



NASLR
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

Summer 2016

<http://www.naslr.org>



We are a group that is “Moving Forward.”

Sam Faith 2016 NASLR President



Join Forces Now With Other State Reclamationists

The 44th Annual NASLR Conference will be Sept 25-28, 2016 in Bozeman MT.

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Policies” for review **Back Cover**

Follow us to

BOZEMAN

MONTANA



For the 44th Annual NASLR Conference

September 25-28, 2016

In conjunction with the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) at the **GranTree Inn in Bozeman, Montana**

Photo By: Janet Yates

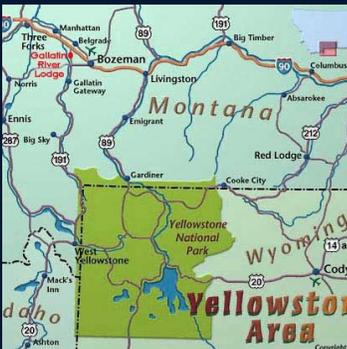
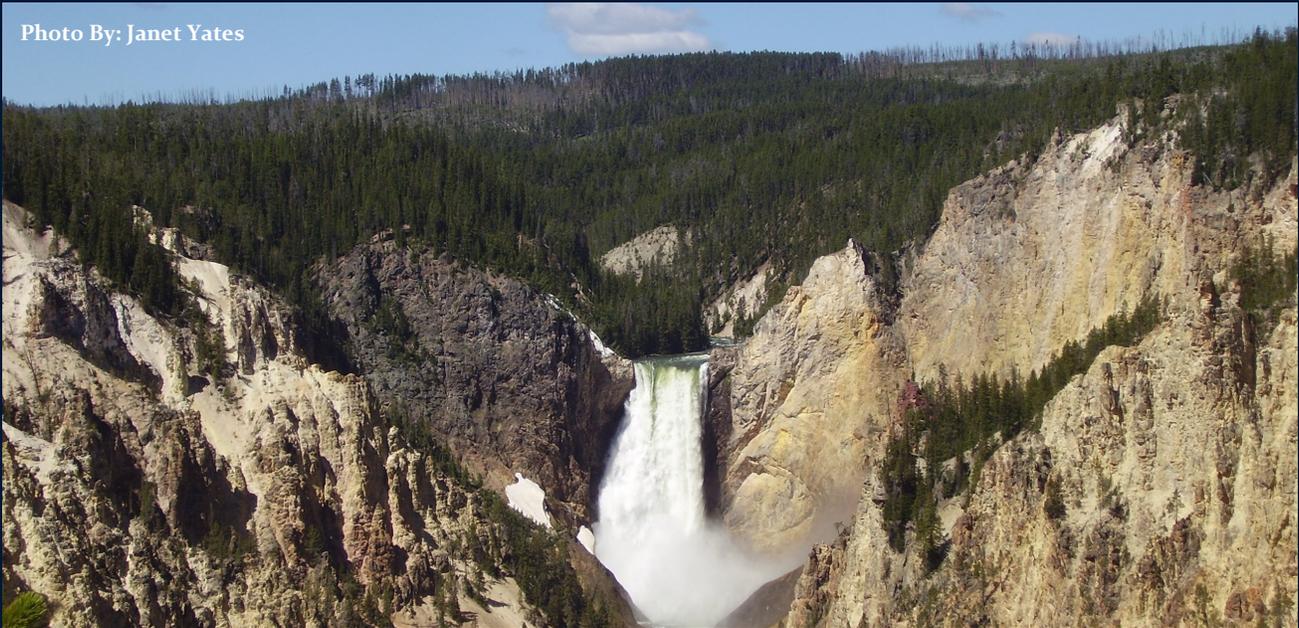




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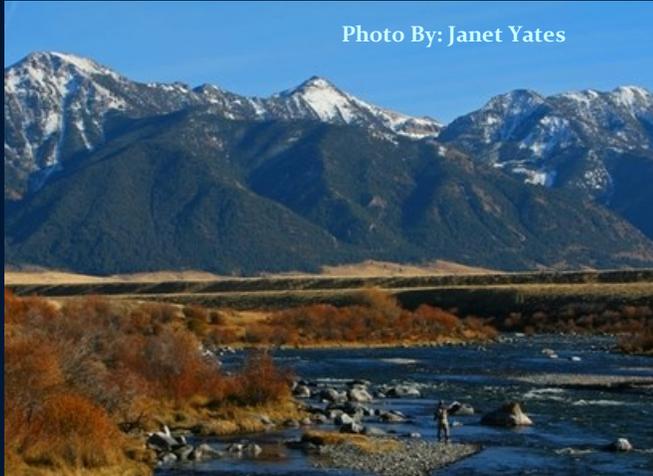


Photo By: Janet Yates

Have you registered
for the 2016
Conference ?



