

Montana Soil Destined for the Smithsonian

Josh Sorlie, Malta FO

Every state has a state bird, so why not a state soil?

On April 21, soil scientists Josh Sorlie (BLM), Greg Snell, Justin Urresti, and Brian Kloster (Natural Resource Conservation Service) collected four monoliths on BLM land 15 miles west of Glasgow. A monolith is a soil profile mounted and preserved on a display board. One of these monoliths is destined for display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

The Soil Science Society of America is working with the Smithsonian to create an exhibit dedicated to increasing the public's knowledge about soils. The exhibit will include a display of each state soil and an underground view of soils.

Scheduled to open in July 2006, the exhibit will feature hands-on activities and demonstrations. It will be located near the Hope Diamond, the most visited museum exhibit in the world.

The Montana state soil is called the Scobey series. It consists of very deep (more than 60 inches), well-drained soils on till plains, hills and moraines on more than 700,000 acres in north central Montana. Among the most productive soils in Montana's Golden Triangle, these soils were formed in glacial till and under prairie vegetation. Potential native vegetation is mainly bluebunch wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, green needlegrass, and needleandthread. The Scobey series was established in 1928 (USDA-NRCS).



Josh Sorlie (BLM-Malta) and Justin Urresti (NRCS) wrap the monolith.
Photo by Denise Wiedenheft (NRCS)



Scobey soil profile. *Photo by Josh Sorlie*

Proud to be Here

You may remember a story circulated by the Associated Press many years back that cited a General Accounting Office study of federal employees' attitudes about work. You can imagine the thoughts of some people picking up their newspaper and scanning the story. No doubt, many were prepared to get an eyeful of all those stereotypical images of federal employees: Overpaid, under-worked, unmotivated, and undeserving of all those benefits.

Those who wanted to read that kind of story were disappointed.

The report, said AP, concluded federal employees were far more hard-working and dedicated than generally believed by the public. Federal employees had a strong commitment to their jobs. Many worked, uncompensated, hundreds of extra hours a year. They were conscientious about coming to work on time, putting in a good day's effort, and making a difference to the public they served.

"Contrary to widespread public perception ... taxpayers appear to be getting hundreds of millions of dollars of 'free' labor each year from the many Federal employees who regularly work extra time without compensation," the GAO report stated.

In other words, the stereotype had it all wrong.

Other, more recent, studies debunk the common image of federal employees. A Georgia State University study said that government workers generally had a better work ethic than those holding similar jobs in the private sector. A think tank poll revealed that 73 percent of Americans felt it was a "serious problem" that up to half of federal employees were eligible to retire in the next five years. A study by the Office of Personal Management concluded that less than four percent of the federal workforce are classified as "poor performers."

Add it up, think it through, and what do you get? A bunch of numbers and opinions!

So, in that spirit, I'd like to join in and add a few opinions about the BLM workforce in Montana and the Dakotas.

Opinion Number One: That GAO report, even though it was issued awhile back, could very well describe the BLM Montana and Dakota workforce of today. We often see many of you coming to work early, leaving late, and never drawing attention to yourselves or asking for compensation. The pride that you take in your jobs and the work you do is exceptional. If someone is looking for the overpaid, underworked bureaucrat, they'll be disappointed if they turn their attention toward BLM employees in Montana and the Dakotas.

Opinion Number Two: Jerry and I can't say enough good things about your durability, your willingness to

roll with the waves. A think tank report may have said it best: "Federal employees have witnessed countless reforms over the past thirty years, from management by objectives to results management, competition in contracting to the war on waste, total quality management and military base closings, downsizing, voluntary buyouts for senior managers and procurement streamlining. Federal employees have endured repeated pay and hiring freezes, management experiments, pay-for-performance schemes, and nearly nonstop bureaucrat bashing. They have seen efforts to open government and efforts to close it, efforts to liberate government from needless paperwork and efforts to impose new reporting requirements."

And while the report didn't say it, the message is strongly implied: Through it all, you just kept working, rarely missing a beat, taking care of public business.

