to do something new?

On February 14th, 2009, the State of Oregon celebrates its 150th birthday – officially known as the "Sesquicentennial" if you're feelin' fancy – and the BLM is joining in the festivities!

Throughout 2009, the BLM will host a variety of Sesquicentennial-themed special projects and events across the state. And they're all aimed to connect Oregonians with our rich history and natural wonders.

As stewards of Oregon's public lands, the BLM is entrusted with protecting both our natural resources and our cultural history. And we are as sincere in upholding our responsibility as we are grateful for the opportunity to share and celebrate the BLM's legacy in helping to shape the State of Oregon today.

So what events are coming up? Lots! Both on and off BLM lands. Just get out your calendar and take a look to your left. And watch OR150.org for more info and upcoming events!

Events

What: Oregon's 150th Birthday Party!

Where: BLM National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Baker City, Oregon

When: February 14, 2009

Web: www.oregontrail.blm.gov

What: Facing Statehood, an art & history exhibit sharing the story of the pre-state Oregon Territory

Where: Mission Mill Museum, Salem, Oregon

When: Runs February 14, 2009 - early 2010

Web: www.missionmill.org

What: A Look at Oregon in the Year of Statehood, visiting Oregon's first 100 communities circa 1859

Where: Benton County Museum, Salem, Oregon

When: February 23, 2009

Web: www.bentoncountymuseum.org

What: Wagon Train Reenactment – Join a real wagon train in full costume crossing Virtue Flat!

Where: BLM National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Baker City, Oregon

When: August 15 - 16, 2009

Web: www.oregontrail.blm.gov

OurSpace

Of Wood and Rail

The Historic Oregon & California Railroad Receives New Life in the Artistic Creations of BLM Facilities Manager Hugh Watters

Story by Bob Hall

[Photo of a Wood/Metal Plaque]

Hugh Watters Original Art

“There are things in wood that no one can put in. You have to believe in a higher authority to see and appreciate those things.” – Hugh Watters

Where do Oregon’s old railroad tracks go when they’re no longer needed? BLM artist Hugh Watters knows...

Hugh Watters, Facilities Manager for the BLM’s Roseburg District, is a metal and steel worker by trade. Yet he’s always had a thing for wood. Hugh – Hughie to his friends – says wood has a special quality that makes it different from metal or any other material. Hugh finds it to be very forgiving and quick to work with. Hugh says, “There are things in wood that no man can put in. You have to believe in a higher authority to see and appreciate those things”.

About six years ago, Hugh started using his artisan skills in wood and metal work to make one-of-a-kind wooden plaques to commemorate the careers of retiring district employees and other folks who had a special connection to the Roseburg District.

“When it comes to showing our appreciation for a job well done, I want to give these special people something that is unique and beautiful, something that they will be proud to display that will bring back memories of their career or their contributions to the Roseburg District.”

These pieces certainly aren’t something just off the shelf or from a catalog.

All the wood Hugh uses is salvaged. Myrtlewood comes from the BLM’s Eagleview Campground, and the Doug fir is recycled from replaced shelves and walls in the Roseburg District office. Some of this recovered wood is more than 25 years old.

In addition to reclaiming his special wood, Hugh also uses these plaques to bring back to life a “piece of the rail” – the historic Oregon & California Rail, that is.

Portions of the Oregon and California (O&C) Railroad line were replaced or realigned but not removed. Then several years ago, Hugh Watters began to miraculously breathe new life into these unused O&C rails by incorporating them into his art.

Through trial and error, Hugh has learned many valuable lessons in the art of commemorative plaque-making. Mainly....don't finish the backs! For instance, words, initials, or even names have occasionally been misspelled, which, not surprisingly, can make a big difference for the recipient. And by not finishing the back, Hugh, who prefers a month or two to conceive, design and create these plaques, was able to correct one such misspelled plaque only five hours before its presentation by simply recreating the entire design on the misspelled plaque's own backside!

Given that the process includes cutting, smoothing and sanding the wood, laser cutting the images and letters, final sanding, applying two finish coats and attaching the piece of the rail, Hugh's five-hour turnaround was quite an achievement indeed.

Hugh feels these plaques show a true appreciation for the contributions of past employees to the Roseburg District. And Hugh's work has been presented to such notable Roseburg alumni as former BLM Director Jim Caswell who worked in the District during the late 1970s.