To register please go
to the 2016 NAAML
Conference
Registration website
[\(click here\)](#).

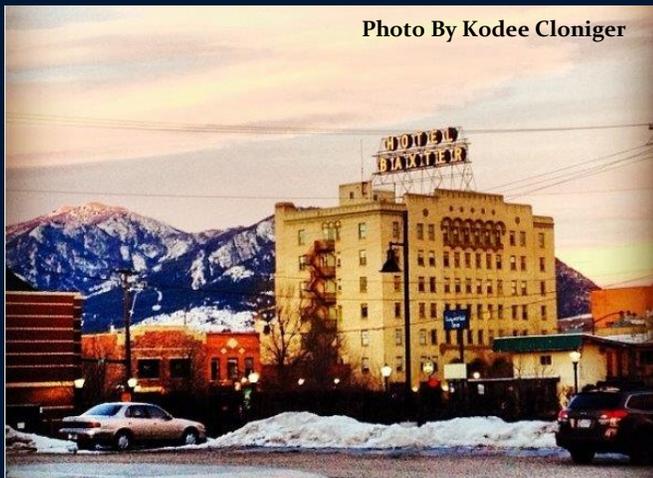


Photo By Kodee Cloniger

Accommodations Information

BOZEMAN MONTANA

NASLR has reserved rooms at four area hotels and we strongly suggest you make your reservations as early as possible to ensure you get the accommodations you need for the conference.

The GranTree Inn is almost booked so if you want a room at the conference hotel don't delay. The Holiday Inn next door is offering the same great low rates. The overflow hotels are located immediately adjacent to the GranTree. Make sure to mention the code NAAML P when reserving your room. Each of the hotels offers a free shuttle service from the Bozeman airport to their facility.

**Best Western GranTree Inn
1325 N 7th Ave, Bozeman, MT
59715**

(406) 587-5261-Ask for Kayla

Holiday Inn Bozeman

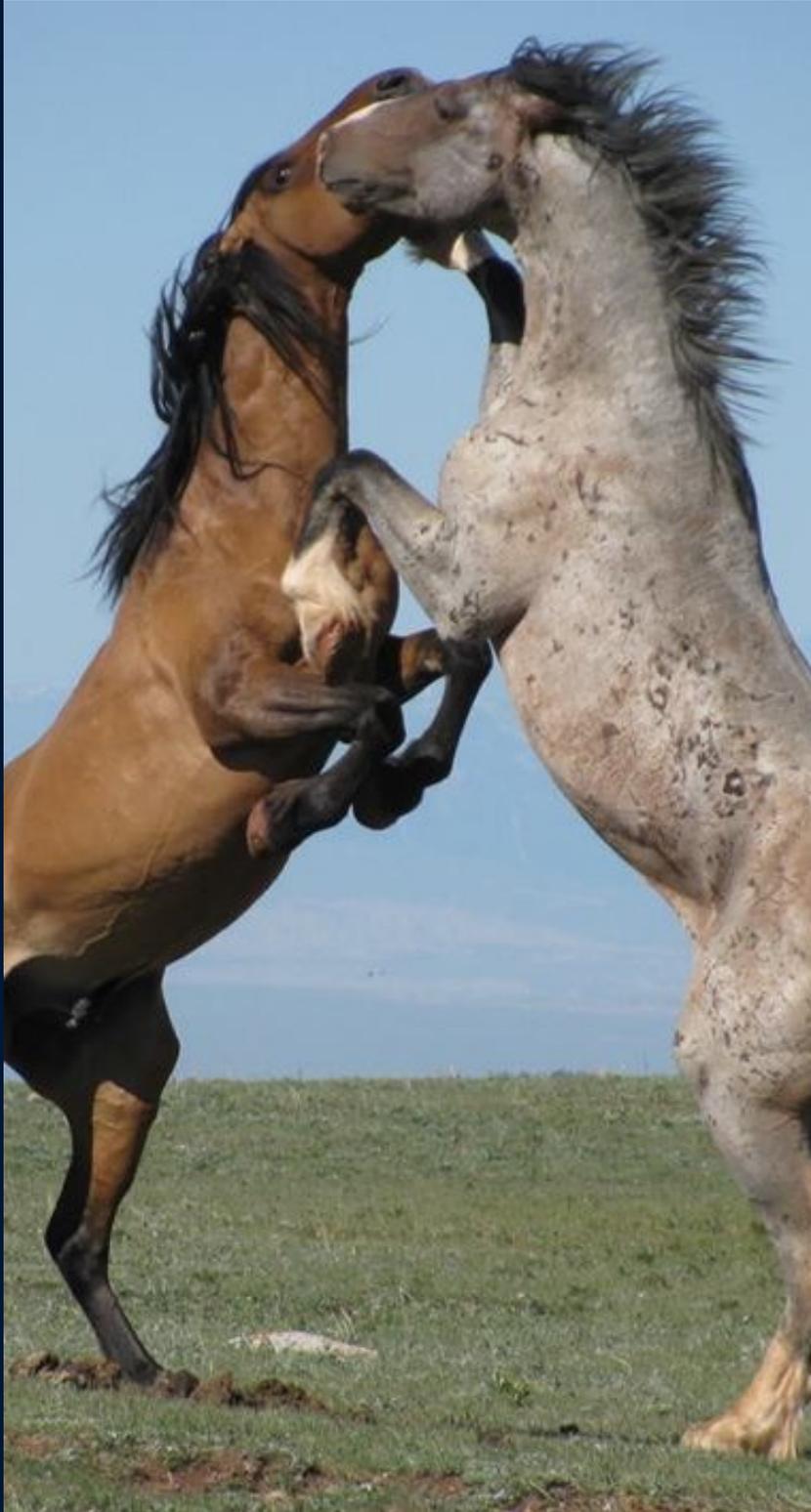
**5 East Baxter Lane Bozeman,
MT 59715**

