

United States Department of the Interior

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In Reply To:
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October 12, 2004

EMAIL TRANSMISSION – 10/12/04
Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2005-002
Expires: 9/30/06

To: Field Managers
From: State Director
Subject: Establishing Working Relationships with State Legislators

A new year and a new Montana legislative session will soon be upon us. If past experience has taught us anything, it is that little can surpass the value of a personal relationship with local state legislators. It seems that the number of bills introduced that have an effect on the way we do business increases with each session. A relationship with our legislators can often allow us to be a key source of information, a role that can be beneficial both to our lawmakers and to our agency.

After the elections, I encourage each of you to seriously devote some time to forming these important relationships. At a minimum, you should plan to drop a note to each legislator in your area introducing yourself and offering to assist them with information needs. You can get the names of the legislators serving your area from the State of Montana's web page: <http://leg.state.mt.us/>. This web site can be accessed directly or through our own Intranet home page.

It is probably also a good idea for each of us to refresh our memories about our policies concerning interaction with the state legislature. Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2003-001 is attached for your convenience. Its expiration date has been extended to September 30, 2005.

As you may know, Marilyn Krause from the Western Zone serves as our legislative liaison and will be our direct contact with legislators during the session. She will be working with Terry Chute of the Helena National Forest to provide us with weekly updates on the progress of bills in the legislature and upcoming issues.

Signed by: Martin C. Ott

Authenticated by: Ann Boucher, External Affairs

1 Attachment
1-[IM No. MT-2003-001 \(2 pp\)](#)

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