



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Montana State Office

July 2003



**FIRE/FUELS MANAGEMENT PLAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/
PLAN AMENDMENT
for MONTANA AND THE DAKOTAS**



The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all times. Management is based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation; rangelands; timber; minerals; watershed; fish and wildlife; wilderness; air; and scenic, scientific, and cultural values.

BLM/MT/PL-03/108



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



In Reply To:
1600/9210 (923)

Montana State Office
5001 Southgate Drive, P.O. Box 36800
Billings, Montana 59107-6800
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/>

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Fire and Fuels Management Environmental Assessment (EA)/Plan Amendment for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Montana and the Dakotas. This document replaces the Fire Management Plan EA that was available for public review in August 2001. After the EA was released in August 2001, the analysis was expanded to consider mechanical fuels treatments, chemical weed treatments to support fuels treatments, and other land use plan decisions necessary to implement the National Fire Plan and 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. The EA has also been updated in response to the 35 public comment letters that have been submitted since August 2001.

Additional copies of this plan are available at each of the BLM field offices in Billings, Butte, Dillon, Glasgow, Great Falls, Havre, Lewistown, Malta, Miles City, Missoula, Dickinson (ND) and Belle Fourche (SD). A copy is also available on the internet at www.mt.blm.gov.

You have the right to protest the State Director's decision on the proposed plan amendments if you believe that you or your interests will be negatively affected by the proposed management, and if 1) you can document that you have participated in the planning process and 2) during the planning process, you raised for the record the issue(s) that you wish to protest.

Protest letters should include:

1. The name, mailing address, phone number, and interest of the person filing the protest;
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested;
3. A statement of the part or parts of the plan amendment being protested;
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record; and
5. A concise statement of why the State Director's proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. Include documentation of relevant facts and reference or cite planning documents, environmental analysis documents, available planning records (i.e. meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.), and include this material with the protest letter.

Protest letters must be filed in writing to:

(Regular Mail)

Director, Bureau of Land Management
Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator
P.O. Box 66538
Washington, D.C. 20035

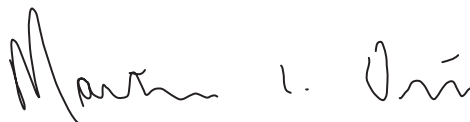
(Overnight Mail)

Director, Bureau of Land Management
Attention: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator
1620 L Street, N.W., Room 1075
Washington, D.C. 20036

The protest period will close on August 30, 2003. To be considered timely, the protest must be sent to the Director and must be postmarked no later than August 30, 2003.

Thank you for your continuing interest and participation in the planning process. If you have any questions, please contact John Thompson at (406) 896-5030 at the BLM Montana State Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin C. Ott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a distinct "C" and "O".

Martin C. Ott
State Director

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