

Date: May 28, 2004 Contact: Mary Apple, 406-896-5258

FUELWOOD PERMITS AVAILABLE

BILLINGS -- Personal use fuelwood permits for the Horsethief area northwest of Roundup are available at the BLM Billings Field Office. The cost of the permits is \$5 per cord with a four cord minimum purchase.

The permit area is part of the larger Horsethief Hazard Fuels Reduction Project Area. The BLM approved this project in 2003 to reduce the amount of fuels, and therefore the threat of wildland fire, on public lands in the wildland/urban interface near Roundup. One of the means of reducing fuel is through fuelwood gathering. Other means include mechanical and manual thinning and prescribed fire. A private contractor began mechanical thinning earlier this year.

The Billings Field Office is located at 5001 Southgate Drive and can be contacted at 406/896-5013. A map of the fuelwood gathering area is included with the permit.

####