

Eagles Released As Americans Rebuild

On September 22, 2001 the BLM held their National Public Lands Day activities, a day of volunteerism and a day of rebuilding. In Emery County a hearty band of volunteers from surrounding communities gathered at the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry. The purpose of the gathering was to create fences, pour concrete for walk ways and to make the visitor's center more accessible for the general public.

The work was grueling and by the end of the day everyone was exhausted. It was noted that sometimes hard physical labor is the best way to relieve the pain from the previous week's tragedy (the terrorist attack). After the work was done everyone gathered for a pot luck dinner and a special presentation from the Southwest Wildlife Foundation. The special guests of honor were two wounded Golden Eagles. "Both eagles were hit by cars and severely battered and bruised, but not broken, very much like our nation today" explained wildlife rehabilitator, Martin Tyner. The eagles required a good deal of patience and care to recover from their injuries, and on this day they were ready to soar just as America will soar again.



A short talk was given about the qualities of an eagle and how the Native people believe the eagle was once human. The Eagle was the most courageous and honorable of all the braves. This Brave was called to sit in council with the Great Spirit. So that the brave could travel to the Great Spirit he was turned into an eagle. The eagle was given a calling by the Great Spirit to carry the Prayers of his People to heaven and to carry the blessings of the Great Spirit back to the people of our Nation. It is said that if you say your prayers with an eagle feather, that the eagle feather will carry your prayers to God. Each of these eagles has more than 7000 feathers.

Two gentlemen were invited to release the eagles, Sheriff Guyman of the Emery County Sheriff Department, and Sergeant John Planty from Hill Air Force Base. The first eagle was released in memory of all the victims and rescue workers of the terrible tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001. The second eagle was released as we gave thanks for all the Soldiers, Seamen, Airmen and Marines that defend our Nation. Truly these are our eagles that watch over our nation.

The first eagle, released by Sheriff Guyman, flew from his hands over the gathering below and landed on a rocky rise where he spent the rest of the evening watching over the volunteers. The second eagle, released by Sergeant Planty, soared from his arms, headed south gaining altitude and disappeared beyond the hill.



As Mr. Tyner so often says, "There is nothing that can heal the soul like watching a wounded eagle return to the sky."