

Memorandum

TO: People interested in public participation in the U.S. BLM Dillon Field Office Resource Management Plan

FROM: Matthew McKinney, Director

SUBJECT: Report on Interview Findings and Recommendations;
Public Work Session on July 12, 2001, in Dillon

DATE: June 27, 2001

The Montana Consensus Council recently completed interviews with about 70 people interested in public participation in the Resource Management Planning process about to be initiated by the Dillon Field Office of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The enclosed report summarizes the findings from those interviews and offers the Consensus Council's recommendations for how to proceed.

The first step will be a public work session convened by the Consensus Council on Thursday, July 12, 2001, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lewis and Clark Room at University of Montana – Western in Dillon. The work session is open to any individual or group interested in public participation in the resource management planning effort. The purpose of the work session is to:

1. Validate the findings and conclusions of the enclosed report.
2. Review and seek agreement on the principles to guide the public participation process.
3. Examine the pros and cons of convening a working group or a series of feedback panels – and seek agreement on which approach to implement.
4. Further develop the agreed-upon approach. If participants agree that a working group is most desirable, then further develop that process. Specifically, have each caucus talk about the possibility of selecting a representative (or two) and how they will sustain communication throughout the process and make decisions on working group proposals.
5. Further develop the public participation and intergovernmental coordination strategies.

We encourage you to attend. This is an important opportunity for you to help shape how you and other members of the public will participate in the BLM's resource management planning effort. If you cannot attend on July 12 but still want to comment on the enclosed report or participate in the design of the public participation process, please contact the Montana Consensus Council, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620; phone (406) 444-2075; email mmckinney@state.mt.us.

Thank you for your interest. We hope to see you in Dillon on July 12.