

## BLM Installs Windmills for Fish

*Mark Jacobsen, Miles City FO*

PRAIRIE COUNTY, Mont. — The Miles City Field Office completed the installation of a fisheries windmill on Homestead Reservoir north of Terry on Oct. 6.

This windmill marks the seventh such fisheries project within the Miles City Field Office area since 2004 and the fourth for Prairie County.

BLM Fishery Biologist Joe Platz, with assistance from BLM fisheries intern Mark Stratton, supervised the project and managed a crew of Montana Conservation Corps personnel who provided labor support during the windmill's emplacement.

Platz said that the windmills have been popular with area landowners and that fish have been doing well in each of the reservoirs where they have been put into operation.

"We've had fish survive the winter in Boulware (Reservoir) with only 6 feet of water," said Platz. "At Beardsley (Reservoir), people have caught up to 5-pound trout."

Normally, shallow reservoirs such as Boulware would see considerable winter kill, as fish stocks were subjected to stagnant water and reduced oxygen levels during the colder months.



BLM-administered Homestead Reservoir sports a new aeration windmill installed to improve fish habitat, complete with a livestock-proof fence.

*Photo by Mark Jacobsen*

In addition to Prairie County, windmills have been installed at BLM-administered reservoirs in Custer and Fallon counties. At least four to five more windmills are in the works, said Platz.

The windmills incorporate a 12-blade turbine supported on a 12-foot tower and utilize breezes as slow as 5 mph. Pressurized air is pumped through tubing to a 9-inch air stone anchored in the bottom of the reservoir and a column of bubbles is ejected that destratifies the stagnant, oxygen deprived under-layer of the reservoir's water column.

A by-product of aeration is thin pond ice during the winter. The constant release of bubbles creates an ice free area in the middle of the reservoirs. Warmer water circulated from the bottom of the reservoir tends to keep the water body open well-past normal ice-over periods.

Periods of calm can create a unique situation, as the reservoir may form thin ice, only to melt again once the wind picks up and the windmill renews pumping.

Winter visitors to these areas should be extra cautious and avoid getting on the ice, said Platz.



Miles City Field Office Fishery Biologist Joe Platz makes adjustments to an aeration windmill being installed at Homestead Reservoir Oct. 5. The windmill is the fourth such project in Prairie County designed to improve fish habitat on BLM-administered lands.

*Photo by Mark Jacobsen*

# NEW STATE DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE STATE DIRECTOR FOR MONTANA/DAKOTAS

Gene Terland was sworn in as the new Montana/Dakotas State Director at the MSO on November 13. BLM Director Kathleen Clarke conducted the brief ceremony.

"Gene's background and experience form a great fit for the resource issues facing Montana and the Dakotas," said Clarke. "His demonstrated leadership abilities will continue to be an asset to BLM."

Terland anticipates being part of the Montana/Dakotas team.

"Our greatest resource is people, both those of you who work for BLM and our many and diverse publics," he said. "I've heard great things about the people in Montana, and I'm really looking forward to meeting and working with all of you."

Terland replaces Marty Ott, who retired in October 2005.

Over the last year, Howard Lemm, the Deputy State Director for Resources, filled in as Acting State Director. While serving that detail, Lemm was promoted to Associate State Director, and will now assume that role.

About 150 people attended the ceremony, including employees, retirees, and members of Terland's family.



**Gene R. Terland –  
State Director**

Gene Terland is the new State Director for Montana/Dakotas BLM. He comes to the Montana State Office from Utah where he has served as BLM's Associate State Director since 2003.

Terland began his career with the BLM in 1974 in

Vale, Oregon, as a range technician and later in Baker, Oregon, as a range conservationist. In 1979 he transferred to Salmon, Idaho, as a soils/vegetative inventory specialist and program lead for range, wildlife and wild horses. In 1986 he was selected as the field manager for Glennallen, Alaska. In 1989 he became the branch chief for renewable resources and land use planning in the Alaska State Office. From 1997 to 2002 he was a special projects coordinator working on a number of energy-related issues. In 2002, he became the acting Associate State Director for Alaska.

