

# U.S. Ranger

**careers**



**in BLM...**

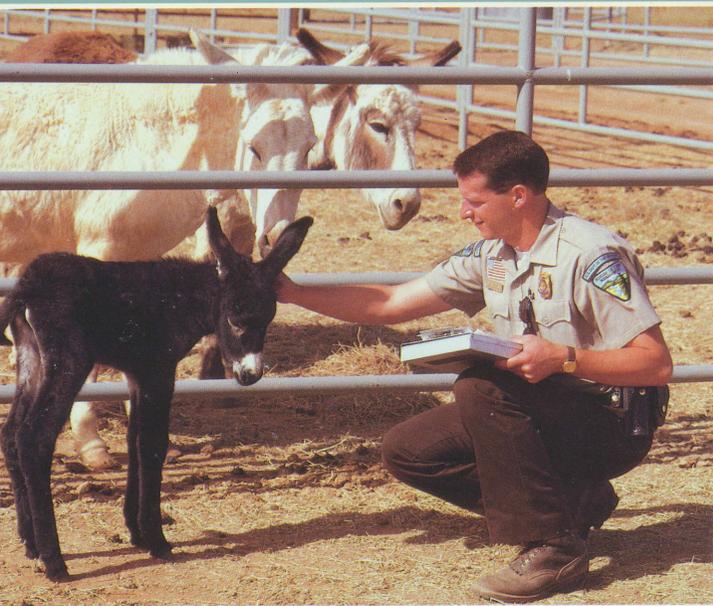
*... enforcing Federal laws and regulations relating to the public lands and resources.*



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

# Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 272 million acres of the Nation's lands, as well as the natural and cultural resources on those lands. The resources are quite diverse, and include recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, wilderness, and natural scenic, scientific, and cultural values. The agency's philosophy is to manage for multiple use and sustained yield, balancing recreational, commercial, scientific, and cultural interests while carefully planning for the long-term protection of both renewable and nonrenewable resources.



## Law Enforcement on Public Lands

Law enforcement is essential for the appropriate management, use, and protection of the public lands and their resources. BLM currently employs over 200 law enforcement personnel Bureauwide. The need for law enforcement personnel continues to grow as current trends indicate a dramatic increase in the number of visitors to and users of public lands and resources.

As uniformed Federal law enforcement officers, BLM rangers:

- enforce Federal laws and regulations governing the public lands and resources
- provide a regular and reoccurring presence over vast amounts of public land
- take appropriate actions when any unauthorized use or illegal activity is detected, including conducting investigations, issuing warnings and citations, and making arrests
- work closely with local, County, and State law enforcement officials
- conduct informational and educational programs
- provide emergency medical aid
- monitor resource conditions
- eliminate hazardous situations

# Requirements

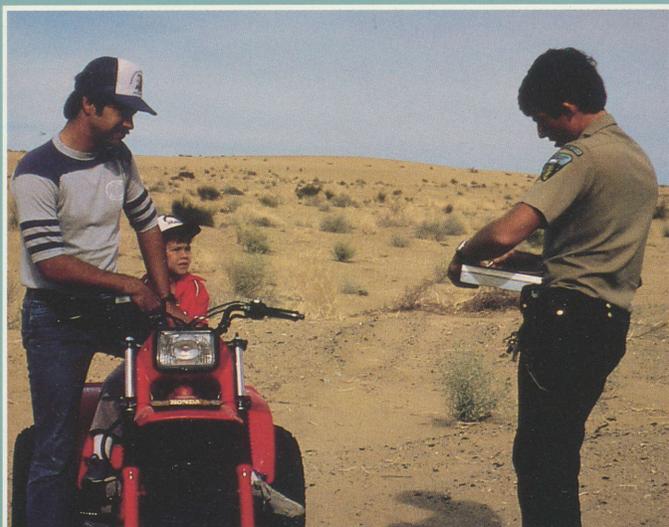
To qualify for a ranger position with BLM, applicants must have a certain amount of experience and/or education:

- Trainee Level (GS-5):  
3 years of general experience that demonstrates the ability to analyze problems and recognize solutions, plan and organize work, and communicate effectively orally and in writing (experience of a general, clerical nature such as typing, filing, routine procedural processing, and maintaining records, is not qualifying),  
*or*  
completion of a 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree
- Intermediate Level (GS-7):  
1 year of specialized experience that directly relates to law enforcement/compliance work,  
*or*  
completion of 1 year of graduate level education directly related to law enforcement/compliance work, or 1 year of law school; or superior academic achievement at the undergraduate level
- Full Performance Level (GS-9):\*  
2 years of specialized experience,  
*or*

completion of 2 years of graduate level education or a master's degree directly related to law enforcement/compliance work; or completion of a bachelor of laws (LL.B.) or doctor of laws (J.D.) degree

For the intermediate and full performance levels, applicants must also demonstrate an acceptable knowledge of a natural resource management or social science field, such as range conservation, outdoor recreation, archaeology, history, or a field-oriented biological science.

