

Bureau of Land Management



2006 Montana/Dakotas A Report to the Public



Bureau of Land Management

MONTANA/DAKOTAS BLM ACREAGE

Surface Acres

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Montana | 7,968,942 |
| North Dakota | 58,837 |
| South Dakota | 274,437 |
| TOTAL | 8,302,216 |

Subsurface Acres

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Montana | 37,796,450 |
| North Dakota | 5,614,146 |
| South Dakota | 3,776,199 |
| TOTAL | 47,186,795 |

for breakdown by county, and other links contained in this report, go to www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2006/index.html

WILDLIFE

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- 600 species of fish and wildlife
- 3,500 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 200,000 acres of waterfowl habitat having international importance

Threatened and Endangered Species

- 4 threatened and endangered mammals
- 4 threatened and endangered birds
- 2 threatened and endangered fish
- 1 candidate species
- 2 threatened and endangered plants
- 1 threatened and endangered invertebrate

Special Status Species

- Mammals - List updated in 2004
- Birds - List updated in 2004
- Fish - List updated in 2004
- Plants - List updated in 2005

Wild Horses

- Pryor Mountain National Wild Horse Range covers 39,651 acres
- 130 adult horses and 23 foals are on the range; 95 adult horses +/- 10 percent is the appropriate management level (currently under revision)
- 19 horses removed from the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range
- 66 horses/burros (non Pryor horses) adopted in 2006. Gathered Pryor horses will be adopted in FY 2007.
- 33 compliance checks completed
- 39 animals titled

LANDSCAPE

Wilderness

- 36 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 447,327 acres

- 173,499 acres in 15 areas recommended for wilderness designation (about .02% of the total BLM-managed land base in Montana/Dakotas)
- 273,828 acres in 30 study areas not recommended for wilderness designation
- 3 Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 4,376 acres to be studied during the land use planning process. (The Tobacco Root Tack-On - 860 acres - was studied in the Dillon Resource Management Plan and has been released.)
- One 6,347-acre designated wilderness: Bear Trap Canyon Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness (Montana's first and only designated BLM wilderness area)

for a complete list of study areas, go to www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/wsa.pdf

Rangeland Management

- 4,106 authorizations for 1,364,949 animal unit months (AUMs)

Forestry

- 400,000 acres of commercial forest land
- 138,000 acres of non-commercial forest land
- 2,769,000 board feet of timber offered for \$142,480

Forest Development

- 0 acres of seeding
- 220 acres planted
- 1,025 acres of site preparation
- 98 acres of protective measures applied
- 722 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 513 acres of commercial thinning
- 164 acres of stand conversions

Noxious Weed Management

FY2006:

- 115,000 acres of noxious weeds treated with integrated weed control methods including chemical, physical, mechanical, and biological weed control agents, and domestic animals (sheep or goats)
- 354,000 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds
- 183,000 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation
- Over 500,000 biological control agents collected and distributed to 492 sites

To date:

- Biological weed control agents established on more than 200,000 acres
- 69 weed management areas
- Interagency agreements in place with Agricultural Research Service and Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service for biological control
- Cooperative agreements in place with 4 Montana State University researchers for biological control
- Cooperative agreements in place with more than 75 percent of county weed districts
- Provide funding for Montana Education and Awareness Committee

Report to the Public

- Work closely with Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Weed Control Association, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US Forest Service

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- 1.3 million acres inventoried to date
- 10,525 cultural properties recorded to date

MINERALS

Solid Minerals

Montana

- 15 producing Federal and Indian coal leases on 33,550 acres
- 29,468,395 tons of coal produced, generating \$31,480,992 in royalties

North Dakota

- 6 producing Federal and Indian coal leases on 3,174 acres
- 2,947,322 tons of coal produced, generating \$742,507 in royalties

for breakdown, go to www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2006/coal.pdf

