

United States Department of Interior 1005 Selway Drive

Bureau of Land Management

Dillon Field Office Dillon, Montana 59725

> Contact: Marilyn Krause Phone: (406) 533-7617 Date: March 4, 2004

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DILLON - The Rocky Mountain School, located southwest of Dillon, Mont., off Highway 278, has proposed to increase its use of public lands in that area in association with its business which provides hands-on, outdoor education opportunities to the public. The business is currently permitted to make incidental use of BLM lands (approximately 15 days per year) in association with the operation of its guide school, which consists of four 4-week courses annually.

The proposed change would allow for additional day use horseback riding primarily along the old Bannack Stage Road between the Bon Accord Road, Grasshopper Creek, and Bannack State Park. Anticipated use would include an average of six people per week with group sizes no larger than eight between May 1 and September 30 each year. The Rocky Mountain School teaches and promotes Leave No Trace backcountry horse skills as part of its curriculum. Horseback travel would be primarily on existing roads or livestock trails in the area.

Comments on this proposal should be sent to the attention of Rick Waldrup at the BLM Dillon Field Office, 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, Montana, or by phone at 683-2337. Your comments need to be submitted by April 3.