Terland was born and raised in Montana, a native of the Columbus area. He is a graduate of Montana State University where he earned a degree in fish and wildlife management.

Terland and his wife, Adelia (Dee), have three children and four grandchildren. His outside interests include hunting, white water rafting and cross country skiing.



**Howard A. Lemm –  
Associate State  
Director**

Howard Lemm has been promoted to Associate State Director for Montana/Dakotas. Lemm has held leadership positions in the Montana/Dakotas BLM for the last 15 years. Most recently the Deputy State Director for

Resources, he also served as Acting State Director for the past year.

Lemm graduated from Montana Tech in 1975 with a degree in petroleum engineering. After working in private industry in the Southwest and in Norway, he started his federal career with the U.S. Geological Survey in Billings in 1977. He later held petroleum engineering positions with the Minerals Management Service and BLM in Billings, Colorado and the Lewistown Field Office, eventually becoming the Deputy State Director for Minerals in the BLM Utah State Office. In 1991, Lemm returned to the Montana State Office to be Branch Chief for Oil and Gas, and later the Branch Chief for Lands and Realty. He was named Deputy State Director for Resources in 2003.

Lemm succeeds Jerry Meredith, who retired in September 2005.

Lemm is a native of Twin Bridges. He and his wife, Robin, have two daughters. He enjoys hunting, fishing and horseback riding.

## State Director's Column

This time of year it just seems natural to reflect on the past 12 months and to look ahead to the new year as well.

A lot happened this year—maybe not at a record pace—but it was plenty busy. Here's some of what I remember. (The danger of course, is what you forget.)

I got the chance to visit nearly every place we have an office over the last year except for South Dakota, and I promise to make up for that soon! No question about it, the most impressive thing I witnessed was the work accomplished by each of you. And it's everywhere, involving so many partners and so many initiatives and issues.

Tim Bozorth and I were recently reflecting about an amazing fact as we stood on the banks of the Madison River: we get to work and live in this outstanding area of the United States; and they pay us to do it! If you know me much at all, you've heard me talk about growing up in southwest Montana. I gotta tell you, I never thought I'd get the chance to travel, fly, boat, hike, horseback ride, and four wheel through places that I have heard about since I was just a little guy -yes, I was once.

I have really been fortunate to have had the career and opportunities BLM has afforded me. And whether you are just starting with this outfit or have many years on board, my hope is that you might also reflect on the privilege we share just to be employed, getting to work for the public good, and being able

to wake up each day in Montana or the Dakotas. Couple that privilege with the professionalism that is so commonplace in our organization and you have another huge blessing as well.

Growing up, my buddies and I used to walk along the Beaverhead and Jefferson rivers guessing at what it must have been like to have been a part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In a sense, I got to do some of that over the past two summers. What a deal and what celebrations BLM led over these past couple of years.

We saw a record fire year and to have been nearly accident-free was amazing. We've got planning/EIS efforts seemingly going on everywhere, and at the end of the day, the products have been exceptional.

A General Management Evaluation was done on our organization this past year as well. While we have some "stuff" to work on, we were also recognized by the publics we serve as being exceptional in the service we provide. The GME team made a wide constituent sampling and said they had never previously encountered that level of satisfaction. It didn't mean that everyone always agreed with us, but that each of you go the extra mile to be responsive to each and every person you come into contact with. I can't think of higher praise.

Looking into '07, we've now got our new State Director on board. I think Gene's extensive experience and management style is exactly what we had

hoped for, and something you'll all appreciate as you get the opportunity to work with him. A lot of us got calls from friends outside our organization congratulating us on truly getting one of the best as Gene's selection was announced. So that gives us the leadership at the top as we move forward. Several other key positions are in the process of being filled.

