

Project Archaeology Workshop



Last month, the Bureau of Reclamation joined the Girl Scouts of America and its partners to host Utah's FIRST EVER Project Archaeology Workshop. Over 80 Girl Scouts attended the event, where they participated in instructor-guided lessons and activities that instilled a sense of value and respect for Utah's rich cultural heritage and science based careers.

Utah's Project Archaeologist, Sam Kirkley, organized the event and provided training for partners, including diversity and cultural resource program leads. Professional archaeologists and teachers introduced scientific concepts and information customized to resonate with the different age groups in attendance. Presentations were followed by activities where excited scouts scrambled to apply their new knowledge. They mapped and recorded mock sites, identified and described an assemblage of artifact replicas, and built wickiups. Attendees also engaged with agency representatives during the women-in-science career panel.

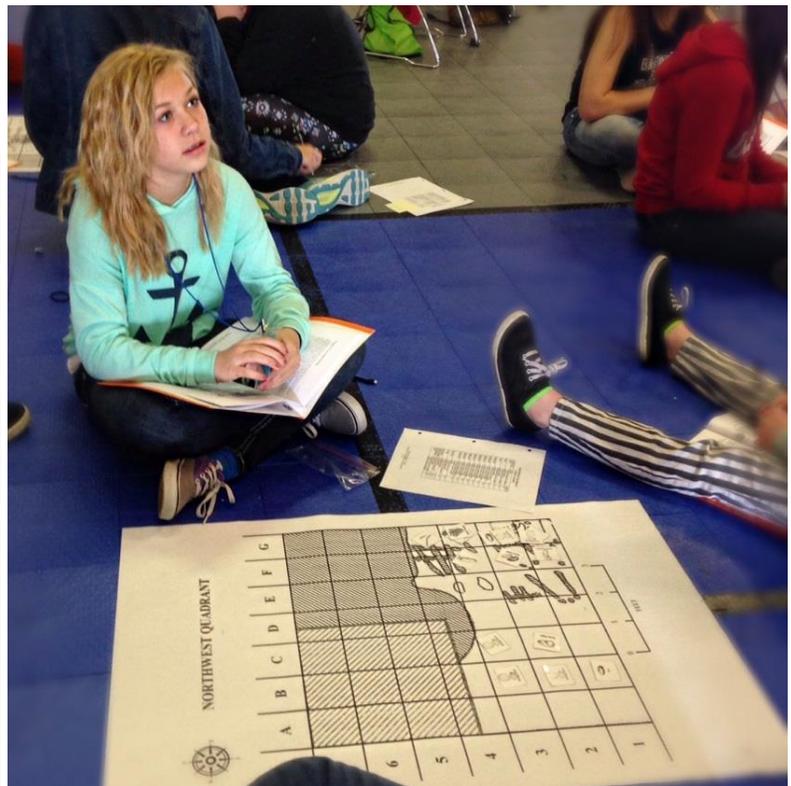


Lindsey Sheppard, a file clerk representing Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region Office encouraged the scouts to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. Sheppard also shared her enthusiasm for career opportunities within the agency, saying, "at the Girls' Scout workshop I was asked to cover having a government job as a woman. At first, I was unsure of the topic, but then I understood that this was an opportunity to show how much working women can do! I felt so honored to be with these girls that will grow up to be leaders." Sheppard then stated, "I told them that every job has its importance and that every employer hires someone for a specific reason, and that they had potential to be the ones to climb the corporate ladder. I told the girls that although they might not have a career picked out yet or even know what they want to be when they get out of high school, Reclamation is a place where dreams start and success follows. Each person (girl) has a reason to wake up each morning to say 'Today I'm going to move mountains.' Whatever that reason is, the possibilities of being prosperous are endless. I explained to them that having self-confidence and self-worth are top priorities to living a life of achievement. I believe that the way to having power is to be empowered by what we feel, think, and love about ourselves. I want to thank Reclamation so much for this opportunity! It was a learning experience for me as much as a teaching experience."

After touring the local museum, the rigorous weekend of fun and learning concluded with each of the scouts receiving patches to commemorate their achievements.

For more information about Project Archaeology and scout programs, please contact Jeanne Moe at jmoe@montana.edu or visit <http://projectarchaeology.org/>. Thanks to the Bureau of Land Management, Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation - CTGR, and of course, the Girl Scouts of Utah.

Girls Rock!



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Construction is Completed on New Parking/Viewing Area at Fruitgrowers Reservoir



New Fruitgrowers
Parking/Viewing Area



Fruitgrowers Dam and Reservoir is located about 15 miles northeast of Delta, Colo. Construction of the dam began in 1938 and was completed in 1939. The reservoir provides supplemental irrigation water to 2,690 acres of land. Primary crops grown in the area are fruit, small grains, corn, alfalfa, and pasture. The reservoir is frequently used by migratory birds; including grebes and cranes.

