

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument



*National Landscape Conservation System
FY 2009 Manager's Report*

NAME: Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument
MANAGER: Gary Slagel
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http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/lewistown_field_office/UM.html

Montana State Office
Central Montana District Office

ESTABLISHED: Presidential Proclamation #7398, January 17, 2001
ACREAGE: 377,346 ACRES
STAFFING: 2 Range Management Specialists
1 Wildlife Biologist
1 Hydrologist (re-assigned to Monument staff 10/1/09)
1 Natural Resource Specialist (Weeds)
1 Park Ranger (Vacant)
1 Park Ranger Career Seasonal (Vacant)
1 Range Technician Career Seasonal
1 Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner
1 Interpretive Center Director
1 Office Assistant
1 Law Enforcement Ranger
1 Maintenance Worker Career Seasonal

Staff located in Lewistown, Fort Benton, and Havre, MT.

KEY RESOURCES AND VALUES:

- Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River (149 miles)
- Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
- Nez Perce National Historic Trail
- 6 Wilderness Study Areas
- 1 Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Diverse Wildlife Species
- Diverse Recreational Opportunities

ANNUAL VISITATION: Visitor use on the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River was 4776, for an estimated 14328 visitor days, in FY 09. Sixty percent of the users were Montana residents, and 40% were non-residents. Use in the uplands is not counted due to remoteness of the area; however, the majority of the use is during hunting season, September through November. Some hiking occurs during the summer, but use is unknown.

Visitation at the Missouri River Breaks Interpretive Center was 5035.

Natural and Heritage Resources Conditions

Natural resources trends

- Riparian areas within the Monument are generally functioning at or near their capability, which in most cases is proper functioning condition or making progress towards proper functioning condition, although ecological status varies depending on site location. Riparian habitat capability is being somewhat limited within the Upper Missouri River by flow regulation from upstream dams. Noxious weeds, invasive woody species, recreational use and development, and livestock grazing are also negatively impacting riparian areas. Changes are continually being made to address areas impacted by livestock grazing, and measures are being taken to control or eradicate noxious weeds and invasive woody plants. Evaluation of recreational impacts to woody riparian areas has been initiated, with impacts to woody plant succession and wildlife habitat being of primary concern. Although areas at ecological potential are limited, most riparian areas are meeting standards or making progress towards meeting standards, and continue to improve, following changes in grazing management over the past 10 – 15 years.
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- Riparian area at Cow Island
- Throughout the UMRBNM, the Missouri River is listed as a water quality impaired stream by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Although most pollutants are from upstream sources, non-point source pollution from altered streamside zones is identified as a contributor of pollutants. On BLM managed lands, those allotments meeting upland and riparian health standards are at least partially mitigating non-point source pollution. Those areas of degraded riparian and upland range condition could be impacting water quality on the Missouri River and its tributaries. Since generally most upland and riparian areas within the UMRBNM are improving, mitigation of non-point source pollution would also be improving.
 - Bald eagles have been delisted; nine active nests inventoried in 2008. Two additional nesting territories were established in 2009. Only three nests were active in 2004.
 - Some declines in the size of prairie dog towns have been noted following outbreaks of sylvatic plague. Overall acreage of prairie dog towns continues to increase within the monument as towns expand due to drought, areas decimated by plague are re-established, or new towns are discovered.
 - Sage grouse trends have been static over the long term with slight declines in the last 3 – 5 years in areas north of the Missouri River.

- Big game winter habitat condition has been improving with management and monitoring of upland and riparian health standards.
- Big horn sheep and elk populations continue to increase and expand into unoccupied habitat, providing additional opportunities for wildlife viewing and hunting.



Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Bighorn Sheep

Invasive, Non-native, or Noxious Weeds

- The management of invasive plant species in the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument is tailored to keeping newly introduced species from becoming established through Early Detection and Rapid Response, and keeping established invasives from escaping the river corridor and invading unfested areas. In some focused areas, where management has been consistent, the population of invasive plants is decreasing with some areas recovering with more desirable plant species. Some areas are not returning to native/desirable plant populations and are being replaced with annual plant species and, in some instances, other perennial invasives. In more remote areas, where management is inconsistent due to accessibility and weather, invasive species continue to persist.
- Invasive plant species have continued to persist in the UMRBNM particularly along the river corridor. Some species will always be a significant vegetative component of the river bottoms they now infest. New invaders such as tamarisk, purple loosestrife, common tansy, and perennial pepperweed are being inventoried and monitored annually to keep very small populations from becoming established. Recreation sites such as campgrounds are being treated to reduce the risk of spread from these areas to other areas of the Monument and to address introductions due to recreational activities.
- The establishment and spread of cheatgrass, regardless of ecological conditions, is becoming more widely distributed on river bottoms along the Missouri River. Results of monitoring and upland assessments indicate, at least in some localized areas, that it is outcompeting and replacing native grass species. If this trend continues, at some point, ecological processes and conditions will worsen and impact grazing and wildlife.