No question the many and diversified uses on the public lands will continue to be our primary challenge. In general, continuing a multiple use mandate and all that means, including energy development, recreational opportunities, maintaining healthy landscapes, etc., etc., certainly won't get easier. Those will continue to be our challenges.

Most importantly, my hope for each of you and your families is that you enjoy good health. Secondly, that we all reflect on how fortunate we are to live where we do, and to have the jobs we have. And finally, my last best wish is that the right team will finally get back to the World Series. (If you're wondering which team that is, contact me.)

Best wishes for a great holiday season and upcoming new year!



Howard A. Lemm  
Associate State Director

# Grazing Permittee Receives Stewardship Award

Mark Jacobsen, Miles City FO

The Miles City Field Office presented Pat O'Neill of Terry the Montana BLM "Grazing Permittee Stewardship Award" in a small ceremony at the Prairie County Cooperative State Grazing District annual meeting September 29.

O'Neill was also selected by the BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office as the region's nominee for the national level award.

According to the citation written by BLM Rangeland Management Specialist Adam Carr, O'Neill showed "Positive management, attitude and commitment to maintaining and improving the conditions of the public and private land and resources" within his grazing allotments.

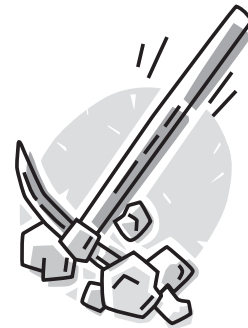
The award recognizes permittees and lessees who have demonstrated good public land stewardship. The nominee must maintain or improve rangeland conditions through beneficial management practices, and demonstrate collaboration and cooperation with other public lands users. Nominees must also practice productive communication both within and outside the livestock industry.

The BLM presented the award as part of a wider effort to promote adaptive management practices and to improve cooperation, collaboration and communication between permittees and other federal land management agencies.



Pat O'Neill of Terry displays his Montana BLM Grazing Permittee Stewardship Award plaque. The award was presented to O'Neill by BLM staffers Adam Carr (left) and Bill McIlvain (right) on September 29.

Do you really  
**OWN**  
the minerals  
under your  
land?



Public Lands USA:  
Use, Share, Appreciate

BLM

Montana State Office

## Are Those Minerals Really Yours?

If you're a landowner, it's possible that you don't own as much of your property as you think you do.

Many of those whose lands were patented under the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916 own only the surface rights while the mineral rights are owned by the federal government. This separation of the surface ownership from the mineral ownership is referred to as split estate. Nearly 12 million acres of private land in Montana involve a split estate.

While most think of minerals as oil, gas, gold, or coal, they also include sand, gravel, scoria, and stone. This misunderstanding has led to several recent trespass cases in which landowners were selling gravel or landscape rock without first purchasing them through the BLM. Trespassers may be liable for damages to the United States and subject to prosecution.

The BLM urges landowners planning to sell minerals to contact their local BLM office for assistance in determining the mineral ownership. For more information, the BLM has printed a brochure explaining mineral ownership. It's available by contacting a local BLM office or online at: <http://www.mt.blm.gov/min/minerals.pdf>.

# National Public Lands Day 2006

*This year's National Public Lands Day brought volunteers young and old to BLM sites throughout Montana/Dakotas. The largest volunteer, hands-on effort of its kind, NPLD is a national event that encourages citizens to take ownership in their public lands, contributing to their upkeep and learning about issues facing public land managers. Although the official NPLD date falls at the end of September each year, some Montana/Dakotas BLM offices opted for alternative dates. Regardless of the work day, all volunteers received t-shirts, refreshments, and a pass good for free entry any day during the next year at public lands sites managed by the BLM or several other federal agencies.*

*Here is a summary of this year's efforts at Montana/Dakotas BLM sites:*

## **September 30: Calypso Trail (Miles City Field Office)**

More than 50 volunteers contributed over \$4,000 in labor costs on the Calypso Trail north of Terry. They installed a gate, erected an interpretive kiosk, picked up litter and performed trail maintenance.