But you know how people talk. And once other folks start to hear about Hugh's historic artistry coming out of Roseburg, it won't be a surprise if our new BLM Director would like to hang an original Hugh Watters piece in his office as well.

[Photo of Hugh Watters and Jim Caswell Shaking Hands]

Hugh Watters delivers one of his creations to former BLM Director, Jim Caswell

PHOTOS BY BOB HALL

District Round-Up

The BLM Lends a Hand

Federal Employees give of themselves to their communities

Did you know?

- The Combined Federal Campaign supports national, regional, and local non-profit organizations.
- Nationally and internationally, more than 300 CFC campaigns raise millions of dollars for charity each and every year.
- In 2008, the Oregon and Washington BLM donated more than \$110,000 to the CFC!
- In addition to supporting the CFC, BLM Employees donated food, toys, supplies, and their time to local charities!

[Photo of a Woman and Child Ringing a Bell for Holiday Donations]

Scientists have officially proven that adorableness + ringing = donations

[Photo of Woman Writing on Dry Erase Board]

I Want Better Parking!

[Photo of an Auction]

Hey, who offered a million dollars?

[Photo of People Unloading a Truck]

That's Teamwork!

[Photo of a Gift Drop Box]

Fill me with toys and food for cats and dogs!

[Photo of Adults and Kids Picking up Toys Under a Holiday Tree]

These kids are working hard!

PHOTOS BY BOB HALL, TARA MARTINAK, SCOTT STOFFEL, LISA CLARK, TIM JACOBSSON & MATT CHRISTENSON

With 2009 barely cresting the horizon, Oregon and Washington BLM employees have taken stock of our accomplishments over the past year.

And as we looked back at some of our triumphs from 2008, we decided to highlight not just the successes in our service mission to the public lands. Rather, in light of President Obama's call for Americans to commit themselves

to public service, the Oregon and Washington BLM reviewed the contributions that we employees have made to our own communities.

One of the BLM's largest and most publicized annual efforts is the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) encouraging Federal employees to make donations to national, regional, and local non-profit organizations. Throughout the country and internationally, more than 300 CFC campaigns raise millions of dollars for charity. And pledges made by Federal, civilian, postal, and military donors support eligible nonprofit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

But the CFC isn't the only charitable outlet which BLM employees used to give of ourselves in 2008. We spoke with the BLM Districts in Oregon and Washington to hear about some of their most diverse and rewarding endeavors from the past year.

Kicking off our Round-Up is the Burns District where employees regularly participated in numerous charitable activities. Throughout the year they held a number of canned food drives with all contributions going to the Harney County Food Bank. By Thanksgiving, the Food Bank was able to sponsor over 300 meals for local residents. And during the holiday season, the Burns conference room was filled with dozens of pounds of nonperishable and dry goods – all of which went to the Food Bank as well.

The Burns CFC drive was another popular avenue of giving. Almost \$7,000 was raised through a parking space raffle, a homemade goods auction, potluck lunch donations, and general contributions.

In addition to these annual activities, the Burns staff also gathers personal hygiene products year-round to donate to both the Harney HOPE Shelter in Burns and The Aspens Assisted Living Community in Hines. And the Burns District sponsored some families during the holiday season by providing gifts, a decorated holiday tree, food, and a visit from Santa for the kids!

A number of Burns employees also participated in local organizations such as the Lion's Club or worked independently to raise money for schools through Save Our District Activities, the Frenchglen School, and the Harney Arts and Music Foundations. And given that a number of Burns employees also serve as everything from volunteer firefighters and first-responders to free school tutors, club sport coaches, and mentors to the Scouts, you can imagine they've been pretty busy in their community!

In a short but very sweet update, the Coos Bay District reported that they auctioned parking spaces last year (hey, some spots are better than others!) to raise money for the CFC. They also held a competition for a District Manager-provided car wash (no window streaks, please) and contributed overall general donations totaling almost \$6,000 for this year's CFC effort!

In 2008, the Eugene District joined forces with the U.S. Forest Service to hold its first-ever joint CFC Kick-Off Event. After a wonderful launch to their campaign, the BLM staff held a number of fun, food-related events! Whether it was the all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner or the pizza feed or the always enthusiastic taco night, BLM staffers were happy to pay an affordable \$5 per person to tie on the feed bag knowing all proceeds went to charitable causes. In addition, Eugene employees held a silent auction, took donations, and created a video to help publicize their events. After all the events were complete, the Eugene District was happy to report they collected well over \$14,000 for charitable causes.