(406) 587-4561



Detailed Agenda for the 2016 Annual Meeting:

[Click Here](#)



NAAML 2016 Explore

Wyoming Pre-Conference Tours:

*Hosted by Wyoming Abandoned Mine
Lands Program*

September 23, 2016—Bozeman to Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center, Big Horn Mountain Medicine Wheel and Heart Mountain Interpretive Center WWII Japanese Internment Camp. Stay in Cody, WY at the Cody Cowboy Village

September 24, 2016— Buffalo Bill Center of the American West Tour, Yellowstone National Park Tour and Stay at Lake Village Cabins in Yellowstone National Park

September 25, 2016 - Yellowstone National Park Tour and Return to Bozeman, MT

Tour Fee – estimate \$250 (covers transportation, YNP/Buffalo Bill/ Heart Mtn. entrance fees, two lunches and Friday's dinner)

Questions: contact Don Newton at :don.newton@wyo.gov or 307.335.6965

From The President

“T.C.B.”

By Sam Faith

*Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection*

Hi! In past editions of this column I have focused on the benefits of belonging to peer oriented groups in general and of belonging to NASLR in particular. Number one, of course, is that we are a great source of knowledge (think of us as the human version of Wikipedia for reclamation). We are also an excellent stage for showing off your great work as well as recognizing companies, states and individuals for their accomplishments.

But, as with any benefit, there is a cost – or in this case, a responsibility.

I'm sure everyone is aware of, and hopefully planning on attending, our annual conference in Bozeman in late September. This year we are holding a joint conference with the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) and it looks like there will be a ton of interesting sessions to attend and even more interesting people to meet.

Now, this is where the responsibility part comes in. The conference also happens to be the setting for our annual business meeting and we have some important work to do. It is at this meeting that we close out any old business still pending, elect new officers for the upcoming year, appoint new committee members and decide on a location for the next conference.

Sidebar – If you think your state would like to host next year's conference be prepared to speak up at the business meeting. We are always looking for new and interesting venues!!

In addition to the above “normal” business, this year we are also going to discuss and vote on revisions/updates to our Constitution and Bylaws. You can go to our website (www.naslr.org) to review the proposed changes prior to the meeting.

So, join us at the conference and stick around for the business meeting. If nothing else, you will get an insider’s look at how the sausage is made.

In the words of the King (that’s Elvis to you younger folks) we will be “T.C.B. – Taking Care of Business”.

NASLR 2017 Conference Host

We are looking for a host state/states for the 2017 NASLR Conference. If you or a bordering state would like to join together and host the 2017 Conference and show off your great states, please email [Janet Yates](mailto:Janet.Yates@naslr.org).

Notes From the Field

Integrity and Cooperative Professionalism, Achieving Reclamation by a Financially Stressed Coal Industry

By Dean Spindler

Illinois Office of Mines & Minerals

I have written of this topic before about operator/agency relationships and the concept of cooperative professionalism. This is where both the mining industry and the state regulatory authorities (state RA's) acknowledge the right to exist in the world and treat each other with the respect they earn when dealing with each other. The national coal mining bankruptcy crisis is an example where this is essential. Having dealt with bond calculations for many years, I can easily remember thinking that some mining, and even bond companies, were so big that the concept of default from either party was barely on the radar. In those cases, the bond amounts were calculated accurately, but the importance of them was almost considered secondary. Applying for a bond release had a low priority for many companies due to the time and effort to prepare those applications.