Heritage Resources Trends

- Cultural resources within the Monument tend to be stable. Vandalism is not a significant threat. The majority of the deterioration affecting cultural resources is occurring because of erosion along the Missouri River, and as a matter of natural deterioration of wooden features. Paleontological resources tend to be stable.
- Trends along the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail are static. In 2009, the river saw a slight increase in use over 2008. In FY 09, 60% of the visitors were Montana residents.

Land Health Assessments

A contract was issued to inventory 34 miles of riparian habitat and streams in the Arrow Creek/Whiskey Ridge landscape areas.

- Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments were completed covering 36 miles in the Squaw Creek, Cabin Creek and the Bull Creek drainages.
- Numerous miles of riparian, wildlife, and streamside habitat were monitored along the Missouri River: 83 miles on the south side and 50 miles on the north side.
- 20 riparian projects were maintained to include pasture drift fences, offsite livestock watering systems, tree watering systems and exclosures.
- In the Upper Missouri Watershed, 15 allotments (30,845 acres) were assessed for Standards for Rangeland Health.
- In Two Calf Watershed, determinations were completed for six allotments.
- Upland and riparian conditions were assessed on 20,000 acres within the Cabin Creek Grazing Allotment to determine if land health standards are being met.
- The Woodhawk Watershed EA and proposed grazing decision were completed. The decision was protested and a final decision was issued. The final decision was appealed and appellants petitioned for a stay. The petition for stay was denied by IBLA and the appellants withdrew their appeal and sent notice that they intended to pursue the matter in federal court.
- Numerous grazing allotments received supervision and compliance visits throughout the monument.
- 20,000 acres of habitat were inventoried for sensitive plant and animal species and big game.



BLM employee completing riparian health assessment along Bull Creek



Two Calf Creek



Woodhawk Creek

- 20,000 acres of habitat were inventoried for sensitive plant and animal species and big game.
- 10,000 acres were monitored for sage grouse.
- 30,000 acres of wildlife winter range was monitored for utilization of key browse species.
- 1 mile of abandoned barbwire fence was removed to eliminate barriers to wildlife movement.
- 5 spring improvements were maintained for upland birds.
- Crews maintained 15 wildlife escape ramps in livestock waters and installed four new livestock waterers.
- Plant and wildlife monitoring was completed in 20 grazing allotments on the north side and 15 on the south side.
- The Havre and Lewistown range staffs responded to several FOIA requests for riparian, upland and range monitoring data, maps and grazing permits. This turned out to be a significant workload that impacted staff time and seasonal funding that could have been used toward on-the-ground accomplishments.



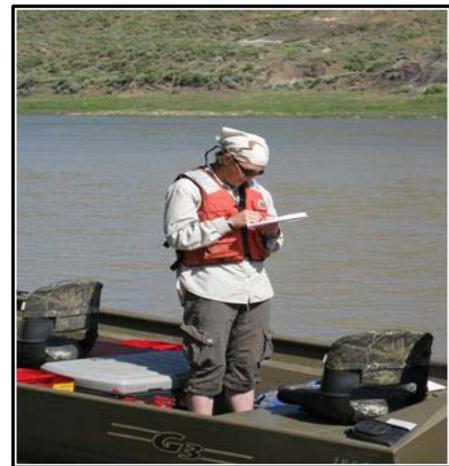
BLM staff extending a wing of riparian enclosure into the Missouri River

Inventory

This year, the road system in the monument was inventoried for the presence/absence of invasive species to create a baseline data set to determine management implications associated with these roads. A total of 35,000 acres were inventoried.

Approximately 5000 acres were re-inventoried for the presence or absence of salt cedar, perennial pepperweed, purple loosestrife, and Dalmatian toadflax, which are invasive species that are relatively new to the monument and have been targeted for Early Detection and Rapid Response to ensure they do not become established invasive species.