In the Lakeview District, the Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA) organized two fundraisers for their 2008 CFC drive. The first event was their 2nd Annual Survivor Challenge, a timed course consisting of seven highly challenging “skills stations.” In addition to raising money, people had a lot of fun! And Molly Boyter was hailed the winner with a time of just over sixteen minutes. Her prowess was officially recognized with an immunity necklace at the KFRA’s December All Employees Meeting. Needless to say, Molly won’t be kicked off the “Lakeview Island” any time soon.

The second event hosted by the KFRA was their 6th Annual Halloween Costume Contest. Game rules asked participants to purchase votes for their favorite contestant. Then the competitor with the most votes would receive the highly coveted 2008 Peoples’ Choice Award. This year’s contest ended in a too-close-to-call tie between Don Hoffheins and Marv Strom. Don made an appearance as “Moses” – handing down Dick Prather’s Western Oregon Plan Revisions Commandments no less! And Buccaneer Marv and his girlfriend Ruth Anne arrived in costume as a brutish pirate couple. Better watch out Johnny Depp...

Overall, the employees of the KFRA raised more than \$5,000 for charities through their payroll deductions, cash donations, and participation in fundraising events.

In addition to Klamath Falls’ terrific efforts in successfully raise money for the favorite charitable beneficiaries, the Lakeview Interagency Office hosted three additional CFC fundraisers of their own.

Their first event was a Halloween luncheon where volunteers prepared a favorite soup recipe and contributed a dish to the cause. For a donation of \$3 per bowl, attendees were treated to any soup of their choice. Then the second event was a live silent auction of items provided by employees and their families. A fierce bidding competition ensued – especially for homemade items such as applesauce, jam and salsa. These auctions generated a total of \$1,442.

The final event was a baked foods auction held just before the Thanksgiving holiday. Staff members donated multiple varieties of delectable cookies, cakes, and pies. Overall, the employees of the Lakeview Interagency Office raised more than \$13,500 for charities through payroll deductions, cash donations, and fundraising events.

In 2008, the gauntlet was thrown down by the Prineville District only to be quickly picked up by the Ochoco National Forest. Employees in both offices agreed to a 30-day food drive to collect non-perishable food for local non-profit organizations. And the winning office would receive five days worth of home baked goods from the losing office! But as the month progressed, these stakes grew ever higher. More and more news articles reported on the need for food in Oregon with shortages forecasted for this coming winter. So employees heartily responded to these challenges by bringing in more food each and every day.

In December, the Prineville staff officially won this challenge by bringing in just over 2,000 pounds of food! The Ochoco National Forest also finished strong by collecting over 1,000 pounds. The real winners were the local food banks run by organizations like St. Vincent de Paul and the Oasis Soup Kitchen who received over three thousand pounds of food!

This month-long contest was just one aspect of the Prineville’s annual CFC. “The great thing about this challenge,” said BLM-employee, Lisa Clark, “is that we got to have a lot of fun doing a good thing, and it really brought out the competitive nature of employees! We had people sneaking around each office and strategizing

on how to win. I think the Ochoco staff will be looking at some payback next year, and that can only help our local charities.”

The holiday spirit continued at the Prineville BLM even after the food drive was complete. BLM staffers participated in several fundraisers sponsored by the Employee Association to include bake sales and craft giveaways. With grand prizes like donated vacation stays on the Oregon coast, the McKenzie River, and the island of St. Maarten, participation was high. And the proceeds of these events went to purchase gifts and food for eight kids and three adults in low-income families sponsored by the Prineville District. The BLM was also able to purchase a number of wish-list items for the Humane Society of the Ochocos. With plans for next year’s events already underway, the entire office hopes for even bigger and better results in 2009!

Well, they did it again. The employees of the Roseburg District shattered their own record-setting efforts from 2007 by making an incredibly significant round of contributions to both local and nationwide charities in 2008.

Roseburg BLM employees raised more than \$30,000 for local, national and international nonprofit organizations during the six week CFC that ran from October 2, 2008 to November 13, 2008. This year’s activities featured a baked goods and media sale, a pumpkin carving contest, a soup, salsa and baked goods cook-off, and the main event – the annual “CFC auction extravaganza.”

