

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BLM



**BLM's 2005-2006  
Volunteer Annual Report**



# Letter from the Director



## DEAR BLM VOLUNTEERS—

I am pleased to present the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) 2005 Volunteer Annual Report. As in years past, you continued to support BLM as we pursue our challenging multiple-use mission. We are extremely grateful for the nearly

1.3 million hours of time and talent that you donated to BLM in 2005.

The contributions of BLM volunteers like you are reflected in the hours given and the dollar value calculated, but to truly get a sense of the scope of volunteer contributions, I encourage you to read some of the project and program descriptions presented here. One-day events such as National Public Lands Day, in which nearly 10,000 volunteers worked on projects at 102 different sites, are certainly highlights of the year. Equally inspiring and valuable are the long-term contributions of campground hosts, archaeological site stewards, and visitor center volunteers—to name just a few—who work day in and day out to help BLM care for the public lands and their many resources.

President Bush has said, "Service and volunteerism are an integral part of the American character." As BLM volunteers, you have chosen to look beyond yourselves to serve a greater cause—helping to preserve America's public lands legacy. You are citizen stewards who serve as role models for all citizens. You most certainly "Take Pride in America," and as a result, we can all be prouder Americans. Thank you again for your contributions to BLM.

**Kathleen Clarke**  
Director, Bureau of Land Management

| Volunteer Activity for Fiscal Years 2000-2005 |             |                         |                         |  |                           |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Year  | Total Hours | Value to BLM (\$)       | Work Years <sup>3</sup> | Value of 1 Work Hour (\$) <sup>4</sup> | Value of 1 Work Year (\$) |
| 2005  | 1,292,859   | 23,323,176 <sup>2</sup> | 718                     | 18.04                                  | 32,472                    |
| 2004  | 1,506,365   | 26,436,706              | 837                     | 17.55                                  | 31,590                    |
| 2003  | 1,553,014   | 26,696,311              | 863                     | 17.19                                  | 30,942                    |
| 2002  | 1,231,245   | 20,364,792              | 684                     | 16.54                                  | 29,772                    |
| 2001  | 1,119,038   | 17,960,560              | 622                     | 16.05                                  | 28,890                    |
| 2000 <sup>1</sup>                             | 755,576     | 11,628,315              | 420                     | 15.39                                  | 27,702                    |

<sup>1</sup> Incomplete data for the year 2000. Not all field offices reported.

<sup>2</sup> The 2005 volunteer program was accomplished at a cost of \$837,935, for a return of about \$27.83 for every \$1.00 expended.

<sup>3</sup> 1 work year = 1,800 hours.

<sup>4</sup> The value of volunteer contributions is calculated annually by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)), a national leadership forum committed to volunteerism and citizen action. The amount is based on the latest data available on the average hourly wage for nonagricultural workers as published in the yearly *Economic Report of the President*.

| Summary of BLM State Office Volunteer Contributions, Fiscal Year 2005 |                  |                        |                         |
|---|------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| State   | Hours            | Value <sup>1</sup>     | Work Years <sup>2</sup> |
| Alaska  | 36,880           | \$665,315.20           | 20                      |
| Arizona   | 143,514          | \$2,588,992.56         | 80                      |
| California  | 207,334          | \$3,740,305.36         | 115                     |
| Colorado  | 191,827          | \$3,460,559.08         | 107                     |
| Eastern States  | 27,203           | \$490,742.12           | 15                      |
| Idaho   | 42,851           | \$773,032.04           | 24                      |
| Montana   | 37,252           | \$672,026.08           | 21                      |
| Nevada  | 167,517          | \$3,022,006.68         | 93                      |
| New Mexico  | 136,910          | \$2,469,856.40         | 76                      |
| Oregon  | 208,128          | \$3,754,629.12         | 116                     |
| Utah  | 57,627           | \$1,039,591.08         | 32                      |
| Wyoming   | 35,614           | \$642,476.56           | 20                      |
| National Interagency Fire Center                                      | 146              | \$2,633.84             | 0                       |
| Denver National Centers   | 56               | \$1,010.24             | 0                       |
| <b>Totals<sup>3</sup></b>   | <b>1,292,859</b> | <b>\$23,323,176.36</b> | <b>718</b>              |

<sup>1</sup> Based on a rate of \$18.04 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)).