Locatable Minerals

- 2,441 new claims recorded
- 537 claims closed
- \$405,960 new claim maintenance fees received
- \$1,586,540 in fees received for annual maintenance fees and annual assessment fees
- 2,307 claims covered by 463 small miner waivers
- 11,778 unpatented mining claims
- 174 claims relinquished
- 0 claims patented
- 212,331 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record

for detailed statistics, go to www.blm.gov/lr2000/

Fluid Minerals

Federal Oil and Gas Leases Issued

| | Competitive | | Noncompetitive | | Total | |
|--------------|-------------|---------|----------------|---------|--------|---------|
| | Number | Acres | Number | Acres | Number | Acres |
| Montana | 153 | 103,859 | 67 | 96,302 | 220 | 200,161 |
| North Dakota | 132 | 61,722 | 2 | 2,557 | 134 | 64,279 |
| South Dakota | 15 | 20,970 | 5 | 3,703 | 20 | 24,674 |
| TOTAL | 300 | 186,551 | 74 | 102,561 | 374 | 289,113 |

Federal Oil and Gas Leases in Effect as of 9/30/06

| | Producing | | Non-producing | | Total | |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| | Number | Acres | Number | Acres | Number | Acres |
| Montana | 1,423 | 776,824 | 2,291 | 3,235,422 | 3,714 | 4,012,246 |
| North Dakota | 608 | 324,736 | 1,021 | 532,619 | 1,629 | 857,354 |
| South Dakota | 74 | 34,447 | 75 | 97,235 | 149 | 131,682 |
| TOTAL | 2,105 | 1,136,007 | 3,387 | 3,865,276 | 5,492 | 5,001,282 |

Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- 5 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 252,745 acres in 385 parcels offered
- 190,100 acres in 305 parcels leased
- \$14,380,478 bonus bids received

for detailed lease sale statistics, go to www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2006/fluids.pdf

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

Construction/Maintenance/Engineering

Condition Assessments performed on:

- 12 administrative sites
- 110 recreation sites
- 83 lane miles of road
- 64,000 square feet of building
- 22 miles of trail
- 40 hazard class dams
- 27 bridges

Annual Maintenance performed on:

- 161,000 square feet of administrative site buildings
- 37,000 square feet of recreation site buildings
- 4 hazard class dams
- 1,106 lane miles of road
- 202 recreation sites
- 32 administrative sites
- 4 bridges
- 224 miles of trail

Deferred Maintenance performed on:

- 4,000 square feet of recreation site building
- 22,000 square feet of administrative site building
- 1 mile of trail
- 1 hazard class dam
- 22 lane miles of road
- 11 recreation sites
- 1 administrative site

Newly Constructed Assets:

- 1,270 square feet of recreation site
- 6 miles of trail
- 54 recreation site assets
- 1 interpretive center
- 477 range improvements

Other work completed:

- 154 Facilities Surveyed and Designed
- 6 Architectural and Engineering Task Orders Issued

Geographic Information Systems/Mapping Science

- Maintained digital data of various resources and land ownership for resource analysis.
- Produced detailed maps for various management planning efforts and projects.
- Provided maps and digital data to other government and private entities.

2006

- Provided visuals and analysis for public meetings and briefings.
- Provided mapping support for various programs and projects.
- 14 1:100,000 maps and 4 river float guides edited and revised for automation.
- Updated statewide grazing allotments.
- Maintained EZ Mapper and oil and gas mapping applications.
- Provided training on GPS, GIS software and analysis.
- Continued deployment of a new system infrastructure for GIS serving all data and software from central repository.
- Developed and maintained oil and gas automated field map data in SDE.
- Provided support to the development of the national invasive species database.
- Provided completed oil and gas field maps on website.