Part of the project area included a foot-trail leading to the locally renowned "Natural Bridges," several horizontal sandstone monoliths exposed by erosion which span a ravine. The Natural Bridges were made famous in several photographs captured by Evelyn Cameron, British immigrant and photographer of Prairie County during the late 1800s and early 1900s.



TOP: Volunteers Morgan Jacobsen, Phillip Estep and Parker Schmitz pause alongside one of the Natural Bridges. *Photo by Mark Jacobsen*



BOTTOM: BLM employee Brian Lynnes steadies a gate for installation as volunteers Morgan Jacobsen and Phillip Estep assist. *Photo by Mark Jacobsen*



## **September 30: Sunset Mine Cabin (Dillon Field Office)**

An old mining cabin near Ruby Reservoir regained its functionality thanks to the efforts of 20 volunteers from the 3-Rivers Back Country Horsemen, the Montana Youth Challenge and the Dillon Field Office. The volunteers contributed more than 150 hours of labor to clean up and haul away garbage and debris, spray the exterior of the cabin with wood preservative, and disinfect and clean out the inside to guard against disease. They also built a 24' x 60' horse corral to facilitate use by horsemen.

The cabin will be available for public use as part of the Recreational Cabin Rental Program. It is expected to be especially popular with hunters and cross country skiers.



TOP: Volunteers build a corral to make the Sunset Mine Cabin more user-friendly for horsemen. *Photo by Rick Waldrup*

BOTTOM: Mission accomplished! Volunteers pose in front of the Sunset Mine Cabin at the end of the day. *Photo by Rick Waldrup*

**September 9: Schnell Recreation Area (North Dakota Field Office)**

Every year for more than a decade, the North Dakota Field Office has hosted NPLD events at Schnell Recreation Area. The Dickinson State University Science Club and the local Girl Scouts are annual participants, examples of the ongoing, constructive relationships between the local community and the BLM that were established through NPLD. This year volunteers assembled picnic tables, built and painted garbage can stands, erected a kiosk, graveled a trail, and completed general grounds keeping tasks.



A Girl Scout mulches a tree at Schnell Recreation Area. *Photo by Connie Kolling*

Formerly a working cattle ranch, Schnell Recreation Area became public property in 1993. The 2,000-acre site offers campsites, a nature trail, and fishing ponds. During the summer, volunteer campground hosts provide information to visitors and assist with grounds maintenance.

Volunteers Richard Johnson and Dr. Deborah DeMavey build a picnic table. *Photo by Ann Boucher*

**May 20: Radersburg OHV Riding Area (Butte Field Office)**

BLM employees completed a 1.5-mile boundary fence at the Radersburg OHV riding area to keep motorized users from trespassing onto private land. Inclement weather kept most volunteers away, but employees who braved the weather installed directional signs to let users know when they were entering the open OHV area. Other improvements included painting the toilet facility and updating the information kiosk with a map and riding information.



Butte Field Office employees Brad Rixford, Matt Peterson and Pete Armstrong set posts for a boundary fence at the Radersburg OHV area. *Photo by Jim Perkins*

**September 30: Kipp Recreation Area (Lewistown Field Office)**

Located at the east end of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument and the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River, Kipp Recreation Area is a popular campground and launch/takeout point. The NPLD events at Kipp every year have involved campground improvements such as tree-trimming, trash pickup, interpretive trail layout, and speed bump installation. This year each campsite had the added benefit of having its own supply of firewood, cut and distributed by the Lewistown fire crew.

In addition to efforts on NPLD, volunteer campground hosts contribute to the site's maintenance and provide customer service throughout the year.