In 2014, Delta County requested and received approval to construct and maintain a parking/bird viewing area on Reclamation lands for safety issues. The area is located by the reservoir adjacent to N Road, and will relieve traffic congestion caused by pedestrians and parked cars viewing the wide variety of birds the reservoir draws such as sandhill cranes as well as the local wildlife. Construction of the parking/viewing area was completed in March 2015. The parking lot has 20 spaces, including accessible parking, is fenced, and includes a gate for foot access to the reservoir area.

Other public access areas at the reservoir which are located closer to the dam, such as a small parking area, a trail, and a viewing area, have recently received a spring clean-up by employees from the Western Colorado Area Office. They re-graded and improved drainage across the parking area, placed large rocks around the parking area to restrict vehicles to the parking area and eliminate off road vehicle use that was occurring, cut overgrowth from the concrete trail and cleaned the trail to make it more usable, replaced some important signs concerning use of the reservoir area, etc.

Photos below



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Cleaned-up Trails



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Best Paper by a Young Professional Engineer



The Bureau of Reclamation was well represented during the 2015 U.S. Society on Dams Conference this past month of April for outstanding papers presented at the conference. One of the presenters was Brian Hart, an up-and-coming young Civil Engineer from the Provo Area Office. He was awarded “Best Paper by a Young Professional Engineer” for his paper titled *“Time-Function Method to Establish Piezometer Performance Parameters”*.

Brian works in the “Security and Dam Safety Group”, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) part of the Resource Management Division in the Provo Area Office of the Upper Colorado (UC) Region. He is fast becoming known among his peers, clients, and those who associate with him in Reclamation and throughout the water community. Brian is a hard worker and known not only for his professionalism, but for the person that he is.

Brian is always willing to use his time and talents to serve others, and has volunteered as the Event Coordinator for the annual Cast for Kids Foundation Event sponsored by Reclamation for the UC Region. This is a one-day outdoor fishing and boating event for disabled and disadvantaged children and developmentally-impaired adults. As can be expected, this event requires much planning, coordination, and endless volunteer hours outside of his duties with Reclamation.

Brian lives in Riverton, Utah, with his wife of eight years, and has been with Reclamation for the past three years. He received his bachelors and masters degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Utah. Prior to his education he served his country in the Army and is a veteran of the War in Iraq. When Brian is not working, he is usually enjoying the outdoors and seeing everything that Utah and the surrounding areas have to offer.

Brian quickly reminds us on his success at the conference that, “the work was successful because of the collaborative attitude within the Provo O&M Group and the office as whole. Furthermore, I can point to specific trainings that Reclamation has sponsored in the past that has prepared me to develop this idea and present it. Thank you for your continued investment in your employees, and thank you all for the support!”

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Administrative Support Council's 2014 Awards Ceremony and Events



By Levi Hutchinson
Senior Advisor

On April 14-15, 2015, the Administrative Support Council (ASC) held their annual training and awards ceremony in the regional office. Our recently selected Regional Director, Brent Rhees, spoke of the importance and his appreciation of all administrative personnel pointing out the region's constant change. The region had a total of 14 award nominations. Brief summaries were read aloud to recognize the nominees among their peers; these excerpts taken from those narratives can be read below. Tawnya Coulter and Tara Ashby were announced as the regional winners. They were invited to travel to Billings, Montana, to attend the Reclamation-wide ASC events the following week. National Seminars Training provided education focusing on better management of emotionally charged situations, mastering communication skills necessary in these situations, and achieving emotional balance to reach phenomenal success. The field trip originally planned was cancelled due to weather but a gathering of great minds to re-energize the ASC was held. Day two included a get-to-know-you ice breaker, personal safety training, and discussions on professionalism and a healthy work-life balance. Lunch was pre-ordered so the members could discuss the overall health of the program. The incoming ASC Board gathered many ideas to help kick-off the new year. Keep your ears and eyes open for more to come soon from the board.

Linda Morrey from the Provo Area Office is results-oriented and simply doesn't wait for an answer but actively seeks to find the right answer. Linda's attention to detail is continually highlighted in all work that she prepares. On many occasions, Linda goes above and beyond what is required and because of this employees rely upon her expertise. Dependable, takes initiative, and builds relationships with those she works with are some of the great characteristics Linda possesses and represents all that is good for Reclamation.



Tansi Starke from the Four Corners Construction Office was instrumental in reconciling the Ops and Maintenance Division with their MSDS sheets into the new Global Harmonizing System. She also assisted the technicians with the maintenance management system in regards to transferring a large Navajo Indian Irrigation Project facility over to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This was extensive and at times redundant but Tansi tackled it with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. No is never a word in her vocabulary and she always completes requests ahead of time. She has a smile in her face and a song in her heart. She is indeed an asset to Reclamation.

