

For Immediate Release: July 24, 2007
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

Local man cited for damage to public lands

Grand Junction, Colo.—Burt Skinner, of 138½ Mira Monte Road, recently completed 40 hours of community service for the BLM Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) to mitigate resource damage sustained in the Bangs Canyon Area 1, better known as the Lunch Loop. The area is known for its great hiking and mountain biking opportunities just minutes from downtown Grand Junction. A member of the public initially reported seeing Skinner's four-wheel-drive vehicle tearing up fencing, vegetation, hiking trails and single-track bicycle trails, near the Tabeguache Trail off Monument Road in an area closed to motorized use.

Skinner was cited on March 13, 2007, for resource damage. The damage assessment for resource rehabilitation was set at \$1,950. In April, Skinner agreed to complete community service with the BLM in U.S. District Court in Grand Junction. With close monitoring by BLM, Skinner restored the area damaged by his off-road vehicle.

“The public needs to realize that they will be held responsible for their actions while recreating on public lands,” Recreation Program Manager Ken Straley said. “There is no tolerance for total disregard of the laws implemented to protect public lands that belong to all Americans.”

The BLM always asks that the public avoid routes that are muddy to protect resources from unnecessary damage and off-road travel. Traveling off-route in areas closed to motorized use, or where travel is classified as limited to existing or designated routes, is illegal. Those accessing remote public lands should pay attention to weather forecasts and check conditions before heading out. Area roads, especially in the Book Cliffs, contain fragile desert soils that can quickly turn ugly with a passing storm. Many access roads to our public lands follow the ridges of steep terrain, and significant moisture on these routes can create dangerous conditions. Travelers need to use extreme caution and be prepared for self-rescue.

The BLM depends on and appreciates the eyes and ears of the public to watch for illegal or unsafe practices on public lands. A description of the vehicle and its driver, along with a license plate number, is important information. Please report incidents you witness to the nearest field office.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: July 16, 2007|
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Fran Ackley BLM 719-269-8511

BLM Colorado Reduces Adoption Fee for certain Wild Horses from July through September

The Bureau of Land Management's Colorado State Office announced today that it will offer select pairs of mares and foals for adoption at a reduced fee from mid-July until the end of September. The pairs can be adopted at the Canon City Wild Horse Inmate Program and will be offered for \$125 – \$100 for

the foal and \$25 for the mare. The standard adoption fee for wild horses and burros is \$125 per animal. People interested in adopting a pair need to make an appointment by calling 719-269-8539.

While providing savings to potential adopters, the reduced adoption fee is aimed at moving more BLM-managed animals that are currently in holding facilities into good homes of private owners. The BLM's cost for maintaining wild horses and burros in short- and long-term holding facilities accounts for more than half of the agency's total wild horse and burro budget.

"We hope that anyone who has the interest and means of providing good care for these mares and foals will visit our facility this summer," said Fran Ackley, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist for BLM Colorado. Under the BLM's adoption program, an individual can adopt up to four animals within a one-year period; under certain circumstances, more than four can be adopted, but an adopter can receive titles of ownership to only four animals during that timeframe. Qualified adopters are eligible to receive title after providing one year of humane care.

Under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, the BLM manages, protects, and controls wild horses and burros as part of its overall multiple-use mission. The Bureau works to ensure that population levels are in balance with rangeland resources and other uses of the public lands; toward that end, the BLM removes thousands of wild horses and burros from the range each year to control the size of herds, which have virtually no predators and can double in population about every four years.

The current free-roaming population of wild horses and burros on BLM-managed lands is about 29,000 animals, which exceeds by some 1,500 the number determined by the Bureau to be the appropriate management level. Off the range, there are more than 28,500 wild horses and burros cared for in either short-term (corral) or long-term (pasture) facilities. All animals in holding are protected by the BLM under the 1971 law.

