



BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Page 1 of 3

MEET YOUR COMMUNITY BLM RANGER

Did you know that three rangers for the Battle Mountain, Elko and Winnemucca Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field offices are responsible for the resource protection of over 30 million acres of BLM-administered public lands, have over 50 years of combined law enforcement and visitor safety experience between them and would enjoy talking to your group or community organization about their work?



Introductions begin with Kathy Clossin, BLM ranger serving the Battle Mountain Field Office which includes Tonopah and Beatty. Kathy came to Nevada from the Florida Everglades where she served as a ranger for the National Park Service (NPS). During her career which began in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park, she has come eye-to-eye with alligators, moose and bears, disabled vessels, grateful parents whose lost child was found, campers with out-of-control fires, stranded visitors and medical emergencies. She is an Emergency Medical Technician and instructs CPR and First Aid..

Kathy said, "It's everyone's continuing responsibility to protect the land and its multiple uses for future generations." Public lands offer many recreational pursuits such as hiking, biking,

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off-highway vehicle opportunities, camping, hunting, cross-country skiing and many others.

Randy Reader, BLM ranger serving the Winnemucca Field Office, began his career in 1978 with the Student Conservation Association in Montana as an interpretive ranger with the NPS. Many years ago, Randy saw the need to stress youth safety and developed the “Youth Protection Program” targeting 4th grade students. Most recently, he took the program to Winnemucca’s Sonoma Heights Elementary School and promoted safety and health in such areas as bicycle riding, wildland fires, summer recreation, alcoholism, smoking, drugs, TV violence and kidnaping.

Randy has this advice for visitors to public lands: “Remember your enjoyment of outdoor recreation. Treating the land with respect will leave it in good condition for those that follow in this generation and the next.”



Erika Schumacher has been a ranger in the BLM Elko Field Office since 1997. Erika began her career in 1989 with the Student Career Education Program in Barstow, California. Public education is very important to her and she enjoys participating in Elko County’s Outdoor Education Program. This gives Erika an opportunity to talk with 5th graders about “treading lightly” in the outdoor environment, what to do if they get lost and other safety precautions.

Litter cleanup is another project focus for this Elko ranger. Her most recent orchestrated effort took place on January 19, west of Carlin in Mary’s Wash. Trash, appliances and tires were among the items Elko BLM employees removed from the area.

All of the BLM rangers you've just met are required to participate in the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's course "Law Enforcement for Land Management." The 12-week course is mandatory and supplements other training the rangers may already have. This training exercise stresses visitor protection and resource management as the primary role of BLM rangers.

Public outreach and education efforts include handing out literature and spreading the word on fire closures, visiting with campers and promoting safety during horse gathers. Programs such as "Shop With a Cop" provide opportunities for youth to Christmas shop with a ranger. Other youth activities throughout the year for the rangers include bowling, picnicking and barbecuing. (Maybe a little racquetball in Randy's case.)

While BLM rangers have the authority to enforce federal laws, they are not alone on public lands. They work closely with county Sheriff Departments, the Nevada Highway Patrol, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies.

The next time you see a BLM ranger in the field, stop and say hello. This lets them know you are in the area should you need their help. Rangers offer assistance for travelers stuck in the mud or snow, flat tire situations, those needing directions to recreation sites and many other visitor needs. It's nice to have a friend in remote areas.