- Through an ongoing collaborative project with the United States Geological Survey, BLM continues to monitor the condition and trend of riparian woody species throughout the Upper Missouri Corridor. On Arrow Creek and the Judith River, BLM is collecting flow, vegetation, and morphology baseline data as part of an effort to quantify the federal reserved water rights on Arrow Creek and the Judith River.
- The prairie dog towns along the river were monitored by a wildlife student trainee.
- A contractor is continuing work on the Class I Overview of the Lewistown Field Office, including the Monument, to capture the known information on the history, prehistory, and paleontology of the area.



BLM Wildlife Biologist trainee completing riparian inventory along the Missouri river

- In the fall of 2009, over 50 radios were attached to soft-shelled turtles in the lower portion of the monument. A graduate student from Montana State University will begin research on winter habitat and monitor movements throughout the summer.
- We completed 160 acres of cultural resource inventory with BLM archaeological staff. Fourteen previously documented sites were monitored during 2009. Many of these sites had not been revisited since the time they were initially recorded in the 1970s. Since the policy at that time was to collect artifacts, relocating some of these sites is difficult. Making site condition determinations (stable v. deteriorating) has also been hampered because of that collection practice.
- In 2009, one institution with paleontologists permitted to work in the Monument reported completing 20 acres of paleontological inventory.

Restoration

Implementation of Integrated Weed Management continues with many different activities. Biological, chemical, and manual treatments were made on 15 different invasive species in the monument.

MONTANA AND DAKOTAS - Monument (LLMTL07000)			
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT			
TREATMENT METHOD	ACRES AIR	ACRES GROUND	TOTAL ACRES
Chemical - Herbicide	0	3,902	3,902
Chemical - Insecticide	0	0	0
Physical - Manual	0	15	15
Physical - Mechanical	0	0	0
Biological Control - Non-classical	0	0	0
Biological Control - Classical	0	208	208
Fire	0	0	0
Acres Bio-expansion	0	1	1
Acres Bio-established	0	505	505
Acres Inventoried	0	40,000	40,000
Acres Monitored	0	23,560	23,560
TOTALS	0	68,191	68,191

Successful Implementation of Early Detection and Rapid Response

Before



After



To date, 60% of the 131 small perennial pepperweed infestations, which have been identified in the monument since 1999, have been eradicated. This infestation of the invasive perennial pepperweed was identified in 1999 and has been treated and monitored annually. In the first photo (taken in 2000), 90% of the vegetation is perennial pepperweed as compared to <5% in the second photo (taken in 2009). Notice however, the patch of cheatgrass in the upper left.

- 470 acres of Russian olive were removed from riparian areas within the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River corridor. Over 1,000 trees were removed, and 12 miles of riverbank on the



Downed Log

south side of the river and 8.5 miles of riverbank on the north side of the river were cleared of Russian olive. Removal of this invasive species will facilitate the ability for native understory species to grow.



Lion Coulee Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire was used to complete burning on 730 acres in mixed stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forests to reduce heavy fuel loads, create a mosaic of diverse plant communities, and to reduce conifer and juniper encroachment into shrub and grassland areas.



BLM employees construct an exclosure in Ford Bottom riparian area to protect young cottonwoods from livestock grazing.

Recreation Facilities, Roads, and Trails Conditions

- **Administrative Facilities:** The UMRBNM is housed with the Central Montana District Office. The Upper Missouri River Breaks NM Interpretive Center and River Management Station are located in Fort Benton. This facility is 3 years old and in excellent condition.
- The facility that was previously used to house the Missouri River Visitor Contact Station (prior to construction of the Interpretive Center) is in need of major renovation or removal. The facility is located along the main downtown area fronting the river, was purchased with Land and Water Conservation Funds, and is currently used for storage. The building needs to be replaced with a new warehouse for storing boats, campers, vehicles, equipment and canoes.
- **Recreation Facilities:** The general condition of the recreation facilities is good; developed launch sites/campgrounds are in mostly good shape, as are remote boat camps along the river. One boat ramp is in need of a major rebuild, and ARRA funding is in place to rebuild in April/May 2010.
- **Roads:** Road maintenance occurred on 180 lane miles within the monument. The overall road system is generally in good shape; however, legal roaded access to large areas of the monument continues to be an issue. Annual maintenance meets basic user needs.
- 100% of assets are included in an Asset Business Plan; 90% of assets are in Quadrant 1, 2% of assets are in Quadrant 2, and 8% of assets are in Quadrant 4. The percentage of high priority assets in the Monument in adequate condition is 98%.
- **Construction:** A 3-acre wooden post and pole fence was constructed at the Gist Bottom Primitive Boat Camp to eliminate livestock/recreation conflicts during the float season. The Montana Conservation Corp and students from the Salish-Kootenai College assisted with construction.
- **Maintenance:** Deferred maintenance is being reduced commensurate with maintenance funding and does not meet our needs. In FY 09, a water chlorination system was installed at Kipp Recreation Area, and several picnic table units were replaced or repaired.

