

Release Number: 2002-17
For Release: Dec. 19, 2001

TWO NEVADA RANCHERS RECEIVE AWARDS

Reno, Nev.-Fred Fulstone of Smith and Tim DeLong of Imlay received Nevada Outstanding Rancher of the Year awards at the Nevada Cattlemen's Association Convention held last month in Elko. The awards are presented jointly by the Cattlemen, the Nevada Farm Bureau, the Nevada Division of Agriculture and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

"Mr. Fulstone and Mr. DeLong are two of the many ranchers in this state that work hard to take care of the public rangelands," said Bob Abbey, BLM state director. "They manage their operations so that the rangelands remain healthy and productive for today and for the future."

Fulstone's FIM Corporation is one of the last active sheep ranches in western Nevada. The Fulstone family name has been associated with northern Nevada ranching and land management for nearly 100 years. Fulstone has worked cooperatively with the BLM to improve mule deer habitat through the voluntary exclusion of livestock grazing on a portion of an allotment. He constantly monitors the vegetation on the allotments he uses, waiting until the growing conditions are suitable before turning out sheep. He is a strong advocate of water developments and hauling water to some sites. The flexibility he has built into his operation provide him with opportunities to protect and enhance the waters and riparian zones that occur throughout the allotments.

DeLong runs the Flying M Ranch, a cow-calf operation using private land, leased land and a public range allotment. DeLong's investments on the ranch and the allotment include improving water developments and developing an active artificial insemination program to improve the quality of his herd. The danger of wildland fire led him to train at fire schools and buy equipment he could use to fight fire. He worked with the BLM to adjust his season of use to eliminate hot weather grazing to benefit and improve the riparian areas.

"Both of these ranchers are running successful operations," said John Falen, Public Lands Chair for the Nevada Cattlemen's Association. "They are outstanding examples for the industry."

Ranchers nominated for the Outstanding Rancher of the Year award are evaluated on conservation planning, resource management objectives, innovative or unique management practices, profitability, and participation in forums to share information about natural resource management. Representatives from the four participating agencies and organizations meet with and tour the nominee's ranch to determine who will receive the award.

Other Nevada ranchers that have received the Outstanding Rancher award include Benny Romero, Jack Neal, Richard Fulstone, Dan Gralian, the late Dr. Molly Knudtsen, the late Ira Kent, Steven Carter and Peter Talbott.

- BLM -

For More Information Contact: JoLynn Worley, (775) 861-6515

Release Number: 2002-16
For Release: December 19, 2001

BLM Honors Women in Mining, Barrick Bullfrog Mine

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) honored the Winnemucca and Battle Mountain Chapters of Women in Mining, as well as the Barrick Bullfrog Mine, at the biannual BLM Solid Minerals Conference held recently in Las Vegas.

The Women in Mining Chapters received the National Solid Minerals Award, and Barrick Bullfrog Mine received the BLM Sustainable Development Award.

The National Solid Minerals Award recognized the Winnemucca and Battle Mountain Chapters of Women in Mining for the contributions they have made to science education in area elementary and secondary schools. Chapter members have contributed tremendous energy and many volunteer hours in support of Nevada Teacher Education Workshops. They have developed lessons and have presented many of these lessons in the classroom. They have shared these lessons at National Science Teacher Conferences.

These volunteers have provided lesson ideas and specific plans that teachers can use to tell the important story of the role minerals play in our lives. Women in Mining Chapters have also provided scholarship grants to deserving young people who are working toward a career in mining.

The BLM Sustainable Development Award recognized the Barrick Bullfrog Mine, which is located adjacent to Rhyolite, near Beatty.

Barrick Bullfrog owned most of Rhyolite, one of the best-known and most interesting ghost towns in the West. The mine entered into a land exchange with BLM, through which the public acquired title to the complete historic town site. Federal acquisition of the Historic Train Depot was the centerpiece of the Rhyolite ghost town site exchange. Barrick replaced the roof on the train depot before it was conveyed into public ownership.

Barrick Bullfrog also was instrumental in the statewide initiative to reduce abandoned mine land hazards. After the accidental death of an 11-year-old girl in an abandoned mine shaft on BLM land, Barrick Bullfrog filled or fenced 27 old open mine shafts or adits on public lands near Beatty. The company also fenced and backfilled nine shafts on the lands acquired by the public in the Rhyolite land exchange. Although Barrick did not create these abandoned mines, the company voluntarily donated the manpower and equipment to eliminate these safety hazards.

