

Northwest Passage Volume 1, Issue 1 – September/October 2008

Cover

Take It Outside!

[blm.gov/or](http://blm.gov/or)

The Bureau of Land Management Magazine for Oregon and Washington

Sep/Oct 2008

Come on, there's a whole big world out there...

The New Carissa's Last Stand: A Swan Song to Heavy Metal

Oregon's Weed Threat: When Vegetation Attacks

FBMS Comes to the BLM (Finally! Read Why...)

Archaeologists "Step In" a Prehistoric Discovery: Ancient Coprolite Secret?

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BLM Recycles

[Photo of a Landscape with Trees, Blue Skies, and a Snow-Capped Mountain]

[Image of BLM Logo]

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[Photo of Oregon Fields and Valleys at Sunrise]

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Welcome to our first issue of Northwest Passage, the Bureau of Land Management Magazine for Oregon and Washington.

Earlier this year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) came together to participate in a community self-survey where we asked our staff their opinion on a few questions.

Well, a lot of questions.

We know working for the BLM is a life of public service and wanted to check in with our folks to see how they view their role within the BLM’s mission. And we got some feedback.

Well, a lot of feedback.

Great feedback.

We heard back on a number of topics that are as important to me as they are to our constituents in Oregon and Washington.

And one of the most frequent and positive responses we heard was that folks at the BLM are very interested in communication.

This subject?

It grabbed my attention.

Because I’m continually looking for ways to improve the effectiveness of the BLM’s two-way communication - whether it’s among our staff or with the public we serve.

And one idea seemed to rise up repeatedly from across the entire BLM. We in the Northwest have our own story to tell. A story in which each of us plays an active role.

As the writers of our story, we'd like to share it, both with ourselves and our many neighbors.

So with that I'm very pleased to introduce Northwest Passage, a magazine by and for the people who work, live, and travel on the majestic public lands of Oregon and Washington.

This magazine tells our story in our own words and with our own photos illustrating how we care for the public lands each and every day.

Just how did we put Northwest Passage together, you say?

Well, in a spirit of sustainability, our own staff developed the entire magazine to guarantee that we will maintain and publish it bimonthly going forward.

We took the photos, wrote the articles, and laid out the magazine using feedback from the entire staff.

Our Communications team even held a contest to name our magazine. I was absolutely thrilled to see over 60 outstanding submissions, any of which would have served us well.

And after creating this high-gloss, newsstand-style magazine, we took our passion for sustainability one step further. We will be publishing Northwest Passage using the latest in online visual technology.

Who says the government can't lead the pack sometimes?

Well, that's enough from me. We've got a number of interesting and funny articles, events, and profiles in this issue. And the pictures - well, they show us what's to love about the BLM in the Pacific Northwest.

Let's read.

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

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Take it Outside!

Volume 1, Issue 1

WWW.BLM.GOV/OR

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Jody Weil / editorial director

Matt Christenson / editor & designer

Teddi Duling / copy editor

contributors

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mission

The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Oregon and Washington, the BLM provides innovative leadership in managing natural resources of the Pacific Northwest.

Contributors

[Five Photos of Contributors]

1: Michael Campbell is the Associate Deputy State Director for the Office of Communications. (whew!) In addition to having the longest job title ever at the BLM, Michael also has the grooviest lemon-lime H.R. Giger

technochair in the State Office. When visiting Portland, check in with Michael to get the lowdown on the best food carts. But then again, Michael's a mountain climber renowned for his adventurous spirit. So if it doesn't kill you, it only makes you stronger. Right? Right?! Oh, and it seems some old shipwreck is being carted off for scrap (Page 14).

2: Maya Fuller has over 10 years experience working in Public Affairs. Writing, editing, coordinating with any manner of media outlet, Maya does it all. And if you haven't turned in your BLM Facts to her by the time this issue goes to print, well...let's just say we wouldn't want to be you. In addition, Maya and her husband can be found at many local concerts hobnobbing with rockstars. With that amount of cool cache, it's no wonder Maya can make even the topic of weeds fascinating (Page 16).

3: Public Affairs Specialist Pam Robbins is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside one of those 3-D pictures where you can't see what's going on unless you stare at it for an eternity trying to look through the picture and relax your eyes. How can you have sharp eyes if you "relax your eyes?" No wonder those things disappeared with the 90s. Anyway, Pam turns a sharp eye to "final drafts" of many BLM communication materials, and we're lucky to have her. She drew the short straw and got to write about our new financial system (Page 18).

4: Writer/Editor Matt Christenson loves writing about himself in the third person. Loves it! He also cherishes puppies and kittens and embraces the entire musical catalog of Mr. Lee Greenwood. Chances are, if there's something in Northwest Passage that you don't like, Matt's probably to blame. In this photo, he's doing a little light reading...of the Dictionary! That's right, the Dictionary. No big deal. Matt contributed an article on prehistoric poo (Page 20). It's better than it sounds.

5: Public Affairs Specialist Megan Harper hails from Coos Bay, Oregon. When she's not working with producers from Oregon Public Broadcasting and reporters from the Associated Press, she's inundated by Matt's all-too-frequent requests for help. Can't he figure it out himself? Seriously, maybe just for once? The sections in the New Carissa article (Page 14) that you love? Megan's. The rest? Michael's. Be prepared – he may try to tell you it's the opposite. But at least now you've been warned.

Byways

[Photo of BLM Staffer Rex McGraw in a Sasquatch Costume & Ed Shepard, Director, OR/WA BLM]

Interview with the Sasquatch

By Matt “Anne Rice” Christenson

“Am I really supposed to believe in Sasquatch?” “Hmph,” he snorted at me. “You can see my photo right there, can’t you?”