Cadastral Survey

- 312 miles resurveyed
- 464 miles approved
- 438 survey monuments set
- 1,139 survey monuments approved
- 83 plats approved

for breakdown of accomplishments by agency, go to www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2006/cadastral.pdf

Geographic Coordinated Data Base

- 601 townships collected
- 4,011 townships maintained

Volunteers and Hosted Workers

- 1,150 volunteers contributed 39,180 hours valued at \$706,807; the cost to MT/DKs BLM was \$68,211.
- 2 hosted workers contributed 1,129 hours valued at \$20,367, at no cost to MT/DKs BLM. (Hosted workers are paid by another agency while they gain work experience with the BLM.)

for breakdown by office, go to www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2006/volunteers.pdf

Fire Management

- BLM took action on 359 fires; of these, 119 were on BLM lands (under BLM protection, 83,603 acres) and 240 were on non-BLM lands (867,748 acres). 'Action' means either that resources responded or dispatch was heavily involved.
- 1 'natural out' fire for 1 acre
- 311 fires were lightning-caused (922,656 acres); 48 were human-caused (28,695 acres)
- 74 fuels treatments accomplished on 12,446 acres

Law Enforcement and Resource Protection

- Investigated 103 incidents of destruction, vandalism and/or theft of natural resources and government property.
- Investigated 135 incidents involving weapons, drugs and/or alcohol.
- Recovered \$5,600,000 in restitution to the government as the result of criminal, civil and administrative investigations.
- Investigated 28 human-caused fires for both cost recovery and criminal prosecutions.
- Conducted investigations into damage of archaeological sites and removal of paleontological resources.

- Continued investigations for financial cost recovery involving fire suppression and damage caused by a human-caused wildfire.
- Provided security on wild fires in Montana and aided in evacuations of threatened homes.
- Continued investigations into fraud related to the Oil & Gas and Hard Rock Mining programs.
- Increased efforts to work collectively with other agencies to secure the public lands along the northern border.
- Assisted in search and rescue operations and local law enforcement as requested.
- Assisted state wildlife agencies in preventing and detecting hunting and fishing violations.
- Augmented the field office LE staffs during high-visitation periods.
- Provided special operation support to various other states.
- Conducted high-visibility patrols of the Fort Meade Recreation Area during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, SD.
- Provided security and law enforcement at the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event at Pompeys Pillar National Monument.
- Provided advice and assistance to BLM offices regarding public and employee safety during increased terrorism threat levels.

PLANNING & ACTIONS

Land Use Planning and Environmental Coordination

- 9 resource management plans (RMPs) cover Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota
- Dillon RMP completed in FY06 replaces the Dillon Management Framework Plan
- 5 planning efforts in progress: Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, Butte, Miles City, Malta, and North & South Dakota resource management plans
- 1 supplemental to the Montana Statewide Oil and Gas Final Environmental Impact Statement and Amendment of the Powder River and Billings resource management plans

for a detailed report, go to <http://www.mt.blm.gov/nepalogs/index.html>

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- 51 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

for a complete list with locations and acreage, go to www.mt.blm.gov/lands/acec.htm

Lands Casework

- 137 rights-of-way and amendments issued; 18 renewed
- 2,553 acres of public land exchanged for 2,320 acres of private land
- 5 permits/leases issued; 3 renewed
- 235 patents issued for Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 2 Forest Service Exchange conveyance documents (patents/deeds) issued
- 7 Land and Water Conservation Fund acquisitions for 5,605 acres
- 1 donation of 59 acres
- 5 Disclaimers of Interest issued
- 1 Reclamation Homestead patent issued

for more detailed statistics, go to www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2006/index.html

Montana/Dakotas

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Hazardous Materials Management

- Completed follow-up CASHE audits (internal environmental audit program) as scheduled by the CASHE audit team. (Every office gets a follow-up on a 3-year cycle.)
- Completed Pryor Mountains Abandoned Mine Physical Safety Hazard Remediation.
- Completed cultural and bat surveys for physical safety hazard abatement (including adit and shaft closures) associated with abandoned mine lands. Closed 30 hazardous openings with backfill or bat gates as appropriate.
- Completed and presented to ARCO a claim for damages to BLM lands in the Clark Fork River Superfund site. The claim was made following the Natural Resource Damage Assessment provisions of the Superfund Act. Negotiations with ARCO to settle the claim will continue in 2007.
- Disposed of hazardous unused and waste products from the field offices and state office.
- Provided necessary hazmat training for staff statewide.

RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

In 2006, the Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted more than 3.9 million visits to public lands and collected more than \$320,899 in recreation fees. These funds are used to improve facilities and visitor services at developed recreation sites. The top five 2006 Montana recreation activities listed from highest to lowest in participation were:

- Hunting
- Camping
- Fishing
- Driving For Pleasure
- Hiking/Walking/Running

for a breakdown of visitor activities, go to www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2006/visdays.pdf

Public Lands provide a diversity of “settings” for the public to enjoy:

- 8.3 million acres of public lands of varied landscapes and opportunities
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 60,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 36 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and 3 Section 202 WSA sites
- 32 boating access sites
- 19 Watchable Wildlife sites
- 5 Outstanding Natural Areas
- 5 Backcountry Byways (185 miles)
- 100+ miles of groomed snowmobile/cross country ski trails
- 400+ family camping units
- 15 day-use sites and 24 developed recreation sites
- 400+ undeveloped recreation sites
- 27 miles of mountain bike trail in the Blackfoot River Corridor
- Cabin rentals in Axolotl Lakes and the Garnet Ghost Town areas

National Monuments

- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (374,976 acres)
- Pompeys Pillar National Monument (51 acres)

National Trails

- 310 miles of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
- 13 miles of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail
- 10 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- 30 miles of the Garnet Winter Trail
- 9 miles of the Bear Trap Canyon Recreation Trail
- 12 miles of the Centennial Trail (South Dakota)

National Historic Landmarks

- Pompeys Pillar National Historic Landmark

Of Special Interest, our Public Lands Offer:

- Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River (149 miles)
- Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness (6,347 acres)
- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (about 38,000 acres)
- Two interpretive/educational centers and many interpretive wayside exhibits

Recreational Achievements and Events in 2006

- The Clark on the Yellowstone National Signature Event was a resounding success with more than 47,000 visitors in four days, many community partnerships, and more than 300 volunteers in addition to the BLM employees.
- Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River staff produced a new boater guide and a downloadable boater video, rebuilt the river web page, installed four interpretive kiosks, and developed a partnership with Malmstrom Air Force Base to provide volunteers.
- The Dillon Resource Management Plan Record of Decision, including off-highway vehicle area and road designations, was completed.
- The Butte FO completed a 30-unit campground at the White Sandy Recreation site along Holter Lake. This \$2 million site was completed in partnership with Pennsylvania Power & Light of Montana. Butte also completed all planning, designs and contract preparations for upgrading the Holter Dam Recreation Site.
- The Butte FO implemented two new travel management plans with signs, trailheads, information/map displays at Clancy and Sleeping Giant areas; maintained 100 miles of OHV trails; and put in a boundary fence at the Radersburg OHV area.
- Volunteers helped the Lewistown FO complete one mile of trail in mountainous terrain at the Limekiln Trail.
- The travel management and recreation analysis and management situation was completed for initiation of the Malta Resource Management Plan.
- The Fort Benton and Pompeys Pillar National Monument interpretive centers were completed and opened to the public.
- The Shepherd Ah-Nei OHV area was re-opened for public use. About 60 volunteers helped install trail signs, permanent barriers and complete trail rehabilitation (Billings FO)
- Eight National Public Lands Day events were held on sites throughout Montana/Dakotas BLM.
- The Billings FO installed two information kiosks on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range associated with policies regarding the horse range and the adjoining wilderness study areas.
- The Dillon FO improved visitor facilities and access at Red Mountain South Recreation Site by constructing a wheelchair accessible trail, installing two new restrooms and improving the water system.

