

NEWS FROM THE BLM AND DNRC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLM & DNRC PLAN JOINT BURN EAST OF MISSOULA

MISSOULA (May10, 2006) - Approximately 300 acres of state and federal land in the Elk Creek drainage may be burned as early as Friday, May 12, weather permitting. The project area is approximately 30 miles east of Missoula, near the Paws Up Ranch.

Blackfoot Valley residents will see smoke and the Elk Creek Road will be closed to public use during burn operations.

Burning will be accomplished using a heli-torch, a device mounted on a helicopter that can cover a large area efficiently. Fire fighters from the BLM, DNRC, and the Forest Service will assist.

The burn is intended to meet multiple objectives. Part of the area has been logged to create more open larch and Douglas-fir timber stands. "Now fire is needed for larch regeneration," stated DNRC forester, Craig Nelson. "This burn should open the area up and restore vegetation, especially an area of "dog-hair" Douglas-fir."

"Treatment across jurisdictional boundaries only makes sense," commented Linda Cardenas, assistant BLM Field Manager. "Our objectives are the same and sharing of resources saves the taxpayer money."

For questions on the project, contact Shelagh Fox at the BLM office, 329-3914 or Craig Nelson at the DNRC office, 244-5857.