



For Immediate Release
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Lewistown, MT ---- The Bureau of Land Management's Lewistown Field Office (BLM) will be hosting a series of public meetings in November to discuss the BLM lands included in 12 natural gas leases within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

The BLM's decision to analyze these leases is the result of a recent Montana Federal District Court ruling involving a suit that alleged the agency did not fully comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act when it awarded three of the leases in 1999.

"We are inviting the public to help us create a range of alternatives and stipulations for these 12 leases that will ensure the values for which the monument was designated are protected," offered Gary Slagel, the BLM's monument manager in Lewistown.

The meeting dates and locations are:

Date	Community	Location
November 8	Winifred	Community Hall, Main Street
November 9	Lewistown	BLM Office, Airport Road
November 10	Great Falls	BLM/USFS Office, 1101 15 th St. North
November 15	Chinook	Chinook Motor Inn, 100 Indiana Street
November 16	Fort Belknap Agency	Little River Learning Lodge, Blackfeet St.
November 17	Billings	Holiday Inn Grand, 5500 Midland Road

Each meeting will run from 7 to 9 p.m. and will provide opportunities to visit with resource specialists and to participate in a question/answer period.

"All of us at BLM appreciate and value the public's participation in this process. Preparing a resource management plan is a lengthy and time consuming process and I encourage you to stay involved. The public process helps us make better decisions," Slagel added.

The BLM will be contacting the public through a newsletter and additional press releases in the near future with additional information about these public meetings.

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