

Awards Criteria for BLM Natural Resources Career Achievement, Emerging Leader, and BLM/USFS Joint Conservation Partner/Project Awards

Linda Siebert Career Achievement Award

This award recognizes a current or retired Bureau of Land Management (BLM) employee who has significantly contributed to the conservation of fish, wildlife, and/or botanic resources over the course of their career. Any outstanding BLM botanist, fisheries or aquatic biologist, wildlife biologist, state office program lead, or manager is eligible to receive this award. State directors are encouraged to nominate individuals for recognition.

The *Linda Siebert Career Achievement Award* recognizes a BLM biologist or manager who exemplifies the characteristics and professional dedication of one of BLM's finest biologists. Linda passed away on May 31, 2000, at the age of 53, leaving an indelible legacy on the wildlife resources of the desert southwest through her 22-year career with the BLM. Individuals who had the privilege to know and work with Linda, including co-workers in the BLM, professional wildlife biologists in other agencies, teachers, sportsmen and women, and private citizens, all found themselves in the presence of a truly special person.

Linda's love and passion for the outdoors translated into a tireless advocacy for habitat protection and restoration. Her strong commitment to public service and focus on the public good was reflected in her tireless efforts to build bridges between agencies, non-governmental organizations, community groups, and private citizens interested in public lands management. Linda was an active problem solver who focused on non-confrontational ways to get things done by working through or around problems that might otherwise stand in the way. Linda's technical skill and genuine desire to do the right thing for the resources and the public, allowed her to resolve conflicts and turn them into positive, lasting outcomes.

Emphasis will be given to nominees that have:

- Developed strong working relationships with other individuals or organizations.
- Made consistent contributions to natural resources.
- Had a long-term natural resources career (20+ years).
- Accomplished work through innovation and creativity.
- Established and developed partnerships throughout their career.

The nomination packages should include:

- Name and title of nominee.
- Current position or address.
- Summary of achievements.
- Nominator's contact information.

Justification statements should include examples of:

- Career accomplishments.
- Professional experience, recognition, and dedication.
- How the nominee uses ingenuity to accomplish natural resource goals.

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Please limit all nominations to two pages. Nominations must be submitted to Geoff Walsh, Wildlife Biologist, at gwalsh@blm.gov **no later than January 11, 2016.**

The *Linda Siebert Career Achievement Award* will be presented at the joint Bureau of Land Management/Forest Service (BLM/FS) Awards Reception at the 81st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania during the week of March 13-18, 2016.

Jim Yoakum Emerging Professional Award

This award is named in honor of BLM's first wildlife biologist and recognizes an early to mid-career, BLM wildlife biologist or fisheries biologist who has demonstrated a high level of professionalism, leadership, and commitment to managing wildlife and fisheries on public lands.

Jim Yoakum was hired by the BLM in 1958 to be the agency's first wildlife biologist. He was a World War II veteran who used the GI Bill to obtain his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Wildlife Management. He was brought in as part of an effort to increase the number of college graduates within the agency.

In the years before the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Endangered Species Act, Jim Yoakum worked to protect and manage wildlife resources while laying the foundation for BLM's wildlife program. He was an unrelenting advocate for professionalism and the use of best science in the field of wildlife management. During the course of his career, Jim published numerous articles in both the scientific and popular literature. He was a teacher and mentor to dozens of young biologists. Jim Yoakum believed that an effective wildlife biologist needed to participate in professional organizations; as well as, work effectively with the public and other professionals.

The *Jim Yoakum Emerging Professional Award* recognizes the accomplishment of early to mid-career BLM wildlife or fisheries biologists who have shown the initiative to make notable contributions to their profession. The award is presented to a current early to mid-career (first 10 years of employment) wildlife or fisheries biologists whose leadership, projects, or programs have been recognized by others as advancing the goals of improving or conserving wildlife and fisheries resources.

Nominations should describe how the nominee has demonstrated exceptional dedication to resolving complex or controversial wildlife management or conservation issues. Nominees should also possess outstanding communication skills and a proven track record of productive working relationships with other federal/state agencies and stakeholders.

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Nominees should have demonstrated active participation at local, regional, or national levels in appropriate professional societies, such as The Wildlife Society, The American Fisheries Society, Ecological Society of America, and Society for Conservation Biology.

Nominations will be accepted from:

- State Directors
- Other Agencies
- Professional Societies
- Non-Governmental Organizations

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The *Jim Yoakum Emerging Professional Award* will be presented at the joint BLM/FS Awards Reception at the *81st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference* in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania during the week of March 13-18, 2016.

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BLM/FS Joint Conservation Project Award

This annual award recognizes development and implementation of a joint BLM/FS project with outstanding conservation accomplishments for fish, wildlife, and/or native plants and their habitat on public lands, and/or facilitates their use, enjoyment or appreciation. The project's scale can be at either a local, regional, or national level.

Emphasis will be given to projects that:

- Have demonstrated (through a BLM and FS partnership) unique or innovative approaches and/or work to promote public understanding of cooperative conservation.
- Will work at a watershed or regional scale.
- Are multi-year in scope.
- Involve creative or multiple partnerships.
- Have high conservation value.
- Meet both BLM/FS resource conservation priorities.

The nomination package should include:

- Name and location of the project.
- Title and contact information for the BLM/FS personnel responsible for project.
- Summary of what the project accomplished and its significance for wildlife, fish, and/or native plants and their habitats.
- Description of how the project strengthened interagency coordination.
- Description of the interagency collaborative effort that benefited the species and habitat.
- Nominator's contact information.

Please limit all nominations to two pages. Nominations must be submitted to Geoff Walsh, Wildlife Biologist, at gwalsh@blm.gov **no later than January 11, 2016.**

The Conservation Project Award will be presented at the joint BLM/FS Awards Reception at the *81st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference* in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, during the week of March 13-18, 2016.

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BLM/FS Joint Conservation Partner Award

This annual award recognizes an organization or individual representing a conservation organization for their outstanding leadership in the development and implementation of conservation programs and activities that have directly benefited fish, wildlife, and/or native plants on public lands or their use, enjoyment, and appreciation.

Nominees for this award must have demonstrated sustained dedication, leadership, and commitment to work collaboratively to build partnerships that promote sound land management practices and the conservation of wildlife, fisheries, and/or native plant resources that depend on public lands. Nominee's accomplishments can be at either a local, regional, or national level.

Consideration will be given to nominees who:

- Have had a long-standing (four or more years) partnership with the BLM and FS.
- Have a demonstrated track record of cooperative conservation successes.
- Are recognized leaders in the conservation field and use unique or innovative approaches.
- Work to promote the public's understanding of cooperative conservation.

The nomination package should include:

- Name, title and organization of the nominee.
- Current position or address.
- Nominator's contact information.
- Summary of achievements.
- Any other appropriate information.

Please limit all nominations to two pages. Nominations must be submitted to Geoff Walsh, Wildlife Biologist, at gwalsh@blm.gov **no later than January 11, 2016.**

The Conservation Partner Award will be presented at the joint BLM/FS Awards Reception at the *81st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference* in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, during the week of March 13-18, 2016.