

San Juan Public Lands People

Fall 2011

Service First Changes in Southwestern Colorado

To our valued employees, retirees, partners and stakeholders:

As you may have heard, effective October 1, 2011, the San Juan Public Lands Center discontinued dual delegation of managers. Please know that the BLM and Forest Service will continue to work together to manage public lands in Southwest Colorado as seamlessly as possible and provide “one stop shopping” for the public as we have in the past. The only difference you may see is that separate manager approvals may be necessary for activities on BLM and National Forest lands.

The San Juan National Forest remains headquartered at the San Juan Public Lands Center, with Ranger District Offices in Pagosa Springs, Bayfield and Dolores. The BLM will move some staff to the Dolores Public Lands Office, where the new Tres Rios Field Office (named for the Animas, Dolores and San Juan rivers) is headquartered.

BLM employees will be concentrated in Dolores because approximately 550,000 of the BLM’s 680,000 acres in Southwest Colorado are located in proximity to Dolores. About one half of the BLM workforce will remain stationed at the San Juan Public Lands Center in Durango, but BLM employees will not work out of the Columbine Ranger District in Bayfield or Pagosa Ranger District in Pagosa Springs.

- Bill Dunkelberger is Acting BLM Tres Rios Field Manager at Dolores until January, when Connie Clementson will take over (*see inside stories*).
- Brad Dodd is BLM Tres Rios Associate Field Manager for Lands and Minerals stationed in Durango.
- Tom Rice is BLM Tres Rios Assistant Manager for Natural, Cultural and Social Resources stationed in Dolores.
- Marietta Eaton remains Canyons of the Ancients/Anasazi Heritage Center Manager in Dolores and reports to the BLM Tres Rios Field Manager.
- Mark Stiles remains San Juan National Forest Supervisor, with three District Rangers - Kevin Khung at Pagosa Springs, Matt Janowiak at Columbine in Bayfield and Mark Lambert, Acting Ranger at Dolores.

This newsletter will continue to include news on both USFS and BLM employees who work out of our offices here in southwestern Colorado. Should you need further clarification on how these changes may affect your relationship with either agency, please contact us.



Sincerely,
Mark Stiles, San Juan National Forest Supervisor
Bill Dunkelberger, Acting BLM Tres Rios Field Office Manager



PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



Dave and Kelly Honored

DURANGO - Dave Gerhardt, San Juan NF Fishery Biologist, and Kelly Palmer, San Juan NF Hydrologist, recently received the Secretary of Agriculture's Honor Award for resource protection. They were recognized for their work with the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) and Rocky Mountain Region as part of the Tacoma Hydropower Trial Team.

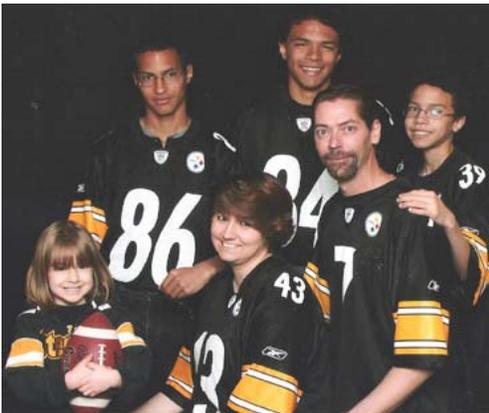
The group award was given to 14 members of the USFS Trial Team, led by OGC Attorney Lois Witte. The award acknowledges the Team's success in "developing an outstanding legal precedent on behalf of the USFS, in USDA's first-ever administrative hearing under the Energy Policy Act of 2005."

Dave and Kelly served as expert witnesses, addressing the impacts to aquatic resources of the Tacoma Hydropower Project, which diverts water from Cascade Creek on the Columbine Ranger District. Studies they conducted during a six-year relicensing process and their expert witness testimonies were key to the Forest Service's success during the legal hearings. As a result, mini-

imum instream flows must now be maintained in Cascade Creek, providing improved aquatic habitat for fish populations and increased recreational opportunities.

The USDA has given out honor awards annually for the past 65 years. Dave and Kelly's award came under the category of "Ensuring National Forests and private working lands are conserved, restored and made more resilient to climate change, while enhancing water resources."