In today's mining world, with some self-bonded companies in Chapter 11 and emerging concerns that some bonding companies might be over extended, cooperative professionalism will be even more important as companies work themselves out of bankruptcy and state RA's strive to ensure that areas are reclaimed. A high level of cooperative professional trust encourages companies to reduce their liability through reclamation and/or court assigned asset assignment and agencies to grant adequate time and establish fair measures for the companies to achieve a reduction in reclamation liability.

Over the years, the operator/agency relationship has been tested numerous times, mostly with small companies. In those examples, during the process down "forfeiture road," companies nearing default were given one last chance to work out a reclamation settlement schedule to avoid the final action – forfeiture. Would they honor their word to reclaim their site? Unfortunately, not every case was a success story and many bonds were forfeited. In the current climate, however, there is a lot of optimism out there that large scale reclamation can still be achieved by these companies undergoing Chapter 11 reorganization, even as the industry is shrinking. There is definitely an accelerated pace to reduce reclamation liability by moving dirt in the field and pushing paper in the office. These are both positive signs.

NASLR JOINS SOCIAL MEDIA



As we are in the midst of the social media boom, the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) has joined in on the movement. NASLR created a Facebook page in early 2016 to promote our organization, share ideas with professionals across the country, and to provide information on new reclamation initiatives. We encourage everyone to visit our page, become our friends, access the links to our quarterly newsletters, and learn more about the activities scheduled for our upcoming conference in Bozeman, MT.

The success of the Facebook page is contingent upon the input provided from all our member states, as well as individual members. If there are any articles, pictures, or events you would like to share, please submit those by email to the Public Relations and Education Committee members [Lesia Baker \(lesa.baker@dmme.virginia.gov\)](mailto:lesa.baker@dmme.virginia.gov) or [Jim Bowling \(james.bowling@illinois.gov\)](mailto:james.bowling@illinois.gov).

We also anticipate creating a Twitter account in the near future. This account will be utilized to keep everyone informed on the conference happenings and to share any pictures. All information from the conference to be shared shall be tagged #naslrinbozeman. Once our Twitter account becomes live, we will make an announcement on our Facebook page. Stay tuned.....



#naslrinbozeman



VA DMME is Taking to the Skies

By Tarah Kesterson VA DMME



DMME is taking to the skies. The agency has one drone ready for flight and another on its way. Mapping supervisor, Daniel Kestner led the efforts to bring this new technology as another tool to help our customers.

The most used drone or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) will be the SenseFly eBee. It is small and has a fixed-wing airframe. The design of the eBee will allow it to fly a programmed flight path for mapping. “This includes high resolution aerial photography and the creation of 3D surface models,” said Kestner. Those images can be used to help design Abandoned Mine Land projects, information for customers on reclamation and help map features associated with mining.

The agency’s second drone will be a quadcopter called the DJI Inspire. It is manually controlled and equipped with a high definition camera. It will be used to get into tight and dangerous places for monitoring. “The ability to hover and capture high-resolution images

and stream video to monitor hazardous features such as an active landslide, eroding highwall or the dam of a large impoundment will allow us to make more informed decisions,” said Kestner.

While the drones are managed by DMME’s mined land reclamation group, Kestner says they will be available for the entire agency. “There is a great potential for using the technology throughout DMME,” said Kestner. “For example, mapping of mineral mining site is basically the same as a coal mine site. Other examples could be inspection of landslides, geotagging photos of gas wells and pipelines, examining a hazardous highwall for our mine safety group or geologic field mapping of difficult to reach outcrops.”

Getting the drone off of the ground took some extra effort from Kestner. He had to take 32 hours of private pilot ground school. “I was also required to pass a FAA Class 3 medical examination. In addition, I’ve spent a great deal of time talking with difference UAV experts and vendors to research and test different models.”

Tests of the eBee’s capabilities have already been conducted at a quarry in southwest Virginia.



**Please review the attached revised
Constitution, Bylaws and Policies**

**Please review the revised Constitution,
Bylaws and Policies of the National
Association of State Land
Reclamationists (the changes are in
red). NASLR members attending the
annual conference and business
meeting in Bozeman, MT on September
28, 2016 will vote to adopt these
changes. A copy is located on the
NASLR Website. [\(click here to review\)](#)**

NASLR NEWLETTER

Summer 2016

naslr.org

To submit material for future newsletters please contact Jeff Meitrott jmeitrott@pa.gov

Please use a [NASLR Newsletter Submission Form](#)

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