Opinion Number Three: Jerry and I are among the most fortunate of BLM's managers. We feel it a privilege and honor to work alongside you. Each of you brings your own set of skills, knowledge, insight, and flair to the job. You make working in these three BLM states a refreshing experience for us.

Our budget forecasts for the next few years are not bright. We're facing a time of change in our agency that may be unmatched in BLM history. What BLM looks like five years from now could be radically different. We wish we could provide more answers, but the fact is that nobody knows what they are right now.

But we do have confidence that the agency will survive and meet the basic needs of our publics. And we have confidence in another way, too – no matter what changes occur, BLM employees will continue to come to work, show pride in what they do, and take care of the public's business. You've proven yourselves.

We thank you for that, both for days gone by and days yet to come.

Martin C. Ott
State Director



Martin C. Ott

Case Closed

Mary Apple, MSO

Numerous museum artifacts have been returned to their rightful owners, thanks in part to the work of the Montana/Dakotas BLM Law Enforcement staff.

A news conference held at the Montana State Office on February 15 detailed the investigation and resolution of the case which involved Jeffry Stevens, a California man who stole items from small museums across much of the United States over a span of 35 years.

In late June and early July 2003, Stevens stole several items from Montana pioneer museums in Big Timber, Lewistown, Glasgow, Malta, Hardin and Circle. He attempted to steal from other museums in the region as well. He took items such as civil war relics, antique firearms, and Indian artifacts.

Stevens removed most of the items from glass display cases by removing the screws and other hardware from the cases. The thefts occurred while the museums were open to visitors.

When police officers in the Montana towns noticed similar reports of museum thefts from neighboring communities, they began comparing notes. One museum had surveillance camera pictures; several had visitor registration sheets with the same name (although not Stevens' real name). But the big break came when a report came in of an attempted theft at the museum in Scobey.

Virginia Heaton, office manager of the Daniels County Museum and Pioneer Town, confronted a man attempting to steal antique automobile parts from an outdoor area of the museum. She told him to put the parts down and leave the museum. As the man drove away, she wrote down his license plate number. Investigators found that the vehicle belonged to Jeffry

Stevens of San Diego County, California. Heaton identified him as the man she saw; he was also the man captured on the surveillance film.

Because the thefts involved Indian artifacts, BLM law enforcement agents became interested in the case and offered their assistance to Glasgow Police officers Mike Sukut and Bruce Barstad who were spearheading the investigation.

Barstad and BLM special agents went to California and Utah, interviewing Stevens' relatives and associates. They found that he sold some of his artifacts out of an antique store in Salt Lake City. They also received reports of similar museum thefts from other states and the Bozeman Pioneer Museum. Agents, including personnel from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, executed searches at the antique store in Salt Lake City and Stevens' home in California and found evidence of the Montana thefts.

Stevens, through his Bozeman attorney Chuck Watson, contacted BLM Special Agent-in-Charge Bart Fitzgerald to resolve the situation. Watson said Stevens still had some of the stolen items and was willing to return them and cooperate in the investigation.

Law enforcement officers interviewed Stevens on September 9, 2004, in Salt Lake City. Stevens admitted stealing the artifacts and guns and also said he had taken items from museums in Hardin, Virginia City, and Dillon. Stevens was interviewed a final time at his home in California when he returned numerous items that belonged to museums in

Montana and elsewhere.

Stevens agreed to plead guilty to both federal and state felony charges and to return stolen items to the museums. In addition, he agreed to make restitution for items no longer in his possession and make a cash donation to the museums for some of their inconveniences. However, he died of a heart attack in November 2004 before any plea was entered or sentence given.

Since widespread media coverage about the case, Special Agent in Charge Bart Fitzgerald has received numerous calls from museums across the country, asking if certain items have been recovered. The law enforcement staff is now working to return the stolen items to their rightful owners. In addition, the Stevens family has donated \$5,000 to each of the nine burglarized Montana museums.



Some of the stolen items on display during the February 15 news conference.