- Ann Bond



Tonya is New Fleet Manager

DURANGO - Tonya Bierly is the new San Juan NF Fleet Manager managing vehicles and equipment for the Forest Service. She comes from Washington State, where she recently retired from the Air Force.

Tonya was a Technical Sergeant in the 92nd Logistics Readiness Squadron and also served as a non-commissioned officer in charge of fleet management and as squadron safety management support staff.

Tonya is finishing up classes with Carrington College in Spokane, Washington, and plans to complete her certification soon. She enjoys reading, fishing and gardening. She and husband, Mike, also a retired Air Force Veteran, have four children - Denzel, 18; Patrick, 17; Terrence, 14, and Michaela, 5. The family also includes Steeler, an English Mastiff; Lizzie, a Great Pyrenees; and bunny Butterscotch. As the photo suggests, they are all Steelers fans.

- Ann Bond



Craig is Acting FMO

DURANGO - Craig Goodell, San Juan Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist, is the new Acting Fire Management Officer for the San Juan NF. Craig will be working out of the PLC to coordinate and administer the Fire Management Program for both the San Juan NF and BLM Tres Rios Field Office.

Craig's career on the San Juan dates back to 1986, when he started as a seasonal Forestry Technician on the former Animas RD. He then worked as a seasonal Range Tech on the former Pine, later Columbine RD, before heading to the White River NF to take a permanent assignment as Range Technician on the Eagle RD.

Craig was back on the Columbine RD by 1998, first as Range Technician, then Assistant and Zone Fire Management Officer. In 2008, he became BLM Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist for the San Juan Public Lands Center.

Craig holds a Bachelors degree from Fort Lewis College in Business Administration and a Masters in Forestry/Fire Ecology from Colorado State University.

- Ann Bond

PUBLIC LANDS CENTER NEWS



Bill Lands State BLM Position

DURANGO - Bill Dunkelberger, San Juan National Forest Deputy Supervisor/BLM Associate Center Manager since 2008, has been named BLM Colorado Eco-regional Specialist. He'll be working for the State Office out of the PLC here in Durango. In his new position, Bill will handle climate change, eco-regional assessments, and serve as the energy efficiency coordinator for BLM Colorado.

Bill is currently serving as the Acting BLM Tres Rios Field Manager and National Service First Coordinator. Prior to his tenure on the San Juan, he was BLM Bishop Field Office Manager in California, GMUG Norwood RD Recreation Manager and Arapaho National Recreation Area Manager in Granby.

I'll be focusing on enhancing climate change understanding, developing mitigation and adaptation strategies, facilitating BLM leadership in eco-regional resource assessments and achieving energy efficiencies," Bill says. "I'm also happy to continue as the Acting BLM Manager, working with our outstanding Tres Rios and San Juan NF employees, and helping to transition with the new field office manager, Connie Clementson."

- Ann Bond



Stacy gets BLM Budget Job

DURANGO - Stacy Jordan, BLM Property and Fleet Management Assistant for the past three years, is the new BLM Southwest District Budget Analyst. Until now, Stacy has been working out of the PLC but is now handling her new duties out of the Dolores Public Lands Office and BLM Southwest District Office in Montrose.

Stacy's first position at the PLC was as BLM Property and Fleet Management Assistant in 2008. She came to the San Juan from Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she was a BLM Investigative Technician and, prior to that, a Secretary. She had worked previously in Moab, Utah, as a BLM Information Receptionist and Recreation Aid.

"I'm very proud of my friendships I made on the San Juan," Stacy says.

- Ann Bond

Tina Handling BLM NEPA

DURANGO - Tina Kincaid is the new BLM National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator for the Tres Rios Field Office working out of the PLC until May, then moving to the Dolores Public Lands Office. She'll be handling NEPA administration and analysis for BLM projects.

Tina's federal career began in 2003 as a Wilderness Ranger on the White River NF. She went on to serve as an Engine Crewmember on the White River NF and Dakota Prairie Grasslands, and later on the USFS Pike Hotshot Crew. Before moving to the San Juan, she was a Range Specialist through the Student Career Employment Program in the BLM Kremmling Field Office. She also completed a detail in the Solicitor's Office.