- Two historic properties were protected this year with the reconstruction of existing, but dilapidated fences. A post and wire fence was built around the Ervin Cabin, and a jack-leg fence was reconstructed around the Murray Dugout

Signage:

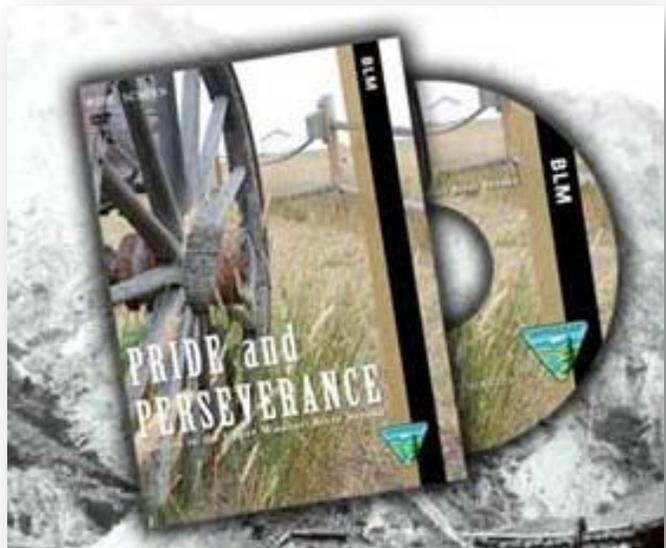
- A sign plan was initiated in 2004
- All portal signs/kiosks are meeting standards
- In FY 09, 230 signs were entered into the sign database and 17 signs were installed.

Outreach, Environmental Education, Interpretation, and Volunteers Outreach

Invasive species awareness brochures are mailed with information packets about the monument and made available at the Interpretive Center. The Montana Noxious Weed Calendar was also made available at the Interpretive Center.

The National Riparian Service Team assisted the Monument with a collaborative process involving interested publics, livestock operators, scientists, and agency personnel in order to start the process of coming to some common ground and working towards projects and goals that all can agree on. The four action items, which resulted from the workshops, included constructing a livestock enclosure at a location with young cottonwood establishment, beginning discussions with Bureau of Reclamation regarding targeting flow releases to simulate a natural hydrograph, holding community weed days, and creating a newsletter.

In January 2009 the Lewistown Field Office completed the DVD “Pride and Perseverance,” a 27 minute video about homesteading in the Upper Missouri River Breaks. The production was highlighted in the local newspaper and on the local radio station, and was featured on Montana PBS in June and July of 2009. A delegation of the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council presented copies to the Montana congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. Copies were delivered to libraries and schools in Fergus and Chouteau counties, as well as the Montana Historical Society. Five interpretive panels associated with the video were installed at homesteads along the Missouri River.



Visitor Centers

The Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center interprets the natural and cultural history of the UMRBNM and the National wild and Scenic Upper Missouri River. The main interpretive theme is “How the Land and the River Have Shaped Human History and How Human History now Shapes and Preserves

the Land and the River”. Included within this main theme are subthemes such as 1) Geology, 2) Flora and fauna of the river and the uplands, 3) Steam boating history of the river, 4) the Nez Perce flight from the army in 1877 and their crossing at Cow Island, 5) The many cultures of people who have called this place home and, 6) the freighting history that gave rise to the importance of Fort Benton as the worlds’ innermost port. Leave No Trace programming is also included.

Visitation dropped slightly in our third year, as did our education program demand. The weak economy caused some school districts and visitors to cancel their field trips and interpretive center visits.



- General visitation for FY 2009 was 5,035 visitors
- 659 people attended some kind of program or training session at the center in FY2009
- Of this number, 382 students attended over 37 educational programs at the center
- Also included in FY09 totals are 47 visitors who attended an evening interpretive program about geology of the monument and 164 people in five groups received tours.