The Bureau works to place as many of the wild horses and burros that are in holding into private care, and since 1973, the BLM has placed more than 216,500 animals into private ownership through adoption. Under a December 2004 amendment to the 1971 law, the Bureau also seeks good homes through sales of horses and burros that are more than 10 years old or have been passed over for adoption at least three times. (In the case of sales, the title of ownership passes immediately from the Federal government to the buyer.) Since that amendment took effect, the BLM has sold more than 2,500 eligible horses and burros. The BLM encourages those who are interested in providing good homes to wild horses or burros to visit the agency's Website (www.blm.gov) for information about adoptions or sales.

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For Immediate Release: July 13, 2007

**For More Information Contact: Mel Lloyd at (970) 244-3097
or Doug Paul at (970) 244-3106**

Firewise workshop scheduled in Mesa

MESA, Colo. — The Plateau Valley Fire Protection District in collaboration with the Upper Colorado River (UCR) Interagency Fire Management Unit and Colorado State Forest Service invite the public to

a Firewise Workshop at the Mesa Community Center at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 20, 2007. The center is located on Highway 65 on the south end of Mesa. The purpose of the open house is to present wildland fire safety information to homeowners and to gather support for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the district. The public will learn about such things as creating a defensible space around their home, and how they can best prepare for a catastrophic wildfire event.

Call Plateau Valley Fire Protection District at (970) 268-5283 or UCR Fire Mitigation Specialist Doug Paul at (970) 244-3106 for details.

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For Immediate Release: July 13, 2007
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

Southwest Resource Advisory Council to meet

MT. CRESTED BUTTE, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management's Southwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet July 20 at the Grand Lodge Crested Butte, located at 6 Emmons Loop in Mt. Crested Butte.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and is scheduled to adjourn at 4 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, with a public comment period scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Agenda topics include:

- Field manager updates
- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument: Need for RAC Subgroup
- Uncompahgre Plateau Project Native Seed Program
- Gunnison Basin Travel Management Plan
- Dominguez-Escalante Management Area
- RAC Charter and Standard Operating Procedures
- Healthy Lands Initiative Update

The Southwest RAC is one of three advisory councils to BLM Colorado. Composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, individuals serving in each RAC represent a broad range of public land interests, ranging from environmental to local government to commercial activity. For more information on Colorado RACs, go to www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Resources/racs.3.html.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: July 5, 2007
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BLM Adds Energy Map Viewer to Popular NILS GeoCommunicator Web Site

In response to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Bureau of Land Management recently added numerous enhancements to its popular National Integrated Land Systems (NILS) GeoCommunicator

web site (<http://www.geocommunicator.gov>). This public web-based application is an interactive map viewer that permits users to search and display land and mineral use authorization and conveyance records including: oil and gas, geothermal, solid mineral and coal leases, mining claims, stipulations, and more, as well as download and dynamically map Public Land Survey System (PLSS) data.

Among the new enhancements is the new Energy Map Viewer (<http://www.geocommunicator.gov/NILS-PARCEL2/map.jsp?MAP=ENERGY>), which allows users to see most of the energy related authorizations the BLM issues, all in one map viewer. Some of the authorizations that are available include oil and gas leases/ agreements/ densities, lease sale parcels, oil shale leases, coal authorizations, geothermal, wind energy, and solar energy. A new Land Status Map Viewer has also been added, which provides land and mineral ownership and use information. This viewer contains information such as U.S. Forest Service boundaries and regulated uses, Federal land title, subsurface mineral estate for Wyoming and New Mexico, and surface management Agency boundaries. Other notable enhancements to the web site include: Master Title Plats displayed for UT and CA, and Rights-of-Way displayed by type such as power, railroad, roads, communication sites, pipelines, telephone, and more.

Acting BLM Director Jim Hughes welcomed the new Energy Map Viewer and enhancements: “We are very pleased with the success of the NILS GeoCommunicator web site and the fact that this public web site helps the BLM spatially provide important land and mineral use records information to our customers. These enhancements will continue to ensure the best user experience possible by making the web site easier to use and by providing the latest and most current information.”