Photos by Mary Apple



Photos by Mary Apple



They proceeded on . . .

Summer 1805



June 2

The expedition comes to a stop at a fork in the river. All the men believe the northern fork is the true Missouri; Lewis and Clark think it's the south fork. After several days of scouting, the captains are still convinced they're right and name the other fork the Marias (after a cousin of Lewis in Virginia). The men still think otherwise but tell the captains "they were ready to follow us any where we thought proper to direct," according to Lewis. Based on information gleaned from the Hidatsas, they know that if they find a big waterfall, they're on the right track.

June 13

Scouting ahead of the rest of the expedition, Lewis comes across "the grandest sight I ever beheld" – the Great Falls of the Missouri, proof the captains had been correct. But then he discovers four more waterfalls immediately upriver. They will have to portage eighteen and a half miles to get around them all.

When the rest of the expedition arrives, they make crude carts from cottonwoods, bury some of their cargo, and begin hauling the canoes and remaining supplies over the broken terrain. Broiling heat, hail storms, prickly pear cactus, and other obstacles mark the difficult portage, which instead of the half day the captains had planned the previous winter, takes nearly a month.

July 4

The party celebrates its second Independence Day on the trail (as well as the completion of the portage) by dancing late into the night and drinking the last of their supply of whiskey.

Late July

The expedition reaches the Three Forks of the Missouri, which the captains name the Gallatin (after the Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Gallatin), the Madison (after Secretary of State James Madison), and the Jefferson, "in honor of that illustrious personage Thomas Jefferson, the author of our enterprise."

Sacagawea begins recognizing familiar landmarks (up until now, the route has been as unknown to her as to the explorers) and points out the place where the Hidatsas had captured her five years earlier.

The expedition heads southwest, up the Jefferson. The river is shallow and swift and difficult for the men to drag their canoes upstream.

August 8

Sacagawea recognizes another landmark – Beaverhead Rock, north of present-day Dillon, Montana – and says they are nearing the river's headwaters and home of her people, the Shoshones. Desperate to find the Indians and their horses, Lewis decides to scout ahead with three men.

August 11

Lewis comes across a single, mounted Indian – the first the expedition had seen since leaving Fort Mandan – and tries to signal his friendly intentions, but the Indian rides off.

August 12

The shipment sent from Fort Mandan finally arrives in the East. Jefferson will plant the Indian corn in his Monticello garden, hang elk antlers in his foyer, and send the surviving animals – a magpie and the prairie dog – to a natural science museum located in Philadelphia's Independence Hall. Reading Lewis's confident letter, he would imagine the expedition having already reached the Pacific.

That same day, Lewis ascends the final ridge toward the Continental Divide and "the most distant fountain of the waters of the Mighty Missouri, in search of which we have spent so many toilsome days and restless nights" and joyously drinks from an ice-cold spring. Climbing the rest of the ridge – Lemhi Pass, on the present-day border between Montana and Idaho – he expects to see from the summit a vast plain to the west, with a large river flowing to the Pacific: The Northwest Passage that had been the goal of explorers since the time of Columbus. Instead, all he sees are more mountains.

August 17

Having discovered a village of Shoshones, Lewis tries to negotiate for the horses he now knows are all-important to cross the daunting mountains. On this day, Clark and the rest of the expedition arrive and Sacagawea is brought in to help translate. Remarkably, the Shoshone chief, Cameahwait, turns out to be her brother. The captains name the spot Camp Fortunate.

August 18

Lewis's 31st birthday. Though he has just become the first American citizen to reach the Continental Divide and has concluded successful negotiations for horses, in his journal entry he turns introspective, writing that "I had as yet done but little, very little indeed." He vows "in future, to live for mankind, as I have heretofore lived for myself."

August 31

With 29 horses, one mule, and a Shoshone guide called Old Toby, the expedition sets off overland. They head north, over a mountain pass and into the valley of a beautiful river, now called the Bitterroot.