- Alan Leftridge, of the National Association for Interpretation, provided training to local BLM staff (river rangers, volunteers) and interpretive center partners (the River and Plains Society). Approximately 23 staff and partners attended this training.
- One training day for all volunteers within the town of Fort Benton was held at the center, in partnership with the Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). This training session/meeting was the first of its kind. This gathering provided community volunteers with a broad base of information about all the visitor services provided in the community. A special presentation by Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP), from Great Falls, Montana was included to offer additional information and to provide additional opportunities to volunteers in the community. Approximately 53 area volunteers attended this meeting.
- Volunteers hours contributed declined this year, in part, because the need for educational programming decreased. MBIC volunteers contributed 1,350 hours at the interpretive center in FY 09; approximately 90% of these volunteer hours were for the educational programs. The interpretive center director is currently working with local retired teachers to develop additional educational materials. MBIC volunteers assisted with staffing needs at Bear Paw Battlefield National Park in the summer of 2009.
- Various programs about the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument are provided throughout the year to special interest groups, service clubs and professional organizations. The center director has also established an MOU with the Fort Benton Chamber of Commerce to

solidify our partnership. The Partnership seeks to further volunteer training opportunities and to develop and maintain a solid volunteer corps for the center and the Fort Benton Community.

The short interpretive trail, including interpretive signs and a riverside bench, has been a popular feature of the site by visitors and townspeople. This trail segment was paid for by the Undaunted Stewardship program. The trail behind the interpretive center is about ¼ mile in length where it connects with the Fort Benton levee walk trail – a trail which extends the length of the riverfront along the length of the City of Fort Benton. Trail use for the segment behind the interpretive center, for the first recorded year was approximately 1,000 people. As annual trail use numbers are gathered they will allow us to plan for future or annual trail maintenance needs.

Maintenance issues are being tracked through a FAMS pilot project with the Montana State Office engineering staff. This pilot project will track and help determine future maintenance needs for the interpretive center and the grounds. Repairs, maintenance and updates are also being tracked for displays through the FAMS pilot project. FY 08's maintenance efforts total 2,769 hours by staff, volunteers, the center director, contractors and the City of Fort Benton.

Educational programs offered at the Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center in 2009 included:

- Aquatic Ecology
- Who Goes There? (animal tracks),
- It's All in Your Head (skulls and animal adaptations),
- Bullwhacker Freight Company (freighting history in the Monument),
- Bird Adaptations,
- Must Cultures collide? (a program about the Nez Perce War of 1877),
- Mineral Alley (about dinosaurs and geology of the Monument and,
- Miss Mae Flannagan (historical reenactment of the steamboat Eclipse, last boat to leave Fort Benton in summer 1887).



A GeoCorp intern provided an evening program about the Geology of the Upper Missouri River Breaks. Forty-seven people attended that program.





Several interpretive center volunteers attended the evening geology program as well as a day trip into Hole in the Wall for on-the-ground geology training with this year's Geo Corp intern.

Take it Outside funding was obtained to provide financial assistance for four schools and one Tribal organization (Fort Belknap Diabetes Prevention Program) to take multi-day river trips on the Wild and Scenic Upper Missouri River. To date few, if any, of the children on these trips had seen the White Cliffs or other compelling archeological or natural features along the river. These programs engage children in their surroundings while on the river. These programs were initially developed through a Hands on the Land grant. In 2009, almost 100 students participated in these river trips. These students come from extremely rural and underserved areas surrounding the National Monument.

Volunteers

At the Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center:

- Two volunteers assisted with front desk operations on the weekends.
- Seven education docents (volunteers) assisted with education program development.
- Nine volunteers contributed 1,350 hours to the center in FY 09. At least 90% of these hours were contributed toward the education programs.
- The Center is open seven days per week, 8am-5pm, from Memorial Day to September 30. Winter hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, closed on federal holidays.

Environmental Education/Interpretation

BLM began a program with the Blaine County Weed District and the Chinook High School Vocational Agriculture Program to begin using student volunteers to identify and monitor invasive plant infestations in and around Wilderness Study Areas. This year, eight students and their teacher learned how to identify invasive species and spent a day mapping infestation on the Stafford Wilderness Study Area.

- Local conservation districts hold a conservation education day where area 5th grade classes rotate through various stations learning about different natural resource issues and topics. BLM provided educational materials and aids to help present information on invasive species.
- Blaine County Weed District Coordinator, Pete Pula (right) helps high school students learn how to identify invasive species in the river corridor.