For more information on the National Integrated Land Systems’ GeoCommunicator, please contact:

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The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land - 258million surface acres - than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplished this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical cultural, and other resources on the public lands.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: July 3, 2007
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BLM Sets Meeting of National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board; Bureau also Announces Re-appointments to Board

The Bureau of Land Management's National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet later this month in Boise, Idaho, to discuss matters relating to the management, protection, and control of wild horses and burros on Western public rangelands. The BLM also announced today the re-appointment of three members of the Advisory Board, which will meet on July 30, 2007, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., local time, at the Grove Hotel in Boise.

The Advisory Board provides input and advice to the BLM as it carries out its responsibilities under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The law mandates the protection, management, and control of these free-roaming animals in a manner that ensures healthy herds at levels consistent with the land's capacity to support them. The BLM manages about 29,000 wild horses and burros that roam BLM-managed rangelands in 10 Western states.

The public may address the Advisory Board at the July 30 meeting at an appropriate point in the agenda, which is expected to be about 3 p.m., local time. Individuals who want to make a statement should register with the BLM by noon on the day of the meeting at the meeting site (The Grove Hotel, 245 South Capitol Blvd., Boise, Idaho, 83702; 208-333-8000). Depending on the number of speakers, the Board may limit the length of presentations, set at three minutes for previous meetings.

Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the BLM at the meeting; those who would like to comment but are unable to attend may submit a written statement by July 25, 2007, to: Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO-260, Attention: Ramona DeLorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147. Comments may also be e-mailed to: Ramona_DeLorme@blm.gov. Those submitting comments electronically should include the identifier "WH&B" in the subject of their message and their name and address in the body of the message. For additional information regarding the meeting, please contact Ramona DeLorme, Wild Horse and Burro Administrative Assistant, at 775-861-6583. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach Ms. DeLorme at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

The three newly re-appointed members of the nine-member Advisory Board, which reflects a diverse representation of interests, are Dr. Vernon D. Dooley of Powell, Wyoming (who represents wild horse and burro research); Dr. J. Wayne Burkhardt of Indian Valley, Idaho (natural resource management); and Renee C. Taylor of Evansville, Wyoming (livestock management). The Advisory Board meets at least two times a year and the BLM Director may call additional meetings when necessary. Members serve a three-year term on a staggered-term basis and do so without salary, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses according to government travel regulations.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau carries out a multiple-use mission, one that is aimed at sustaining the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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For Immediate Release: July 2, 2007
Contact: Denise Adamic BLM 303-239-3671
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BLM Encourages Cautious Fourth Celebrations

DENVER – BLM Colorado is encouraging the public to be careful when building fires or using fireworks during the July 4th holiday. Colorado’s wet spring has led to abundant growth of grasses that can quickly dry out in high temperatures, resulting in high fire potential.

“People need to be cautious with fire in grassy areas,” said Bill Wallis, BLM Colorado Fire Management Officer. “Grasses are always a concern because they are light, flashy fuels.”

Flashy fuels, such as grasses, are dangerous because their fuel moisture levels vary greatly with changes in precipitation and temperature. In hot, dry conditions, a green grassy field can quickly become a fire hazard.

The BLM encourages public lands users to check with their local BLM, U.S. Forest Service or county officials for the latest burning restrictions and fire prevention ordinances in their recreation areas. Many parts of the state have already implemented fire restrictions and burning bans.

“It’s very important that everyone is mindful of the specific fuel types and fire hazards in areas where they recreate,” said Wallis. “Fire danger varies throughout Colorado and people need to be aware of what the fire danger is in their area.”

When using fire on public lands one should:

- Build fires only in designated rings or grates.
- Use self-contained cookers or chemical stoves.
- Keep hot mufflers and catalytic converters clear of grasses and shrubs.
- Burn debris with care.
- If you see smoke or a fire, call the county sheriff’s office first.
- Think about escape routes you might take during a fire, what you would take, how you would get out, and an alternate route in case the primary route is blocked.
- Know your personal limitations. Don't put yourself or others at risk.

BLM Colorado welcomes visitors to the public lands during the 4th of July holiday, but encourages the public to do so with knowledge of current fuel conditions and fire restrictions.

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