Joan Martinez from the UC Regional Office Joan's first week on the job, she learned very quickly where she could assist in the critical upcoming HR audit. Soon after, she took it upon herself to help unify the HR team with administrative tasks. Joan was to originate, at a constant standard of excellence, documents and letters when others didn't always see the need. This required tact and diplomacy working with her colleagues and a quick learning curve, working with the front office admin staff. Her biggest challenge is keeping her boss on a tight but flexible leash and sometimes even the small things matter. For example, she provides the HR manager daily status lists of employee whereabouts on clipboard in the event of building emergency evacuation. Her volunteerism, whether on-the-job helping others, feeding the homeless, or organizing and assisting the Utah Special Olympics is an attitude that's rare in many of us, but always there for Joan.

Shela Darhower from the Provo Area Office treats the public and employees with professionalism and is always willing to help while working at the receptionist desk. She knows and directs visitors to their destination with expertise and is conscientious about reflecting a positive image. Being a team player, assisting all employees within the organization, and having a great attitude are certainly appreciated by her peers.

Wanda Shelton from the Elephant Butte Field Division is a valuable asset and constantly volunteers to assist others with personnel issues, training, WMS, SharePoint, and Concur travel issues. By incorporating her suggested changes to our local preventative maintenance process, we have been able to save staff time and allow for better tracking of the program. Wanda is a joy to be around, continually displays a positive attitude, and her interactions with customers and staff are always professional and productive.

Josh Larson from the Provo Area Office has completed the monumental task of reorganizing the central files. He remained knowledgeable with document processing in order to recognize, replace, and return all documents to their correct place. Josh is self-motivated, works well with all employees, customer-service oriented, and goes out of his way to assist employees. He is dependable, adaptable, a mentor, and always portrays a positive attitude.

Bill Brown from the UC Regional Office is instrumental in assisting the region with our travel system. There have been many times when last minute requests come in and he never lets folks down. He consistently responds in a timely and courteous manner. His ability to troubleshoot problems makes it possible for employees to be reimbursed timely. He is knowledgeable, helpful, patient, derives enjoyment from his duties, and his enthusiasm has contributed to the working atmosphere in the region.

Deborah Hilton from the Provo Area Office is the office lead and ensures that work sent from the area office is professional and error-free. She appropriately works with the RD's secretary to make sure correspondence requiring regional review and signature is complete and timely. This year she assumed additional duties by assisting the Admin Officer and has recently assumed this position full-time. She has excellent organizational skills, sets the example, provides mentoring, and is conscious of her work and the



work of others. Deborah remains devoted to the area office, is dependable, cheerful, willing to do the work that is before her, adaptable, and a great asset to Reclamation.

Christine Hoopingarner from the UC Regional Office played a key role in the development, administration, and full obligation of funds for approximately 85 financial assistance/interagency agreements and contracts. She has displayed considerable organization skill by creating and maintaining spreadsheets that track admin milestones for all grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts originating in the environmental division. She keeps a high-level of flexibility and is able to prioritize and respond to emerging issues. Christine maintains a high-level of professionalism and customer service. When faced with difficult situations she has displayed both patience and perseverance. She has developed valuable relationships with Native American tribes and works tirelessly to assist them. Christine's work enhances the organizations integrity overall.

Sabrina Baldonado from the Socorro Field Division has outstanding motivation and initiative. She portrays a very professional and cheerful attitude each and every morning. She goes the extra mile assisting employees with routine and at times at the eleventh hour with administrative tasks so they can concentrate on projects. Her boss also needs to be kept on a flexible but at times reeled back in leash. Sabrina keeps him on his toes by controlling his calendar and overlooking monthly reports/ correspondence. Sabrina volunteers her time at the area office reception desk when admin staff attends training or has scheduled leave.

Linda Andra from the Provo Area Office spent countless hours ensuring 10+ environmental compliance documents were consistent with Reclamation's Visual Identity. These documents are always time-sensitive and her commitment to the office was evident in her quick turn-around time. She is instrumental in the tedious retrieval of water rights data from the State Engineer's database which helps assist in the knowledge of possible protests that might affect office projects. By projecting a warm, cheerful attitude to employees and customers, she represents Reclamation and is a great asset to us.

2013-2014 Administrative Services Professional Winner – Tara Ashby from the UC Regional Office



Tara was instrumental in testing, over-seeing the input of documents, and providing customer service for the new Information Management and Tracking System. She compiled monthly reports for each region along with quarterly metrics that were sent to RDs. She took it upon herself to learn all aspects of FBMS and helped her team use the system correctly. Tara provided excellent help in the PR area and has become an expert in tutoring her teammates when errors are received. She takes any problem head-on and works to find the answer. Tara shows exceptional customer service skills and takes great pride in her work by continuing to strive for excellence. She shows integrity and has no problem admitting when she's made a mistake. She has a thirst for greater knowledge and wants to share that information with those around her. Tara was recently voted and accepted the role of Vice Chair for the ASC committee this year.



