



United States Department of Interior  
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Bureau of Land Management

Dillon Field Office  
Dillon, Montana 59725

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **BLM CONSIDERS SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT FOR ROAD AGENT TRAIL RIDE**

DILLON (April 19, 2006) - The Bureau of Land Management's Dillon Field Office is reviewing a request for a special recreation permit to conduct a "Road Agent Trail Ride" on BLM managed lands. "The Montana Heritage Commission and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks - Bannack State Park propose to jointly sponsor the trail ride," stated Rick Waldrup, BLM Recreation Planner. "Organizers want this to be an annual event to promote heritage tourism in southwestern Montana and promote the annual Bannack Days celebration."

Sponsors propose a four day horseback trail ride open to public participation covering approximately 80 miles between Nevada City and Bannack. Participation will include approximately 15-20 volunteers and 30-35 paying participants. It is estimated that the cost of the ride will be \$400 per participant for the entire event or \$100 per day.

At each camp location the general public will be invited to share dessert and an evening program focusing on local history for a minimal fee.

The horseback ride is proposed between July 12 and 15, 2006, and subsequent years to coincide with the Bannack Days celebration. The suggested route will leave Nevada City; proceed up Browns Gulch and down Barton Gulch to the BLM camping area at Ruby Reservoir. On the second day riders will proceed up the county road to the Sweetwater Basin where camp will be established on an isolated parcel of BLM land. From the Sweetwater camp participants travel through Dillon to Ten Mile Road, where camp will be established on another parcel of BLM land. On the fourth day the riders follow existing BLM roadways up Bon Accord to Road Agent Rock and into Bannack. The proposed trail ride will cross approximately 20 miles of public land, about 25% of the total route,

Trailers and camping supplies will be shuttled to the respective camp location each morning along with portable toilets. Weed free hay will be provided for all horses and horse camping will follow the principles of Leave No Trace Backcountry Horse Use. Horse containment will stress the use of hot tape, picketing, or other portable corral systems. Defensive horsemanship techniques and general participant safety will be stressed at all times.

Public comments on this permit application regarding social, economic and environmental benefits or concerns of issuing the permits will be helpful in considering this application. For specific details on this proposal, people may call or visit the BLM Dillon Field Office. Comments may be sent to: BLM Dillon Field Office, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, MT 59725 by May 5, 2006 or people may call Mark Sant or Rick Waldrup at (406) 683-2337 for further information.