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Bureau of Land Management

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLM IMPLEMENTS FOOD STORAGE GUIDELINES

MISSOULA (October 17, 2006) – The Missoula Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management has implemented food storage guidelines on BLM administered lands to reduce the chance of negative human/wildlife conflicts. The recommendations are voluntary for the general public but mandatory for BLM contractors, permittees and outfitter/guides.

To avoid conflicts with attracting bears and other wildlife, it is recommended that:

- Human, pet and livestock food (except baled or cubed hay without additives) and garbage should be attended or stored in an approved bear-resistant container.
- Wildlife carcasses, birds, fish or other animal parts that are within ½ mile of any camp or sleeping area should be stored in a bear-resistant manner during nighttime hours.
- Attractants such as leftover food or cooking grease should not be buried, discarded or burned in an open campfire.
- Only commercial and personal-use bear-resistant containers approved for use by the USDA, Forest Service, Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) should be used.
- BLM recommends that visitors carry EPA-approved bear pepper spray with over six seconds of spray duration.
- Electric fencing that meets specifications may also be used to exclude wildlife from camping areas.

Recreationists are reminded that they are required to pack out all garbage.

A complete list of the recommendations and strategy to avoid human/wildlife conflicts can be found on the Missoula Field Office Web Page www.mt.blm.gov/mifo/ or by calling Jim Sparks, wildlife biologist, (406) 329-3914.