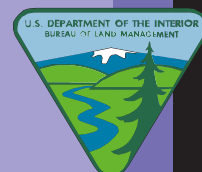


2006 Accomplishment Report



BLM Recreation and Visitor Services

An annual accomplishment report by the
Recreation and Visitor Services Advisory Team (RVSAT)



Cover Photo

Headwaters Forest Reserve, California

2006 RVSAT Accomplishments Report

“Recreation Thirty Years After FLPMA”

Recreation has been an official part of the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) mission since the 1964 Classification and Multiple Use Act. This Act acknowledged the value of managing public lands for recreation and established the basis for congressional appropriations for recreation management activities. But it was under the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) that recreation really became a core component of the bureau’s resource management programs.

FLPMA provided us with the tools we needed to cooperatively and creatively manage the public lands, and in the process, demonstrated that a variety of users and resources can coexist. At that time, few anticipated the West’s rapid growth and the changes that were coming. These changes placed increased demands on the public lands.

The 1980’s and 90’s – Post FLPMA era

In 1989, the recreation and visitor services program took a giant step forward with the release of BLM’s Recreation 2000 strategy. Recreation 2000 generated numerous national agency programs, facilities and initiatives. The BLM state outdoor recreation planners began meeting informally as the “Dirty Dozen” to solve some of the chronic challenges of the recreation program. The 1995, The Recreation 2000 Update refined and focused program priorities by allowing field offices to define their recreation setting or “niche.”

The update encouraged the implementation of those initiatives appropriate to local resources. Consequently, BLM’s recreation program was built around dozens of locally-driven, activity-based initiatives that were often proposed by influential, and occasionally polarized, interest groups. The cumulative effect was a proliferation of site specific projects, programs and facilities that often caused a change in setting character, displaced visitors, crowded sites, and created conflicts. Beneficial relationships with other nearby, recreation providers were not considered and other potential recreation opportunities were lost. This activity-driven approach did not fully consider the full range of desired recreation experiences and benefit outcome opportunities they could generate.

BLM's Dynamic Recreation Strategy

In 2003, the BLM executive leadership team (ELT), the recreation and visitor services advisory team (RVSAT) and other program leaders recognized that the growing complexity of BLM's recreation issues required a new, comprehensive and innovative approach for recreation management. With input and support from a broad range of constituent and community interests, BLM cooperatively developed a dynamic new strategy that would set specific actions, maximize benefits, promote partnerships and generate sustainable management approaches for recreation and visitor services.

Simultaneously, as a result of a growing awareness on the part of Congress regarding recreation issues on public lands, the House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations directed that:

“The Bureau should report to the committee by March 1, 2004, on efforts to develop a unified strategy for recreation management, including management of dispersed recreation” (House Report 108-195).

The BLM responded by developing a “unified strategy,” which embraced a benefits-based management framework with direction to incorporate this outcome and business oriented approach into all agency training, budget performance, planning policy, program guidance and on-ground recreation management. This fundamental shift in approach for recreation program management helped achieve a sustainable, long-term strategy for managing recreation on the public lands.

The BLM's Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services workplan, (a.k.a., “the purple book”) was published in May 2003, and refocused the program on achieving what are now two major Department of the Interior goals for its recreation mission statement: 1) ensuring quality experiences and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources; and 2) providing for and receiving fair value in recreation. This workplan emphasized seven key, comprehensive program objectives demonstrating BLM's commitment to both the department and its constituents, and ushered the program into the 21st century. These seven key objectives, in the order identified in the unified strategy, are:

1. Manage public lands and waters for enhanced recreation experiences and quality of life.
2. Encourage sustainable travel and tourism development with gateway communities and provide community-based conservation for visitor services.

3. Provide fair value and return for recreation through fee collection and commercial services.
4. Establish a comprehensive approach to travel planning and management.
5. Ensure public health and safety, and improve the condition and accessibility of recreation sites and facilities.
6. Encourage and sustain collaborative partnerships, volunteers and citizen-centered public services.
7. Enhance and expand visitor services, including interpretation, information and education.

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

Under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA or REA) enacted in 2004, Congress authorized the BLM and Forest Service (FS) to collect two types of recreation fees that may be used to repair, maintain, and upgrade recreational facilities and services to meet public demand: amenity fees and individual special recreation permit fees. FLREA also authorized BLM to collect and locally retain two kinds of amenity fees: standard amenity fees and expanded amenity fees. Both come from the public's use of developed sites or specialized services, which meet specific criteria, set forth in the Act. Fees collected at these sites can be used locally for facility repair; maintenance; enhancement; interpretation; visitor information; visitor services; visitor needs assessments; signs; habitat restoration directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation that is limited to hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, or photography; law enforcement related to public use and recreation and direct operating or capital costs associated with the recreation and visitor services program.

Recreation Trends Lead to New BLM Policies

Population growth, the urbanization of the West, the economics of recreation and the constant changes in recreation technology are making the old program based models of recreation management obsolete. RVSAT has led the BLM toward benefits based management (BBM), which attempts to preserve settings, while providing a range of benefits to meet visitor demands. BBM supports gateway communities and meets the needs of our recreation users. Managing for benefits as a management stance is gaining support across agency and international boundaries.

