



Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

August – 2002

We've just finished a series of 11 scoping open houses across north central Montana that allowed us to answer many questions about preparing a resource management plan (RMP) for this monument. They also encouraged a two-way flow of information between stakeholders and resource specialists.

Approximately 320 people attended these sessions and the written comments are still coming in.

While each open house was unique in its own manner, our session in Winifred developed its own memorable twist. About an hour after the doors opened and the school cafeteria began to fill with area residents and visitors, a tornado touched down roughly 14 miles south of Winifred. The twister created considerable damage across the countryside and quickly knocked out the power to the Winifred School (while 40 some people were talking to us about monument issues). Shortly after the lights went out, and the conversation began shifting from monument management to how dark the room was, a local rancher walked into the cafeteria carrying two gas lanterns. We fired 'em up and the discussions continued. Occasionally, you simply have to adjust and go on!

I would like to thank the many individuals who took the time to attend one or more of these open houses. I think we all benefitted from many good discussions. However, I would urge everyone to submit your comments in writing. We'll gladly accept comments at any time throughout this process, but those comments intended to help define issues in the RMP would be most useful if received by the end of this month.

Please send your comments to me at the Bureau of Land Management, Lewistown Field Office, Airport Road, P. O. Box 1160, Lewistown, MT 59457; Attn: Monument Manager.

Thank you for your help through the scoping phase of this project. The next Update will include a brief summary of the comments we've received.

If you no longer wish to be on the mailing list for this or other monument-related products, please contact Kay Haight at the above address, or call her at (406) 538-1911, or e-mail her at monumentrmp@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Gary Slagel
Monument Manager