Tina holds a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Studies and Natural Resource Management from North Dakota State University, and a Master's degree in Environment Natural Resources from the University of Wyoming Law School Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources.

She and husband Justin, San Juan Hazardous Fuels Specialist, have a daughter, Hayden, 9 months, and two family dogs, Einstein and Spencer.

- Ann Bond



Shawn is New LEO

BAYFIELD - Shawn Cave is the new Law Enforcement Officer for the Columbine and Pagosa Districts. Shawn will be working out of the Columbine Office but covering both districts to enforce federal laws, regulations and rules on National Forest lands.

Shawn has been with the National Park Service since 2002, where he started out as a seasonal law enforcement officer at Yellowstone NP. After seasonal work at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, he was a permanent member of South Rim Patrol at Grand Canyon NP. In 2007 Shawn moved to Yosemite NP as a Law Enforcement Ranger. During his NPS career, he was a Field Training Officer and served on Special Response Teams.

Shawn also owned and operated a horseshoeing business for eight years and served in the U.S. Navy as a digital computer technician for the Terrier Missile Complex on board the U.S.S. Harry E. Yarnell out of Norfolk, Virginia.

Shawn holds certificates from the Navy in electronics and digital electronics, graduated from the Minnesota School of Horseshoeing and holds certificates in Advanced Resource Protection and Archeological Resource Protection. He is also a Basic Emergency Medical Technician-Basic through the National Registry.

"I consider this position to be a high-point achievement in my career and have worked long and hard to get here," he says. "It's going to be a pleasure being a part of the Columbine and Pagosa teams."
- Ann Bond



Heather is New in Dispatch

DURANGO - Heather Cave is the new BLM Fire Logistics Dispatcher in the Durango Interagency Fire Dispatch Center in the Public Lands Center handling logistical and administrative support functions.

Since 2004, Heather has worked for the National Park Service as an Emergency Dispatcher and Assistant Center Manager for Law Enforcement in Yosemite National Park.

Prior that, she spent 15 years working at the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon, as an interpreter and zookeeper. She has also worked as an instructor at an environmental learning center in Minnesota, and has been a lifeguard, volunteer Emergency Medical Technician on an ambulance crew and member of a county search and rescue team.

Heather studied General Education and Wilderness Management, and holds a Bachelor's independent degree incorporating biological, communication and English to create an "interpretive" degree.

She enjoys kayaking, photography, reading, exploring. Husband Shawn enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, ocean kayaking, and motorcycle riding.

"I look forward to learning new skills and rounding out those that I possess and to see where this new path takes me," Heather says.
- Ann Bond



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COLUMBINE NEWS



Rock structures of varied size in were placed in the stream channel.

Next summer this section will be treated again and restocked with native cutthroats. In the third year of the project, another barrier will be built at the confluence of Hermosa and East Hermosa creeks to allow for chemical treatment on the final section and restocking with native trout.

When completed, Colorado River cutthroat trout will inhabit more than 20 miles of the Hermosa Creek drainage. The goal is to create a sustainable wild population to provide for long-term survival of the species.

Wildlife biologists identified the Hermosa Creek area as a prime spot for restoration about 20 years ago. In 1992, a similar project restored native cutthroats on four miles of the creek's upper East Fork.

- Ann Bond

Helping Hermosa Creek

DURANGO - The San Juan NF and Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife have teamed to improve fish habitat and restore native trout in Hermosa Creek north of Durango. This fall, the USFS rehabilitated an eroded one-mile stretch between Hotel Draw and the confluence with the East Fork.

Heavy equipment moved sandstone and limestone boulders into the stream channel in random clusters. Disturbed soils will be reseeded with a native grass mixture.

Also this season, the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife began work on a project to restore native Colorado River cutthroat trout to nine miles of Hermosa Creek. The first step was to kill non-native fish, mostly brook trout, in an upstream section above a constructed waterfall.



Stream function was restored by creating deep, shaded pools where trout can find refuge during critical low flows.



A 156-foot steel girder is put in place by a giant crane to span the spillway.

