



United States Department of the Interior      Bureau of Land Management  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **BLM URGES CAUTION WITH CAMPFIRES**

MILES CITY – Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire crews reported that two abandoned, live, campfires were discovered over the weekend at the Dean S. Reservoir Recreation Area. The site is located southeast of Miles City adjacent to the Pine Hills subdivision. The campfires were still smoking when crews discovered them while enroute to training sessions in the area.

BLM Law Enforcement Ranger Lori Harbaugh said refuse left behind consisting of wood pallets and other trash was extensive. One of the still smoking campfires was built away from existing fire locations on un-approved surface. The incident is currently under investigation and persons with information regarding the case are encouraged to contact the BLM.

Wildfires deliberately set on federal land are classified as a federal offense with penalties and the collection of costs and damages enforceable by law.

“This includes campfires that get away from people,” said Harbaugh.

The BLM Miles City Field Office would like to remind recreationists and campers to use

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discretion when utilizing campfires on public land. The summertime threat of wildfire and possible property damage warrants extra caution. Although no restrictions have been announced for the BLM Miles City Field Office area, fire danger in Eastern Montana remains extreme.

Questions and comments may be referred to BLM Law Enforcement Ranger Lori Harbaugh at the BLM Miles City Field Office, phone (406) 233-2830.

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