BLM's Washington Office transmitted instruction memorandum, WO IM No. 2006-060, to the field on January 10, 2006. This directive affirmed the ELT commitment to change the conceptual framework within which public lands recreation is managed. For special

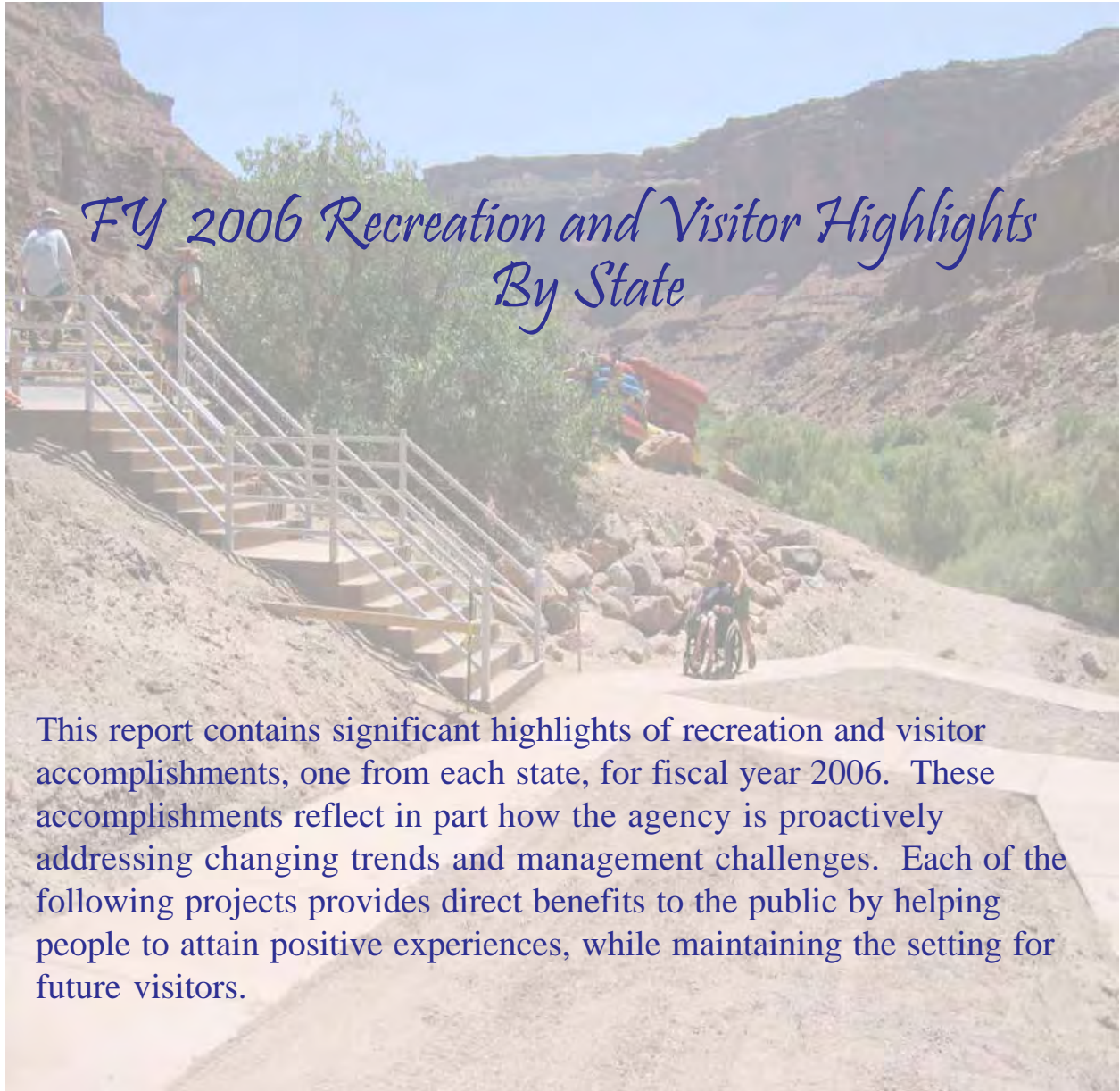
recreation management areas, this changed historic activity-based management practice to the expanded benefits-based conceptual framework, as outlined in the BLM's land use planning handbook. It also requires the application of BBM principles to the interim management of special recreation management areas:

“This IM affirms BLM’s corporate commitment to change its framework and emphasis to benefits-based recreation management. All new and on-going LUPs (land-use plans) shall incorporate and implement policy contained in appendices C and D of the LUP handbook. Until LUPs incorporating appendices C and D policies have been approved -- and for completed LUPs which do not incorporate appendices C and D policies, field managers will assess and evaluate effects of proposed projects in special recreation management areas on activities, experiences, beneficial outcomes and recreation setting character to ensure consistency with benefits-based management concepts.”

This directive is particularly significant, having also adopted the unified strategy on January 9, 2007. The transmitting instruction memorandum, WO IM No. 2007-043, underscores this by stating:

“This IM is critical to ongoing and future land use planning efforts because it provides a logical, structured framework for analyzing recreation-tourism market demand for recreational activities, experiences, and benefit opportunities.”

Together, both directives reposition the BLM's recreation program to more effectively respond to identified recreation-tourism customer desires and, at the same time, guide and constrain traditional program and project management, resulting in increased program efficiency and effectiveness.



*FY 2006 Recreation and Visitor Highlights
By State*

This report contains significant highlights of recreation and visitor accomplishments, one from each state, for fiscal year 2006. These accomplishments reflect in part how the agency is proactively addressing changing trends and management challenges. Each of the following projects provides direct benefits to the public by helping people to attain positive experiences, while maintaining the setting for future visitors.

Colorado River Accessible Walkway, UT

Gulkana Wild & Scenic River Canyon Rapids Portage Trail

This project preserved the primitive shoreline standards for the wild & scenic river settings character and facilitated the beneficial outcomes for “...greater appreciation for wildland heritage and how managers care for it” and “...increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes.” The project replaced six waterbars, rebuilt 200 feet of boardwalk with natural log stringers, built two log retaining walls and installed two separate sections of log steps to a quarter mile section of a river portage. All materials were native to the area and were obtained both on-site and delivered to the project site during the winter months by snow machine. Work was performed with hand tools and utilized volunteers from the American Hiking Society and a Student Conservation Association intern. The project cost approximately \$4,000, but received the equivalent of approximately 560 labor hours.