- The Miles City FO completed its series of "Floater's Access Guides" for the Yellowstone River and installed over 100 Open Route signs designating public/private land boundaries.
- The Missoula FO initiated the first special recreation permit and campground management partnership along the Blackfoot River between BLM and the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
- The Dillon FO hosted the River Management Society Northwest Chapter float trip in July. The first day was spent in the Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness pondering multiple wilderness/river management issues, and the second day was spent on the upper Madison and hosted cooperatively with FWP. Topics focused on the heavy public and commercial use of the river and related issues and concerns.
- The first Montana BLM Special Recreation Permit audit of commercial permits was completed in six field offices. The Malta FO reissued 19 SRPs with new stipulations and permit lengths to align with new national policies and public scoping from the ongoing Malta Resource Management Plan.
- Partnership agreements were signed throughout the state for recreation management of historical/cultural areas, rivers, and for public access to isolated land parcels. These new partners with BLM include: the Forest Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Garnet Historical Association, and Montana State University (Undaunted Stewardship).
- Trail work projects included the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, and the Nemesis Mountain Trail in the Centennial Mountains along the Continental Divide Trail.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Personnel

- 634 total employees: 482 permanent full-time; 77 temporary; 64 career seasonal; and 11 SCEP (student career educational program)

for breakdown by field office, go to www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2006/employment.pdf

SALARIES BY COMMUNITY

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Aberdeen, SD | \$96,868 | Havre, MT | 642,726 |
| Ashland, MT | 239,119 | Helena, MT | 70,512 |
| Belle Fourche, SD | 813,252 | Jordan, MT | 128,175 |
| Billings, MT | 11,872,766 | Lewistown, MT | 3,736,322 |
| Bridger, MT | 83,468 | Lovell, WY | 63,465 |
| Butte, MT | 2,571,958 | Malta, MT | 1,047,653 |
| Camp Crook, SD | \$66,976 | Miles City, MT | 4,919,065 |
| Dickinson, ND | 1,371,826 | Missoula, MT | 2,040,288 |
| Dillon, MT | 1,797,985 | Pompeys Pillar, MT | 110,385 |
| Ekalaka, MT | 25,338 | Wolf Creek, MT | 116,973 |
| Ennis, MT | 57,170 | Zortman, MT | 112,546 |
| Fort Benton, MT | 253,523 | | |
| Fort Meade, SD | 111,225 | Total | \$33,617,014 |
| Glasgow, MT | 718,698 | | |
| Great Falls, MT | 548,732 | Total Budget | \$78,970,423 |

for budget breakdown, go to www.mt.blm.gov/ea/annrpt/2006/budget.pdf

Federal Transfer Payments (including PILT payments)

- \$50,625,750 paid to state of Montana
- \$9,688,880 paid to state of North Dakota
- \$3,152,560 paid to state of South Dakota

MONTANA PILT

| Local Unit Of Government | Total Paid In FY06 | Local Unit Of Government | Total Paid In FY06 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Anaconda-Deer Lodge | \$289,818 | McCone | \$170,447 |
| Beaverhead | 561,020 | Meagher | 124,854 |
| Big Horn | 8,385 | Mineral | 130,049 |
| Blaine | 332,555 | Missoula | 687,639 |
| Broadwater | 369,374 | Musselshell | 111,854 |
| Butte-Silver Bow | 308,899 | Park | 849,045 |
| Carbon | 534,011 | Petroleum | 48,514 |
| Carter | 120,326 | Phillips | 278,672 |
| Cascade | 289,333 | Pondera | 139,410 |
| Chouteau | 191,383 | Powder River | 120,368 |
| Custer | 471,272 | Powell | 419,642 |
| Dawson | 12,943 | Prairie | 86,912 |
| Fallon | 23,454 | Ravalli | 1,475,188 |
| Fergus | 676,413 | Richland | 11,002 |
| Flathead | 1,352,023 | Roosevelt | 867 |
| Gallatin | 965,440 | Rosebud | 65,945 |
| Garfield | 119,388 | Sanders | 185,112 |
| Glacier | 576,122 | Sheridan | 360 |
| Golden Valley | 42,805 | Stillwater | 258,616 |
| Granite | 142,432 | Sweet Grass | 332,806 |
| Hill | 23,444 | Teton | 381,729 |
| Jefferson | 636,747 | Toole | 43,973 |
| Judith Basin | 174,792 | Treasure | 151 |
| Lake | 167,131 | Valley | 440,952 |
| Lewis and Clark | 1,380,519 | Wheatland | 87,774 |
| Liberty | 35,100 | Wibaux | 5,463 |
| Lincoln | 353,740 | Yellowstone | 109,660 |
| Madison | 543,762 | TOTAL | \$17,269,635 |

