

BLM'S 2002 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Each year, thousands of volunteers help the BLM sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2002, volunteers collectively contributed more than 1.2 million hours, the equivalent of nearly 700 work years. Volunteers donate not only their time but also their talent. Their expertise enhances the ability of BLM's 10,000-member workforce to accomplish its challenging mission.

Virtually all program areas within BLM benefited from the work of volunteers. From recreation to cultural resources, from biological resources to wilderness and riparian

areas, from education and interpretation to wild horses and burros, volunteers were involved in these programs and more. They served the public at campgrounds and visitor centers and worked behind the scenes in offices.

The monetary value of volunteer efforts in 2002 is estimated at some \$20 million. But dollars and cents are only a small part of the story. The value of volunteers also derives from the links they provide between BLM and communities across the nation and from the example they provide to all Americans—of citizen-centered stewardship and community-based conservation.

NATIONAL TOTALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

Program	Volunteer Hours	Hosted Worker Hours	Total Hours*
Recreation	503,030	38,099	541,129
Biological Resources	120,689	20,765	141,454
Wild Horse and Burro	43,259	67,582	110,841
Cadastral Survey	1,853	0	1,853
Wilderness	26,744	0	26,744
Riparian/Watershed	26,239	1,870	28,109
Cultural/Historical	90,893	748	91,641
Minerals	7,425	5,979	13,404
Support Services	67,378	28,302	95,680
Environmental	97,531	16,926	114,457
Education/Interpretation			
Other	44,304	21,629	65,933
Total	1,029,345	201,900	1,231,245
Funds Expended	\$1,024,352	\$140,753	\$1,165,105
Value of Work	\$17,025,366	\$3,339,426	\$20,364,792

* The term volunteer, as used in the text of this report, includes “hosted workers.” Volunteers work for BLM without being paid. They donate their time and, in some instances, equipment and money to assist BLM with a variety of jobs. Hosted workers, on the other hand, are paid by another organization but work for BLM at no charge. Hosted workers made up about 16 percent of the total volunteer time in 2002. Their contributions are included in the State and National Totals tables.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY FOR FISCAL YEARS 1997–2002

	1997	1998	1999	2000 ^a	2001	2002
Total Hours	1,149,294	1,355,130	962,293	755,576	1,119,038	1,231,245
Value to BLM (\$)	14,428,428	19,378,359	14,270,805	11,628,315	17,960,560	20,364,792 ^b
Work Years	638	753	535	420	622	684
Value of One Work Hour (\$)	12.55	14.30	14.83	15.39	16.05	16.54 ^c
Value of One Work Year (\$)	22,615	25,735	26,694	27,702	28,890	29,772

^a Incomplete data for the year 2000. Not all field offices reported.

^b The 2002 volunteer program was accomplished at a cost of \$1,165,105, a return of about \$17.48 for every \$1.00 expended.

^c The value of volunteer contributions was calculated at the rate of \$16.54 per hour, a figure calculated by Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org), a national leadership forum committed to volunteerism and citizen action. The amount was based on the latest data available on the average hourly wage for nonagricultural workers as published in the *Economic Report of the President* (2003 Edition).