(source: www.PBS.org)

Moose and the Corps of Discovery

As the nation celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Montana BLM employees past and present should reflect on one of our own who worked tirelessly to preserve the very best of this historic trail.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s the future of the Missouri River below Fort Benton was being hotly debated. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (a small, now defunct agency that once provided leadership for the nationwide recreation effort) recommended that it be designated a Wild & Scenic River, while the Corps of Engineers wanted to dam it at Cow Creek. Emotions were high on both sides of the issue. For Ed Zaidlicz, then Montana State Director, there was no contest. He believed this was a very special place that the BLM should preserve, and he set out to do just that.

Ed didn't limit himself to working only within the BLM. He rallied local interests, worked with state government, and sought the support of other federal agencies. Together with Senator Lee Metcalf they got it done. In October of 1976, following the Wild and Scenic River designation, supporters gathered in the park at Fort Benton and toasted all of those who had helped.

How did one man have such an impact? For one thing, he had a commanding presence; he stood out in a crowd. When Ed spoke, you listened. But it was more than his stature or charisma. A major asset was his reputation.

I went to Ed's retirement party, and I was awed by the number of notable dignitaries there. The litany of praises was impressive. But even more so was their common theme: "You might not always agree with Ed, but the man had integrity." At the time I thought it was as fine a compliment as a man could ever receive. In reflection, I know that this reputation served him well in accomplishing his goals.

So today as we celebrate the endeavors of the Corps of Discovery we can take pride in the fact that one of our own, Ed "Moose" Zaidlicz, through his vision and ability as a leader, contributed so much in preserving the very best segment of this historic route.

*Chan Biggs, Retired
Great Falls, MT*



Ed "Moose" Zaidlicz
BLM Montana State Director 1969-79



BLMers along the Missouri, circa 1969. Zaidlicz is third from the right.



Zaidlicz at the Missouri River, circa 1969

Undaunted Stewardship Program Receives National Award

Greg Albright, MSO

Montana's Undaunted Stewardship program has earned the Chairman's Award for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation from the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The award was presented at a formal ceremony in Annapolis, MD., May 18, and recognized BLM, the Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana State University (which runs the day-to-day operations of the program), and Montana Senator Conrad Burns who has been instrumental in getting funding for the program.

"Montana's landscape today vividly recalls the pristine country traversed by the Lewis and Clark expedition 200 years ago, in large measure because of wise stewardship on both private and public lands," said John L. Nau, III, chairman of the ACHP. "Just as public land stewards protect and provide

reasonable access to sites important to our heritage, private landowners in Montana are encouraging appropriate heritage travel to historic sites on their property through the Undaunted Stewardship program while preserving and enhancing cultural and natural resources. This is a wonderful model for similar partnerships across the nation."

Undaunted Stewardship was originated by Montana's ranching and agricultural community when much of the planning for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial was gaining momentum. A common theme during the bicentennial planning was that large sections of Lewis and Clark Trail in Montana have remained much as they were when the Corps of Discovery first experienced the state in 1805 and 1806. The Stockgrowers

The BLM, MSU, the Stockgrowers, and an advisory board jointly select projects that meet the criteria of the Undaunted Stewardship initiative, which is aimed at showcasing private-land stewardship. In some cases, this stewardship has preserved historic sites; in others it involves grazing and ranch management practices that are outstanding examples of sound resource use and conservation. The program works

with private landowners to develop interpretive kiosks at selected historic sites and management plans for the sites as well. As a result, the public has access to historic sites that are now privately owned.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is an independent federal agency



Steve Pilcher, Director of Montana Stockgrowers' Association; Doug Ensign, Mission Ranch landowner; Jim Peterson, Montana State University; and Howard Lemm, BLM Deputy State Director for Resources, stand at an interpretive site on the Mission Ranch. It was the first such site developed through the Undaunted Stewardship program. Pilcher, Peterson, and Lemm make up the Executive Council of the Undaunted Stewardship Program.

Photo by Greg Albright

Association and others felt it was important to recognize the private stewardship efforts along the trail that have kept so much of the land intact.

