

Date: July 9, 2004 Contact: Linda Coates-Markle, 406-896-5223 Mary Apple, 406-896-5258

Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range Study Available

The Bureau of Land Management is asking the public to review and comment on a study of the health and sustainability of the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (PMWHR). The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service performed the study to help the BLM determine the number of wild horses the range could support. In addition to approximately 160 wild horses, about 100 bighorn sheep inhabit the range yearlong and 350 mule deer are present in the winter.

The Billings Field Office received a final draft of the NRCS study entitled "Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range Survey and Assessment" on May 5, 2004. The document is available online at <u>http://www.mt.blm.gov/bifo/index.html</u> or by contacting the Billings Field Office at 896-5013.

The BLM has scheduled a public meeting for Thursday, September 9, 2004, at the Montana State Office Conference Room, 5001 Southgate Drive in Billings at 7 p.m. Personnel from the NRCS will be available at the meeting to answer questions about the study and its recommendations. The public is encouraged to review the document prior to the meeting in order to optimize question and answer opportunities.

Written comments on the study should be sent to the Billings Field Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101.