Mosquito Flats Off-Highway Vehicle Trail Trespass

This project facilitated the desired public land setting character for the community at large and the benefit outcomes for “...enlarged sense of accountability for acting responsibly on public lands” and “...improved understanding of the community’s dependence and impact on public lands.” BLM and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources worked cooperatively to assess resource damage from a new 14-mile OHV trail through arctic tundra across state and BLM managed lands. This resource damage resulted in public concerns from the Tok community and a BLM and state law enforcement investigation. Cooperation led to a law enforcement case being developed and sent to the federal prosecutor’s office for legal action to be taken against the OHV operators.

Dalton Highway Interpretive Plan Implementation

This project facilitated the beneficial outcomes for “...a more informed citizenry about where to go for different kinds of recreation experiences...,” “...improved community cooperation...”, and “...greater community involvement in recreation land use decisions.” Complete implementation of the Dalton Highway interpretive plan was concluded with the installation of 18 interpretive panels and seven orientation signs which were installed at eight locations along the Dalton Highway and at the Arctic Visitor Center. Also, in partnership with the Tribal Civilian Community Corps, 100 bags totaling 1,500 pounds of invasive weeds were pulled near Prospect Creek helping to prevent the spread of exotics downstream into Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.

Benefits-Based Management (BBM) Visitor Assessment

Utilizing the cooperative ecosystems study unit contract at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, a BBM study was conducted to collect recreation demand data for activities, experiences, place settings and benefit outcomes. These data will be used in the development of management objectives, setting prescriptions, and establishing an implementation framework to manage for visitor, resident, community, economic and environmental beneficial outcomes in the upcoming Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan, which encompasses five National Landscape Conservation System units.

ARIZONA

Hassayampa Field Office Partnerships

The Hassayampa Field Office continues to develop and sustain numerous mutually beneficial partnerships with communities and interest groups. These partnerships provide a range of recreation opportunities for personal and family use. This year, the Bradshaw Foothills Coalition initiated on-the-ground outreach, contact, education and signing efforts that empowers residents and citizens to take ownership, and propose and implement OHV-related stewardship solutions on public, state and private lands within the Hieroglyphic Mountains north of Phoenix, such as installing kiosks and meet-and-greet weekends. Another such partnership with the Black Canyon Trail Coalition was recognized with the 2006 Take Pride In America ® National Award in the non-profit organization category for joint efforts in building, improving, and managing a long distance trail that connects metropolitan Phoenix with the Agua Fria National Monument. Meanwhile, the monument

office, through collaboration with the Audubon Society, provided bird watching opportunities, collected data, led guided tours, managed the Christmas bird count, staged the Verde Valley birding festival and developed an Agua Fria National Monument bird checklist for visitors.



The Black Canyon Trail Coalition is recognized in Washington, (left to right) Michelle Cangelosi, director of Take Pride in America program; Dirk Kempthorne, U.S. Secretary of the Interior; Bob Cothorn, Linda Slay, Babs Sanders and Shareen Goodroad of the Black Canyon Trail Coalition; Rich Hanson of the Bureau of Land Management; Desiree Sayle, director of the USA Freedom Corps

[photo credit -- the Black Canyon Trail Coalition, <http://bctaz.com>]

Gila River District Projects

The Gila River District has enhanced production of regional tourism opportunities through projects such as the Fairbank historic town site restoration and collaboration with the town of Winkelman through development and construction of the Shores and Christmas recreation sites. Both projects seek to maintain the community's distinctive recreation-tourism market niche and character while providing an improved appreciation of nature's splendor, greater family bonding and enlarged sense of community dependency on public lands. The community of Winkelman sought the developments for the economic benefits from increased tourism and tax revenue and local job opportunities, which is the primary way the town gains revenue. The town provides weekly maintenance service at the sites, giving greater community ownership and stewardship of recreation and natural resources in a distinctive small-town atmosphere. At Fairbank, new trails now connect the riparian habitat from the San Pedro River to the historic town; a new parking lot allows for recreational vehicles, horse trailers and cars; and the restoration of the mercantile and the schoolhouse structures all benefit visitors. These benefits include opportunities to gain greater appreciation for the community's cultural identity, the local riparian-related cultural heritage, and a greater cultivation of natural resource stewardship ethics.

Oxbow Recreation Area

In partnership with the Yuma Field Office and local government entities, site volunteers at the Oxbow Recreation Area developed a large interpretive kiosk to produce opportunities for information about the region's natural and cultural resources and other recreation opportunities in the vicinity. The kiosk was completed primarily with donated funds. These funds were contributed by a visitor to the site who was impressed with the dedication of the site's volunteers and recent improvements and who saw the need for greater public information to enhance the ability of visitors to find areas providing wanted recreation experiences and benefits, as well as protect wildlife and plant habitat, reduce human impacts, and reduce the spread of invasive species of plants and aquatic organisms.

Paria Canyon

The Vermilion Cliffs National Monument office has successfully completed an automated, online permit lottery application process in response to public requests for an improved online, electronic version of a "first come, first served" method of issuing special recreation permits for the Paria Canyon/Coyote Buttes Special Management Area. This new system helps visitors find their desired recreational experiences and benefits by providing fair competition among applicants at reasonable cost through a more convenient

permitting process. This also streamlined the BLM’s fiscal management of the SRPs and aids visitor use data collection capabilities and increases the return to the agency for infrastructure maintenance and appropriate enhancement. Both BLM and visitors have benefited from this improvement, which will be fully operational following resource advisory council review. The website, upgraded to include new permit process, area maps, graphics, and photos, can be found at: <https://www.blm.gov/az/arolrsmain.htm>.