Roseburg’s CFC extravaganza was a big fund-raiser that generated nearly \$26,000 by relying primarily on the generous contributions of BLM employees and their families. This year’s donated auction items included fishing, crabbing, and rafting trips, a pontoon boat, cheesecakes, pies, gift certificates to local businesses, homemade goods, and handcrafted items.

Roseburg BLM District Manager, Jay Carlson said, “I guess we really shouldn’t be surprised. Roseburg BLM employees seem to consistently find ways to give back to their local community. This is especially refreshing and inspiring during these difficult economic times. This is also a reflection of the great community we live and work in, and BLM is proud to be a part of it.”

Since 1980, the Roseburg District office has raised almost \$400,000 through the CFC!

One of the Salem District’s special projects is Season of Suppers, their annual campaign to help the pets of Meals On Wheels recipients. Salem employees collected approximately 50 gallons of both dry and canned pet food to give to recipients’ pets. And they also made monetary donations to fund grants that will start and sustain pet feeding programs.

As part of the Marion/Polk County Food Drive, the Salem District staff also collected three 50-gallon barrels of food that were distributed during the Thanksgiving holiday – with another three barrels distributed at the end of the year.

Also during 2008, twenty \$20 food certificates were purchased for families of Pringle School – the Salem District’s business partner – and delivered for the Thanksgiving Holiday! Recipients of these gift cards were identified by the school as needing holiday food assistance. Another 30 Giving Tree Tags for children and siblings of Pringle School were collected by District employees who then bought and delivered the gifts making the holidays brighter for families throughout the Salem community! In fact, the Salem/Keizer School District presented the Salem District with a recognition award honoring their contribution to the community. And the Salem staff raised approximately \$10,000 through their 2008 CFC efforts!

The Vale District continued its enthusiastic dedication to a variety of fund raisers throughout the year – all of which were geared toward the year-end holidays. Vale employees continued their annual sponsorship of two local families identified by charities. This year Vale staffers raised almost one thousand dollars for these two families in addition to giving them generous gifts. And part of the collected monies went to the local food bank for their December Food Drive. Vale staffers also freely donated to support one of their fellow employees whose son is being treated for cancer. And the Baker Field Office raised money and goods through the sale of baked items and a really fun silent auction – with all proceeds donated to their own local food bank. By the end of 2008, the Vale District contributed almost \$8,000 to the CFC.

Don't forget the Oregon State Office! In a fiercely contentious chili cook-off, the BLM took top honors for World's Most Amazing Achievement in the Field of Chili. In this joint-services money-raising effort, the BLM bested both the US Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers. But the real winners were the CFC – and all the folks who feasted on chili prepared by the BLM's many talented chefs.

Also, the Oregon State Office's Larry Smith and the Human Resources Development Committee led community efforts to collect perishable goods, children's toys, and dog and cat supplies for the Portland Police Bureau, the Salvation Army, and Dove Lewis, Portland Oregon's only nonprofit emergency and critical care animal hospital.

And after all was said and done, the Oregon State Office collected \$22,000 in the 2008 CFC Drive!

We Sing the Land Public: Cowboy Poet Howard Lemm's ODE to the BLM

Poem by Howard Lemm

Story by Bob Hall

[Photo of a Cabin]

When I interviewed Howard Lemm about his poem, *Riding for the Brand*, he asked me to make it clear that this article should be about our commitment to the work of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It's not about Howard. Oh, and by the way, Howard is the current Associate State Director for the BLM in Montana.

Riding for the Brand was inspired by the unwritten code of conduct among cowboys on the ranches where Howard worked summers when he was growing up. These ranch "employees" displayed a total commitment to their work until the job was completed, regardless of the hours or whether "the boss" was watching them.

Howard can't remember the exact date when he got interested in cowboy poetry, but he does know that he's become more active in the last few decades. Today Howard uses cowboy poetry to capture and preserve memorable stories about family, outdoor experiences, and the remarkable people he meets along life's journey. So why call it "cowboy poetry"? Howard says that kind of prose seems like it has fewer rules – though he's not totally sure whether that's really true or not.

Howard has performed his poetry at various events, but he says he'd rather be out actually participating in new life experiences to inspire another poem. Applicably, Howard's own written words tend to be about growing up out West, cowboys, life in general, and the folks who influenced his life.

