



Date: August 6, 2003  
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All four of the BLM Montana/Dakotas Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) will meet during the next two months to obtain public comment on the BLM's Sustaining Working Landscapes (SWL) initiative and other issues.

The purpose of the SWL initiative is to promote better partnerships with grazing permittees, advance the long-term health and productivity of the public lands, provide for sustainable ranching, and improve the BLM's business practices. After considering public comments, the RACs may formulate recommendations for BLM Director Clarke's consideration in the development of an SWL policy.

The Eastern Montana RAC will meet August 14 at the Hampton Inn in Billings at 8 a.m. The group will tour the Horsethief Hazard Fuels Reduction Project near Roundup on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Dakotas RAC will meet September 3 and 4 at the Golden Hills Resort Best Western in Lead, South Dakota. The schedule includes a tour on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with the meeting beginning at 8 a.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The Western Montana RAC will meet September 10 at the Search and Rescue Building in Dillon at 10 a.m. The Central Montana RAC will meet September 23-25 in Fort Benton at the Agricultural Museum. The schedule includes a tour on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with the meeting beginning at 8 a.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Each RAC sets aside a time during its meeting to hear public comments.

The 15-member RACs advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issue associated with public land management in Montana and the Dakotas.

For more information on the RAC meetings, contact your local BLM office.

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