Permits are necessary to both protect Coyote Buttes’ fragile features from overuse and continue to produce the isolated experience sought by visitors.

CALIFORNIA

New Film Museum

The Bishop Field Office works closely with various partners and was successful in helping establish the new Film Museum in Lone Pine and the multi-agency visitor center on Highway 395. A number of films are shot on location on BLM land in the Alabama Hills and each fall, a film festival is held in Lone Pine, which attracts film buffs from all over the world. The Bishop FO has developed a “Movie Road” self-guided tour so people can travel on BLM land and see the locations where movies were filmed, including Gunga Din, Rawhide, and How the West Was Won. This museum preserves unique aspects of the area’s cultural heritage and highlights the role our public landscape plays in providing those benefits.

Recreation Facility Improvements

Grant funding from the boating trails program of the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) provided a total of \$150,000 for river access improvements on the Kern River, a replacement toilet in the King Range, and overflow parking on the South Fork American River. The Redding Field Office has been very successful in working with a number of partners to restore the salmon spawning areas on Clear Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River. A plan for the area has been developed to provide salmon viewing areas, picnic sites, restroom facilities, and a portage trail so boaters can bypass the unrunnable waters of the gorge. These improvements allow a broader range of people to enjoy a greater range of recreational benefits along the Kern River. DBW has become the most recent partner, providing funding to help finance the recreational developments.

CA Special Recreation Permit Policy

The California Desert District developed a policy for special recreation permit cost recovery procedures, which will be incorporated into a state-wide policy later this year. The SRP model was based on the work completed by the Las Vegas Field Office. California and Nevada both have numerous, large-scale cost recovery events each year. The states worked with the BLM's National Training Center to hold two special recreation permit training sessions. This streamlined the permitting process and provided for greater fiscal capacity to maintain essential infrastructure and services. These opportunities provided all the outdoor recreation planners experience with cost recovery procedures in addition to learning about updates to the special recreation permit manual.

Cow Mountain Recreation Area

As part of a newly enacted coastal wilderness bill, signed in October, Cow Mountain (in the Ukiah FO) was given special designation as the Cow Mountain Recreation Area. Even though part of a wilderness bill, this designation continues to provide motorized recreation opportunities that were identified as most important by the community. Named for the longhorn cattle that once roamed wild, the 52,000-acre area offers a variety of recreational opportunities. There are beautiful views of Ukiah and Clear Lake, over 31 miles of streams, and 13 wildlife reservoirs. The northern part of the area is managed primarily for non-motorized activities such as hunting, hiking, camping, horseback riding and mountain bicycling. The South Cow Mountain OHV Area emphasizes off-highway vehicle use. Over 120 miles of vehicle trails interweave 23,000 acres and offers challenges to motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, and four-wheel drive enthusiasts alike. Non-motorized recreation is also welcome.

Gunnison Forks Special Recreation Management Area Boundary Trailhead

Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area (NCA) maintained the non-motorized character of Gunnison Gorge Wilderness settings and the opportunities it afforded for solitude, developing a closer relationship with nature and health, fitness, and related outcomes. This was accomplished by constructing a trailhead at the Gunnison Forks Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) boundary. Installation of a locked gate and a pedestrian pass-through was essential to curtail illegal all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and other OHV use, restore primitive and back-country setting character, and maintain the river's gold medal quality fisheries (being followed up with parking lot construction and installation of an interpretive kiosk next spring). In addition to these individual and environmental benefits, this action maintained the NCA's significant contribution to area economies and ensured its distinctive character continues to enrich the quality of life of affected area residents who depend on it.

Shelf Road Recreation Area, Gold Belt Special Recreation Management Area

The Royal Gorge Field Office increased recreation opportunities for hiking, horseback, and mountain biking trail recreation in the Gold Belt Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). In partnership with the Rocky Mountain Field Institute, BLM increased visitor opportunities for quiet recreation, produced greater opportunities for visitors to enjoy the closeness of family and friends, and quiet recreation solitude. Several volunteers, including 60 Pikes Peak Boy Scouts, 12 Backcountry Horsemen, and AmeriCorps developed the two-mile-long Booger Red/Little High Creek trail project on recently acquired public lands, linking existing trail segments in the Shelf Road Recreation Area. This collaborative effort also achieved greater community involvement in the management of public lands and enabled participating youth to improve their outdoor skills.

Silverton Public Lands Visitor Center, San Juan Public Lands Center

The San Juan Public Lands Center is a three-way partnership among the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, and the non-profit San Juan Mountains Association. The center facilitates the realization of desired experiences and benefits by stimulating greater public awareness of a diversity of alpine recreation, including the Silverton SRMA, the Silverton Ski Area, and both the Alpine Loop Back Country Byway and the San Juan Skyway. Situated a short distance historic Silverton-Durango narrow gauge railroad station, the center serves more than 15,000 visitors annually. It has become the place to go to learn how to safely and

center serves more than 15,000 visitors annually. It has become the place to go to learn how to safely and responsibly use and enjoy public lands recreation. The center offers “hands-on” natural history displays for children, provides rotating educational and interpretive programs; and disseminates “here’s how” information on heritage tourism attractions, responsible OHV use, alpine ecology, many diverse recreation activities, and both fuel wood and Christmas Tree sales.

