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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLM TO ANALYZE TIMBER SALVAGE SALE EAST OF MISSOULA

MISSOULA (May 22, 2006) – The Bureau of Land Management’s Missoula Field Office is preparing an environmental assessment for a proposal to cut and remove dead and dying trees in Granite, Missoula and Powell counties. The proposed action covers approximately 1500 acres spread out over a 4500 acre project area about 30 miles east of Missoula in the Garnet Range.

BLM proposes to salvage trees killed or infested with Douglas-fir bark beetle, Mountain Pine Beetle and Western Balsam Bark Beetle.

Forestry specialists want to salvage the trees with little or no adverse effects on other resources and to provide wood fiber for use in the wood products industry. Removing the beetle infested trees will reduce the severity of future infestations and protect healthy trees adjacent to infested areas.

“BLM intends to remove patches of dead and dying trees ranging in size from 1 to 20 acres within the project area,” stated John Weinert, forester for BLM. “The total volume to be removed is estimated at 4 million board feet.”

No new roads are planned as part of the proposal, but some road improvement work would be required on existing roads that provide access to salvage areas.

In addition to salvage logging, BLM proposes to use pheromone traps and bubble caps to keep the insects from spreading to healthy trees.

BLM welcomes public comment on this proposal to be analyzed in the environmental assessment. Comments should be submitted by June 30. For a more detailed description of the proposal and map, please contact John Weinert at the Missoula Field Office, 329-3914.