Howard's poems have been featured on *The Poet's Corner*, a Sunday morning radio show in Billings, Montana. And at their annual celebration in 2001, Howard was named Poet of the Year. Howard was also featured last year as part of the BLM Band. And he performed for BLM staff and the Secretary of the Interior at the historic Main Interior Building in Washington D.C.

Through his poetry, Howard has met many incredible people at events around the West. He's constantly amazed at the talent of his fellow poets and their ability to paint clear and vivid pictures in their written and spoken words.

Riding for the Brand portrays both the life that Howard Lemm aspires to live as well as the respect he holds for his fellow public servants. Northwest Passage is proud to present Howard's work as a timeless tribute to the BLM's mission – and to the staff who live it every day.

[Image of Aged Parchment with the BLM Logo Branded On It]

Ridin' for the Brand

The old time cattle ranches weren't known by the owner's name.
But they were labeled and distinct, just the same.

Known instead by the brand for which they'd ride,
and that brought expectations and a whole lotta pride.

These cowboys had a phrase they coined "Ridin' for the Brand,"
it's an oath and term of loyalty for tenderfoots through the top hands.
Based on just one single, simple fact,
for the outfit payin' your wage, your allegiance you owned them back.

All them hands were free to choose their work and to come and go,
but once they chose, there was somethin' they needed to know.
Their new spread named for the brand it used,
required their best work and loyalty, that wasn't to be abused.

Sure, decidin' to quit and move on was a guaranteed right of this free land,
but as long you stayed, loyalty was the brand.
Seems that's a principle that still applies today,
Maybe you just haven't thought of it, in quite that manner or way.

Now your brand is this multiple use outfit,
to this job you've decided to commit.
You were hired 'cause we needed your kind,
All your skills, your background, and a clear thinkin' mind.

So welcome, we're pleased you're here.
We need the best you've got, that's perfectly clear.
'Cause now you're riding for the nation's biggest spread,
and our mission is the most complex, man have said.

We gotta pull together to fulfill the public's trust.
It's a big, big job and many are dependin' on us.
So keep your focus on the landscapes – to that always remain true.
Your oath now is to everyone under the read, the white and the blue.

After all, we're the crew that manages the public lands,
so stand tall, be proud, 'cause there is no better brand.

- Howard A. Lemm.

We're An American Band

One of the BLM's resident musicians takes his show on the road to perform for the Inauguration of President Obama

The True Story of Corey Plank as told to Matt Christenson

PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA PLANK

[Photo of a Marching Band Drum]

[Photo of a Man Playing a Trombone]

[Photo of Three Men Standing Before the White House in Washington, DC]

Corey Plank, right, stands with his fellow musicians. Oh, and yeah, that's the White House.

So Corey, did you come to the President's town to help him "party down?" Corey nods his head. "I guess so," he laughs. "And the Pentagon was our 'Green Room.'"

At the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), folks probably know Corey Plank best as a Cartographer. A maker of maps. And that's fine because that's who he is. Well, one aspect of who he is.

Corey is also a maker of Rock. Rock with a capital "R" and that rhymes with "car", like a 1971 Plymouth Hemi-Cuda blasting Led Zeppelin's Stairway to Heaven.

Can it get more rock 'n' roll than that? Oh yes...

Because Corey swings a true metal instrument as one of the members of a marching band. Sure, Zeppelin's okay, but is there anything more heavy or metal than the serious weight of a brass tuba? You know there isn't.

"Um, I don't play the tuba," Corey interrupts me. "I play the baritone horn. It's more like a baby tuba."

Um, okay. Diva musicians...

If success has gone to his head, it's because Corey plays a mean baritone horn ("mini tuba") for the Get A Life Marching Band, one of Portland, Oregon's premiere adult outfits of the kind.

If you're unfamiliar with adult marching bands, they're often a group of former high school and college band musicians who get together to continue their love for music and performing.

In fact, the Get A Life Marching Band performs up to 30 times a year traveling everywhere from San Francisco for the Chinese New Year Parade to Florida for the Walt Disney World Parade to, well, the White House for the Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States.

"Actually," Corey says, "we only mailed in our application to the Inauguration Committee four days before the deadline."

And they turned us down.”

Really?