Rabbit’s Ear Unit, McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

McInnis Canyons NCA increased opportunities for visitors to gain back-country trail access to the Rabbit’s Ear unit. This effort increased opportunities for solitude, improved self-reliance, reduced stress, and improved overall wellness through construction of a four-mile mesa-top loop trail, affording spectacular vistas of nearly the entire NCA. The BLM provided logistical support for 120 workers from Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. Careful design ensured maintenance of recreation setting characteristics essential to the sustaining desired experiences and benefits. Sandwiched between mountain bike opportunities at Mack Ridge and intensive OHV use at Rabbit Valley, the effort follows through on BLM’s commitment to also produce local economic benefits and simultaneously increase local stewardship of the NCA.

EASTERN STATES

Chiles Homesite Accessible Trail

A 200 foot wheelchair accessible interpretive trail was constructed at the Chiles Homesite at the Douglas Point Special Recreation Management Area in Charles County Maryland, by BLM staff and volunteers. The interpretive trail provides views of red brick remains of the Colonial Era homesite, and interpretive panels designed by the College of William and Mary provided a glimpse into the history and geography of the area. These improvements benefit the mobility challenged, increase cultural heritage appreciation and community satisfaction.

Potomac National Heritage Scenic Trail

Volunteers from the Potomac Heritage Trail Association assisted BLM Lower Potomac Field Station Staff in clearing two miles of trails at the Douglas Point SRMA, and an overlook site along the Potomac River. This project improves opportunities to interact with nature and provides increased capacity for physical activity. The trails cleared are designated as segments of the Potomac National Heritage Scenic Trail, the first segments designated in BLM-Eastern States.

Meadowood Fishing Pier

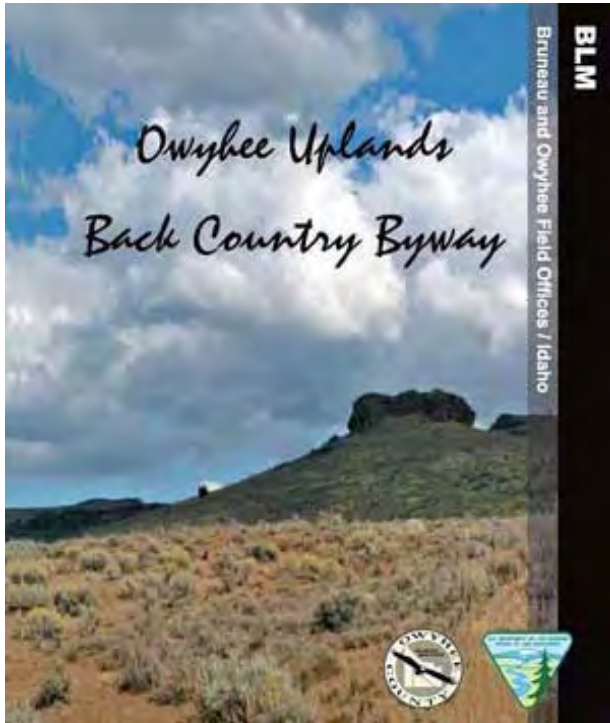
A new wheelchair accessible fishing pier was constructed by contractors at the Meadowood SRMA to replace the existing inaccessible pier. In fiscal year 2007, an accessible trail to the pier from the Belmont Boulevard entrance to Meadowood is planned. The benefits of this project include better accessibility and more opportunities for family recreation.

Meadowood West

Trail opportunities were identified by the community as an important component of the Meadowood complex. The Lion's Club, the Young Consultants of DC, volunteers and staff from the Lower Potomac Field Station worked over 300 hours constructing a trailhead parking area and two miles of trails. This area was officially opened to the public by Congressman Tom Davis (VA-11), at an event which included a nature hike and tree planting.

IDAHO

Owyhee Uplands Backcountry Byway Brochure



The Owyhee Field Office has published an interpretative guide of the Owyhee Uplands National Back Country Byway located in southwestern Idaho. This publication informs the citizenry so that know where to go for a variety of recreation experiences. Known locally as the Mud Flat Road, the road is the primary access to central Owyhee County.

The 18-page brochure is full of photos and facts about 30 different stops one can make along the nearly 105-mile road. The road is mostly gravel and is generally passable from late spring through fall.

The brochure was developed by staff from the BLM Owyhee and Bruneau Field Offices, with artistic and layout assistance provided by

Antonia Hedrick, visual information specialist at the Idaho State Office. Printing costs were funded by a Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century Grant.

National Historic Trails Cultural and Economic Byways Program

The Salmon Field Office joined Lemhi County, Idaho business leaders, government employees, and local residents who partnered together to better use the National Trails system to enhance opportunities for economic development and improve marketing of cultural and recreational tourism associated with our nation's historic and scenic trails. Idaho's Lemhi County surrounds a unique intersection of three national trails: the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, the Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails, which attract visitors from near and far.

Cress Creek Nature Trail

A ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by local students marked the official completion of the Cress Creek Nature Trail. The trail was upgraded to include new interpretive features and a handicapped accessible trail for the first half-mile of the trail. Cress Creek Nature Trail was designated as one of 37 new national recreation trails in 2006. The interpretive trail has long been a favorite site for school groups, Scouting groups and university study groups. Nineteen interpretative signs discuss topics ranging from the geologic features that can be seen from the trail such as volcanoes, to the vegetation found in the surrounding wet and dry environments. This project benefits the public by enhanced awareness and understanding of the natural landscape, making it a multi-generational learning opportunity.

Statewide Campaign Promotes Responsible OHV recreation

A new highway billboard caught motorists' attention throughout Idaho during the hunting season. The billboard reads, "Use Your Power Responsibly" and asks off-highway vehicle users to "Stay on Trails" when riding in Idaho. The highway billboard is part of a public outreach campaign promoting the responsible and safe use of OHVs on Idaho's state and federal lands.



The campaign also features a radio advertisement, which aired on 25 radio stations across the state. The campaign is a product of a partnership of five Idaho state and federal land management agencies: the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Forest Service and BLM. This campaign provides greater sensitivity and respect for other visitors and the environment.