Did you know the BLM has hired Bigfoot? It’s true. He works as a Natural Resource Specialist in Roseburg.

Kinda makes sense when you think about it. We’ve got Bigfoot outdoors on our amazing BLM public lands. What better place for one of the most elusive cryptozoological creatures ever to be seen (or not seen?) in the Pacific Northwest.

Sasquatch (known by the Oregon DMV as “Rex McGraw”) took time out of his busy day catching salmon (he prefers ‘em sauted in butter over a bed of rice pilaf) to update me on his latest news - to include community service efforts to assist his most needy constituents - celebrities!

Matt: So how did you happen to run into Ed Shepard, State Director for Oregon/Washington BLM?

Sasquatch: [Removes his sunglasses] Okay, funny story. I was just back in town after a meeting with Bobby De Niro and Brangelina for this new Sasquatch movie, and my good friend Megan called me up and said Ed would like to meet me. I had a day off before I had to fly down to LA to see Quentin so I thought, hey, why not.

Matt: How long have you lived the life of Bigfoot.

Sasquatch: [Squints at me] Yeah... It’s actually Sasquatch.

Matt: Oh. Sorry.

Sasquatch: Uh huh. Thanks for trying to remember that. Anyway, I guess I started to inhabit this “Rex McGraw” dude’s body about five years ago. Before that, I was a bunch of other people.

Matt: Wow. So in addition to your acting work...

Sasquatch: “Thespian,” please...

Matt: [scratches head] Right... In addition to your, um, “thespian” work, what other services do you provide?

Sasquatch: I like to offer people who visit BLM lands their very own “Sasquatch Sighting.” And with all the pictures, I know how to deal with the paparazzi. I even called Britney to offer my help, but she kept bugging me to write some songs for her new album. And I tell ya, man - that kind of publicity, I don’t need.

In a pinch Sasquatch said he can also fill in for Star Wars’ Chewbacca. Are you getting this, George Lucas?

### Public Lands Live

Can summer really be over!?! (Well, summer's not officially over until September 22nd - but you try explaining that to a kid back in school.)

[Two Photos of Youth Volunteers Cleaning Up Public Lands]

Don't knock it, man. It beats being in school...

Pick up trash or take a chemistry quiz? Not even a question, dude.

PHOTOS BY BLM STAFF

Seriously. Go ahead and try to explain that to a kid in school. We'll wait.

Back already?

Good. Just because it's September already doesn't mean you shouldn't get out and make the most of our remaining summer days. Or heck, get even more psyched because we're at the start of our world-famous Pacific Northwest fall.

So what's to do, what's to do....

On Saturday, September 27, each of the ten BLM Districts across Oregon and Washington will participate in the 15th Annual National Public Lands Day!

In what has become the largest volunteer hands-on effort of its kind, participants from around the nation come together and lend a hand to improve the very lands on which they hike, bike, climb, fish, swim, explore, picnic, or just plain relax.

T-shirts, lunches, and educational activities are provided for volunteers ranging from Girl Scouts and senior citizens to members of Congress and kids in school! And the BLM provides all necessary tools, safety equipment, and materials.

Why not join the fun?

For the latest details about these activities and to find a National Public Lands Day location nearest you, visit [publiclandsday.com](http://publiclandsday.com) or [blm.gov/or](http://blm.gov/or).

[Photo of Rock Climber]

Now let's say just for kicks that you wanted to check out some fun activities for the family that take place outside of BLM Lands. (We know, we know, this is more of an intellectual exercise than anything else.) But what if you wanted to see what else was out there. Is there anything else to do in Oregon and Washington? Is there!?! You bet.

[ 08/30/08 - 10/31/08 ]

#### THE MAIZE AT THE PUMPKIN PATCH

Two words. Corn Maze. Two more words. Family Entertainment. Even two more words. The Shining. Wait. Scratch those last two.

Celebrating its 10th year, the “Maize” (ha! get it?) at the Pumpkin Patch will be hosting its annual fall “maze” on Sauvie Island. Located ten miles west of Portland just over the brand-new Sauvie Island Bridge lies a five-acre corn field labyrinth posing a challenge to family members of all ages. And if you’re feeling especially daring, try one of their “Field of Screams” events where they turn the maze into a quasi-haunted house.

But, um, sorry, Homer Simpson - you can’t eat your way out.

16525 NW Gillihan Road, Portland, OR 97231, Free - \$10; for information, directions, and tickets, visit [portlandmaze.com](http://portlandmaze.com).

[ 11/15/08 - 11/30/08 ]

#### DREAM WEAVER: THE BAMBOO ART OF JIRO YONEZAWA

“Dreeeeam Weeeaveer...”

(sorry - you were thinkin’ it, too)

Okay, at the BLM, we talk about sustainability. Now what if our art could be as sustainable as our care for the public lands? Hmm... Japan’s Jiro Yonezawa shows us how. Some of his finest pieces of bamboo art will be on display for a two-week exhibition at Portland’s world-famous Japanese Garden. Bamboo, known for its highly sustainable nature, is frequently used in gardens and architecture throughout Japan. And now artist Yonezawa will demonstrate how bamboo can also be used to create breathtaking, sustainable sculpture.

611 S.W. Kingston Avenue, Portland, OR 97231, \$5.25 - \$8; for information, directions, and tickets, visit [japanesegarden.com](http://japanesegarden.com).

[ 10/04/08 - 01/11/09 ]

#### WILD BEAUTY: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE, 1867–1957

Gorgeous Gorge!