2013-2014 Administrative Professional Winner - Tawnya Coulter from the UC Regional Office



Tawnya has a strong work ethic, commitment to excellence, objectivity, ability to keep confidences, and is a genuine pleasure to work with – so much that many employees gravitate to her for guidance and help in the RD’s Office. Her quiet leadership, ability to help others get along, and filling in for others creates immeasurable peace of mind for management, colleagues, and organizational efficiency. She serves as an example to others for her professionalism, poised demeanor, and can-do attitude. She consistently exceeds expectations by accepting new assignments, going the extra mile, and striving for perfection in the workplace. Tawnya was also recently voted and accepted the role of

Chairperson for the ASC committee this year.

RAPAC Field Trip

This year’s Administrative Professional and Clerical award winners, along with the ASC Chairperson and Senior advisor, were invited to attend RAPAC in Billings, MT. The field trip provided to those in attendance was to Cody, Wyoming for a tour of the Buffalo Bill Dam and Power plant. Following the tour of the Dam, the members then headed on to tour Heart Mountain, the Japanese Internment Camp. Both tours were full of interesting information and it provided a venue to network with members from other regions. To view some photos from the tour, you can find them on the shared drive at: V:\Shared\ASC\ASC Tour 2015. The tour is just one great benefit of being involved in ASC.

ASC on the Intranet

You can find more information about ASC on our intranet. This site will be updated in the following weeks. <http://intra.uc.usbr.gov/eOrg/ASC/admTools/index.html>

Food for Thought

In today’s world we are all busy. If you don’t take the time to shape your professional career, someone else will do it for you, and you may just not like their idea of what your professional career should be.

In the words of our Vice Chairperson Tara Ashby, “ASC is totally going to rock. If you don’t participate, you will be missing a lot of great opportunities.”



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Reclamation Hosts The Desal Prize



Reclamation's Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility (BGNDRF) is enjoying a new round of exposure it received last month when it hosted an international desalination contest. Reclamation and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) hosted the Desal Prize at BGNDRF the second week in April. The six finalists in the competition traveled to Alamogordo, where they tested their prototypes of environmentally sustainable small-scale brackish water desalination systems that are able to provide potable water for humans and water for agriculture.



ions from water.

First place went to the team from MIT and Jain Irrigation Systems. They designed a photovoltaic-powered electro dialysis reversal (EDR) system that desalinates water using electricity to pull charged particles out of the water and further disinfects using ultraviolet rays. The system was designed for low energy consumption, limiting costs especially in off-grid areas. Second place went to the University of Texas at El Paso or UTEP Center for Inland Desalination Systems. They designed a Zero Discharge Desalination (ZDD) technology that reduces water waste in the desalination of groundwater by conventional processes. Electro dialysis uses voltage to remove undesirable

Honorable Mention went to Green Desal, a team comprised of the Asian Institute of Technology & Management, National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension, State University of Ponta Grossa, Technion-Israel University of Technology, and University of North Texas. They developed a high-percent recovery system that integrates proven technologies in reverse osmosis, ion exchange, nano-filtration, re-mineralization and disinfection.

Reclamation Commissioner Estevan López said, "Providing a sustainable water supply is important for the west, the country and the world. The knowledge gained from this competition will not only assist in the goals of the prize competition, it will inform brackish groundwater treatment technologies here in the United States."

On March 21, 2014, USAID's Securing Water for Food Grand Challenge for Development and Reclamation announced the launch of the Desal Prize. Between 2000 and 2050, water demand is projected to increase by 55 percent globally. Brackish groundwater could play a significant part in helping



to increase the water supply. While brackish water desalination technologies do exist on the market, few (if any) have proven to be suitable for use in rural or remote settings.

Five teams were selected as Desal Prize finalists after a panel of judges reviewed 68 applications from 29 countries. The teams competed for \$200,000 in prize funds in head-to-head demonstrations at BGNDRF the week of April 6th. In addition to prize funds for the top three teams, the winners will receive grant funds totaling \$400,000 to implement pilot projects in the coming months with small-holder rural farmers in a USAID mission region of their choice.

Following the competition, MIT/Jain decided to stay on at BGNDRF for a few days to do additional testing. They are also interested in returning during the summer to do additional testing. Another business who saw news coverage of the competition in California is also interested in coming to BGNDRF to test its technology.

BGNDRF provides state-of-the-art research facilities for researchers involved in desalination research studies, pilot-scale projects and small demonstration projects. The facility uniquely focuses on brackish groundwater desalination; renewable energy integration; development of systems for rural and Native American communities; concentrate management; and treating water produced from oil and gas production. It is the only major research facility in the United States dedicated solely to the desalination of brackish and impaired groundwaters. It is located within an almost ideal environment, the Tularosa Basin, which possesses a vast supply of groundwater resources and a range of water qualities. Randy Shaw, facility manager at BGNDRF and his staff spent months preparing for the event. Their hard work and dedication led to a really successful event.



