



Date: July 5, 2006

Contact: Rich Adams, 406-654-5131

### **Get your firewood before it burns**

Malta, MT---- Time is running out to gather fire wood from existing slash piles on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ownership in the Little Rockies. Although forest management activities will continue to yield slash intermittently over the next few years, BLM personnel hope to burn existing piles this winter when there is sufficient snow accumulation. Burning these debris piles will reduce the quantity of flammable wood in the forests and reduce the risk of high-severity fire in the wildland urban interface surrounding the towns of Landusky and Zortman.

Typically, slash piles are left intact for a couple of years – long enough to dry, but not so long that all the needles are lost and smaller twigs decompose – to encourage complete burning. During this time period, slash piles can be a convenient source of firewood. With a permit, firewood may be cut from any BLM land with legal public access, unless the site is specifically posted otherwise. Managers do ask that firewood gatherers stay on existing roads to reduce impacts, and if an area is muddy, to postpone getting wood until the area dries.

Firewood permits may be purchased at the Malta BLM Office or at the Buckhorn Store in Zortman. A four-cord permit costs \$20. If you have questions, please contact Rich Adams at the Malta Field Office (654-5131) or Brad Eckert at the Lewistown Field Office (538-1927).

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