No, not the wrassler, “Gorgeous George.” We’re talking about 250 photographs taken between 1867(!) and 1957 which come together to document the historic transformation of the Columbia Gorge. It’s a time-travelin’ exhibit showing us all the fascinating changes to the Gorge from the era of the horse and buggy to rock ‘n’ roll and the ‘57 Chevy... And now you can view this progression of almost 100 years over the course of a single afternoon just by taking a stroll around the Portland Art Museum. (psst...we hear they have lots of pretty paintings and sculptures too...)

Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR 97205, \$9 - \$10; for information, directions, and tickets, visit [portlandartmuseum.org](http://portlandartmuseum.org).



OurSpace

Butte Falls Blowdown

BLM Staffer Rhondalyn Darnell wins a Field Trip with OR/WA State Director, Ed Shepard

Story by Matt Christenson

[Photo of BLM Staffers Next to Fallen Trees at a Blowdown Site]

The State Director Field Team inspects blowdowns: trees fell by storms

PHOTO BY BLM STAFF

[Photo of an Ice Cream Sundae]

“What was the most memorable part of the trip?”

“Honestly? Probably the Ice Cream.”

“Ice Cream?”

“What Ice Cream?”

Rhondalyn laughs a little. She looks off to the side remembering her trip.

“Well, after our group visited five blowdown sites and spent the whole day hiking under the sun, it got pretty hot. So a few people said they felt like ice cream. So there we all were, 30 miles from Medford, sitting at a parlor in this little town eating homemade ice cream.”

I’m afraid I can’t offer her a scoop of Rocky Road, but I’m happy to sit down and speak with Rhondalyn Darnell, one of BLM’s newest employees who joined the staff as a supervisor in the Data Records Section back in January.

And while she was attending a three-day orientation course, Rhondalyn participated in a bunch of friendly competitions with her fellow new BLM employees vying for prizes like coffee mugs, posters, and books.

Rhondalyn can’t claim to winning a new coffee mug or poster for her cubicle, but she said that’s all right with her. She won the Grand Prize instead.

“I won the chance to go on a ‘Field Trip with the State Director’ and could choose to join him on any visit he was taking to a field site.” Really, I ask? “I didn’t even own hiking boots,” Rhondalyn laughs. “I bought a pair for the trip!”

One pair of hiking boots later, Rhondalyn found herself in a plane flying down to the Medford District to view a number of blowdown sites with OR/WA BLM State Director Ed Shepard and his staff.

When I asked what the trip was like, Rhondalyn told me “Ed is very down to earth.” Going further, she said, “And I think the trip is a good idea and should really be promoted across all BLM states. It’s a great learning experience, and you can really understand what the State Director does and how the other offices are set up.”

Now that she’s back from the field, does Rhondalyn think she’ll be using her new hiking boots again anytime soon?

“Maybe. But one hobby I’m totally engaged in is Tea Hosting. I bring out my nice linen and tea sets, and our parties are usually held about four times a year. Tea is my drink of choice, and I’m trying to bring back some of that classic elegance.”

Tea hosting? Sounds wonderful.

But could I get a hot fudge banana split instead?

Rhondalyn Darnell was interviewed by Matt Christenson who rates his OR/WA BLM State Director a very close second to mint chocolate chip.

[Photo of BLM Staffer Don Ehrich]

Maintenance Manager Don Ehrich Named this Very Magazine You’re Reading!

“Ah, It was Nothing.”

Nothing, he says?! I’m sitting down with Don Ehrich who submitted the winning name, Northwest Passage, selected by the entire OR/WA BLM staff as the official title of their magazine.

Matt: So where’d you come up with the name, Northwest Passage?

Don: Free form. It just came to me. It incorporated the whole state and put it into a historical context.

Matt: But don’t you think The Meadow\* might have been a much better name?

Don: No, I really don’t. I wanted something that painted a big picture. The Meadow develops a strong image, but it’s very specific. And it’s small.

Matt: How confident were you that your name would be chosen – especially with stiff competition from names like The Meadow?

Don: [Laughs] Probably about 25 percent. But I was sad when the competition closed because I still had a bunch more names to send.

Matt: Will you give copies of the mag to your family and friends to put on their fridges?

Don: Of course! By the way, I’ll need an extra 50 copies. I heard Oprah’s calling me.

Matt: Do you think you’ll actually read the magazine or will you just admire your name on its cover?

Don: Oh yes, I can’t wait to read it.

Matt: Cool, thanks for talking with me! And thanks for coming up with such an incredible, creative magazine name like The Meadow!

Don: Um, the name of the magazine is Northwest Passage.

Matt: What's that now?

Don Ehrich, Maintenance Manager for Oregon/Washington is a very, very good sport.

\*The name submitted by Matt Christenson, Editor of The Meadow Northwest Passage.

## District Round-Up

### 2008 National Public Lands Day

Welcome, Welcome! Join us for a trek across the BLM Districts of Oregon/Washington!

[Photo of an Oregon Public Broadcasting Cameraman Filming Flowers on BLM Land]

[Photo of Two Volunteers at National Public Lands Day]

[Photo from a BLM Mustang Adoption Event]

[Photo of a Bat Studied for Research]

[Photo of a Tree Exhibiting Fall Colors]

### DISTRICTS UP CLOSE

From Top Left: Oregon Public Broadcasting sets up a shot with help from the BLM; Eugenites of all ages make the grade on National Public Lands Day; Hearts melt at the sight of Butter the Mustang; The BLM measures an itty-bitty bat's fangs...now who wants a kiss?

