

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2002-57  
FOR RELEASE: August 7, 2002  
Gov. Guinn Proclaims Sept. 28 as Public Lands Day  
Thousands Volunteer for Nationwide "Work Day"

Reno, Nev.— Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn proclaimed Sept. 28, 2002, as Public Lands Day in Nevada. The National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is a day for families and groups of all ages to volunteer to "give something back" to America's millions of acres of public lands. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will participate in six NPLD events in Nevada.

Elko: South Fork Humboldt River Area and South Fork State Park

Winnemucca: Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area

\*Carson City: Swan Lake Nature Study Area (\*event will be held week earlier on Sat., Sept. 21)

Ely: Regional Trail Network

Battle Mountain: Hickison Recreation Site

Las Vegas: Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

The NPLD is about the value of public lands as an economic resource, an environmental refuge, a recreational paradise. Getting people out into their public lands helps them understand the importance of public lands in their community.

The support of local volunteers, businesses and partners have made past NPLD events successful. Other federal and state agencies also participate in NPLD. The event is sponsored by Toyota and coordinated by The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation.

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NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2002-56  
FOR RELEASE: August 1, 2002  
BLM TRANSFERS ENGINES TO SEVEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Seven Nevada volunteer fire departments will be fighting wildland fires with reliable, modern fire engines this summer, after receiving the surplus engines from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada. The BLM Director Kathleen Clarke handed over the engine keys to each volunteer fire department chief today at the University of Nevada, Reno, Fire Science Academy in Carlin.

The excess BLM wildland firefighting engines are from the Ely, Carson City, Battle Mountain, Las Vegas and Elko Field Offices, and have already been replaced with newer engines. Each of the excess engines has been thoroughly inspected by a mechanic.

Rural fire departments receiving fire engines today include:

Rye Patch Volunteer Fire Department, Pershing County;  
McDermitt Volunteer Fire Department, Humboldt County;  
Tecoma Volunteer Fire Department, Elko County;  
10 Mile Volunteer Fire Department, Elko County;  
Austin Volunteer Fire Department, Lander County;  
Eureka Volunteer Fire Department, Eureka County; and  
McGill Volunteer Fire Department, White Pine County.

The transfer of the fire engines is a part of the ongoing effort to enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural fire districts, under the National Fire Plan. Congress set aside additional funding for this purpose in the fiscal year 2001 and 2002 budgets for federal wildland firefighting agencies.

BLM has been working with its federal, state and local wildland firefighting partners, in an effort to use this additional funding to help enhance the capabilities of volunteer and tribal fire departments in the areas of training, supplies and materials, equipment, as well as prevention and education programs.

The goal of providing these rural fire departments with more modern, reliable fire engines is to improve both the performance and the safety of these volunteer firefighters.

Assisting rural areas is a major goal of the National Fire Plan in Nevada. This assistance includes grants to benefit rural areas, as well as assistance to volunteer, rural and tribal fire departments.

BLM Nevada received \$850,000 for assistance to volunteer, rural and tribal fire departments for fiscal year 2001, and \$851,000 for fiscal year 2002. This funding was aimed at enhancing the fire protection capabilities of volunteer, rural and tribal fire departments throughout the state, by helping them with training, supplies and materials, equipment, as well as prevention and education programs.

BLM Nevada funded projects for 114 of these fire departments in fiscal year 2001 for \$850,000, and also funded projects for 91 departments in fiscal year 2002 for \$851,000.

The assistance to volunteer and tribal fire departments is a pilot program that is part of a larger national fire plan to reduce wildfire risks in communities in the wildland urban interface.

The National Fire Plan in Nevada also paid for the BLM rural fire coordinator who works out of the Nevada Association of Counties Office.

BLM Nevada has also provided assistance to Nevada rural areas in the form of grants to state and local governments for hazardous fuels reduction projects. A rural fire assistance grant from BLM Nevada to the State of Nevada Division of Forestry earmarked \$275,000 for fuels projects in Eureka and Lincoln Counties. The projects being funded by this grant include:

A 1,250-acre green-stripping project in Eureka County;

A GPS fuels assessment in Eureka County; and

Fire risk assessments in the wildland-urban interface in the Lincoln County communities of Pioche, Panaca, Caliente and Mount Wilson.

Other Nevada rural assistance grants include:

\$230,000 to the Nevada Fire Safe Council;

\$285,000 to the Student Conservation Association;

\$50,000 to Douglas County for a composting machine which will be used to process biomass removed from private land to create defensible space around homes and businesses; and

\$30,000 to the UNR Cooperative Extension Service to develop education packages which will be distributed to rural fire departments for the Firewise program to create defensible space around homes and businesses.

BLM Nevada also gave scholarships to 10 volunteer firefighters from six departments in six Nevada counties to participate in Basic Wildland Firefighter "Rookie School" Training at the University of Nevada, Reno, Fire Science Academy in Carlin this spring.

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