

THE MONTH IN REVIEW

Commissioners Experience the Benefits of BLM Resource Management Projects:

On June 26, the Klamath County Commissioners were treated to a tour of multiple BLM project sites located on the eastside of the Klamath Falls Resource Area. They were briefed on the subjects of juniper treatment and utilization, wind energy, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects, prescribed fire, timber sale activities, and Gerber Reservoir facility improvements. The Commissioners were able to witness firsthand the positive impact BLM's actions are having on the landscape. While visiting



an area that had been treated with prescribed fire, Commissioner John Elliott commented “*This is how I remember the forests I’ve enjoyed in the past.*” All three elected officials expressed their appreciation for the value added by these projects in the form of decreased wildfire hazard, promotion of forest and rangeland health, restoration of wildlife habitat and the creation of local employment opportunities. They are anxiously awaiting a tour of BLM-managed projects conducted on the westside of the Klamath Falls Resource Area, as this will provide them additional insight into how Klamath County’s public lands are managed.



All in a Day’s Work: Emily Hedlund has been employed as an Information Receptionist at the Lakeview Interagency Office’s front desk for just over one year. She recently encountered a visitor that left quite an impression on her, a man whose story she asked be shared with employees. On June 12, 89-year-old Rex Aldrich approached Emily for information regarding the area’s Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps. As their conversation evolved, Mr. Aldrich shared that he had lived at these camps during the Great Depression. He served as a CCC crew member at the time and helped build roads within the Hart Mountain National Antelope



Refuge and facilities at the Bly Ranger District, Camp Cottonwood and other historical sites. With a smile upon his face, he recalled how these improvements enhanced the lives of Lake County’s residents. Emily summarized the impact of their interaction by stating “*Mr. Aldrich told a fascinating story that reminds us all how so many parts of this area were built with manpower during one of the hardest periods in history.*” Interesting comment in light of our current opportunity to improve infrastructure in Klamath and Lake counties via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects we are responsible for administering.

Artwork Promotes Prevention of Vandalism and Littering: The Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Association and BLM’s Lakeview District recently partnered in an effort to educate local fifth grade students on the negative effects vandalism and littering have on public lands. Beginning in May, Breanna O’Connor and Mona Drake traveled to elementary schools in Lake County to present this message to students. Following each discussion, participants were given two weeks to create a poster that represented the information they had heard. This artwork was then judged and prizes were awarded to the top 17 artists. Anthony Botner and Kristina Gomez were the top two contest winners. Both received \$100 and the satisfaction of knowing their design will be printed on garbage bags for distribution to the public to remind individuals to stop littering and vandalism. Contest funding was generated from a poker run hosted by the Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Association at the Sand Dunes east of Christmas Valley over the Memorial Day weekend.



Photos by Breanna O’Connor