### PHOTOS BY SCOTT STOFFEL & BLM STAFF

#### Coos Bay, OR

[blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay](http://blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay)

- Coos Bay and the American Rhododendron Society have joined forces to restore the O.H. Hinsdale Rhododendron Garden on Spruce Reach Island. This garden contains over 400 unique rhododendrons - some of which are over 100 years old and 40 feet tall! An Oregon Field Guide program on both the garden and O.H. Hinsdale will air on Oregon Public Broadcasting later this fall.
- Coos Bay, the U.S. Forest Service, and the State of Oregon continue to battle Sudden Oak Death in Curry County. Sudden Oak Death was first observed in Curry County in 2001, and the state declared it a quarantine area in 2004. The BLM has already treated 163 acres by piling and burning infected and live host species.
- Tsalila (pronounced sa-LEE-la) is a special event held annually in Reedsport that connects people with the history and environment of the Umpqua River watershed. Over 3,000 students and teachers will attend the education days from September 23 through 25. An evening festival will be held September 25 from 4-7 p.m. Join in for fish printing, Kids Craft Corner, and games. Lots of end of summer fun!
- Coos Bay's National Public Lands Day volunteer event will be held September 27 at 9 a.m. on the North Spit of Coos Bay. Volunteers will help pick up trash along the beach and pull noxious weeds. T-shirts, hats, and a delicious free lunch await those who participate!

Eugene, OR

[blm.gov/or/districts/Eugene](http://blm.gov/or/districts/Eugene)

- The new Eugene District office is rapidly taking shape. The office will be located in Springfield, approximately five miles east of our existing office. The BLM will share its new facility with the Willamette National Forest Supervisors Office, the Oregon National Guard, and Reserve units from the Marines and Navy. The building will have many joint-use areas including, meeting/classrooms, locker/shower rooms, break rooms, a fitness center and an assembly hall/gymnasium. The BLM and the U.S. Forest Service will share the front desk/reception area, dispatch center, warehouse and telecommunications. The move-in date is scheduled for early 2009.
- Eugene has entered into a partnership with several local organizations to get kids excited about nature. The partners are planning a fall event to bring author Martin LeBlanc to Eugene to speak on "Nature Deficit Disorder" in youngsters. LeBlanc is a Board Member of the Children and Nature Network.
- West Eugene Wetlands hosts its fifth consecutive National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 27. The event is co-sponsored by the Willamette Resources Education Network and more than 50 volunteers are expected to participate. Participants will remove invasive/non-native plants from the Stewart Pond site. In addition, the volunteers will repair a wildlife viewing blind at the site. National Public Lands Day at the Wetlands is a successful method of bringing people together to make a difference on their public lands.

Lakeview, OR

[blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview](http://blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview)

- The Klamath Falls Resource Area and Klamath County 4-H Equestrian Clubs recently presented local residents Katy Coleman, Courtney Fujishin, and Sarah Kellom with equestrian scholarships to further their college education. Funding for this program comes in partnership with the BLM from a wild horse raffle. This year's promotional horse, appropriately named Butter, melted the hearts of everyone who met her including her new owner, Tonie Kellom. The 2008 event generated \$1,115, and a total of \$12,590 has been raised to provide 17 scholarships over the last 10 years.
- The 2007 National Interagency Service First Award went to Teresa Harshman-Ward. She was recognized by both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture for increasing operational efficiencies and improving customer service for the Lakeview District BLM and Fremont-Winema National Forests. Harshman-Ward is acknowledged as a leader and subject matter expert who personifies Service First!
- For the last three months, Glenn Lorton and his summer field crew have assumed a nocturnal existence - ironically to shed light on our understanding of the characteristics and habits of a mammal whose intentions are often misunderstood. Glenn and his crew trekked across the high desert and conifer forests of eastern Oregon to monitor and inventory bats. Yes, bats! During this summer, they captured and released hundreds of bats through the use of mist nets stretched across bodies of water. In accordance with strict protocols, they gathered information from each animal and entered it into an interagency database for use by wildlife biologists to track colony distribution and population trends. On August 25, the crew completed their summer's work having developed a deep affinity for their fellow creatures of the night. They anxiously anticipate their return to the field next season, when they can continue their mission of furthering everyone's understanding of the important role bats play in a healthy ecosystem.

But Wait! There's more...more great news from around the Districts!

[Photo of Youths Mining for Gold]

[Photo of a BLM Staffer Looking Through a Telescope from the Yaquina Head Lighthouse]

[Photo of a BLM Staffer in a Forest Clearing Genetically Deficient Trees]

[Photo of Two Students at a River]

[Photo of Two Youths at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center]

[Photo of a Tree Exhibiting Fall Colors]

#### DISTRICTS UP CLOSE

From Top Left: There's gold in them thar' streams...at Medford's Public Lands Day; Yaquina Head Lighthouse BLM staffers take a trip back in time; Old trees can help provide new energy; Today's students are tomorrow's BLM superstars; The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center delights visitors of all ages

#### PHOTOS BY TRISH HOGERVORST & BLM STAFF

Roseburg, OR

[blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg](http://blm.gov/or/districts/roseburg)

- September 20, 2008 is the date when supporters of Douglas County's annual Umpqua River Clean Up Day will once again comb the banks of the Umpqua and other regional rivers to collect and dispose of thousands of pounds of trash. The BLM will provide trash bags and gloves for the event. For more general information, contact the Umpqua River Clean Up Committee at (541) 679-7077.
- This year's National Public Lands Day celebration in the Roseburg District will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on September 27, 2008. Members of the general public, including local scout troops and campground hosts, will assist the BLM in upgrading campsites at the Susan Creek Campground. Campground improvements planned for Public Lands Day will make selected sites accessible to visitors using wheelchairs and those with other mobility impairments. Lunch will be provided to all participants.
- This is the first full year of widespread deployment of automated smoke detectors in Douglas County. These automated detectors save lives and dollars by detecting flames well before they become raging wildfires. The detection cameras are operated and monitored by the Douglas Fire Protection Agency under contract to the BLM and other local landowners.

