

Lewistown Field Office to Revise Land Use Plans

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The Bureau of Land Management's Lewistown Field Office intends to prepare a resource management plan (RMP) and associated environmental impact statement (EIS) to guide management of 654,025 acres of federally managed surface and 1,399,880 acres of BLM-managed federal mineral estate in central Montana. The plan will be specific to Lewistown Field Office and the northern portion of Lewis and Clark County that is administered by the Butte Field Office. The planning area includes BLM-administered public lands and federal mineral estate in Fergus, Petroleum, Judith Basin, Chouteau, Meagher, Cascade, Teton, Pondera and northern Lewis and Clark counties.

The RMP/EIS will reflect the changing needs of the planning area over the next several decades and will replace the current Headwaters and Judith RMPs that were developed in 1984 and 1994, respectively. In order to provide a comprehensive plan, the BLM is requesting public input to identify issues and concerns within and adjacent to the planning area.

The first phase of developing an RMP is the scoping period. The scoping period gives the public and other interested agencies and organizations the opportunity to provide comments on important issues and identify management opportunities before the plan is drafted. The public is invited to participate in the planning process for the Lewistown RMP during the public scoping period. The BLM will hold public scoping meetings at the following locations:

- March 4; Meagher County Courthouse; 15 West Main; White Sulphur Springs
- March 6; Winifred Community Center; 210 Main Street; Winifred
- March 13; Petroleum County Courthouse ; 302 East Main Street; Winnett
- March 18; Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center; 4201 Giant Springs Road; Great Falls
- April 1; Yogo Inn; 211 East Main; Lewistown
- April 3; Choteau Public Library 17 N. Main Ave; Choteau

All meeting are scheduled to run from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm.

The formal scoping period will end on April 11, 2014; however, comments and input are welcome throughout the planning process. Written comments should be sent to: Lewistown RMP, BLM Lewistown Field Office, 920 NE Main, Lewistown, MT 59457 or faxed to: (406) 538-1904. Comments may also be submitted via email to: blm_mt_Lewistown_RMP@blm.gov. Further information is available at the following website: <http://blm.gov/ngld>.

If you would like to be included on the RMP mailing list or request more information, contact Dan Brunkhorst, RMP Project Manager, at (406) 538-1981 or email blm_mt_Lewistown_RMP@blm.gov.