The program officially began in April 2001 and has experienced steady growth since. Earmarked federal funding for the program passes through BLM's budget and is distributed by the university.

that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of the nation's historic resources and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. It also provides a forum for influencing federal activities, programs, and policies that impact historic properties.

Trig Star Program Named an “Outstanding Public Partnership”

Ann Boucher, Montana State Office

You’ve heard about Trig-Stars. They are the students who most quickly solve surveying problems as part of an annual competition among high school students.

But have you heard about the people behind the Trig-Star program? They recently received the Outstanding Public Partnership Award from Partners in Education, a Billings-based organization that matches businesses and schools as partners. The award recognizes BLM surveyors Randy Thomas, Josh Alexander, Tom Trzinski, and Jordan Ketola for their efforts to show students the practical uses of trigonometry.

Each spring, the surveyors go to area high schools to demonstrate surveying techniques, and then challenge students to a timed test. Written by the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), the test requires students to apply trigonometric concepts to solve a surveying problem. The winner is determined by the fastest correct answer.

In her letter of nomination, Billings West High School teacher Margaret Aukshun wrote, “The Trig-Star presentation and test provide an incentive to students to study, use and maintain the skills they develop in the classroom. The time and

preparation that Randy and his crew devote to this project reflect the care and concern that this organization has for Billings high school students.”

Although the award specifically recognizes the local program, Trig-Star actually reaches far beyond the Billings area. Competitions take place at local, regional, state and national levels and reach thousands of students annually. In Montana, 598 students from 21 schools across the state took the challenge this year.

BLM surveyors Randy Thomas and Craig Frichtl started the Trig-Star program in 1989 and helped it grow from a local event to a statewide competition. Now in its 17th year, the program is sponsored nationally through the NSPS and co-sponsored locally by the BLM’s Cadastral Survey and the Montana Association of Registered Land Surveyors (MARLS). Selby’s Essco, a local survey supply firm, private surveyors and firms, and MARLS donate cash, prizes and scholarships for the winners.



LEWISTOWN FIELD OFFICE SETTLES INTO NEW BUILDING

Kaylene Patten, Lewistown FO



The BLM Lewistown Field Office moved into new office and warehouse facilities at the end of February. The new address is 920 NE Main in Lewistown. The facility was constructed by Boyd Creek Properties of Lewistown and about 25 local contractors were involved.

“Building this facility has been a community effort and Boyd Creek Properties certainly did a great job with the construction work,” said June Bailey, Lewistown Field Manager.

Employees are settling into their new cubical work spaces and

finding that they are very efficient and quiet. The new building features conference rooms that allow multiple simultaneous meetings, a one-floor building design, updated computer and phone capabilities, and a more convenient location for members of the public.

BLM's Commitment to Weed Research Paying Dividends

Marilyn Krause, Western Montana Zone

A research partnership to increase the production of a weevil that feeds on spotted knapweed is gaining momentum thanks to dedicated researchers and teachers with support from the BLM.

Dr. Nada Carruthers, a scientist with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST), recently presented her findings to BLM employees and the advanced placement students of Todd Breitenfeldt, a biology teacher at Whitehall High School in southwestern Montana.

The *Cyphocleonus achates*, or knapweed root weevil, feeds exclusively on knapweed, which allowed its importation into the U.S. from Europe. The weevils, in conjunction with seed head feeding insects, are starting to do a good job of controlling spotted knapweed at several sites in Montana.

Several years ago, Mr. Breitenfeldt created insectaries near the Whitehall High School [see: <http://mtwow.org/knapweed-insectary.htm>] and has since expanded the program to Harrison and Ennis schools also in southwest Montana, along with schools in Townsend, Augusta, Victor and Darby, Mont. By involving students, the program provides summer jobs, increases weed awareness, and hopefully sparks a career interest.

"People thought we were crazy when we started planting knapweed," said Breitenfeldt, "especially when we have such a weed problem across the landscape. But, the weevils need food and boy, do they kill the knapweed plants in the insectary gardens rapidly. We replace about one-third of the plants each year as we produce about 3,000 weevils yearly for release."