Salem, OR

[blm.gov/or/districts/salem](http://blm.gov/or/districts/salem)

- When the lamp at Yaquina Head Lighthouse was first lit at 7:25 p.m. on August 20, 1873, it illuminated an important link along Oregon's maritime highway to nighttime traffic. On August 20, the Lighthouse celebrated its 135th anniversary of the lighting of the Yaquina Head with BLM staff dressed in period costumes and providing evening tours of the Lighthouse.

- As the cost of fuel continues to climb, the by-products of logging have gained economic value. Salem BLM's Horning Seed Orchard recently cut out or "rogued" 1200 genetically deficient conifer trees to prevent their pollen from contaminating adjacent desirable trees. Because of the low economic value of grafted trees - especially those in an open grown orchard situation - the Salem District evaluated a number of options for removal of the trees. The BLM negotiated with Freres Lumber Co. to dispose of the trees and turn them, branches and all, into clean energy production. Freres then uses the steam from this energy production for dry veneering their produce at the mill. The Salem BLM has already been approached by other contractors to purchase logging slash from completed timber sales.

- Last spring, the Salem District leadership team invited Mario Magana, Associate Professor and 4-H Regional Educator at Oregon State University, to share his Hispanic recruitment efforts. Mario sets up summer 4-H camps for elementary, middle school, and high school Hispanic youth to increase their interest in careers in natural resource management. This summer, Salem BLM hired two high school graduates, Ariz Magana and Miguel Comache, who have been working with specialists throughout the district while learning about the many opportunities in natural resource management. Both students plan to attend OSU this fall.

Vale, OR

[blm.gov/or/districts/vale](http://blm.gov/or/districts/vale)

- September 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of the Trout Creek Working Group. This group was formed by concerned citizens over management of the Trout Creek Mountains. Working to establish trust, a common vision and goals, and a willingness to listen to each other's point of view has ultimately resulted in improved conditions on the ground. The Trout Creek Working Group continues to provide a positive example of community collaboration and a willingness to share the lessons learned with the rest of the West and communities throughout the world.

- On September 13, the Vale District will host a very special National Public Lands Day event. More than 40 volunteers are expected to participate. The public will explore several lava tube caves. Tours will be family friendly and focus on cave-related environmental education (geology, wildlife, and cave safety). Experienced cavers will map and inventory caves in the Jordan Craters lava flow. A chuckwagon dinner will be provided to all volunteers at the Birch Creek Historic Ranch that evening. Contact Dave Draheim for more information at (541) 473-3144

- And two weeks later, Vale's official National Public Lands Day event will bring together volunteers from local communities around Eastern Oregon to work on projects at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center on September 27. More than 60 volunteers are expected to participate in repairing gravel walking trails. Lunch for volunteers will be provided by Trail Tenders who are serving chili (vegetarian and non-vegetarian) and corn bread. Musicians will play during lunch. Goodie bags will be made available to all volunteers at the end of the day. For further information, contact Sarah LeCompte (541) 523-1256.

## The New Carissa's Last Stand

Story by Michael Campbell & Megan Harper

[Photo of a Smoking Ship Running Aground Before a Beach]

Nature watches helplessly as the New Carissa runs aground.

[Photo of a Tugboat Helping a Grounded Ship]

[Photo of a Ship Being Removed from the Ocean]

Down by the seaside, the last remains of the New Carissa are broken down and removed.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CAMPBELL & UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

“No mercy, no power but its own controls it. Panting and snorting like a mad battle steed that has lost its rider...”  
— Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*

Nothing could be truer for the New Carissa and its nearly 10-year relationship with the Oregon Coast, the BLM, and a body of water that always gets its way.

It was February 4, 1999, to be exact, when the New Carissa ran aground. A tempestuous nautical relationship with the sagebrush-oriented BLM began when the wood carrying, bulk cargo ship went aground on Coos Bay's North Spit. Wind and waves from the storm caused the ship to drag anchor and run aground on the beach just north of the entrance to the bay. Within days, cracks developed in the New Carissa's hull, and the vessel began leaking oil.

Even though some of the ship's tar-like “bunker” fuel was burned off before too much of it could leak, the ship lost at least 70,000 gallons into the environment.

Salvage operators and the U.S. Coast Guard struggled for weeks to tow its bow section out to sea. Not to be defeated, the ship broke free of its tow in another storm and washed back onto the beach near Waldport, Oregon. The New Carissa had enough of the seas and was determined to stay on dry land.

The stern section of the vessel has remained stranded in the surf near Coos Bay for these many years. But, true to New Carissa's history, it's not the end of the story. Work is underway to restore the environment damaged during the oil spill and clean up the ship's remains.

In July of 2007, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians took title to nearly 3,900 acres of Oregon Coast Range forest, as a result of the Oil Pollution Act. The New Carissa Oil Spill Natural Resource Trustees, with the BLM as the lead, jointly announced the land purchase and future management plans to benefit the marbled murrelet seabird population damaged by the oil spill. The Siletz Tribe will manage the coastal forest parcel under a legally binding conservation easement developed with the natural resource trustees.