- In January 2009, we received notice that the Frank Hagadone Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Since then it has been adopted as a Site Stewardship monitoring site, has had the Central Montana Resource Advisory Council tour it, and has had two windows replaced as part of a preservation effort.

Volunteers

- Volunteers assisted in monitoring the Nelson Homestead (pictured above) and three prehistoric sites.
- Volunteers associated with the Friends of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument assisted with the completion of Ford Bottom exclosure. (right)
- Volunteer campground hosts provided 4120 hours of Labor
- Volunteers donated over 460 hours of labor for 5 National Public Lands Day Events within the Monument.



Other Outreach Efforts

Invasive species specialists from the BLM and Chouteau County conducted an identification course at Wood Bottom for seasonal staff that would be working in the monument. Items covered included:

- identification
- proper reporting of suspected infestations
- and addressing the public about invasive species

BLM employees learned how to identify a number of invasive species including Houndstongue. (Photo right)



Oil and Gas Facilities

- All producing locations have no pending environmental issues.
- All facilities are painted the approved neutral color.
- Travel to/from the wells is along approved existing trails and is only done in good/frozen weather (not during storms).
- Only two wells have been returned to production during 2009. None of these wells required additional surface disturbance, i.e. the pipeline was already installed and is successfully re-vegetated.
- Currently, we are processing two previously submitted APDs and are aware of a pending ROW Grant for a pipeline along Ervin Ridge.
- There has been no other oil/gas activity in the Monument. All Incidents of Non Compliance written orders issued in last two years have been corrected.

Lease Operations

All of the original 43 of the Monument leases continue as authorized leases either by held by production status or the leases continue in their primary term. The primary term leases are the twelve (12) West HiLine Leases and one (1) Non-West HiLine Lease with new lease expiration dates ranging from 2/28/2010 to 10/31/2018. The other thirty (30) leases are authorized by being held by production of which sixteen (16) are held by actual or allocated production, eleven (11) are held by shut-in gas wells that are capable of production in paying quantities, and three (3) were granted lease extensions until April 8, 2010 because of two CA terminations.

The following is a comparison of activities that has occurred since completion of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, January 2008, Page 1373:

- Three new non-Monument wells were drilled on lands outside the Monument yet still on leases or on lands that affect leases contained within the Monument.
- Five shut-in wells were plugged and abandoned and are currently in the process of reclamation.
- Four shut-in wells were converted to producing status.
- Three producing wells were converted to shut-in status.
- Twelve leases granted suspension of operations/production and subsequently lifted February 20.
- Two operator changes occurred.
- Three held by production leases were granted lease extensions because of CA Terminations: their new lease expiration date is April 28, 2010.

Inspection and Enforcement

- During FY2009, twenty (20) production inspections (PIs) were conducted on wells in and around the Monument. Typically, the types of activities done during production inspections for gas wells are: site security (SS), Environmental (SP), Meter Calibration (MC, witnessing of meter calibrations), and Gas Chart Verification (CV).



Devon's US 28-1 well 28-T25N-R19E looking northwest (A. Parrott)

- Of the 20 PIs conducted, one incidence of noncompliance was issued for improper discharge of water on location and the incident was corrected.
- All 10 active wells contained within the Monument did receive a PI inspection.

During FY2009, two (2) specific environmental/surface inspections (ES) were conducted on wells in and around the Monument. The types of things inspected during these inspections are to assure that the operator is complying with the approved plan, which can include but not be limited to: water disposal methods, checking for erosion control measures, checking to verify if the operator is in compliance with approved paint colors for the area, weed control and progress towards well site reclamation.

Science

- Within the Soil, Water, and Air and Riparian programs in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, there are two ongoing science research projects. The first is a collaborative study with the United States Geological Survey studying the regeneration of cottonwoods along the Missouri River. The second is a study with BLM's National Science and Technology Center attempting to quantify the amount of water necessary to sustain the cottonwood gallery forests on Arrow Creek and the Judith River.



United States Geological Survey and BLM employees look for seedling cottonwoods on vegetation transect.



Salish Kootenai College Students and Monument Park Rangers preparing for a river patrol

Partnerships

Cooperation and collaborative efforts to manage invasive species with four county weed districts is ongoing

- The Monument entered into an Educational Outreach partnership with the Salish Kootenai College in order to expose Native American students to the types of careers that are available within the BLM, provide them the opportunity to gain valuable job experience, and earn college credit. Students assist BLM by accomplishing field projects and gain knowledge about career opportunities within the organization.