<sup>2</sup> 1 work year = 1,800 hours.

<sup>3</sup> Totals may be off due to rounding.

# BLM's Volunteers

# VOLUNTEERS

In fiscal year 2005, volunteers continued to play a major role in helping BLM to care for America's public lands. Volunteers contributed nearly 1.3 million hours, the equivalent of more than 700 work years. In addition to these hours, volunteers contributed their unique talents, truly adding to the expertise of BLM's 10,000-member workforce.

The wide variety of volunteer projects reflects the diversity of public lands and some of the numerous challenges involved in BLM's multiple-use mission. Individuals of all ages and groups of all sizes participate in these projects. To foster common objectives, BLM works with many partners, ranging from small businesses to other government agencies. These partners, including friends and interest groups, as well as educational and other nonprofit organizations, contribute supplies, financial support, and enthusiastic volunteers to a multitude of projects and events. A list of partners cited for special mention by our state

and field offices is available on the BLM Volunteer Web site at [www.blm.gov/volunteer/partners/index.html](http://www.blm.gov/volunteer/partners/index.html).

Fiscal year 2005 saw continuing emphasis on the goals set forth in BLM's Volunteer Program Strategy, which was adopted in 2004. State Coordinators formulated action plans to achieve the goals set forth in the strategy. The Washington Office Volunteer Program Staff focused on ways to encourage and expand the use of volunteers. The strength of the volunteer program in 2005 was evidenced in part by National Public Lands Day. During this event, a volunteer workforce nearly equal to the entire BLM workforce engaged in a wide variety of projects to improve public lands at a record number of BLM sites. But as these pages demonstrate, BLM volunteers are ready, willing, and able to "make a difference" throughout the year.

| <b>National Volunteer Totals for Fiscal Year 2005</b> |                                    |  |                        |
|---|------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| <b>Program</b>  | <b>Volunteer Hours<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>Donated and Hosted Worker Hours<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>Total Hours</b>     |
| Recreation  | 465,125                            | 62,712   | 527,837                |
| Biological Resources                                  | 129,933                            | 75,617   | 205,550                |
| Wild Horses and Burros                                | 60,789                             | 84,441   | 145,230                |
| Cadastral Survey                                      | 3,187                              | 50   | 3,237                  |
| Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas                     | 16,839                             | 7,751  | 24,590                 |
| Riparian/Watershed                                    | 22,806                             | 4,016  | 26,822                 |
| Cultural/Historical                                   | 131,162                            | 15,777   | 146,939                |
| Minerals  | 4,709                              | 350  | 5,059                  |
| Support Services                                      | 37,183                             | 47,884   | 85,067                 |
| Environmental Education/ Interpretation               | 52,949                             | 16,470   | 69,419                 |
| Other   | 39,159                             | 13,950   | 53,109                 |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>963,841</b>                     | <b>329,018</b>                                     | <b>1,292,859</b>       |
| <b>Funds Expended</b>                                 | <b>\$518,022.85</b>                | <b>\$319,912.64</b>                                | <b>\$837,935.49</b>    |
| <b>Value of Work<sup>2</sup></b>                      | <b>\$17,387,691.64</b>             | <b>\$5,935,484.72</b>                              | <b>\$23,323,176.36</b> |

<sup>1</sup> The term "volunteer," as used in the rest of this report, includes "donated and hosted workers." Volunteers work for BLM without being paid. They donate their time and, in some instances, equipment and money to assist BLM with a variety of jobs. Donated and hosted workers, on the other hand, are paid by another organization but work for BLM at no charge. Donated and hosted workers made up about 25 percent of the total volunteer time in 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Based on a rate of \$18.04 per hour, as calculated by Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)).



# Selected Highlights by BLM Program

RECREATION

**ANCHORAGE, AK:** On National Public Lands Day, BLM partnered with the Municipality of Anchorage and more than 230 volunteers on numerous projects to benefit the trails and natural surroundings of BLM's Campbell Tract and the city's Far North Bicentennial Park.

**PHOENIX, AZ:** Good Gun Foundation, a nonprofit organization interested in keeping public lands open to recreational shooting and other activities, led a large group of partners in a major cleanup of lands near Table Mesa Road—one of the last areas near Phoenix that is open to recreational shooting.