NORTH DAKOTA PILT

| Local Unit Of Government | Total Paid In FY06 | Local Unit Of Government | Total Paid In FY06 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Barnes | \$8,983 | McLean | \$215,527 |
| Benson | 4,869 | Mercer | 18,760 |
| Billings | 63,252 | Morton | 19,114 |
| Bottineau | 185 | Mountrail | 71,100 |
| Bowman | 8,007 | Pierce | 4,963 |
| Burke | 187 | Ramsey | 534 |
| Burleigh | 20,725 | Ransom | 54,043 |
| Cavalier | 1,965 | Renville | 345 |
| Dickey | 921 | Richland | 35,644 |
| Divide | 1,934 | Rolette | 154 |
| Dunn | 15,049 | Sargent | 2,461 |
| Eddy | 851 | Sheridan | 42,273 |
| Emmons | 45,692 | Sioux | 44,235 |
| Golden Valley | 17,303 | Slope | 27,094 |
| Grand Forks | 1,707 | Stark | 902 |
| Grant | 12,539 | Steele | 197 |
| Griggs | 2,420 | Stutsman | 13,141 |
| Kidder | 3,133 | Walsh | 673 |
| Logan | 1,211 | Ward | 457 |
| McHenry | 3,271 | Wells | 12,105 |
| McIntosh | 663 | Williams | 64,408 |
| McKenzie | 103,432 | TOTAL | \$946,429 |

SOUTH DAKOTA PILT

| Local Unit Of Government | Total Paid In FY06 | Local Unit Of Government | Total Paid In FY06 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Beadle | \$425 | Jackson | 154,353 |
| Bon Homme | 22,946 | Jones | 28,363 |
| Brown | 116 | Lawrence | 56,450 |
| Brule | 17,278 | Lyman | 140,553 |
| Buffalo | 17,238 | McPherson | 232 |
| Butte | 232,500 | Meade | 58,835 |
| Campbell | 31,666 | Pennington | 452,266 |
| Charles Mix | 37,495 | Perkins | 158,821 |
| Clark | 139 | Potter | 23,116 |
| Corson | 95,411 | Roberts | 793 |
| Custer | 147,238 | Shannon | 2,869 |
| Day | 303 | Spink | 1,070 |
| Dewey | 114,199 | Stanley | 157,659 |
| Fall River | 349,804 | Sully | 69,107 |
| Gregory | 38,706 | Tripp | 232 |
| Haakon | 6,770 | Walworth | 28,363 |
| Hand | 116 | Yankton | 3,500 |
| Harding | 116,256 | Ziebach | 2,540 |
| Hughes | 53,295 | TOTAL | \$2,623,544 |
| Hyde | 2,521 | | |

Bureau of Land Management



Montana/Dakotas

*Caring for Our Natural Resources
and
Managing Lands for Public Needs*



AN ANNUAL REPORT



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Bureau of Land Management
Montana State Office
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, Montana 59101
(406) 896-5011
www.mt.blm.gov