Date: Aug. 7, 2006

Contact: Tom Madsen, 800-826-3023

Paul Johnson 800-503-6084

BILLINGS – A reward of up to \$4000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for shooting livestock along the Crooked Creek and Hoskin Basin roads is being offered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Montana Department of Livestock.

Since last spring, about 10 head of cattle have been hit by small arms fire at the area north of Billings near the 17-Mile Recreation Area along U.S. Highway 87.

Anyone with information about suspicious vehicles or persons seen in the area is urged to call BLM law enforcement at 800-826-3023 or Crimestoppers at 800-503-6084. Callers can remain anonymous.

The 17 Mile Area receives extensive recreational use, especially for target shooting. However, increasing litter problems and safety issues are threats to the site's continued viability despite periodic cleanups.

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