**HOLLISTER, CA:** Volunteers from Desert Survivors and the Sierra Club, along with BLM staff members, worked on the Coalinga Mineral Springs National Recreation Trail, installing signs, cleaning out brush, and using global positioning system units to mark the trail.

**RIDGECREST, CA:** On National Public Lands Day, volunteers tackled several projects, including marking the boundaries of the limited use and open areas at Spangler Hills Off-Highway Vehicle Area, installing a vehicle barrier at a walk-in wilderness campsite, and placing bales to stop erosion on four illegal hill-climbs in the Golden Valley Wilderness Area.

**KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA, CA:** Several weeklong projects took place during 2005, including a trail cleanup through the American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacation program and a restoration project around the Mattole watershed through the Nick's Interns program, which was led by a BLM college intern.

**GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO:** On Earth Day 2005, approximately 70 volunteers from off-road vehicle clubs removed over 40 cubic yards of trash and debris from the Fravert Reservoir and Hubbard Mesa area near Rifle, Colorado. The trash included appliances and a travel trailer, as well as hazardous waste, which was identified and properly disposed of at the scene by qualified personnel.

**McINNIS CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA (NCA) and UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE, CO:** Members of the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association continued to provide maintenance and sign replacement on trails in the Gunnison Gorge NCA. They also helped develop new brochures for the Tabeguache and Paradox Trails and devoted more than 700 hours to projects and patrols in the McInnis Canyons NCA.

**SHOSHONE, ID:** The West Magic Lake Recreation Club used all-terrain vehicles to conduct spring and fall cleanups of the entire west side of Magic Reservoir.

**FARMINGTON, NM:** Two volunteers spent 316 hours monitoring and maintaining the Alien Run mountain bike trail, including repairing damage from erosion and illegal off-highway vehicle use, replacing vandalized signs, and visiting with the public.

**SALEM, OR:** On National Public Lands Day, more than 65 individuals picked up 2 tons of garbage along the Little North Fork of the North Santiam River. A youth crew from Santiam Crossing also removed and replaced several footbridges on the river trail.

**ST. GEORGE, UT:** More than 50 volunteers from Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and California teamed up to clean Bloomington Cave. Over 7 weekends, they packed out garbage and debris and sandblasted more than 1,000 feet of cave passage, completely removing graffiti from the hardest hit areas. During the cleanup, volunteers discovered two areas of previously unknown historic inscriptions.

**CODY, WY:** To restore the Bobcat/Houlihan trailhead, 13 campers from the Dano Youth Camp, along with 5 adults, repaired fence, hauled rocks to define the trail, picked up trash, and performed other maintenance.



**BISHOP, CA:** On National Public Lands Day, members of several partner groups planted bitterbrush seedlings and native bunchgrasses as part of a long-term effort to reestablish critical mule deer winter range at the Mount Tome mule deer habitat restoration site.

**ROYAL GORGE FIELD OFFICE, CO:** A fire-scarred hillside got a little greener when 15 Boy Scouts planted 90 saplings as part of an Eagle Scout project. With the assistance of a BLM forester, the scouts from Cañon City and Beulah replanted piñon pine and juniper saplings on 3 acres in the Oil Well Flats area that burned in the 1988 Dinosaur Fire.

**BLM-EASTERN STATES:** On National Public Lands Day in Florida, 70 volunteers planted 5,400 mangroves for future wetlands restoration at the Jupiter Inlet Natural Area. The volunteers also removed invasive rosary pea and cleared limbs from roads after several late-summer hurricanes.

**BLM-MONTANA:** Three Student Conservation Association interns contributed a total of 2,000 hours through the Seeds of Success program. Over the course of several months, the trio identified, collected, and packaged seeds from 20 native plants in central Montana.

**SOCORRO, NM:** Thanks to 160 volunteers, the El Camino Real International Heritage Center now has three unique gardens—an herb garden, a medicinal garden, and a garden of Chihuahuan Desert plants. Schoolchildren, botanical clubs, garden clubs, and historical reenactors were all involved in the project, which was a joint venture with the State of New Mexico.

**GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT, UT:** Volunteers helped survey bat populations to determine which species inhabited the area. Volunteers helped set up equipment and record data, and those who'd had preexposure rabies vaccinations were also trained on how to handle bats so they could help with captures using fine mist-nets.