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Conserving Native Fish in the Grand Canyon



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Historic fish communities in Grand Canyon National Park consisted of eight species, six of which occur only in the Colorado River Basin. Today, such as the Humpback Chub, *Gila cypha*, which is listed under the Endangered Species Act, are increasingly rare in the river. Threatened by habitat loss and non-native fish that prey on and compete with the natives, these fish are struggling to hold on. Reclamation and the National Park Service have partnered to help save the native fish of Grand Canyon. This partnership helps Reclamation meet its compliance commitments for the operation of Glen Canyon Dam. Emily Omana Smith and Clay Nelson will provide presentations on ongoing projects that are part of this partnership.

Please join the presentations on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. in the Regional Office, Rio Grande Conference Room 8105, Salt Lake City.

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Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project Tour

By Becky Begay and Tig Haley

On April 10, 2015, the Four Corners Construction Office (FCCO), along with the City of Gallup, conducted a Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project site tour for Navajo Nation Council Delegates and tribal chapter officials, and representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The tour included stops at the Tohlokai Pumping Plant construction site, and the recently completed Twin Lakes tank (connection to Twin Lakes community) and Gamerco tanks (Reach 27.5) just north of Gallup, NM.

The tour gave participants the first-hand opportunity for community members to meet some of the parties involved in the construction of the facilities and to learn about the important work being done at all the sites. Participants were able to see how all three sites/features will function, and were given an explanation as to how these three features tie into the rest of the features of the project to be constructed, in order to meet the ultimate project goal of bringing water to people. The tour also offered community members the chance to ask questions about the project and the future construction being planned, including the associated cost and completion dates. There were also questions about the power demands for the project and where it will be supplied from. The tour also gave the organizers a chance to meet the community members that the project will be supplying drinking water to.

Overall, the tour was successful and it gave everyone an opportunity to meet/greet and share the progress of work, concerns, and updates on the project. The impact and relevance of the work going on was best summarized by attendee and Navajo Nation Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie who said “I never believed that I would see the construction of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project within my life time”. FCCO offers tours of NGWSP features on a weekly basis to Project Participants and interested agency personnel. Reclamation employees who are interested in touring the project should contact Larry “Tig” Haley at FCCO.

Photos below



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Tour participants observe the ongoing construction at the Tohlakai Pumping Plant site.



FCCO Project Construction Engineer Barry Longwell (center) explains the function of the Twin Lakes tank to David Lee, President of the Tsayatoh Chapter (third from right) as other tour attendees look on.

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SAFETY FRONT AND CENTER

Defensive Driving - Did you Know?

Did you know...that all Reclamation employees who operate a government owned, rental or privately owned vehicle in the performance of their official duties are required to complete a defensive driving course within 90 days of being hire?

Here is Reclamation's policy:(<http://www.usbr.gov/recman/saf/saf01-04.pdf>)

Did you know...that all Reclamation employees should repeat this defensive driver training at least every three years if they drive a car as part of performing their official duties? If you travel for your job and driving is required, you should retake the defensive driver training at least every 3 years to be compliant with Reclamation's policy. Do you you have your defensive driver training certificate in your file? Is it current?

Did you know....that most insurance companies will honor a discount on your auto insurance policy when you take Reclamation's defensive driver course?

Did you know...that Reclamation has re-established an easy-to-take on-line defensive driver course that you all can take to comply with Reclamation's policy and to also apply to your personal auto insurance discount?

Did you know...that your supervisor is responsible to make sure you are compliant with Reclamation's defensive driver training policy before requiring you to drive as part of performing you official duties?

The UC Regional Safety Council would like to remind you and encourage you to take Reclamation's Defensive Driving course and receive your completion certificate.

To enroll for, and take Reclamation's Defensive Driver Training, log into DOI Learn at (<https://gm2.geolearning.com/geonext/doi/login.geo>) and then search for the key words "**BOR NSC Defensive Driving Course**".

When you take the course you will be redirected to the National Safety Council (NSC) website where the course is located. The access code at the NSC website is "**usbrco802**".

You will be presented with the "**My Courses**" page. Click "**Safety**" and then click "**Defensive Driving 9**" under the list of available courses.

At the end of the NSC training you will receive a NSC completion certificate which you should print 2 copies (one for your supervisor and one for your records.)

Once you complete the NSC course materials and received your certificate, you need to return to DOI Learn and mark yourself as "COMPLETE". If you have trouble completed the course or have any questions you can call Darrel Bott at (303)445-2683 or email him at dbott@usbr.gov.

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Thoughts from Daniel Picard – New Deputy Regional Director



Greetings from the front office!! As the new Deputy Regional Director here at the UCR, I have been given the opportunity to address you good folks, to give some background on myself and to reflect on my first few months here at the Region. Let me first start by saying.....I am still smiling!! I am enjoying my work here, and my association with all of you, tremendously. I have no doubt that this has been a good personal and career move for myself and my family, and am hopeful that at some point in the future that you too will be able to agree that my moving to the Region was a good thing!!