White Sandy Recreation Site

White Sandy Recreation Site, Butte Field Office, Montana, is a newly completed recreation area on Hauser Lake. This \$2,000,000 project was cost-shared with Pennsylvania Power and Light of Montana (PPLM) under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission re-license memorandum of understanding. The setting prescriptions enhance the recreational activity satisfaction by including these public amenities: a 30-unit campground with tables and grills and a day-use boat and parking for 45 vehicles; paved roads and parking lots; fish cleaning station; water and electrical systems; night lights; large swim beach; four picnic shelters; group use ramada; four double concrete toilets; 150 trees; boat docks; information kiosk/pay station; a maintenance garage; and two volunteer RV pads with hook-ups. PPLM has also donated the 89-acre site and will provide BLM



\$50,000 a year for the next 40 years for maintenance. Partnerships like this promote regional and local stewardship of recreation areas by visitors and partners

New Interpretive Centers

Montana also opened the two newest BLM interpretive centers at Pompeys Pillar National Monument and at Ft. Benton in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. These state of the art buildings incorporate

both inter-active interpretive exhibits and energy saving technologies. Both interpretive centers were initiated with local support and will be managed jointly with partnerships. The benefits to the community and individuals range from economic support for local businesses, educational opportunities, and recreational benefits.

Interpretive Products

Montana BLM produced many interpretive products and partnerships to assist the public in fiscal year 2006. Two new boater guides, one on the Yellowstone River and one on the Upper Missouri River, were published with updated river maps and mile-by-mile resource

descriptions to assist boaters. On the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, they accomplished installing four new kiosks at critical river access points, completely overhauled and rebuilt the BLM web-page, developed a new eight-minute downloadable video that helps boaters better plan trips to the Upper Missouri and initiated an exciting partnership with Malmstrom Air Force Base, which provided 1300 volunteer hours in 2006. BLM's Missoula Field Office and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks signed a cooperative management agreement to jointly manage campground and special recreation permits along the Blackfoot River. Combined, these items provided consistent and easily understood information that enhances benefits of a recreation experience on public land, reduces conflicts among users and assists boaters to be better prepared prior to arrival.

Clark on the Yellowstone Signature Event



This event held at Pompeys Pillar National Monument July 22-25, 2006, drew 47,000 participants celebrating cultural and historical events related to the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition. The event marked the 200th anniversary of Captain William Clark carving his name on the Pillar, July 25, 1806. Partnerships included a symposium of Native Americans, the Corps II “Tent of Many Voices,” four federal agencies, state agencies, local government agencies, Pompeys Pillar Historical Association, national, regional and local historical organizations and many local volunteers. The living history programs brought relevance to new audiences regarding the endurance and cultural significance of this great journey. The interpretive center was dedicated during this celebration.

Ruhenstroth Research Area

Carson City Field Office issued an emergency closure at Ruhenstroth Research Area due to a tremendous increase in motorized use of this area. This temporary closure was necessary to protect significant paleontological resources and maintain the desired recreation setting. Approximately 2,340 acres contain unique fossils. There are at least 10 major paleontological zones within this area and the potential to identify other sites within this tertiary sedimentary horizon is high. In order to provide for visitor safety, resource protection and continued quality recreation experiences, the field office is preparing a plan amendment, which will include road and trail designations, route signing and informational signing within the area.

Silver State Trail

The Ely Field Office contains the congressionally designated Silver State Trail. From its inception, this 260-mile motorized trail has had the support of both rural and Las Vegas 4X4 and ATV clubs seeking to experience long distance backcountry and rural trail riding opportunities in Nevada. This year, there were three separate volunteer weekends. Fencing, informational and directional signs, and 13 ATV cattleguards were installed. This is the first long distance OHV trail in Nevada. In addition to the recreation opportunity, this trail is expected to benefit the local communities by enhancing rural tourism development.

Red Spring Picnic Area

Within Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, the former Red Spring picnic area was rehabilitated to a natural area. This rehabilitation effort protects the spring source and associated saline meadow for two varieties of spring snails and the alkali mariposa lily. The project area consists of a total of 20 acres. A hardened parking area and half mile long interpretive boardwalk provide visitors the opportunity to experience this sensitive site without trampling vegetation and walking directly in the spring source. In order to keep visitors from picnicking in the meadow, a new picnic area was constructed in a less sensitive area. This site will provide increased local tourism revenue. The Las Vegas Field Office has received many positive comments related to this project.

Water Canyon Plan Amendment Implementation

Water Canyon is located near Winnemucca and is BLM's most popular site in the area. The year-round creek sustains large stands of aspen trees, which makes this especially enjoyable during the hot months. BLM, the city and county, Nevada Outdoor School, and numerous volunteers have united to provide sustainable recreation opportunities identified by residents in the Water Canyon plan amendment. Designing and constructing a one-mile interpretive trail has been a popular element of this effort.

NEW MEXICO

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

New Mexico has initiated an aggressive program to complete the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail that occurs on public lands within the state. With the hiring of a trail coordinator, work has progressed at a rapid pace, resulting in many accomplishments in fiscal year 2006: private land easements and agreements with tribes have been completed; cultural clearances; signing of trail segments; trailhead development; and initial trail route designation for approximately 80 miles. Additionally, there were numerous public meetings to inform and discuss with the public the various planned routes, expected impacts to the local areas and other issues that are of concern to the public. This partnership effort will lead to greater community ownership and stewardship of the trail.

