

Date: August 15, 2006 Contact: Mary Apple, 406-896-5258

The Bureau of Land Management's Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet August 29, 2006, in Billings. The meeting will be held at the BLM Montana State Office at 5001 Southgate Drive. The meeting will begin at 7 a.m., and the public is welcome. The RAC was originally slated to meet July 19, but the meeting was postponed because BLM managers and RAC members were involved with wildfires in the area.

Primary topics of discussion are Billings and Miles City Field Office updates, the Miles City Resource Management Plan and supplemental oil and gas environmental impact statement, and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. The meeting will adjourn at 12 p.m., and the RAC members will tour the new Pompeys Pillar National Monument Interpretive Center in the afternoon.

The council will hear comments from the public at 11:30 a.m. Interested parties may make oral statements before the council or file written statements for the council to consider. Depending on the number of people wishing to make comments, a per-person time limit may be established.

The purpose of the council is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, though the BLM, on a variety of issues associated with public land management. The 15-member council includes individuals who have expertise or education in the planning and management of public lands and resources.

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