Both my wife, Angie, and I were born and raised in northern Idaho. We received all our schooling at the University of Idaho, where I received a degree in Political Science, as well as a Juris Doctorate. My early professional career involved water rights and water resources, as well as environmental and natural resources matters. This continued into my early federal career, where I served as a Water Rights Specialist in the Washington, D.C. office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. You might say that I have come "full circle". I am elated to be back in the heart of the west, and involved in water matters once again.

My first few months with Reclamation has been an exciting and learning time, kind of like the old description of "drinking from the fire hose"!! I have had a very warm welcome from all of the Regional and Field staff that I have had the opportunity to meet and work with, so far. The Region, as you well know, is and will be involved in many important matters related to water management within the Colorado River Basin. There have been rumblings from the public and press, of late, questioning the utility and efficiency of our agency. However, I would assure you that our role and mission in the management of water resources within the arid west, have never been more important! We maintain an experienced, professional, and vibrant group of employees who very much value their responsibilities as public servants for the country and its resources and people. I have been impressed, and am sure will continue to be so, with the level of commitment and professionalism. We all can be very proud of the work that you do!!

Looking to the future, I would only suggest that we not allow ourselves to become complacent in our day to day activities. As we move through varying issues and severity of drought, public scrutiny, and the like, it is ever more important for we as an agency to work to ensure success in our efforts. Whether we are involved in the construction of new projects, the operating and maintenance of existing, water flows and management, power generation, protection of the nation's resources, or the administration of contracts, personnel actions, and paperwork to effectuate all of this, we should remember that "water" touches everything, and everyone, in our lives. THAT, is why I have so enjoyed working in the "water" arena in the past, and why I am now reinvigorated for the future!!

At the risk of sounding a bit "cheesy", and assuring you that no one has put me up to expressing this.....we all work for a great agency, and we should be appreciative of our opportunity to make a difference!!

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Who's New

David Stoliker

David Stoliker, Civil Engineer, Four Corners Construction Office



What brought me to Reclamation was the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project attracted me from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

My special interests are utility engineering, construction management, project management, especially scheduling, and budgeting. My talents I'd like to share would be problem solving. My hobbies include fishing, hunting, hiking, gardening, traveling, and cooking. My favorite author is Michael Crichton. My favorite genre of movies are action and science fiction. A television character I simply adore would have to be Spock and Spongebob Squarepants. My taste in music is blues and rock and roll. I'm currently taking piano lessons. My favorite activity would have to be riding roller coasters.

If I had one word to describe myself, it would be kind. I have a wife (Maggie) of 30 years and three kids, Kirsten, Sarah and Elizabeth and one grandson, Fred.

My favorite motto is, "You get what you give."

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Ryan Gladden

Ryan Gladden, Civil Engineer, Four Corners Construction Office



What brought me to Reclamation was my interest in the current projects and career opportunities.

Some things about me are, enjoy music, movies, gaming, sports, reading, camping, and backpacking. I enjoy playing guitar and singing poorly. My hobbies are guitar, violin, backpacking/hiking, and gaming. My favorite place is in the mountains and my favorite holiday is Christmas.

I speak English and Portuguese. My favorite book/authors are Lovecraft, Orson Scott Card, Stephen King. I enjoy narrative nonfiction a great deal. My favorite genre of movies/books are Science fiction, suspense, narrative nonfiction for books and movies. A good comedy is always



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welcome as well.

I have a beautiful wife named DelSheree Gladden, an eleven year old boy named Everett, and an eight year old girl named Abigail.

“All of us get lost in the darkness, dreamers learn to steer by the stars.” – Rush – OR - “I’d rather be a hammer than a nail.” – Simon and Garfunkle

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Christopher Colgan

Christopher Colgan, Civil Engineer, Dam Safety Group, Albuquerque Area Office.



Chris, our new “dam guy,” is relocating from the Bureau of Reclamation’s Nebraska-Kansas Area Office, Great Plains Region, in McCook, Nebraska, where he worked for the past 2½ years. There, he worked in Water Operations; most of his work involved remotely overseeing and operating dam gates. Chris also spent four years in the Air Force, and then went to school to get his bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering.

Chris lived outside of Denver for part of his childhood and spent some time visiting Albuquerque, so he’s familiar with New Mexico and the Albuquerque area. His family later moved to Arkansas.

Chris is happy to be at the Albuquerque Area Office.

“It seems like there are more opportunities here,” he says. He is also looking forward to an upcoming Facility Review Workshop training at Hoover Dam at the end of April. Chris is planning to go to graduate school at the University of New Mexico and hopes to get his Master’s Degree in Water Resources.

Chris’s hobbies include anything outdoors; hiking, water sports, and white water rafting are favorite activities.

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Patricia Snyder

Pat Snyder, Realty Specialist, Major Projects Division, Albuquerque Area Office.