“Yep.” Corey continues, “But I guess someone dropped out. So two days before the New Year, the Inauguration Committee called up our band leader who was on vacation. It was the holiday season, and our band leader had to chase down everybody - and there are over 100 people in the band - just so he could call back the Inauguration folks and accept their offer.” Corey laughs again, “It was pretty crazy for a couple of days. But also a pretty nice way to ring in the New Year.”

How many applications had the committee received?

“About 1,400. And we ended up being one of only 100 bands or so who got to play the event.”

Did anyone else get chosen from the northwest?

“The Evergreen High School Marching Band and Color guard from Vancouver, Washington was also chosen. They were excited and played well and all, but we have a few things on the youngsters.”

Like what?

“Well, like having 60-year-old baton twirlers and being able to walk down Pennsylvania Avenue after over 30 years of marching with our instruments.”

Touche.

So what songs did you play for him as you passed the Reviewing Stand?

“We knew we had to play Louie Louie. (Song made famous by Oregon’s original band, The Kingsmen - Ed.) Then we decided to play We’re An American Band (Shame on you if you don’t know the Grand Funk - Ed.) because we have a number of members who join us from other states. We truly are an ‘American Band.’”

Awesome. So how was it?

“Well, we flew into Philadelphia and got a hotel there because there were absolutely no rooms available in D.C. Then we woke up at midnight to ride our bus into Washington. We met up with our security liaison at the Pentagon and just hung out there until they moved us to the staging area. Then it was time to perform.”

How many people watched you play?

“At least 40,000 people saw us. We felt like Devo.”

What was the reaction from the President and First Lady Obama when you marched past them playing Louie Louie?

“When they saw the Get A Life Band rocking it marching band-style, they both waved and laughed and were clearly having a blast. And we were, too.”

The “Real World” Comes to Oregon

The BLM, the official Federal land record keeper for the last two centuries, helps train future cadastral experts to survey for the next 200 years.

Story by Kyle Hensley and John Farnsworth

[Photo of Two Surveyors Standing by Their Equipment]

[Photo of a Surveyor Standing by a Tree]

“I have no other view than to promote the public good.”

George Washington, First President & Early American Surveyor

“Surveying seems a noble employment.”

Henry David Thoreau, Author, Philosopher & American Surveyor

According to the Klamath Indians, Klamath Falls sits at the “...land where falling waters rush.” Also at Klamath Falls sits the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) where an innovative program brings together the Federal Government and students to conduct real world in-the-field cadastral work.

OK, so what is cadastral work and why would the BLM need students to help with this program?

Good question.

Cadastral surveys deal with one of the oldest and most fundamental facets of human society – the ownership of land. Simply put, cadastral surveys create, mark, define, retrace, or reestablish the boundaries and subdivisions of public lands in the United States. More importantly, these surveys are the foundation upon which rest the title of all land that is now, or was once, part of the Public Domain of the United States.

Yep. They’re that important.

So why the Oregon Institute of Technology? Well, OIT had the first four-year surveying program established in the U.S. And ever since the school’s inception more than 60 years ago, OIT has continually built a relationship between its students and the Cadastral Survey Program at the BLM. Students need to learn this all-important skill, and the BLM needs help in getting work done on the ground. To date, approximately 230 surveying graduates are currently or have been employed with the BLM. And OIT alumni constitute about half of the BLM’s nation-wide surveying staff.

That’s a whole lot of surveyors. And a whole lot of Oregon experience.

As an educational institution, OIT has long been known for its hands-on instructional approach. So BLM retiree and now Assistant Professor Tim Kent discussed the idea of having the students of the Senior Practicum course conduct a real-world Federal authority survey. This level of experience had never been undertaken before. So some serious salesmanship talks began. And soon contact was made with the BLM offices in Lakeview and

Klamath Falls to identify a project area with real value to their mission to secure support and limited funding for the project.

You're probably scratching your head right about now. Students? Doing Federal surveys? Yes.

But everyone realized that this survey would need an official "request for survey." So the Lakeview BLM provided it. Next, the survey required special instructions before it could be assigned to the field to determine how the work was to be accomplished. The survey itself was assigned to Karen Schank, the BLM's lead land surveyor in Medford, Oregon. Karen's responsibility was then to ensure the survey was conducted under the 1973 Manual of Surveying Instructions as well as other rules and regulations pertaining to this specific situation. The BLM would handle the role of the Senior Practicum class much the same as if they were a professional contractor conducting a land survey for the BLM.