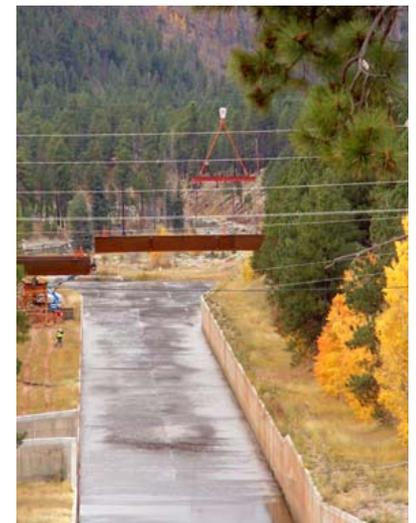
Vallecito Bridge Taking Shape

DURANGO - The San Juan NF is working below Vallecito Dam this fall to construct a bridge that will connect in the future to a road leading from County Road 501 to Forest Road 603. Phase 1 of the project includes an intersection and deceleration lane at CR 501. This portion and the bridge are expected to be completed next summer.

Phase 2 will see a paved road constructed to replace the current narrow road across the top of the dam, which is weight restricted.

The Bureau of Reclamation completed the environmental analysis for the project in 2004. The BOR owns the reservoir and dam, but the USFS holds the easement for public access.

- Ann Bond



COLUMBINE NEWS



Reveg Effort Stores Carbon

VALLECITO - A multi-year reforestation project begun this fall by the Columbine Ranger District will both revegetate a burned area of the San Juan NF and test the concept of offsets for carbon sequestration.

About half of 1,800 acres burned by the Bear Creek Fire on Middle Mountain in 2003 will be replanted with spruce seedlings over the next three years.

“Part of the burned area is in the Weminuche Wilderness and part is outside in spruce forest that has historically been managed for timber products,” said Columbine Forester Gretchen Fitzgerald. “Only the burned area outside of the Wilderness will be replanted to help the forest recover. The area inside will be allowed to regenerate naturally.”

The first 250 acres was replanted through a partnership agreement between the San Juan NF and the non-profit National Forest Foundation (NFF), with funding from Chevrolet.

The goal is to evaluate how re-vegetation of burned areas can play a role in carbon sequestration and carbon offsets. As the seedlings grow, they will absorb at-

Spruce seedlings were planted by hand on Middle Mountain this fall. Seedlings will stay dormant through winter and be ready to grow in spring when the snow melts. Seedlings were planted nine feet apart in the shade of stumps, dead trees or shrubs.

mospheric carbon, turning it into wood, leaves and other organic matter. Through this process, the growing trees will sequester carbon in long-term storage, lowering the concentration of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, in the atmosphere.

Once the trees grow large enough to sequester carbon, Chevrolet, through a partnership agreement with NFF, will receive carbon offsets for its investment. In the voluntary carbon market, industries that emit greenhouse gases can offset their emissions by funding projects that absorb greenhouse gases or reduce emissions.

Over the next century, as the trees continue to convert carbon into stored organic matter, they will remove an estimated 65,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. An independent third party will monitor growth and carbon sequestration levels every five years. The offsets cannot be sold or traded, and will be retired once accounted for in a climate registry.

- Ann Bond

PAGOSA NEWS

Andy is Retiring



PAGOSA SPRINGS - Andy Montoya, Pagosa Trail Crew Foreman since 2003, is retiring with plans to do a lot of fishing, fixing up of old vehicles, and otherwise staying busy with family and friends.

Andy came to San Juan NF in 1998 from the Rio Grande NF, working in both Developed Recreation and Trails. He began his federal career in 1985 on the Rio Grande's Creede RD.

Andy is one of those “old-school” Forest Service technicians, who is truly a jack-of-all-trades—something that we just don’t see much of anymore. Whether it was trail work, fixing water systems, caring for stock, felling trees, blasting, fighting fires, repairing broken equipment, welding, routing or any other field-related task put before him, Andy always knew what to do and how to do it well.

This, coupled with a huge heart and impeccable work ethic, will leave many on this District missing him tremendously.

Andy plans to enjoy snowmobiling, fixing up old cars, building ... building ... building, and helping care for family and friends in retirement. We wish him all the best.

