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Future Management of 17-Mile Recreation Area to be Discussed at Public Meeting

The public is invited to a meeting concerning the future management of the Bureau of Land Management's 17-Mile Recreation Area. The meeting will be held September 5, 2006, at 7 p.m. at the Billings Hampton Inn, 5110 Southgate Drive.

The meeting will focus on recreational shooting at the area, and items to be discussed include a temporary closure, litter, and appropriate targets. In the past, shooters have used appliances, paint cans, glass, car batteries, and other items which pose both a safety and environmental threat. Livestock in the area have also been shot, and there is currently a \$4,000 reward offered for information about those shootings.

The 17-Mile Recreation Area, which is north of Billings on Highway 87, has been used for casual target shooting for years, and is the only suitable area for target shooting on public lands in the Yellowstone County. The BLM has organized volunteer clean-up days at the area, but the litter quickly re-accumulates.

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