Pat Snyder is the new Realty Specialist in our office. She has been a part of Reclamation before, as recently as 2009, at the Ephrata, Washington Field Office, where she worked on the Columbia Basin Project and the Weber Siphon Project, an ARRA project under it. These projects were similar to AAMODT in complexity and scope. Pat then moved to the U.S. Forest Service office in Vancouver, Washington in 2012 where she worked as a Title Specialist and Land Law Examiner; the Forest Service breaks Realty Specialist positions into two specialties. She managed and administered case files for all of Oregon and worked directly with the

Office of the General Counsel preparing preliminary and final title opinions, a part of the job that she deeply enjoyed.

Earlier in her career, Pat worked with a utility company, Maricopa County, and with the title industry in Phoenix, Arizona, including with the Salt River Project as a land consultant. The Salt River Project is the administrator of Reclamation water operations in the Phoenix area.

When the Realty Specialist position opened up in the Major Projects Division, Pat decided to apply. She liked working for Reclamation, particularly on complicated pipeline projects, and had never been to Albuquerque, although she liked the desert southwest. Pat missed interacting with landowners and the face to face contact with various stakeholders from her previous work at Reclamation.

Pat has a daughter, Jessica Lea Nedzweckas, who is a Chief in the United States Navy. Jessica, who manages the three fuel terminals at the Sasebo Defense Fuel Supply Point, her husband Tim, a welder on the USS Patriot minesweeper, and their daughter, Riley Ann, 3, live in Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan.

Pat has enjoyed her time in Albuquerque so far, and has gone on many walks with her nine-year old Boxer, Giselle. In her free time she enjoys cooking and gardening.

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In Transition

Gerald Kasman (GP Region)



Gerald Kasman was born in Sacramento, Calif., on June 2, 1925, the son of Henry Kasman and Flora (Graue) Kasman. Gerry passed away on March 24, 2015, in Billings.

The family moved to Missouri in 1929 and started farming there in 1930. Gerry's schooling began in the one-room, one-teacher, all-eight-grades Science Hill School, ¼ mile east of the farm. Loss of the farm in 1932 led to a move to Milo, Mo. Henry later found work in Montana in 1933. The family followed in 1934 — a rail trip long remembered by the boys. After a brief stay in California, they all moved back to Helena — a city that was to be HOME for many years.

Gerry graduated from Helena High School in 1942 and then entered Montana State University in Bozeman. As with so many others, military service entered the picture, and Private Gerald Kasman began Army Air Force training late in 1943. He flew light, then heavy bombers (all in Kansas and Texas) leaving the service as a B-29 pilot late in 1945. Going back to Bozeman in 1946, it soon became apparent that the job market would be crowded with veterans, and an opening with a Mountain Bell construction crew was gratefully accepted. This led to retirement after somewhat over 36 years and encompassed work in Baker, Red Lodge, and Great Falls, and included perhaps the most important meeting of his life when he met Bess. He was working on her telephone system at the Bureau of Reclamation in Billings. The mutual attraction grew into marriage on June 18, 1955 and they celebrated 51 GREAT years together in 2006, a stretch of time interrupted by Bess' passing on Oct. 25 of that year.

Gerry and Bess attended many Graue family reunions in Missouri over the years. They hosted one in Red Lodge in 1994. Early in September 2007, due to failing health, Gerry attended his final reunion with his nephews, Craig and Doug.

One association brought Bess and Gerry many new friends and a rich store of memories. In January of 1960, he joined the Red Lodge Rotary Club and began a membership, in three clubs, that spanned 48 years. Once they got "hooked" on attending Rotary District Conferences, they attended 35 in Montana. Gerry served as District Governor for Rotary for the State of Montana in the 1973-74 year. Bess accompanied him on his visits to all 29 clubs. They also attended eight International Conventions of Rotary, including two in Canada and two in Australia.

Gerry was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Bess, and his brother, Marion. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Ruby Lee Kasman of Helena, Montana, and by his two nephews; Craig Kasman of Seattle, Washington and Doug Kasman of Friday Harbor, Washington.

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Tom Strain to Retire



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On March 31, 2015, Tom Strain, Geologist with the Western Colorado Area Office in Durango, Colo. will retire. Tom started working for the federal government in 1971 as a surveyor aide; he was appointed to the position for six months, but they finished the job in nine days! From 1973 to 1979, Tom served in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear trained electrician's mate on board the USS Drum, a nuclear fast attack submarine. In 1985, Tom started working for the Bureau of Reclamation in the Uinta Basin Construction Office. Since then, he has worked in the Bonneville Construction Office, Durango Projects Office, Animas-La Plata (ALP) Construction Office, and most recently the Western Colorado Area Office, starting in 2006.

During his time with Reclamation, Tom has worked on many projects and studies, some of the most memorable include: constructing the North Fork Siphon and Steinaker Dam Safety Evaluation of Existing Dam Program; performing preconstruction geologic studies on Monks Hollow damsite, Diamond Fork Pipeline, and the ALP Project; documenting conditions during low and high flow testing in the San Juan River, reinforcing the Dolores River bank at Paradox; mapping foundations and monitoring construction activities for the ALP Project; and performing dam and facility inspections and drilling and geologic studies for the WCAO.

