

**For Immediate Release
Contact Steve Knox
406-538-1976, 3/24/06**

Central Montana Fire Zone Planned Prescribed Burning Activities for Spring, 2006

Lewistown, Mt---Weather permitting, the Bureau of Land Management's Lewistown Field Office is planning to conduct several prescribed burns over the next two months in central and north-central Montana.

One of these burn projects is the Becket Understory Burn, located approximately 7 miles southwest of Grass Range, which would treat approximately 650 acres. The primary objective of the Becket project is to dispose of slash created during recent timber harvest activities in the area.

Two additional prescribed fire projects are planned for the Armells Creek area north of Roy. Together, these two projects would total approximately 900 acres. These burns are designed to reduce hazardous fuels and improve forage and wildlife conditions within the Armells Creek drainage.

The BLM is also working on prescribed fire projects in Blaine and Phillips Counties. The 100 acre D-O prescribed fire project near Whitewater, is designed to treat a decadent stand of Crested Wheatgrass, improve palatability and move the stand toward a more native condition. The BR-12 Reservoir Burn located north of Chinook, would treat approximately 50 acres of bulrush which is currently choking out the reservoir; limiting the amount of quality waterfowl habitat available.

All of these prescribed burns are designed to reduce the amount of hazardous fuels available in the event of wildfire and to improve forest and rangeland health conditions.

If fuel moisture and weather conditions allow these burns, they will be conducted by qualified fire and resource staff from the local area.

For further information contact Steve Knox, BLM fuels program manager at (406) 538-1976.

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