Also in 2007, the State of Oregon (namely the Oregon Department of State Lands who has overall jurisdiction over the New Carissa) contracted with Titan Maritime, a world leader in marine salvage, to remove New Carissa's stern section from the North Spit. Titan prepared a technologically awesome shipwreck removal plan that involves using two barges positioned adjacent to the wreck to pull and cut the wreckage out of the sand.

The onshore staging area and primary access to this spot is located on public lands administered by none other than the BLM. The Bureau has partnered with the State and Titan to provide free passage to hikers, equestrians, and dune buggies so the public may witness the engineering feat that is this removal process. Titan's efforts began in earnest in March 2008, and will likely be complete by October of this year.

Continued on page 22

Want to see additional photos & learn more about the wreck of the New Carissa? Check Out:  
[oregon.gov/dsl/lw/ncar.shtml](http://oregon.gov/dsl/lw/ncar.shtml)

Noxious Weeds & INVASIVE PLANTS & HARMFUL VEGETATION...Oh My!

Story by Maya Fuller

PHOTOS BY JOHN CRAIG

[Photo of a Tire with a Weed Stuck in its Grooves]

Tires can easily pick up and carry a quiet but dangerous passenger.

[Photo of a Weed]

Invasive plants - pretty but may impact the local environment.

What's up with all the weeds infesting millions of acres in Oregon?

Like something that's stepped of the science fiction classic, *The Day of the Triffids*, Oregon's rampant vegetation is seemingly taking over landscapes, driving away native wildlife, and making everyone from ranchers to botanists to fishermen just a little nervous.

What can be done about this invasive foliage before its populations grow to overwhelming numbers?

Weeds infest an estimated 6.4 million acres across public lands in Oregon and Washington. And this figure has been increasing at 10 to 15 percent per year. These plants are considered invasive because they are not native to Oregon and because they spread rapidly.

In eastern Oregon, plants with creative names like yellow starthistle, perennial pepperweed, and medusa head are known to poison livestock, increase the frequency and intensity of wildfire, and displace native vegetation.

Other vegetation like Himalayan blackberry, scotch broom, and japanese knotweed are examples of plants that threaten the west side of the state - dominating riparian habitats, degrading water quality, and competing with trees and forage plants that are important to fish, wildlife and endangered species.

To address this issue, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is undergoing a planning effort to analyze the effects of herbicide use on Oregon's BLM lands as one of its many tools to control noxious weeds, invasive plants, and other weeds. The plan, titled *Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in Oregon Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)*, will focus on the effects of updating the list of herbicides available for use in Oregon. However, the EIS will not evaluate the use of herbicides for commercial timber enhancement or livestock production.

The challenge with many of these menacing invaders is that there is no perfect methodology for eradication. The BLM already uses techniques like burning, digging, mowing, and pulling whenever possible. Unfortunately, with some species these are not effective strategies. With more problematic varieties, often the only effective technique is to use herbicides.

Currently, Oregon BLM uses only four of the 18 herbicides that have been approved for use on BLM lands nationally. The Oregon Vegetation Treatments EIS is being prepared in part to respond to a 1984/87 U.S. District Court injunction, and also because 14 of the herbicides would be new to BLM lands in Oregon.

The BLM's overall objective is to see if a broader array of herbicides that are more target-specific and more effective at controlling noxious weeds, invasive plants, and other weeds could be safer and more effective than the current system. Used in combination with other management practices, additional herbicide treatments may slow the spread of noxious weeds and invasive plants, which in turn helps restore ecosystem health and watershed functions.

The BLM manages over 15 million acres of public lands in Oregon and currently treats approximately 22,000 acres of designated noxious weeds each year. Of those 22,000 acres, approximately 12,000 acres are treated with herbicides and the remaining 10,000 acres are treated mechanically, manually, with biocontrols, and with other non-herbicide methods. The BLM scoping period to study the impact of additional herbicides ended July 28, 2008. Work has begun on the Draft EIS which will be available in May 2009.

It's not just their names that are frightening. These species can disrupt entire ecosystems. Some have the power to destroy entire forests while others can convert grasslands into deserts with no value to animals or humans. Given this level of threat, inaction is not an option.

The BLM, steward of our nation's public lands, will continue to test and explore additional methods to protect and improve this landscape for the use and enjoyment of all Oregonians for years to come.

For more information, please visit the VegEIS Project website at: [blm.gov.or/plans/vegtreatmentseis](http://blm.gov.or/plans/vegtreatmentseis)

Newsflash! FBMS Comes to BLM

Story by Pam Robbins

[Illustration of FBMS Pie Chart: Enterprise Management Information, Financial Assistance 2005, Core Financials 2006, Acquisition 2007, Personal Property & Fleet 2008, Travel 2008, Real Property 2009, Budget Formulation 2010]

[Historic Black & White Photo of Men Using Horses to Pull a Log at a Stream]

BLM's Financial System \*BEFORE\* implementing FBMS

[Modern Color Photo of a BLM Truck]

BLM's Financial System \*AFTER\* implementing FBMS

PHOTOS BY BLM STAFF

Psst...what's a four-letter word (okay, acronym) that touches the work of BLM employees everywhere?

And what's a synonym for the biggest thing to happen to the business of BLM in years?

How do you spell the solution to streamlining the Bureau of Land Management's accounting processes and making progress towards a Department-wide budget integration?

There's no need to puzzle over these things. It's the same answer for all three!

FBMS is the word of the day, and it stands for the Financial and Business Management System. It is the framework adopted for the entire Department of the Interior to consolidate its financial management functions into one manageable corporate system.

The BLM has been preparing for this big transition for three years. The first phase required us to help create a "Business Blueprint" that detailed the scope for BLM and identified what we would need in Reports, Interfaces, Conversions, Enhancements and Forms (RICEF).