**MOAB, UT:** A volunteer crew of German students used global positioning system units to map prairie dog towns to help define areas that may need additional protection.

**LANDER and RAWLINS, WY:** Two interns helped collect data that will be used to create the final land cover map of southwest Wyoming. The interns were trained to select sites of interest, photograph and describe the physical and vegetative characteristics of the sites, and use global positioning system units to document the locations.



**BLM-EASTERN STATES:** Volunteers donated nearly 20,000 hours to the wild horse and burro program, engaging in such tasks as tracking health records, entering information from Private Maintenance and Care Agreements into the computer, inspecting untitled animals at adoption facilities, and serving as mentors to first-time adopters.

**BILLINGS, MT:** Student interns assisted in monitoring the wild horse herd, other animals, and range conditions in the Pryor Mountain area. They assisted with a variety of other tasks, including the remote delivery of fertility control vaccine to selected mares within the Pryor herd.

**BURNS DISTRICT, OR:** Volunteers donated 1,800 hours of service, mentoring new adopters and giving foster care to orphaned foals and horses awaiting reassignment to a new adopter. They also assisted at adoption events and helped do compliance checks, and some offered their own stables for wild horses in need.



**LAS CRUCES, NM:** The Las Cruces District has the largest wilderness program in New Mexico with 24 wilderness study areas encompassing about a half million acres. Because there is only one permanent employee in the program, BLM relies on volunteers to maintain a presence in these areas. Volunteers provide 90 percent of the field patrols and work 3 to 5 days per week installing or replacing boundary and vehicle limitation signs.

**BURNS DISTRICT, OR:** Eight volunteer work parties helped with several projects in Steens Mountain Wilderness, including maintenance of 3 miles of trail, removal of 6.5 miles of fence, and maintenance of portions of the "No Livestock Grazing Area" boundary fence.



**GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT, UT:** Eleven volunteers devoted 288 hours to rerouting the first few miles of the Boulder Mail Trail and rearranging the trail-head, signs, and parking area to coincide with the new route. They also rehabilitated the old portion of the trail and placed cairns on the Escalante side to better define the trail.



**GRAND CANYON-PARASHANT NATIONAL MONUMENT, AZ:** Nearly 70 volunteers removed 3.5 tons of garbage from Pakoon Springs on National Public Lands Day. Acquired by the BLM in 2002, this spring system is critical for the surrounding Mojave Desert and is one of the largest springs on the Arizona Strip.

**ROSEBURG, OR:** Volunteers participating in the 22nd annual Umpqua River Cleanup Day scoured about a dozen stream and river segments in the Umpqua Basin. A BLM crew also targeted the Middle Fork of the Coquille River, where more than 300 volunteers adopted river segments and picked up litter.



**KANAB, UT:** Volunteers from several groups helped restore the riparian area in the lower sections of Hog Canyon. They removed an old truck cab; several home appliances, including a refrigerator; furniture; and 42 tires from the riparian area.

**LAS CIENEGAS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA, AZ:** On October 1, 2005, the Empire Ranch Foundation, a BLM partner, hosted its annual Empire Ranch Roundup Western Art Show. Volunteers spent many hours planning the event, which paid tribute to numerous western movies that were filmed in the Sonoita Valley and at the Empire Ranch.

**KING RANGE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA, CA:** An archaeological field school from the University of California, Davis, conducted test excavations at six threatened prehistoric sites along the coastal strand in consultation with local tribes.



**PALM SPRINGS, CA:** Staff and volunteers from BLM and the Old Town San Diego State Park staged a living history reenactment on National Public Lands Day. More than 1,000 visitors learned about the General Land Office, the Homestead Act, surveying and mapmaking techniques, and today's public lands.

**MILES CITY, MT:** For a National Public Lands Day project at the Neuman homestead in eastern Montana, 28 Boy Scouts and troop leaders helped conduct an archaeological inventory and construct a fence to protect the remaining chimney structure.

**FARMINGTON, NM:** More than 40 volunteers participating in the New Mexico Site Stewards Program contributed nearly 1,100 hours protecting culturally sensitive sites throughout the Four Corners area.



**TAOS, NM:** Local American Indian students donated more than 1,300 hours recording petroglyphs in the Rio Grande Gorge area.