- Paul Blackman

PAGOSA NEWS



Wilderness Ranger John Morrison and Planning Staff Officer Mark Lambert dismantle portions of the A-frame prior to burning.

The action required Regional Forester approval for administrative use of motorized vehicles within designated Wilderness. The crew received approval to use ATVs for one day to remove non-burnable and non-biodegradable trash via the existing road. This allowed the job to be completed more quickly than packing everything out on horseback.

Metal, appliances, etc. were transported to a waste disposal facility, with a refrigerator removed intact so that no Freon was leaked.

Crew members hiked in with non-motorized ignition equipment to burn the wooden portions of the building and trash. The operation took place in accordance with an approved burn plan and smoke permit. All personnel on site were fully qualified, with safety and medivac plans in place. The District plans to physically close the 4WD road next summer by constructing an earthen berm, installing signs and possibly felling trees across the entrance.



Burning of the cabin took place in accordance with an approved burn plan and smoke permit.

Wilderness Character Restored

PAGOSA SPRINGS - The Pagosa RD burned down an old A-frame cabin found to be in trespass in the South San Juan Wilderness and removed piles of associated trash this fall. The non-historic cabin from the 1950s and 60s had been used in conjunction with mining activities, although no active mining claims exist in the area now.

In the early 1990s, Congress added the area to the South San Juan Wilderness, and the Wilderness boundary was "cherry-stemmed" around a spur road at the lower end of Crater Creek.

In 2008, Pagosa Geographic Information Systems sleuth Mark Roper alerted the District to the fact that the building and more than 900 feet of the 4WD road were actually within the Wilderness boundary, so a plan was developed to burn the structure and remove the associated trash to restore Wilderness character to the area.



The use of ATVs to transport non-burnable trash was allowed on the 4WD drive road for one day only.

Special thanks to Mark Roper for his GIS work, to District Archaeologist Wendy Sutton and crew for completing archaeological clearance, and Mark Lambert and Mark Stiles for helping acquire regional approval.

Thanks also to all the staff - especially Fred Ellis and Jesse Jones - who helped with the cleanup, which restored the Wilderness character of the area.

- Becca Smith, Pagosa District Hydrologist and Minerals Staff

Photos by Pagosa District Staff



Fred Ellis, Pagosa Fuels Technician, drives out some of the trash collected at the scene.

DOLORES NEWS



Mark is Acting District Ranger

DOLORES - San Juan NF Staff Officer Mark Lambert is serving as Acting USFS Dolores District Ranger at the Dolores Public Lands Office temporarily this fall. Mark has been San Juan NF Planning and Public Services Manager since November, 2010. Prior to that, he worked in Arizona as the BLM Ironwood Forest National Monument Manager.

Mark holds a Bachelor's degree in Planning and Resource Management from Brigham Young University and a Master's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana. He will be sharing his time between the Dolores and Durango offices during his temporary assignment.

Mark has been very involved in the Boggy-Glade Travel Management Plan process and the recently released Supplement to the San Juan's joint National Forest/BLM Land Management Plan, which is focused on energy issues in Montezuma and Dolores counties. The San Juan NF hopes to hire a permanent Dolores District Ranger soon.

- Ann Bond



Connie's Back as BLM Tres Rios Manager

DOLORES - Connie Clementson, who served in a temporary role this summer as the joint BLM/USFS manager of the Dolores Public Lands Office, will be back in January as the new BLM Tres Rios Field Office Manager.

About half of the BLM Tres Rios staff will be stationed at the Dolores Public Lands Office, because approximately 550,000 of the BLM's 680,000 acres in Southwest Colorado are located in close proximity to Dolores. Connie will be the direct supervisor of all BLM Tres Rios employees.

Connie has been Grand Valley District Ranger for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison NFs in Grand Junction since 1999, where she has managed 600,000 acres of National Forest, including interagency fire operations shared with the BLM.

She began her USFS career in 1983 on the Bears Ears RD of the Medicine Bow/Routt NFs as a Range Technician. She also worked in recreation, lands, range wildlife, watershed, minerals and special uses on the Med Bow/Routt.

Connie was raised on Colorado's Front Range and holds a Bachelor's degree from Utah State University, with a major in Range and minor in Soils. She and husband, Clayton, have two boys, Cole, 20 and Clay, 18.