In the second phase, the FBMS system built the BLM's RICEF framework, identified impacts to the organization, and tested system integration. Once that was finished, BLM began to convert data from existing systems into FBMS and doing system testing, end-user training, and launching a Help Desk for final preparation. Now we're on the verge of working in the new system. Perfect timing for the BLM, since many of our old systems no longer have software support.

By aligning this business management data into a common and comprehensive network, the Department of the Interior will be well on its way to standardizing the financial side of the house.

There are many advantages that come with having a consistent technology platform and common business processes:

It will provide a long life-cycle system that has upgradable components.

The new security and internal controls will bring agencies into legal and policy compliance.

Users only need a single log-in to access the system, and the combined data reduces administrative tasks.

With consistent, shared tools that operate on the same platform, we can stabilize operations and control maintenance costs.

Business processes across the Department of the Interior will “speak the same language” to make it easier to get information – or to find and correct discrepancies.

Better cost and performance information will be available for managers at Bureau and Departmental levels.

There will be enhanced capability to create and produce reports in less time, with less effort, and with more flexibility in scope and depth.

Because the BLM is larger and has more complex business applications than some sister agencies, the transition will have a big impact. There will be a “black-out” period for most financial transactions beginning in fiscal year 2009 while data is moved over from the old systems into FBMS. It will take longer than the usual fiscal year changeover to assure that all information is captured in the new formats and fully functional.

Key users have completed “data cleansing” to make sure the systems are compatible and done mock conversions to assure that no financial data is compromised as it moves into the production environment.

Employees have gotten new organization codes (without even having to change offices!), and are composing new passwords for logging into essential systems (that are harder for others to “hack” – and for employees to remember).

The “Go-live” date is November 10, 2008, for the National Operations Center (NOC). They will migrate data from Personnel Payroll Systems, Personal Property and Fleet Management, E-Gov Travel and FedConnect for eCommerce, and launch the FBMS functions already in use in the Department.

Then the NOC will reconcile BLM data and enter all pending transactions from the black-out period.

When that’s successfully completed, BLM Field Offices will be able to enter and monitor financial transactions in a real-time environment. It will give us a Far Better Measure of Success!

You can learn more about FBMS at the DOI website: [www.doi.gov/fbms/](http://www.doi.gov/fbms/)

And BLM Employees can explore further on the web at: [teamspace/sites/fbms/pub/Pages/default.aspx](http://teamspace/sites/fbms/pub/Pages/default.aspx)

A New Financial System for BLM

## Archaeologists “Step In” an Ancient Discovery

Story by Matt Christenson

[Photo of Oregon Hills and Valleys]

[Photo of University of Oregon Archaeological Students and Researchers]

Future “Indiana Joneses” from the University of Oregon!

[Photo of University of Oregon’s Lead Archeologist Dr. Dennis Jenkins Holding a Fossil]

Wait a minute...what’s that you’re holding?

PHOTOS BY BLM STAFF

Archaeologists from the University of Oregon have a brand new checklist for their field trips.

Fedora? Check.

Bullwhip? Got it.

Poop stick? Yep.

Wait, what...?

It’s true. Our most learned academics and scientists are now carrying a little something extra to clean off the bottom of their shoes.

Dr. Dennis Jenkins, archaeological field school director for the University of Oregon’s Museum of Natural and Cultural History, had a major announcement this April.

His team discovered coprolites containing human DNA dated over 14,000 years old.

The team of archaeologists made this historic finding during field research at the Paisley Caves – an area administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) located within the Summer Lake Basin near Paisley, Oregon.

And thanks to Federal Antiquities permits provided in partnership by the BLM Lakeview District, Dr. Jenkins’ discovery now makes this site home to the earliest known residents of North America – over one thousand years older than the Clovis culture previously established in New Mexico.

Go ahead and congratulate Dr. Jenkins. Just be sure to wash your hands afterwards.

Coprolite is a fancy word for fossilized feces. So maybe the next time your dog poops on the neighbors’ lawn, you can tell them you’re just turning their hedgerow into a famous future archaeological dig. And gosh, you’d sure

love to pick up your dog's poop – ahem, your dog's "coprolites" – but you'd hate to deny scientists in the next millennia all that wonderful research.

Researchers are realizing that coprolites are jam-packed with information and offer science more than just their basic age. (Yes, someone has to carbon date them. Makes your job look pretty sweet right now, eh?) These fossils also provide a fascinating look into the DNA and genetic make-up of the earliest humans.

Dr. Jenkins has been able to identify DNA characteristics which indicate that the Paisley Caves coprolites came from early Native Americans. And this genetic code shares many similarities with ancient groups from Eastern Asia – thus giving a level of credence to the premise that prehistoric humans traveled to the Americas via a land bridge from Asia across the Bering Sea.

In addition to our American ancestors' genetic material, we can also study their diet in the coprolites. From their now famous samples, Dr. Jenkins' team has identified remnants of grouse, chipmunk, lizards, and fish. And they've also detected a number of wild greens that grew outside the Paisley Caves.

Not exactly haute cuisine, but you have to remember they couldn't get good cell phone coverage back in those days when they wanted to order a pizza.

Instead Dr. Jenkins' dietary findings suggest these early humans were likely hunter-gatherers who traveled frequently, eating local grains and grasses along with small animals they could easily capture.

Then they took shelter in caves – to, um, "take a break."

Because the Paisley Caves are located on public lands, these fossils have received the protection and oversight of BLM management. This land was freely used by its inhabitants 14,000 years ago, and it continues to be used and studied by the public today.