**GREAT FALLS, MT:** A former Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) employee helped eliminate a backlog of oil and gas-related work. As a disabled veteran, she donated her time to BLM but was paid a stipend by the Department of Veterans Affairs through a work experience program.

**FARMINGTON, NM:** One volunteer donated 40 hours to assist the petroleum management team with administrative tasks such as logging and serializing applications, verifying legal descriptions with oil and gas plats, copying reports, and organizing correspondence.



RIPARIAN/WATERSHED

CULTURAL/HISTORICAL

MINERALS

**CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT, CO:** Volunteers at the Anasazi Heritage Center not only greeted more than 20,000 visitors, but also cataloged artifacts, processed library research requests, maintained the building and grounds, and developed and implemented educational programs.

**BLM-EASTERN STATES:** National Public Lands Day in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was celebrated at the Lynden Hill Urban Tree House site, where volunteers and partners participated in prairie maintenance, a hike, and nature and craft activities.

**CARSON CITY, NV:** The Nevada Fire Education Corps—interns from the Student Conservation Association—helped hundreds of homeowners become “FireWise” by conducting 50 property evaluations, presenting a children’s ecology program, and staffing special events.

**ELKO, NV:** More than 45 volunteers helped set up and present interpretive programs at Elko County schools. They also assisted with a summer-long “History in the Park” lecture series about regional history, which was cosponsored by BLM and other partners. Another 31 volunteers contributed 227 hours at the first California Trail Day celebration.

**EUGENE, OR:** Seventeen volunteers from the Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN), in cooperation with BLM, provided environmental education activities for visiting schoolchildren at the West Eugene Wetlands.

**BLM-ALASKA:** At the Bering Glacier science camp, university scientists continued to research the unique environment that surrounds North America’s largest glacier. In addition to studying global climate change, these volunteer scientists studied glaciology, botany, paleontology, wildlife biology, and other environmental sciences.

**CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT, ID:** Hundreds of hours were spent planning for the Great Rift Science Symposium, which was held October 6-9, 2005. Volunteers—both individuals and caving groups—prepared and delivered presentations, planned field trips, and provided logistical support.

**“MAKING A DIFFERENCE” NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS**—BLM presented nine “Making a Difference” National Volunteer Awards—eight to individuals and groups and one to a BLM employee—for outstanding volunteer service or volunteer program leadership on the public lands in 2005. The volunteers honored (with the locations of their work) were: Tom and Marty Taylor (and their adopted burro, Hualapai), Mesa, AZ; Virginia Freeman, Willows, CA; Canyons of the Ancients National Monument/Anasazi Heritage Center Volunteer Program, Dolores, CO; Darlene Stark, New Centerville, ID; Big Wood Backcountry Trails, Ketchum, ID; Chuck Worley, Yerington, NV; Scott Wheeler, Price, UT; Jim and Gloria Doughty, Lander, WY; and BLM employee Chris Pipkin, Grand Junction, CO. For more information on their accomplishments, see the BLM Volunteer Web site at [www.blm.gov/volunteer](http://www.blm.gov/volunteer).

**TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA AWARDS**—The Take Pride in America awards ceremony was held in September in Washington, DC. BLM was well represented among the honorees. Volunteers Darrell and Terri Wade from Ely, NV, received an “Individual” volunteer award. Environmental science students and adult volunteers from Rock Springs High School in Wyoming received the “Secondary School” award for their work studying sagebrush habitats and collecting baseline data in advance of new oil and gas development in the Jack Morrow Hills area. Jeff Brune from Alaska’s Campbell Creek Science Center received the “Federal Land Manager” award for BLM. In addition, several programs in which BLM plays a major role were honored, including National Public Lands Day and the Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program.

**NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**—In 2005, National Public Lands Day (NPLD) engaged the services of an estimated 90,000 volunteers working on 800 projects in all 50 states and several locations overseas. Of these numbers, BLM provided nearly 10,000 volunteers at 102 sites in 19 states, generating more than \$1.5 million in improvements to BLM public lands and facilities. NPLD received Take Pride in America’s 2005 “Non-Profit Organization” award for producing exemplary results in the areas of cooperative conservation and community service.



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Special thanks to BLM volunteer Barbara Williams for her help in compiling this report.

For more information on the BLM volunteer program, please visit our Web site at [www.blm.gov/volunteer](http://www.blm.gov/volunteer).

**BLM/VO/GI-06/028+1114**