



# NEWS RELEASE

Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management  
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## **BLM Honors Las Cruces-Area Volunteers**

LAS CRUCES – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has honored its volunteers for providing more than 36,600 hours of service during the past year. The work of the approximately 80 volunteers is valued at more than \$580,000, according to the Amy Lueders, BLM-Las Cruces field office manager.

“The work of our volunteers is as diverse as the work of the BLM itself,” according to Cheryl Howard, volunteer coordinator. Volunteers collected more than \$96,000 last year at BLM-managed recreation sites. They patrolled and monitored 20 Wilderness Study Areas and spent about 1,700 hours monitoring archaeological and historic sites.

One group of volunteers provided another 1,700 hours researching and writing professional papers to describe underground Mimbres Era cultural sites in the Cedar Mountains southwest of Deming.

The BLM manages about 265 million acres, mostly in the 12 Western states, and recruits about 17,000 to 20,000 volunteers each year. In many instances, BLM volunteers are the agency’s first point of contact. Campgrounds and other recreational sites in some areas would be closed were it not for volunteer help, according to Jim Talent, BLM-Las Cruces recreation and cultural team leader.

Throughout New Mexico, the BLM manages about 13 million acres of public land. The Las Cruces field office is responsible for about 5.4 million acres of that total in the six southwestern New Mexico counties.

Information about becoming a BLM volunteer is available by calling Howard at 525-4487 or on the internet at: [www.blm.gov/volunteer](http://www.blm.gov/volunteer).