Who knows what future discoveries may bring. Indigenous toenail clippings? A prehistoric sneezed-in leaf fossil? The possibilities are endless!

"It is thrilling that America's public lands have revealed such a significant link to our past," said Shirley Gammon, BLM Lakeview District Manager. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with Dr. Jenkins and the University of Oregon in further research and protection of this once in a lifetime discovery."

Thrilling? A Once in a Lifetime Discovery? Oh, yes. Never have coprolites been so newsworthy – but don't expect to see them on display in your local museum any time soon.

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The New Carissa's Last Stand

Continued from Page 15

The New Carissa's main cargo? Wood Chips. It could carry over sixteen thousand tons - making it a pretty big "Chip Ship."

While there have been some choppy waters over the last 10 years, this chapter in the land-lovin' BLM's relationship with the sea is rapidly coming to a close.

So, if you haven't made it down to witness the New Carissa, your window is quickly coming to a close. Very soon all that will be left are the not-so-unfamiliar stories and pictures of a ship's long standing battle with the sea.

In their article, Michael Campbell's and Megan Harper's thinly veiled reference to Led Zeppelin packs almost as much heavy metal as the hull of the New Carissa itself.

(Yes, you can roll your eyes now.)

[Two Photos of the New Carissa, a Ship Run Aground]

BLM Pioneers

Farewell But Not Goodbye

The BLM salutes its recent retirees!

The BLM thanks our Oregon & Washington retirees for their years of public service!

July 3, 2008

Jean Findley, Vale

Roger Crisafi, Prineville

John Dinwiddie, Medford

July 31, 2008

Linda Younger, Lakeview (K-Falls)

Constance George, Vale

John Jurica, Salem

August 1, 2008

Jack Wenderoth, Vale



James Brende, Coos Bay

August 2, 2008

Nancy Albertson, Lakeview

Ron Halvorson, Prineville

August 30, 2008

Paul Fredericks, Oregon State Office

Alan Munhall, Lakeview

Kim Duering, Vale

August 31, 2008

Ron Fritsch, Spokane

[Two Photos of BLM Retirees Riding in an All-Terrain Vehicle]

They are outta here!

BLM Retirees are takin' a ride!

BLM Pioneers

[Photo of Retirees on a Beach Viewing a Ship at Sea]

BLM Retirees and Friends Summer Tour of the Coos Bay District

PHOTOS BY CHUCK WASSINGER

Speaking of Retirees... We've got an update from the OR/WA BLM Retirees Association!

During the week of July 14th, over 40 Retirees and Friends spent a day and one half learning about programs and activities on the Coos Bay District.

On the first day, we visited the Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area and the Hinsdale Rhododendron Garden near Reedsport. We discussed the status of these sites and future management challenges. Later that morning, we toured the Umpqua Discovery Center and learned about the District's partnership efforts in development for the community history and cultural center at Reedsport. And after a lunch catered by the Alder Smokehouse (yes, food is always important), we toured Coos Bay on the "Betty Key" where we learned about the geology of the bay, the present economic base of the area, and a proposed liquid natural gas plant to be sited on the North Spit.

The next morning, we traveled to the North Spit where we boarded dunebuggys and toured the removal site for the remains of the New Carissa which ran aground during a 1999 storm. We discussed salvage of the New Carissa, the status of the Snowy Plovers, and recreation challenges on the North Spit.

Later, we toured the Southport Mill on the bayside of the North Spit to see an example of a highly automated lumber operation. We were all impressed with the small number of employees it takes to run such a modern mill.

We then boarded the "big yellow school bus" and made our way to Coquille Indian Tribal Plankhouse on Cape Arago, where we had lunch with tribal leaders and discussed their future management plans and on-going cooperative efforts with the Coos Bay District.

On behalf of the BLM Retirees and Friends, I want to thank Mark Johnson and all the employees of the Coos Bay District for all their hard work to put together this outstanding event.

Chuck Wassinger  
President  
OR/WA BLM Retirees

Psst...want to join or contribute to the OR/WA BLM Retirees? Just contact: [cwassinger@hotmail.com](mailto:cwassinger@hotmail.com)

BackCountry

[Historic Black & White Photo of a Truck Whose Bed is Overloaded by Lumber Causing it to do a “Wheelie”]

“Say Cheese!”

PHOTO BY BLM STAFF

Ever happened to you?

You put your rig in park. Maybe go grab yourself a cup of coffee. And you were only gone a minute when...

Next thing you know, your picture gets emailed to everyone in your department - or, in this case, splashed across the back cover of our new Bureau of Land Management Magazine for Oregon/Washington, Northwest Passage - showing you're the kinda person who knows how to pop a killer Evel Knievel wheelie.

At that point, you might as well do as this gent did. Stand tall, smile for the camera, and say, “Cheese!”

So what do you think really happened here? How'd he get out of it? Think you can come up with a funny caption?

Northwest Passage is having a contest for the funniest caption to describe this photo. Just email your submission to us here at [or\\_northwest\\_passage@blm.gov](mailto:or_northwest_passage@blm.gov).

We'll run our favorite in the Nov/Dec 2008 Issue of Northwest Passage with the winning caption receiving...wait for it...wait for it....almost there...a sweet gift card!

Think you can win? We do, too.

Thanks for reading, everybody. We'll see you back here in about sixty days.

Psst...Got an idea for a story? A picture for the Backpage? Want to be interviewed for YourSpace? Please send all ideas, requests, pictures, articles, and events to: [or\\_northwest\\_passage@blm.gov](mailto:or_northwest_passage@blm.gov).

We want your ideas, input, and direction!