Snowy River Cave

In recent years, cave explorers have discovered miles of new caverns within the Fort Stanton Cave on lands managed by the Roswell Field Office. This new discovery is the biggest new American cave discovery in decades. In fiscal year 2006, work progressed to manage and protect this natural resource through various activities. BLM in New Mexico has provided information to the state's congressional delegation in the local effort to designate this cave as a national conservation area. If this effort succeeds, Snowy River would be the first cave NCA. Other activities include working in conjunction with the cave exploring community to develop management direction and exploration guidelines; surface mapping and resistivity studies to identify underground voids, which could give an indication where additional cave passages may lay beneath the surface and where connections underground could be made; and photo inventory and mapping of the cave. Initial planning for a cave entrance facility has started. This new designation will afford greater protection and stewardship of the area's caves and their fragile features.

Wild Rivers Recreation Area

The Wild Rivers Recreation Area has been set aside to allow visitors to experience the beauty of two national wild and scenic rivers. Here, the Rio Grande and Red River are preserved in their natural, free-flowing state for present and future generations to enjoy and appreciate. This recreation site is one part of a larger area that encompasses the Rio Grande. This recognition will provide increased awareness and protection for the natural landscape. Annual use is approximately 450,000 visitors. In fiscal year 2006, significant construction activities took place at this site. These construction activities included new or replacement facilities at six existing sites, construction of a new recreational vehicle campground, replacement of the main fee station and kiosk and realignment of existing trails.

OREGON/WASHINGTON

Project Learning Tree

In partnership with Cascade Stream Watch, the BLM Salem District hosted “Project Learning Tree” for over 2,600 students at the Wildwood recreation complex. The local students received an educational experience and a better understanding of how people, earth and air all relate.

Coos Bay Healthy Hiking Initiative

The American Hiking Society, Coos Regional Trails, Bay Area Hospital, South Coast Striders, the Women's Health Coalition and Coos Bay BLM conducted monthly hikes on BLM and Oregon State Park trails, providing the local community recreation opportunities, education of resource protection, understanding the environments, and maintaining the quality of life.

National Pacific Crest Trail

Medford BLM District and Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument completed interpretive plans, including the trail location review on the National Pacific Crest Trail. Both efforts produced outcomes for an optimum outdoor environment and resource protection experience for local visitors and international trail users traveling from Mexico to Canada. The trail review enhanced visitor safety and identified user conflicts.

North Bank Recreation Shop

Completion of the North Bank Recreation Shop will ensure a quality recreation experience and enjoyment of natural resources on public lands. The most positive outcome is the Roseburg District will now produce recreation signs, information boards, benches, tables, and other items for recreation sites. Once the new signage is in place it will provide visitors with recreation opportunities that are safer and lessen user conflicts.

UTAH

Cedar Mesa Special Recreation Management Area

The Monticello Field Office recently completed the construction of a new visitor contact station for the Cedar Mesa SRMA. Much attention was given to the design in order to maintain the distinct character of the landscape and recreation setting. The Kane Gulch



visitor contact station was completed in fiscal year 2006 and included an audio/visual room and public area. The station and adjacent residences are powered entirely by solar energy. The construction of the contact station is a very important addition to the Cedar Mesa SRMA and it helps to ensure the market strategy for this destination SRMA is being met. It also helps to ensure that visitors seeking a premier and unique cultural tourism experience (primary

market) attain the beneficial outcomes targeted for the area -- increased awareness and protection of natural landscapes and greater awareness of and appreciation for cultural heritage.

Three Peaks Special Recreation Management Area Implementation Plan

The Cedar City Field Office began Phase 1 of the Three Peaks SRMA implementation plan. This recreation area provides the front-country experiences, benefits and outcomes the local community residents' desire. The Three Peaks plan emphasizes recreation management in a multiple-use setting and recognizes the local community's desire and ability to share the area and reduce user conflicts. Activities taking place in the SRMA include equestrian use, OHV riding, mountain biking, camping, and radio-controlled, model airplane flying. The outcomes the community has realized include greater community

ownership and stewardship of recreation and natural resources; reduced negative human impacts such as litter, vegetative trampling, and unplanned trails; and maintenance of the community's distinctive recreation-tourism market niche.

Kanab Field Office Volunteer Program

The Kanab Field Office shares recreation operation and management with enthusiastic and productive volunteers who contribute over 1,300 hours of labor annually. Volunteers provide visitor services and facilities maintenance at the Paria contact station, adjacent to the Paria Canyon-Vermillion Cliffs Wilderness; and moving and repairing several thousand feet of fence within and adjacent to the BLM-managed portion of the Coral Pink Sand Dunes. Their volunteerism served to enhance visitor education, improve recreation experiences, protect natural resources, improve visitor safety, alleviate user conflicts and provide volunteers with community ownership and stewardship of recreation and natural resources.

Colorado River Accessible Walkway

Responding to the needs and desires of special populations engaging in river recreation, the Moab Field Office recently completed a new accessible walkway at Takeout Beach on the Colorado River. The vision for the project was to allow individuals with disabilities full access to the river, beaches and restroom facilities while maintaining the natural setting. Using a combination of accessibility and fee funds, the field office installed the fully accessible take-out facility. Commercial users (including Special Populations Learning Outdoor Recreation and Education), and private boaters made full use of the accessible walkway system and loading area, two new accessible restrooms, and a large shade shelter capable of seating over 40 persons. This project increased opportunities for greater self-reliance and the ability to participate in desired activities as well as providing easy access to the Colorado River's natural landscapes.

WYOMING

Beaver Creek Ski Area Trails

The Lander Field Office, in partnership with the Forest Service and the Lander Nordic Ski Association, purchased and installed standardized signs along ski trails in the Beaver Creek ski area. The ski area is located on BLM and Forest Service lands. This partnership provides recreation opportunities and improves the quality of life for the community of Lander. The federal partners provide the land, maps, signing, and trailheads, while the Lander Nordic Ski Association provides maintenance for the ski trails. Signs and other graphics are standardized within the Beaver Creek ski area and across Nordic ski area systems.