*\* All applicants selected below the full performance level (GS-9) may be promoted noncompetitively to the next level upon successfully meeting performance and qualifications requirements.*

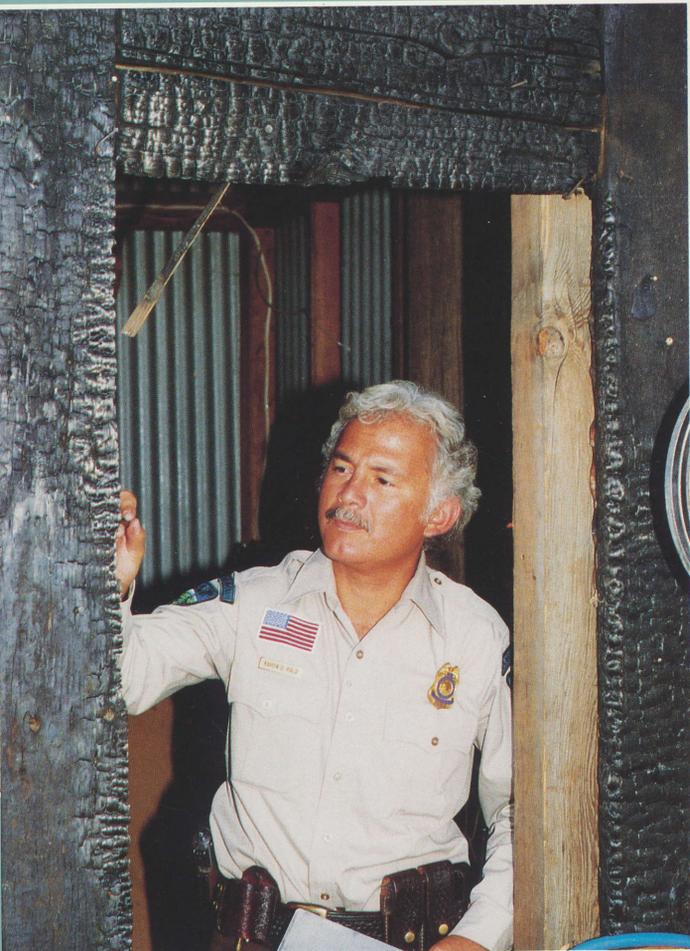


# Conditions of Employment

All BLM rangers must meet certain conditions of employment, such as:

- passing the physical efficiency battery at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), both initially and at annual in-service training (non-Federal candidates must pass an entry physical examination)

- successfully completing a special background investigation and subsequent updates
- successfully completing a urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use
- completing a minimum of 40 hours of annual law enforcement training, a field training program, and an introductory course in BLM law enforcement and resource protection
- passing a firearms qualification, both initially and once every 6 months



## How to Apply

Ranger positions are normally advertised and filled by the BLM offices within the state in which the vacancy occurs. BLM has offices throughout the Western States and Alaska.

Applicants should contact the nearest BLM office for information on ranger vacancies, BLM's law enforcement program, or the application process in general. The Office of Personnel Management or the local Federal Job Information Center may also have information on BLM vacancies.

BLM vacancy announcements typically will provide the necessary steps for applicants to follow in preparing and submitting an Application for Federal Employment (SF-171) and any other supplemental information required. Announcements also provide an opening and closing date for when applications will be accepted, a brief description of what the job entails, and the address of where to send the application and appropriate supplemental material.

For information on BLM careers in general, please contact BLM's National Recruiting Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7076, or call (303) 239-3688.

## Other Law Enforcement Opportunities

BLM also employs special agents who work closely with rangers on a regular basis. Like rangers, special agents enforce Federal laws and regulations pertaining to public lands and resources, and work closely with Federal, State, and local agencies. Special agents carry firearms, make arrests, prepare investigative reports, present cases to the U.S. Attorneys for prosecution, and give testimony in judicial and administrative proceedings. While rangers are responsible for patrol and short-term investigations, special agents conduct long-term investigations. Ranger experience may qualify applicants for special agent positions.



## Benefits

As Federal employees, BLM rangers are eligible for many benefits, including:

- Vacation and sick leave
- Life and health insurance
- Retirement program
- Training
- Advancement opportunities

And most BLM offices are located in small towns — away from the crowds of the big city. Rangers get to work outdoors in a fun and exciting environment for an agency that manages more land and resources than any other. Learning about the diversity of these resources can be personally rewarding, and safeguarding them can be a great challenge. But perhaps the greatest benefit for BLM rangers is the sense of pride and accomplishment that comes with protecting the Nation's natural and cultural resources for the enjoyment of future generations.