- Ann Bond



Kiley is Riding the Range

DOLORES - Kiley Whited is the new BLM Tres Rios Field Office Rangeland Management Specialist, watching over BLM grazing allotments and the Spring Creek Wild Horse Herd Management Area.

Kiley comes from California where he was Rangeland Management Specialist for the BLM Alturas Field Office. He started his federal career in 2003 and has worked seasonally as a biological technician for the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office in Montrose and as a range technician in Montana and Idaho. He also was a Rangeland Management Specialist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Oklahoma.

Kiley is a member of the Society for Range Management and holds a Bachelor's degree in Forestry and Range Resources Management from the University of Montana. He and wife, Ondrea, have a daughter, Cassidy, 8 months, and dogs, Sheba, 11, and Shadow, 3.

"I look forward to working with the Forest Service, working with the wild horse herd, managing range resources from salt desert to alpine tundra, and being back on the Western Slope of Colorado," he says.

- Ann Bond

DOLORES NEWS



Dan Retires

DOLORES - Dan Greene, the San Juan's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Manager, will retire this fall after a USFS career of more than 40 years.

Dan started out as a seasonal working in timber inventory on the Gunnison NF. He then moved to Fort Collins to process timber inventory data as a permanent. His next position was that of Pre-sale Forester on the Hayden RD of the Medicine Bow NF, where he designed timber sales and supervised seasonal crews.

After working in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office as a Timber Planning Inventory Specialist, Dan moved to the San Juan NF in 1993 to support the Integrated Resource Inventory. He was eventually appointed the San Juan NF GIS Coordinator and later expanded those duties to include BLM projects.

Dan worked on several regional and national computer projects over his career, helping to revolutionize the agencies' mapping abilities. He designed, programmed, merged, integrated, migrated and updated several timber program systems for the San Juan, Rocky Mountain Region, other regions and the Washington Office.

Dan also updated the San Juan's tabular database to a spatial database and helped test new programs to summarize basic vegetation data and rewrite software so that no data or functionality was lost in the transition. In addition to serving as the San Juan's FS/BLM GIS team leader, Dan developed most of the maps and GIS analysis for the BLM Canyons of the Ancients Plan. On the side, he provided snowmobile training for employees

"I have seen lots of change in the Forest Service, but it really comes down to the great and dedicated people you work with and are dedicated to their job," Dan says. "I have always had the freedom to be creative in my job, have had great supervisors, and appreciate the agencies' work ethics and fair treatment of employees."

Dan and his wife Sandy plan to continue living in the local area.

- Toni Kelly



Laura Retires

DOLORES - Laura Kochanski, DPLO Resource Assistant and former USFS Archaeologist, has retired due to health issues. Laura began her federal career in the 1980s as a seasonal Archaeological Technician for the Coconino NF and came to the San Juan NF in 1988, first as an Archaeologist in the Supervisors Office and then for the Mancos and Dolores RDs.

Laura also worked for the BLM and National Park Service, and as a contract archaeologist. She was Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Archaeologist for four years, Chief of Resources Management for Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Park in Hawaii, and Archaeologist for the BLM Monticello Field Office.

Laura also worked as a contract archaeologist at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center as a ceramic analyst, for the Museum of Northern Arizona on excavations for the Tucson Aqueduct portion of the Central Arizona Canal Project, and for Northern Arizona University on projects across the Navajo and Hopi Reservations.

Laura says a career highlight was working to protect the cultural resources of the San Juan NF.

"I was responsible for ensuring that forest projects were in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and other cultural resource laws and regulations," she says. "I conducted inventories for USFS projects, wrote reports, administered contracts, prepared NEPA documents, served on ID Teams, and worked closely with staff, contractors, law enforcement, and the State Historic Preservation Office."

Laura says she will miss her coworkers.

"FS and BLM employees are dedicated, hard working, and always more than willing to help their fellow employees when times are difficult for them in their work and personal lives," she says.

Laura is moving back to Hawaii to help regain her health and hopes to take hula lessons and volunteer for projects related to archaeology and the protection and recovery of marine species and resources.

- Ann Bond