Unfortunately, despite these successes, the spread of knapweed is out pacing the spread of weevils. To try and gain some ground, Dr. Carruthers is researching growing weevils in a lab at an accelerated rate under controlled conditions.

Producing weevils in the lab is not an easy task either. First you need to establish a colony of adults in captivity and keep them healthy to lay viable eggs. The eggs need to develop in an

artificial environment to hatch into larva, metamorphose into pupa, and finally the adult stage.

Dr. Carruthers' research has focused on creating the artificial diet or "weevil power bar." She has developed a preliminary recipe that works but she is quick to point out that it is still in the research stage and there is much more work to be done.

Adult weevils in captivity are kept in ideal conditions in a cage and fed well on fresh knapweed plants. This "feeding station" contains thin layers of wet florist foam on which the weevils lay their eggs. The eggs are gathered regularly and sterilized in a solution to prevent disease transmittal.

The newly gathered eggs are carefully placed in individual cups filled with the artificial diet. Dr. Carruthers developed the diet using a combination of proteins, sucrose, water, salt, carbohydrates, vitamins and preservatives. The dry ingredients are added to the water and agar mixture to make a "protein Jell-O"-type substance.

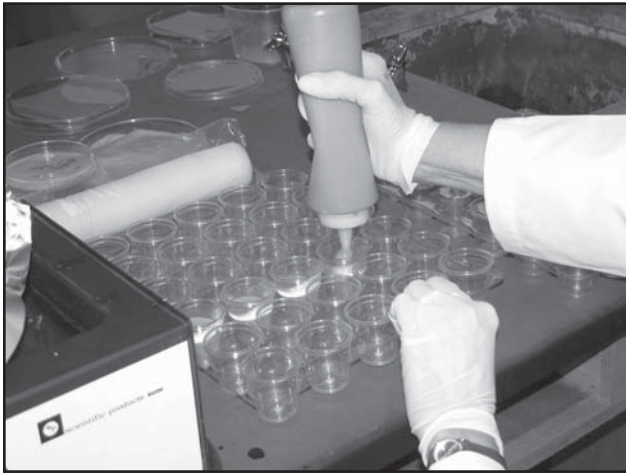
Containers are checked daily for signs of development as the larva move to the pupa and adult stage. As soon as the adult emerges, it is moved to the feeding station to start the process over again.

"Developing weevils in the lab is faster, easier and cheaper," stated Dr. Carruthers. "In the lab we can produce all year long rather than relying on one generation per year in a field setting."



Nada Carruthers (center) shows BLM employees Kirsten Boyle (left) and Melissa Morris (right) how to spot weevil larva in a knapweed plant from the Whitehall High School insectary.

Photo by Marilyn Krause



After mixing, the artificial diet is squeezed into individual containers. The next step is the careful addition of individual weevil eggs. *Photo by Marilyn Krause*



Nada Carruthers shows students how to spot weevil eggs laid in the moist slices of florist foam. *Photo by Marilyn Krause*

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MUSTANGS PART OF EPIC RIDE

Marilyn Krause, Western Montana Zone

Long rider Gene Glasscock made Helena his 39th state capital on his trek to visit all 48 contiguous states. He started his adventure in 2002 and is expected to complete his ride this December in Ohio.

Glasscock is traveling with four horses, two of which are former wild mustangs adopted through the BLM's wild horse and burro program. The gentled horses impressed Governor Schweitzer's staff and other visitors to the capitol on May 9. His newest recruit, Buddy, was adopted in Oklahoma after being gentled in the Colorado prison program. Even though Buddy was seven when adopted, he learned fast and has adapted to life on the trail. Gene brags that he responds well to voice commands.

Now at age 70, Gene expects to cover more than 20,000 miles on his solo horse pack trip. Along the way he stays at the homes of people he meets along the trail. In three years, he estimates he has stayed in hotels only about 30 nights.