Ultimately an official contract with all the trimmings was created. This accomplished two things. First, it helped Karen make certain that the field work would be done correctly by laying out GPS and conventional traverse specifications, monument establishment rules, and line marking specifications. And secondly, it taught the students a real example of a work contract.

At the start of the field season, the work began with courthouse research and corner search – determining the corners of the property. Next the logistics of the field work required schedule planning as each student had other projects and class assignments to complete. Then once the lines were surveyed on the ground, the closures were calculated and checked. All field work and calculations were inspected by the BLM to confirm it met the specifications of the contract.

In the end, the survey project accomplished several different things. First and foremost, the students were involved in a real-life surveying situation. They had to follow the specifics of a contract and conduct real field work – all while juggling class assignments and their personal lives. Secondly, the BLM received a Federal-authority survey to define the boundaries of an upcoming timber sale. And finally, the Cadastral Survey program exposed more potential employees to the world of BLM cadastral surveying.

Then in the fall of 2008, OIT's Boundary Survey class conducted another federal authority survey on BLM lands near Klamath Falls under the supervision of Karen Schank, the lead surveyor in the Medford District. This survey has its complexities involving data collection, calculation, and evaluation of the evidence to mark a boundary line that separates federal and private lands.

There's no question that the relationship between the BLM and OIT is a positive experience for both parties. The BLM plans to continue working with OIT in the future. By OIT students getting a valuable opportunity to do the actual field work, they gain the experience of conducting a real live survey. And these future surveyors join a long American tradition in becoming a part of the historical framework of the United States.

The Channeled Scablands

Madilane Perry, BLM Archaeologist

[Photo of Washington's Channeled Scablands]

It's a dry, spare land, whose bones show through
in the track of ancient floods.

Plunge pools, mesas, and coulees
where rolling hills once stood.

Hills of dust from the glacier's
patient, many-toothed mill,
ash spewed out by volcanoes,
some fitfully fuming still.

Then the ice dams broke and roaring floods
tore the hills from their fire-forged bones,
The stripped basalt stood, harsh and black,
its softening mantle gone.

Black columns line the coulee walls
in stair stepped, angular colonnades.

Yawning beneath them in softer stone
The wide-arched caves that the flood scour made.

Exposed in miles-wide, twisting scars
the Earth's black bones long waited
for winds to bear a scant soil back,
for rains of ash from the Cascades' craters.

The little streams and rivers
on their winding ways to the sea

tried on the fit of the coulees
where the ancient floods ran free.
The scab rock shrugged up its tatters of soil
and the creeks piled silt along their ways.
The sagebrush bloomed and the bunch grass thrived
and gave us the world we know today.
Where the short-lived, stony, little lakes
welcome the ducks each spring
and crawdads lumber in creek beds,
like armored, prehistoric things.
The ancient people who knew this land
drew life from its rocky breast.
Knew where camas and bitter root
fattened and grew the best.
Now there's cattle in the coulees,
and towns along the creeks
But the history's written in the land
for all to see who seek.

BLMeetup

BLM Ranger Patrick Apley Saves a Life

Story by Scott Stoffel

PHOTO BY SCOTT STOFFEL

“So what went through your mind when his eyes rolled back in his head?”

“Time to do CPR...”

[Photo of Ranger Patrick Apley Sitting Atop a Horse]

When Law Enforcement Ranger Patrick Apley left the Lakeview District Office on the afternoon of November 4, 2008, he didn't know the events about to unfold would live forever in his memory. Patrick Apley was one of the first people on the scene where a man complained of chest pains. As Apley entered the Lake County Emergency Services Building to attend a meeting with local law enforcement agents, he was informed by their call center that a man who worked as a woodcutter at the Quartz Mountain Winter Recreation Area was experiencing chest pain.

Ranger Apley was immediately dispatched to the incident along with Lake County Deputy Sheriffs Chuck Pore and Daniel Tague. Upon arrival at the scene, Ranger Apley located the woodcutter in his vehicle and began asking him questions about his medical history. A former Army Corpsman and Emergency Medical Tech, Ranger Apley also holds a nursing license. During the interview, the man's eyes rolled back in his head, he took his last breath and his heart stopped beating.

