



United States Department of Interior
106 North Parkmont

Bureau of Land Management

Butte Field Office
Butte, Montana 59701

Contact: Marilyn Krause
Phone: (406) 533-7617

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLM PLANS TO BURN NEAR WHITEHALL AND TOWNSEND

BUTTE (March 6, 2006) - Residents in the Whitehall and Townsend area may see smoke at times over the next few months as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) burns two areas, weather permitting.

The first project is Shep's Ridge approximately five miles northwest of Townsend. The objective is to improve bighorn sheep habitat and reduce the amount of woody vegetation in the wildland urban interface.

The second area to be burned is in Hay Canyon of the Whitetail Basin about 15 miles north of Whitehall. The Whitetail Basin project is a cooperative study area involving the Jefferson River Watershed Council, Montana State University along with federal agencies. The burn continues an on-going study of the effect of prescribed fire on vegetation and stream flow.

For more information on the projects, contact John Thompson at the BLM, Butte Field Office, phone (406) 533-7611.