



United States Department of Interior
106 North Parkmont

Bureau of Land Management

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BLM PLANS BURN NEAR TOWNSEND and
SLASH PILES IN JEFFERSON, BROADWATER, & LEWIS and CLARK COUNTIES**

BUTTE (October 2, 2006) - Residents in the Townsend area may see smoke at times over the next few months as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) burns the remaining 200 acres in the Shep's Ridge area when weather and vegetation conditions are right. Shep's Ridge's is approximately five miles northwest of Townsend. Part of the project area was burned last spring and the objective is to improve bighorn sheep habitat and reduce the amount of woody vegetation in the wildland urban interface.

In addition, residents near Jefferson City, Boulder, Canyon Ferry, and the Elkhorn Mountains area may see smoke periodically this fall and winter as the BLM burns slash piles from logging operations. When weather conditions permit, BLM crews plan to burn in Jackson Creek near Jefferson City, Sheriff's Gulch near Canyon Ferry Dam, Sugar Loaf Mountain northwest of Boulder, and Johnny's, Keating, Horse, and Dry Gulches in the Elkhorn Mountains.

For more information on the projects, contact John Thompson or Charles Tuss at the BLM, Butte Field Office, phone (406) 533-7600.