Instantly, the three law enforcement officials pulled the individual from his pickup and placed him on the ground. They used an automated external defibrillator unit to deliver three shocks to the man's chest and initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Following the third shock, the man regained consciousness and was able to sit upright.

At this time, an ambulance arrived on site and transported the man to the Lake District Hospital where he was stabilized. Later that evening the patient was flown to Sky Lakes Medical Center in Klamath Falls. After having stents placed in four arteries, he was released from the hospital having sustained no damage to his heart.

In recognition of the efforts of Ranger Apley and all emergency responders involved in his rescue, the man posted a letter at various Lakeview businesses that stated “I have my life back but would not have if I had not had help from many professional people from Lake County.”

Ranger Apley indicated he would never forget November 4, 2008, as it is rare for someone in full cardiac arrest to walk away from such an event without experiencing any long-term complications. Thanks in no small part to the BLM's own Ranger Apley.

Pioneers

Reaching the Top of the Mountain

Story by Kathy Eaton, BLM Retiree

PHOTO BY MATT CHRISTENSON

[Photo of Howard and Pearl DeLano at the BLM's Oregon State Office]

The Oregon and Washington BLM Retirees Association in conjunction with the BLM honored 95-year-old retired District Manager Howard DeLano in Portland, Oregon on November 13, 2008.

Howard received a bronze plaque to be placed at Steens Mountain in southern Oregon for his work to have the Steens Mountain National Back Country Byway built to the delight of visitors from around the world.

Howard began working for the Grazing Service in Burns, Oregon back in 1939 – before the BLM even existed. After he was appointed District Manager of the Burns District in 1953, Howard began a quest to open an access road to reach the top of the Steens Mountain, one of the highest spots in Oregon with an elevation of almost 10,000 feet.

Before Howard began his quest, there was only an ungraded rock road used only by local stockmen, fishermen, hunters, and local land owners. Due to the treacherous nature of the old “wagon wheel road,” the general public did not have access to view the deep gorges and the beauty and uniqueness of Steens Mountain.

It took years of persistence by Howard to secure the necessary funding to construct a graded road that would enable the public to drive to the top of Steens Mountain. But his efforts paid off. Soon after Howard retired from the BLM in 1972, construction on the road began under direction from Howard's replacement, Don Robins.

Retired Oregon and Washington BLM State Director William G. Leavell recently proposed that the BLM recognize Howard's contributions with a plaque to be placed near the Steens Loop Road. This proposal was advanced by the Oregon and Washington BLM Retiree's Association chaired by retired Associate State Director Chuck Wassinger who garnered support from current Oregon and Washington State Director Ed Shepard. Then Dana Shuford, former Burns District Manager, enlisted the input of the local Steens Management Advisory Council which lent their support to the proposal.

The National Public Lands Foundation heartily endorsed this effort and, on November 13, 2008, Howard, along with his wife Pearl and his many friends, was recognized with a bronze plaque commemorating his dream to create a paved road to the top of Steens Mountain.

Today close to 10,000 people from around the world visit the top of Steens each year. And every one of them travels up “Howard's Road” to reach the summit where they share Howard's vision of the immense mountain gorges and beautiful vistas.

BackCountry

Where in the world is Johnny Horizon?

[Photo of an Aged Painting of former BLM Mascot Johnny Horizon]

PHOTO BY DAVID GARCIA

Whatever happened to the BLM's Johnny Horizon? Once upon a time, Johnny served President Gerald Ford as his personal ambassador for the Johnny Horizon '76 Program.

A public representative similar to Smokey Bear, Johnny Horizon spent the better part of the 1960s and 1970s hobnobbing with celebrities like Sonny and Cher, Ed McMahon, Glenn Campbell, and Burl Ives – all in the name of helping Americans improve our environment, conserve our natural resources, and clean up our nation for America's Bicentennial.

Youths took the "Johnny Horizon Pledge." And his story was sung by no less a luminary than Johnny Cash on his national television program.

And then he was gone.

Would you like to learn more about Johnny Horizon? We would, too.

In a future issue of Northwest Passage, we'll tell the story of the BLM's Johnny Horizon. If you have any artifacts, art, posters, records, personal stories, or, well, anything, we'd love it if you'd share them and help tell his tale. Just drop us a line at or_northwest_passage@blm.gov.

And keep an eye out for the return of Johnny Horizon. If we start looking, maybe he'll find his way back home.