During retirement, Tom plans to remodel his house, build a shop, cruise through the Panama Canal, and enjoy his hobbies – silversmithing, camping, and rock collecting and lapidary work. Congrats Tom!

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Harl Noble



On Friday, March 20, Harl Noble passed away peacefully into the loving arms of his Savior, with his wife and children at his side.

He was born on May 11, 1930 to Ira Elias Noble, Jr and Vera LaVene Jorgensen in Logan, Utah and was raised nearby in Smithfield. He attended public schools in Smithfield and Richmond, graduating from North Cache High School in 1948. Loving mathematics, he attended Utah State Agricultural College.



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(USU), graduating the Spring of 1954 in Civil Engineering. His schooling was interrupted by a call to serve His Country in the [Korean War](#) 1950-1952 where he served in the [Army](#). He married his "first crush", Kathleen Anderson, in the Logan Temple on December 19, 1952. Upon completion of college, he began his career in the Bridge Division of the Los Angeles County Roads Department. After changing jobs and moving back to Utah, he went to work for the US Bureau of Reclamation where he retired in 1988 as the Regional Planning officer working on many water projects in Utah and surrounding states.

Harl had a strong testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ and served in many capacities in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints including, counselor in bishopric, stake high councilor, high priest group leader, temple worker and his favorite - LDS Missionary serving in the Laie Hawaii Temple with his beloved wife.

Harl loved observing nature, hiking, long walks and good music, but most of all he enjoyed being around his family and any activities that brought them together.

He is survived by his loving wife, Kathleen; siblings Wayne Noble, Mavis (Donn) Goode, Lois Pettingill; five children, DeAnn (Dean) Foust, Richard (Linda) Noble, Karen (Rick) Shelton, Brian (Tana) Noble, Gaylynn (Darin) Hammond; 24 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Myrvin, Gerald, NaDene, Gladys, and Don "J."

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What Is the Media Saying About Reclamation This Week?

[Briefly](#)

[Utah water year so bad it's 'a dead skunk'](#)

[A look at US Bureau of Reclamation rural water projects](#)

[Senate bill is next step toward Lake Powell pipeline](#)

[E--RIGHT OF WAY \(ROW\) AGENT FOR ALLOTTED LANDSNAVAJO GALLUP WATER S](#)

[Finalists complete for desalination prize, competition underway in southern New Mexico](#)

[Preserving the past](#)

[FRONT RANGE EQUINE RESCUE v. VILSACK LLC LLC LLC LTD](#)

[5 THINGS WE STAND TO LOSE IF A GONDOLA IS BUILT IN THE GRAND CANYON](#)

[RFP: Grant for curatorial services to the State of New Mexico, Department of Cultural Affairs for the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture and, Laboratory of Anthropology \(MIAC\)](#)

[US Contract Notice: Department of the Interior \(Colorado\) Issues Solicitation for "Flaming Gorge Re-wedge of Generator 2 Stator Winding"](#)

[Water Lines: Why the California drought matters to western Colorado](#)



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[Former Federal Dam Manager Tells Utah It's Time to Tear Down Deadbeat Dams](#)

[Gila project unwise use of money, natural resources](#)

[The Navajo Generating Station, a coal-fired powerplant, can be seen near the Colorado River fed Lake Powell outside Page, Arizona](#)

[DWR officials continue monitoring quagga mussels in Deer Creek Reservoir](#)

[Photo inspires an idea for Ridges Basin](#)

[Colorado fisheries experts working to rebuild kokanee salmon fishery in Blue Mesa Reservoir](#)

[Water Future – KASA-ABQ \[FOX\] \(Video\)](#)

[Water Lines: Snowpack still low in Colorado; Lake Powell inflows below average](#)

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Canon Largo Morning by Robert Stump

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Reclamation Trivia

Here's this week's set of questions:

1. Brent holds a bachelor's degree in _____ from Utah State University and is a registered _____ in the State of Utah.
2. Echo Dam, part of the _____, is a zoned earthfill structure located about six miles north of _____, Utah.
3. The concept of conducting an Active Shooter tabletop exercise was spawned following an All-Employees Meeting in which the training video developed by the City of Houston titled, “ _____ ” was shown.

Last week, We asked,

1. In 1830, Michael Faraday of England discovered that when a coil of wire was moved near a magnet, the magnet induced a current of electricity in the wire.
2. The pumping plant is located on the San Juan Lateral in west central New Mexico, approximately 10 miles north of Gallup. The contract was awarded to Moltz Constructors, Inc. on April 1, 2014, for \$19.6 million.
3. These rainstorms carried over 1,200 kilo tons of sand into the Grand Canyon via the Paria River below Glen Canyon Dam.

Last winner was – Betty Reed – Upper Colorado Regional Office

Please use this [link to send your answers](#). To be fair we will draw names from the winners and one person will receive a prize. We will reach into the prize bin for something suitable for the winner...as long as supplies last.

[Return to UC Today](#)



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