

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

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES RELEASED FOR BUTTE FIELD OFFICE MANAGEMENT PLAN

BUTTE (October 4, 2006) - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Butte Field Office is working to complete its Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP/EIS). After conducting public scoping meetings and enlisting the aid of public working groups to develop travel planning alternatives, a range of RMP alternatives has been developed.

The alternatives include a "No Action" alternative which represents current management, and three "action" alternatives that represent reasonable, yet varying responses to the issues identified during the planning process. A planning newsletter has been prepared to provide a brief summary and some highlights of the alternatives included in the Draft RMP/EIS. The bulletin can be viewed on the Butte RMP website at http://www.mt.blm.gov/bdo/rmp/index.htm on the News Releases page under Newsletters as "Newsletter Butte RMP 9-2006".

The Butte Field Office plans to release the Draft RMP/EIS for a 90-day public comment period this winter. BLM will host public meetings and offer presentations to agencies and organized groups on the Draft RMP/EIS during the comment period. The printed document is expected to be at least two volumes containing several hundred pages each, as well as many oversized maps. In an effort to reduce printing costs, BLM will have the entire document available on CD and on the Butte RMP website. To request a printed or CD copy of the Draft RMP/EIS document, members of the public should contact the BLM before November 15, 2006. Please direct inquiries to Traci Scott or Tim LaMarr at the Butte Field Office at (406) 533-7600 or via e-mail to Traci_Scott@blm.gov.