From Helena Gene was traveling through Townsend, to White Sulphur Springs and points across eastern Montana. His goal is to reach Bismarck, ND, on June 20. If you want to follow Gene on his epic journey, check out his website at www.geneglasscock.org.



Jackie Williams, an assistant to Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, presents long rider Gene Glasscock with a letter and gift on behalf of the State of Montana. *Photo by Marilyn Krause*



Gene arrives at the Capitol building with Buddy, the gentled mustang he often rides and another former wild horse that is part of his pack string. *Photo by Marilyn Krause*

Spring Spruce Up

The North and South Dakota Field Offices opted to hold their National Public Lands Day events earlier than usual this year so that the improvements would be in place at the beginning of the season instead of at the end.

On April 30, 15 volunteers and five South Dakota FO employees built five portable picnic tables and a picnic shelter for the Alkali Creek site at the Fort Meade Recreation Area. They also placed waterbars and switchbacks on a steep portion of the Centennial Trail to prevent erosion.

In spite of cold winds and snow squalls, the group completed the trail and picnic table projects, and left the shelter fully framed and ready to roof.

Volunteers came from the local mountain bike club, a horseback riders' group, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the local community, and the advanced outdoor recreation class at Black Hills State University.

The North Dakota Field Office rounded up volunteers and staff members on May 7 to spruce up Schnell Recreation Area. The day's project list included installing lights to illuminate the flag pole, sanding and staining picnic tables, various painting projects, and planting and mulching young trees.



Making it look good in the neighborhood.
Photo by Mary Ramsey



Young volunteer mulches one of the many young trees at Schnell.
Photo by Mary Ramsey



Working together to get the job done.
Photo by Marian Atkins



Through wind and snow, these volunteers carry on. Is it dedication or senses numbed from the cold? Photo by Marian Atkins

Volunteer Recognized for 4,000 Hours of Service

Just across the street from the boat launch in Fort Benton is a little building that houses the BLM's visitor contact station. Open every day between Memorial Day and Labor Day, it serves as a gift shop and information center for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument and for the town of Fort Benton. It is operated by the BLM with the able assistance of volunteers.

Since 1997, volunteer Joyce Pennock logged more than 4,000 hours at the visitor contact station. Her job description included selling interpretive and gift store items, as well as being the central contact for all contact stations along the river. But more than that, Joyce served as an ambassador for the BLM, the City of Fort Benton and the Upper Missouri River. Her knowledge of the local history and nearby points of interest was a great tool that enabled her

to work well with the public. During her volunteer work with the BLM she helped countless river floaters prepare for a safe and comfortable trip.

For her long-time contributions, the BLM recently presented Joyce with the President's Call to Service award.

The award recognizes volunteers who have donated 4,000 or more hours to community service.

Joyce's volunteer service began in 1986 when she began working for the Forest Service in Georgia as a volunteer fire lookout. Her reasons are simple.

"My husband and I had retired so we needed something to do," she said. "We heard about volunteering with the Forest Service, and from there we heard about the position on the

Upper Missouri in Montana."

Joyce completed seven volunteer seasons with the BLM in Fort Benton. Instead of returning again this year, she has decided to pursue other volunteer opportunities. Her home is in Baldwin, Michigan.



Volunteer Joyce Pennock mows the lawn in front of the visitor contact station in Fort Benton.

Longtime Volunteer Recognized for “Making a Difference”

Craig Flentie, Lewistown Field Office

Larry Haight retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1992. Every summer since, he has traveled from his home just outside Hickman, Neb., to central Montana where he volunteers his time and abilities to the BLM and the recreating public on the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River.

In recognition of his 12 summers of exceptional volunteer service, the BLM selected Larry as one of five individuals (nationwide) to receive the prestigious “Making a Difference” National Volunteer Award earlier this month in Washington D.C.

If you’ve spent much time on the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River in recent years, chances are you’ve met or at least seen Larry Haight. He was stationed in Fort Benton for several years and recently has served as a volunteer host at the Judith Landing campsite, which is one of the BLM’s busier launch and take-out points on the Upper Missouri.