The College faculty developed the Wildland Recreation Management curriculum where students can:

- (1) participate in a field environment,
- (2) become part of the BLMs workforce,
- (3) attend lectures by the College faculty, and
- (4) gain exposure, knowledge and education relating to careers in resource management.

The students assisted Monument Park Rangers on numerous remote, backcountry river patrols. Other projects included construction of post and pole exclosures to help mitigate livestock/recreational use conflicts, participation in invasive/noxious weed identification training and assisting with the restoration of an abandoned early 1900 homestead. With the education and experience the students receive with this on the job opportunity, they might one day consider a career with the Bureau of Land Management.

- Friends of the Monument assisted with a riparian exclosure at Ford Bottom; providing \$1800 in materials and \$1000 in labor to construct the exclosure.
- United States Geological Society and BLM's National Science and Technology Center are addressing cottonwood regeneration on the Missouri River and the reserved water right question, respectively. Pennsylvania Power and Light – Montana are partners with the United States Geological Society and Russian olive eradication.
- In September 2009 the Forest Service's Historic Preservation Team (HPT), with the assistance of BLM continued restoration work on the Ervin Cabin. (Upper right)



- In September/October 2009, the Historic Preservation Team brought a different crew over to work on the Gilmore Cabin, also in the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. The Gilmore Cabin has been open to users, and is often occupied in the fall during big game hunting season. A business plan will be prepared to analyze the feasibility of utilizing the cabin as a rental.
- In July 2009, two BLM employees Zane Fulright and Benjamin Miller worked in the HPT's workshop in Missoula to construct five windows for the Hagadone homestead cabin.
- Through an assistance agreement with the University of Montana, a graduate student is completing National Register nominations for two historic properties along the Missouri River.
- A site stewardship program with Montana State University and Project Archeology resulted in planning and coordination for on-site training opportunities for students.



Benjamin Miller constructed window frames for the Hagadone homestead cabin at the historic preservation workshop in Missoula.

Planning and Business Practices

Planning

The Resource Management Plan was completed in December 2008. This RMP is both a transportation plan and a field development oil/gas plan. An implementation plan was completed in April 2009. Two lawsuits, which were combined into one, were filed by environmental groups; negotiations are taking place with the environmental groups that address activity level planning.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009

The Monument received funding for several ARRA projects:

- Replacing the boat ramp at Judith Landing scheduled to be completed in April/May 2010
- Travel plan sign installation-signs/posts, seasonal employees will be used to install signs in 2010
- Bullwhacker culvert replacement-EA is 90% complete, culvert to be replaced summer 2010
- Invasive species management-funds used for Russian Olive removal contract, an interagency agreement with USDA APHIS to continue with biological control monitoring program, and for integrated weed treatment within the Monument in summer 2010
- Log contact stations will be constructed at Coal Banks Landing and James Kipp Recreation Area
- Cultural resource inventory of approximately 3,500 acres in the Cow Creek/Bull Creek area along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail will be completed in 2010

Budget

[Labor calculated utilizing Central Montana District work month spread and the annual work month cost for each Subactivity]

Base Allocations: \$1,911,124 [Labor= \$1,104,324; MSO earmarks \$720000, misc. ops \$30000, vehicles \$56800]

Contributions: Volunteer hours total 7040 for \$142,566

Receipts (RUPS/SRPs): \$52,124

Contributed Funds & In Kind Support

Friends of the Monument: \$1800/materials, \$3000/labor

Major Expenditures

Labor = \$ 1,104,324
Travel = \$14,300
Vehicles = \$56800
TOTAL = \$1,175,424

Labor Expenses

Permanent Monument Staff plus seasonal staff = 164WMS/\$878,886
Non-Unit Staff = 34 WMs/\$225,438
Total WMs/\$\$ = 198/\$1,104,324

Report Compiled by:

Chad Krause, Hydrologist

Vinita Shea, Range Management Specialist

Mitch Forsyth, Range Management Specialist

Jody Peters, Wildlife Biologist

Zane Fulbright, Archeologist

Mark Schaefer, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner

Connie Jacobs, Director Missouri Breaks Interpretive Center

Kenny Keever, Natural Resource Specialist (Weeds)

Gary Slagel, Monument Manager