



For Immediate Release  
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Lewistown, MT----Twelve oil and gas leases covering 10,034 acres within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (and an additional 2,748 acres outside the monument) will be the subject of a series of upcoming public meetings.

The Bureau of Land Management will now include an analysis of the BLM lands covered by these 12 leases in the draft resource management plan for the monument and will be hosting these meetings around north central Montana.

“We’ll be soliciting public comments to help create a range of alternatives and stipulations for these 12 leases that will protect the values for which the monument was designated,” said Gary Slagel, the BLM’s monument manager in Lewistown.

The BLM’s decision to analyze these leases is the result of a recent Montana Federal District Court ruling involving a suit that alleged the agency did not fully comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act when it awarded several of the leases in 1999.

“Substantive comments that discuss specific values are most likely to help shape specific alternatives that will apply to the area covered by these 12 leases,” Slagel offered.

The meeting dates and locations are:

November 8	Winifred	Community Hall, Main Street
November 9	Lewistown	BLM Office, Airport Road
November 10	Great Falls	BLM/USFS Office, 1101 15 <sup>th</sup> St. North
November 15	Chinook	Chinook Motor Inn, 100 Indiana Street
November 16	Fort Belknap Agency	Little River Learning Lodge, Blackfeet St.
November 17	Billings	Holiday Inn Grand, 5500 Midland Road

Each meeting will run from 7 to 9 p.m.

If you have questions about these meetings, please contact Gary Slagel at 406-538- 1950 or Jerry Majerus at 406-538-1924.

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