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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANNING PROCESS COMPLETE FOR DILLON FIELD OFFICE APPEAL PERIOD FOR ROUTE DESIGNATIONS BEGINS

DILLON (April 17, 2006) – After a four year collaborative planning effort, the Bureau of Land Management’s Dillon Field Office announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP).

The Approved RMP guides future management of over 900,000 acres of public land and 1.3 million acres of federal mineral estate administered by the BLM Dillon Field Office in Beaverhead and Madison Counties, southwestern Montana. The RMP addresses a wide variety of topics, including upland and riparian/wetland management, forest health and forest products, fish and wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, special status species, recreation, travel management, cultural and paleontological resources, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and other public land resources and uses.

The land use plan decisions described by the ROD/RMP are final and were effective upon signature of the ROD by the BLM Montana/Dakotas State Director. The route designations included as part of the travel management decisions contained in the ROD/RMP were also effective upon signature of the ROD but are implementation level decisions and may now be appealed. Any party adversely affected by an implementation decision contained in the

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RMP/ROD may appeal within 30 days of the April 14 publication of the Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision and Approved RMP in the *Federal Register*. The deadline to submit appeals is May 14, 2006. Information about appeal procedures is included in the *Implementation Decisions* section of the ROD.

Copies of the document were sent to interested parties previously requesting one and agency representatives. Printed copies of the ROD/RMP can be viewed at public libraries in Dillon, Twin Bridges, Ennis, Whitehall, and Bozeman and at BLM offices across the state. The ROD/RMP is also posted on the BLM's website at www.mt.blm.gov/dfo/rmp. A paper copy or compact disk (CD) format may be requested by contacting the Dillon Field Office at (406) 683-2337.