For Immediate Release Contact Sandra Padilla 406-538-1916, 9/8/04

Fort Benton, MT----The Bureau of Land Management would like to invite you to a National Public Lands Day celebration/activity at the Wood Bottom/Decision Point site (just south of Loma) on Saturday, September 18, 2004.

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is a national event that has grown into a great opportunity for members of the public to volunteer a few hours of time to various projects to benefit the public lands that provide a "back yard" for so many of us.

The NPLD activities at Wood Bottom will include removing a short section of fence that has become an obstruction to wildlife. This will involve rolling the old wire and pulling a few old wooden and steel fence posts. Some of the old cedar posts will be salvaged and taken to the camping area to be used as firewood.

"The day should provide an opportunity to improve the Wood Bottom site and enjoy several hours out-of-doors and a sense of accomplishment," according to BLM's event coordinator, Sandra Padilla. "Those interested in participating should meet at Decision Point at 9:00 a.m.; we'll travel to Wood Bottom; work for a couple of hours between 10 and noon; have lunch; finish our projects; and return home."

For the first time this year, the BLM will present each NPLD volunteer (16 years or older) with a coupon redeemable for a fee-free day at any participating federal recreation or visitor site.

The BLM will also be providing t-shirts, lunch and beverages for volunteers so it's important that participants RSVP by calling the BLM at 622-3839.

NPLD activities are scheduled at over 600 public land sites this year. Volunteers at all sites are encouraged to bring gloves, hand tools, hats/caps, clothing for the weather and their enthusiasm for a fun and worthwhile day.