Cherokee Trail Living History Demonstration

The Rock Springs Field Office provided a living history demonstration along the Cherokee Trail for students from the Kansas School for the Blind in cooperation with the Accessible Arts Foundation. Dressed in 1856-period costumes, staff members walked a section of the Cherokee Trail with visually impaired students. Students experienced what 1850's life on the historic trail was like, and recreation and cultural staff learned what is important to a trails experience beyond what is visual. Through this demonstration, BLM provided an opportunity for quality experiences and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources through interpretation.

Sublette Cutoff – Alfred Corum's Gravesite

More than 40 BLM employees and the public worked together on National Public Lands Day to construct a new fence around emigrant Alfred Corum's gravesite near the Sublette cutoff, replaced three Oregon Trail markers and placed rocks around the markers to protect them.

Accessible Retrofit

To ensure accessibility compliance, 20 tables were replaced at the Bennett Peak recreation site, Encampment River Campground and Prior Flat Campground by the Rawlins Field Office staff. The tables were sited to ensure people in wheelchairs could maneuver easily and require minimum maintenance. Domed trash receptacle lids and spring loaded door flaps were installed. These lids require no lifting and no turning. In addition, the domed lids are more visually appealing than galvanized lids. These tables are accessible, stable and are more ergonomically and aesthetically pleasing than the old standard eight-foot tables. This project has improved the condition and accessibility at three BLM sites in the Sublette Cutoff, used by pioneers along the Oregon and California trails. This was an important short-cut for gold seekers and other emigrants. This is one of the trail segments with outstanding historic integrity in the Kemmerer Field Office and the Wyoming Historical Society volunteered its time to help with this project, which gave a greater awareness of and appreciation for the area's important cultural heritage.

Earth Day Celebration

Holding true to the BLM's dedication to local communities in providing sustainable recreation opportunities, the Casper Field Office participated in several volunteer and local community activities in fiscal year 2006. An Earth Day event, sponsored by the Casper Field Office, incorporated federal, state, and private lands. Lands within a half mile on

either side of a two-mile stretch of the Coal Mountain Road were cleared of litter and large debris. Thirty-eight different organizations and local businesses participated, including the Wyoming State Land Board, the Wyoming State Game and Fish Department and Natrona County Road and Bridge. At the end of the day, more than 250 volunteers helped to fill and remove from the site eight dumpsters (30 cubic yards each), 2,000 bags of trash and 200 tires. Ten abandoned vehicles were towed away and 57,000 pounds of steel was recycled. A sense of accomplishment and public stewardship was instilled in all who attended. The cooperative relationships created will benefit the local community and the BLM for years to come.

What's Next?

To continue the transition toward benefits based management, RVSAT believes BLM needs a manual and handbook, and staff training to fully integrate BBM into the BLM's land use management plans. Recreation is going to become more and more the agency's point-of-contact with the American people. It is essential that we provide the best recreational benefits on the lands we manage.

Notes From Our Past

Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery (1804-1806) surveyed and mapped the West for the first time. The land itself has always been the basis of all our recreational benefits.

Notes From Our Past Thirty Years

This story demonstrates how the value of recreation has changed in 30 years...

It was my first week in the Craig District in 1972. There was a Piceance Basin field trip with BLM permittees. A well seasoned sheep rancher was in his vehicle. He asked, "Well, young feller, what do you do?" "I'm a recreation planner," Don replied. The rancher leaned back, tipped up his hat and laughed ...

Flash forward to 2006 in that same District...near Steamboat Springs a three-part land exchange is now being consummated, transferring acreage from the Colorado State Land Board to the BLM. Its goal is to prevent the development of several thousand acres of treasured open-space adjacent to that community. Times have certainly changed!

— *Don Bruns, Colorado State Recreation Program Lead*

A story of changing organizational culture and attitudes

I was hired by the BLM in August, 1972 as one of five new Outdoor Recreation Planners for the Colorado BLM. . . . one position for each of the four Districts in Colorado and one position for the Colorado State Office. I was assigned to Grand Junction. On my first day I walked into my new supervisor's office, who could best be described as a traditional BLM Range Con cowboy. He was not pleased with the fact he had been wrangled, against his will, into supervising this "wet calf" upstart fresh out of graduate school. He glowered at me for a few seconds then bellowed out his question . . . "Smith," he said, "What the heck is an Outdoor Recreation Planner?" I rather meekly replied that "I wasn't sure . . . we would have to figure that out together." Over the next five years we answered that question and many more. — *Steve Smith, Nevada State Office Wilderness Lead*

How BLM uniforms came to be. . . .

"It was 1973; I was part of a three man team in the Las Vegas District Office. The team was composed of Chuck Godfrey, Jerry Moore, and Dave Mensing. One of our responsibilities was to patrol the newly designated Red Rock Recreation Area. We patrolled from 2:00 pm to 11:00 pm to get a handle on the illegal activities and parties. We had no training, no weapons (except for a big 5 cell flashlight), and we were fairly uneducated when we did come across illegal activities. Our supervisor told us we needed a uniform to look more official, so he sent us to J.C. Penney. At the store we had a choice of either dark blue pants and a light blue shirt, or dark brown pants and a tan shirt. We thought the blue made us look like plumbers, so we chose the brown and tan. Yep, that's the history of the traditional BLM Uniform". — *Dave Mensing, retired New Mexico Recreation Lead*

A Brief Thank You

RVSAT wishes to thank California State Director Mike Pool for his leadership, encouragement and friendship. With Mike's help, we have been able to keep making progress so that we can present the best recreational benefits to the American people.