When they weren't busy fighting fires this summer, the Lewistown fire crew cleaned up a woodpile at Kipp Recreation Area, splitting the old cottonwoods and distributing the wood among campsites. *Photo by Sandra Padilla*



Volunteers construct a shelter at Alkali Creek Horse Camp. Photo by Dennis Bucher

**April 29 and May 5: Fort Meade Recreation Area (South Dakota Field Office)**

Volunteers helped preserve history by repairing a large stone horse jump that was once used by the cavalry for training purposes. At the Alkali Creek Horse Camp, volunteers constructed a shelter and assembled picnic tables, while others performed maintenance work on the South Dakota Centennial Trail.

Fort Meade was established in 1878 as a cavalry fort to protect the new settlements in the northern Black Hills, especially the nearby gold mining area around Deadwood. For most of the past 120 years there has been some military presence at Fort Meade. A portion of the area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**September 30: Wood Bottom Recreation Area (Lewistown Field Office)**

Volunteers from Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls assisted BLM with the ongoing cleanup of the Wood Bottom Recreation Area, an access point to the Upper Missouri River. Since acquiring the site in 1990, the BLM has organized several NPLD events to remove old fencing materials and other obstacles to wildlife.



Volunteers from Malmstrom Air Force Base at Wood Bottom Recreation Area along the Missouri River near Loma. Photo by Mark Schaefer



An old fence and other obstacles to wildlife were removed from Wood Bottom Recreation Area on NPLD. Photo by Mark Schaefer



Volunteers remove an old fence from the Wood Bottom Recreation Area. Photo by Mark Schaefer



Volunteers install an interpretive sign at Four Dances Natural Area. Photo by Lynn Anderson

**September 14: Four Dances Natural Area (Billings Field Office)**

Four Dances Natural Area includes 765 acres of undeveloped open space just two miles east of downtown Billings. Staff from the Billings Field Office organized this year's NPLD event to highlight some of the area's many cultural and natural attractions including Native American rock art, the historic Will James cabin, and dramatic cliffs that drop 200-500 feet to the Yellowstone River. Volunteers from the New Day Group Home helped install interpretive signs and put up an interpretive panel at the overlook on top of the bluffs above the river.

Four Dances Natural Area became public land in 1999 through the cooperative efforts of former owners Vince and Louise Larsen, the Yellowstone River Parks Association and the BLM.



A volunteer checks out a newly installed interpretive sign at Four Dances Natural Area. Photo by Lynn Anderson

# Volunteers Assist BLM in Cave Survey and Inventory

Chuck Ward, Billings FO

Five volunteers donned hard hats and head lamps and went underground this summer to assist the Billings Field Office in a new survey and inventory of Mystery Cave in the Pryor Mountains.

The group spent 8 hours documenting resources and impacts from visitor use. They surveyed 1936 feet of passage in two major areas of the cave, and took over 140 photographs. Nick Bowe, who has visited the cave on previous occasions, led the party. He also pushed leads, located survey stations and took azimuth and slope readings. Mallory Pikus read off the distance between stations, Luke Bowe marked survey stations, Larry Zeiske photographed significant features, and Ron Altoff kept the photo log. Chuck Ward from the Billings Field Office recorded the data.

Mystery Cave is a significant cave that is frequently visited by the public. It is gated to protect sensitive resources and access is by permit issued by the Billings Field Office. The cave has extensive stalactite and stalagmite areas, flowstone deposits, rimstone pools, helictites, and rare boxwork. Numerous invertebrate fossils of brachiopods, sponges and horn corals are exposed in walls and ceilings throughout the cave. In addition the cave serves as a hibernaculum for several species of bats, necessitating its closure to the public from November through May of

each year. The new survey will serve as the basis for an improved management plan as well as documenting current conditions for future comparison to determine cumulative impacts from visitation.

In addition to providing invaluable service to the Billings Field Office the crew was able to visit a spectacular resource, and beat the heat. While the July sun scorched southern Montana with temperatures in the 100-degree range, the cave temperature was a cool 43°F!



Mallory Pikus, Larry Zeiske, Nick Bowe, Luke Bowe and Ron Altoff volunteered their time to survey portions of Mystery Cave in the Pryor Mountains.

Photo by Chuck Ward

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