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BILLINGS -- The Bureau of Land Management took in \$994,011.50 in rental and bonus bids at a competitive oil and gas lease auction held March 30 at the Montana State Office in Billings. A summary of sale statistics is available at <http://www.mt.blm.gov/oilgas/leasing/mar04/0304ResultsList.pdf>.

All offered parcels are located in Montana and North Dakota, and include Forest Service parcels within the recently completed Dakota Prairie Grasslands Environmental Impact Study area. All Forest Service parcels received a bid and generated \$763,424 of the total rental and bonus bids.

A percentage of the receipts for parcels sold at competitive lease sales is returned to the state or county where the lands are located. All leases are issued for a 10-year term.

Competitive oil and gas lease sales are generally conducted every other month (January/March/May/July/September/November) at the Montana State Office. Additional information regarding competitive sale lists, detailed results of sales, or the leasing process is available by writing the Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Mont., 59107, or by calling (406) 896-5004.

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