- BLM -

For More Information Contact: Richard H. Brown (775) 861-6586

Release Number: 2002-15
For Release: December 18, 2001

BLM Nevada Offices Closed Christmas Eve

Bureau of Land Management offices in Nevada will be closed Christmas Eve. Your last opportunity to purchase a Christmas tree cutting permit in the Nevada State Office in Reno, the Carson City Field Office and the Ely Field Office will be Saturday, Dec. 22.

Friday, Dec. 21, will be the last day for Christmas tree cutting permit sales at the Elko, Battle Mountain and Winnemucca Field Offices, as well as for the Caliente and Tonopah Field Stations. The Las Vegas Field Office does not sell these permits.

In recognition of the courage and dedication of federal employees during the current national emergency, the President has given federal employees the day off on Monday, Dec. 24, 2001, the day before Christmas.

- BLM -

For More Information Contact: Richard H. Brown (775) 861-6586

Release Number: 2002-14

For Release: December 14, 2001

"Runnin' in the West" Nominated for Regional Emmy Award

Wild horses, with manes flying in the wind, plus his own adopted wild horse, inspired John C. Abernathy to write the lyrics for "Runnin' in the West" which is being played on western radio stations.

Now, the public service announcement (PSA) which Abernathy produced, with the assistance of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has caught the attention of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS), Nashville/Midsouth Chapter. Abernathy's PSA has a nomination for the 16th annual Midsouth Regional Emmy Awards which will take place at the Opryland Hotel on Feb. 2 and be broadcast live.

"Runnin' in the West" was nominated in the Music/Lyrics category and is one of three contenders in that category. The 208 nominations for the awards in 56 categories were announced by NATAS Nashville/Midsouth President Michael Beckett. A record number of more than 700 entries were judged by the Cleveland Chapter of the NATAS.

Abernathy lives in Lebanon, Tennessee, where he has a five-year-old gelding which used to roam on the rangelands near Tonopah, Nevada. Although eyeing retirement, he works for Broadcast Music Inc (BMI). He wrote the lyrics for "Runnin' in the West," and called on coworker Carl Behnke to do the melody. Another co-worker, Sam Lowe, recorded the song for a western CD featuring Abernathy's work.

The PSA encouraging qualified individuals to adopt a wild horse was produced in early 2001 with the assistance of the BLM videographer Art Ferraro of Phoenix, Arizona. Abernathy also has taken the lead

in distributing the PSA.

For information on adopting a wild horse or burro, call toll free to 1-866-4Mustangs or visit the website at www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov.

- BLM -

For More Information Contact: Maxine Shane (775) 861-6586

Release Number: 2002-13
For Release: Dec. 10, 2001

**Interior Secretary Norton Visits Nevada to Honor
Friends of Red Rock Canyon, Deliver Tourism Address**

During her first official visit to Nevada on Dec. 11-13, Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton will visit Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) to honor the volunteers and partners who help the department manage public lands in the state and address the Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism.

Norton will visit Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area on Tuesday, Dec. 11 to present proclamations recognizing the efforts of the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association, and the Outside Las Vegas Foundation. Media representatives are invited at 1:45 p.m. to accompany the Secretary on a short walking tour at Red Rock Canyon NCA Visitor Center, and be present for the presentation of the proclamations.

On Wednesday, Dec. 12, Secretary Norton will speak to representatives of Nevada's travel and tourism industry at the Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino. Her remarks are scheduled for 8:15 a.m. at the final session of the Conference's General Assembly.

Red Rock Canyon

Who: Interior Secretary Norton

What: Short walk and presentation of proclamation to volunteers and partners

When: 1:45 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2001

Where: Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Visitor Center

Media: The event is open to all news media.

Nevada Tourism Speech

Who: Interior Secretary Norton

What: Address to Governor's Conference on Travel & Tourism

When: 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2001

Where: Brazilia Pavilion Corridor 4-7, Rio All-Suites Hotel & Casino

3700 W. Flamingo, Las Vegas, Nevada

Media: The event is open to all media.

- 30 -

- *BLM* -

For More Information Contact: Phillip Guerrero, 702-498-6088 or Jo Simpson, 775-722-9796