

## C-5 DEAR INTERESTED PARTY: MAILER



In Reply To:

### United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
North Dakota Field Office  
99 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave West  
Suite A  
Dickinson, ND 58601  
701-227-7700  
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/ndfo/>



August 2007

Dear Interested Party:

We would like to have your participation in the development of a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for public lands in North Dakota that are administered by our agency. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers approximately 58,000 acres of surface lands and more than 4.1 million acres of subsurface minerals including coal, oil, and gas in North Dakota. The BLM anticipates that land use issues may be of great importance to residents and industry representatives of North Dakota.

As an example, let us consider “split estate.” There are many thousands of acres within North Dakota where a private citizen may own the surface with its implicit rights. However, a federal agency such as the BLM may administer the subsurface mineral rights, separate from the surface ownership rights. The mineral rights often take precedence over surface rights. If the federal agency leases the minerals to a private company then that company has the right to develop (mine) those minerals. This often leads to misunderstandings and conflict between the surface owner, the company, and the federal agency.

During the Resource Management Planning effort for North Dakota, a three to four year process, the BLM will look at the split estate issue. The BLM will focus its planning efforts on this issue as well as many other concerns important to North Dakota residents.

We welcome you to attend one of more of our public scoping meetings at the following times and locations and provide your input and guidance to the BLM. Let us know how you see the future of North Dakota and help us make appropriate land use decisions. You may also simply mail or fax a comment to the address below.

**Public scoping meetings:**

September 18, 2007, Jamestown, ND, 6-8:00 PM

September 19, 2007, Minot, ND, 6-8:00 PM

September 20, 2007, Rugby, ND, 6-8:00 PM

October 1, 2007, Beulah, ND, 6-8:00 PM

October 2, 2007, Bismarck, ND, 6-8:00 PM

TBD, New Town, ND, 6-8:00 PM

TBD, Ft. Yates, ND, 6-8:00 PM

**Mail comments to:**

John Hartley, RMP Manager

Bureau of Land Management

North Dakota Field Office

99 23<sup>rd</sup> West, Suite A

Dickinson, ND 58601

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[http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/north\\_dakota\\_field/rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/north_dakota_field/rmp.html)