Larry has also volunteered for numerous other duties related to managing public resources. He invests countless hours repairing and maintaining BLM facilities, helps the BLM and the U.S. Geological Survey monitor cottonwood regeneration sites along the river, conducts riparian vegetation studies and builds and maintains fence enclosures designed to enhance riparian areas.

“Larry has become a special ambassador for the BLM. He’s developed a good work relationship with local ranchers, other landowners and local community members along the river. He promotes good resource stewardship and river safety to hundreds of people each summer,” offered Joe Frazier, a BLM hydrologist in Lewistown and Sandra Padilla, a BLM park ranger also in Lewistown (both of whom nominated Larry for this award).

The 10th Annual National Volunteer Award ceremony took place on May 11, in Washington. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton spoke during the ceremony and thanked these select volunteers for their “love of our public lands and willingness to volunteer their time and energy in the spirit of public service.”

The BLM greatly appreciates the volunteers who provide tremendous contributions to America’s 261 million acres of



Rebecca Watson, Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals, presents volunteer Larry Haight with the national Making a Difference Award. Montana/Dakotas Associate State Director Jerry Meredith is on the left, next to BLM Deputy Director Jim Hughes.

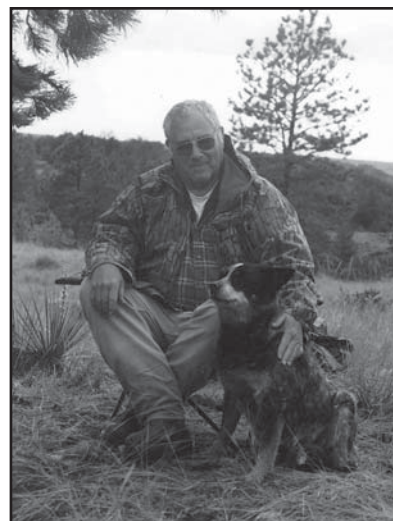
public lands each year by performing numerous functions in every aspect of public land management. Many of these jobs, such as campground management or trail repair, would not get done without volunteer support. In 2004 alone, BLM volunteers donated more than 1.5 million hours with an estimated value of over \$27 million, the equivalent of 860 full time employees.

This was Larry’s first trip to Washington, D.C. His son Scott and daughter-in-law Kay Haight accompanied

Larry on this trip which he described as “absolutely fantastic. We visited all the memorials on the Mall, including the beautiful new World War II Memorial, the National Archives and the Smithsonian Museum. Washington is an amazing city to visit, but I’m probably more comfortable on the river,” Larry offered with a smile.

If you’re floating, fishing, hiking or sightseeing along the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River this summer you may encounter Larry as he as he goes about his many daily duties.

Most people who meet Larry remember him for his quick smile, solid handshake, knowledge of the area and willingness to help. Those are all personal qualities he brings to his work every day.



Larry Haight has spent 12 summers volunteering in various capacities along the Upper Missouri River.

Attention BLM Retirees

The BLM Retirees Association meets on the first Tuesday of odd-numbered months at the Old Country Buffet in Billings. If you would like to receive email or postcard notifications of these meetings, please call Shirley Heffner at 259-1202, Cynthia Embretson at 252-1367, or send your address to Cynthia at ceatsage@wtp.net.

The Public Lands Foundation offers new retirees a free one-year membership. Please contact Bill Noble, PLF Montana Representative, at 406-656-0267 to join.

Please also help us keep our Quarterly Steward mailing list current by contacting Ann Boucher of the External Affairs staff at 406-896-5011 or aboucher@mt.blm.gov with address changes.

Retired from Montana/Dakotas BLM since February 1, 2005:

Ladd Coates – 30 years
Outdoor Recreation Planner, Miles City Field Office

Alice Petzel – 25 years
Management Assistant, Butte Field Office

John Specht – 35 years
Supervisory Forester, Missoula Field Office

Garth “David” Squires – 31 years
Natural Resources Advisor, Miles City Field Office

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