

For Immediate Release: February 23, 2007

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist (970) 319-4130

John Husband, Field Manager, (970) 826-5089

BLM acquires 4,139-acre Emerald Mountain parcel

CRAIG, Colo. – The public gained access to the 4,139-acre Emerald Mountain parcel west of Steamboat Springs yesterday after the Bureau of Land Management formally closed on a land exchange that brings the parcel under its management.

"We've been working towards this for a number of years," said John Husband, Field Manager of the BLM Little Snake Field Office in Craig, which will manage the parcel. "Emerald Mountain is now public land that will be enjoyed for generations to come."

For now, public access on Emerald Mountain will be limited to day-use, foot travel only, and all dogs must be leashed. These provisions will remain in place to protect the area's resource values in the interim until a detailed recreation plan for the area is completed.

The recreation plan will be developed within several months in cooperation with the Emerald Mountain Partnership, City of Steamboat Springs and other partners. BLM will manage Emerald Mountain as a Special Recreation Management Area with two zones, each targeting different non-motorized recreation opportunities. One zone will emphasize strenuous outdoor activities including mountain biking and cross-country skiing. The other zone will emphasize wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, and hunting.

In exchange for 123 isolated parcels in Routt County totaling 15,416 acres, BLM acquired the Emerald Mountain parcel from the Colorado State Land Board, which had slated the property for sale to generate revenue for public schools. The majority of BLM parcels exchanged had no public access. Through a multi-party exchange facilitated by the Western Land Group, the BLM parcels will be sold to private landowners and the revenue will go to the State Land Board to benefit public schools.

The BLM lands exchanged will primarily be sold to the livestock permittees in the area and will continue to be grazed. Grazing will also continue at Emerald Mountain.

For more information about Emerald Mountain, visit the Little Snake Field Office web site at <http://www.co.blm.gov/lspa> or call the BLM Little Snake Field Office at 970-826-5000.

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For Immediate Release: February 15, 2007

Contact: Jaime Gardner 303-239-3681

or Jim Sample 303-239-3861

BLM Seeks Resource Advisory Council Members

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking nominations to fill upcoming vacancies on three Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) in Colorado. Nominations are being accepted through April 2, 2007, to fill the positions of several members whose terms of appointment will expire this August.

The councils provide advice and recommendations to BLM on the use and management of 8.4 million acres of public lands in the state. In 1995, BLM established councils in Colorado representing three geographic areas: Northwest, Southwest, and Front Range. The RACs enable citizens to have a meaningful say in how public lands are managed. Members give advice to BLM on the broad array of resource, social, and economic issues that confront land managers and local communities.

Colorado State Director Sally Wisely appreciates the contributions made by current and previous members. “RAC members represent a broad array of backgrounds, interests, and experience,” said Wisely. “With BLM’s diverse responsibilities, RAC members have opportunities to advise us on challenging and complex issues.”

The councils operate on principles of collaboration and consensus. Members are sought who are committed to working together with other interests for the long term benefit of public lands and the people who enjoy and rely on them. “I can’t emphasize enough what effective partners the Colorado RACs have been in helping resolve public land issues that affect the quality of life throughout the State,” Wisely said.

Council members must be residents of Colorado. Each year, one-third of the membership is up for renewal or replacement. Terms are for three years. Each council consists of 15 members, selectively balanced and representative of three general interest groups:

Group 1 - holders of federal grazing permits/leases; representatives of mining, timber, off-road vehicle use, and commercial recreation;

Group 2 - representatives of recognized national or regional environmental or resource conservation organizations; archeological and historical interests; wild horse and burro groups; and dispersed recreational activities;

Group 3 - State, county, or local elected officials; employees of State agencies responsible for management of natural resources, land or water; representatives of Indian tribes; academicians involved in natural sciences, and the public at large.

Colorado’s Northwest RAC, Southwest RAC, and Front Range RAC have vacancies in all three categories.

Qualifications for RAC membership are based on the nominee’s:

- education, training, or experience to give informed, objective advice on an industry, discipline, or interest;
- experience or knowledge of the geographical area the council serves;
- demonstrated commitment to collaboration in seeking solutions to resource management issues.

BLM provides training on resource science and management issues to all council members. Members serve without monetary compensations, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses.

Members are expected to attend RAC meetings called by the designated federal officer. Meetings usually occur no more often than every other month. Location of the meetings can vary throughout the state, and may include tours. Meetings will normally be held Monday through Friday, and may last more than one day.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Letters of reference from the interests or organizations the nominee wishes to represent must accompany the nomination form. In addition, each nominee must submit a completed Background Information Nomination Form and should have a demonstrated commitment to collaborative resource decision-making.

The nomination period will close on April 2, 2007, as announced in the Federal Register on February 15.

For additional information, please contact:

BLM Northwest RAC, Attention: David Boyd, e-mail david_boyd@blm.gov
50629 Hwy 6 & 24, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 (Phone 970.947.2832)

BLM Southwest RAC, Attention: Melodie Lloyd, e-mail melodie_lloyd@blm.gov
2815 H Rd., Grand Junction, CO 81506 (Phone 970.244.3097)

BLM Front Range RAC, Attention: Ken Smith, e-mail ken_smith@co.blm.gov
3170 E. Main St., Canon City, CO 81212 (Phone 719.269.8553)

BLM Colorado State Office, Attention: Jaime Gardner, e-mail jaimie_gardner@blm.gov
2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215 (Phone 303.239.3681)

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: February 13, 2007
Contact: David Boyd, 970-319-4130

Northwest Resource Advisory Council to meet Feb. 22 in Grand Junction

GRAND JUNCTION, CO—The Bureau of Land Management's Northwest Resource Advisory Council will meet Feb. 22 in Grand Junction at the Doubletree Hotel, 743 Horizon Drive.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and is scheduled to adjourn at 4 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, with public comment periods scheduled for 10:45 a.m. and 2 p.m. Agenda topics include:

- Field Manager Updates
- Wildlife Commission resolution on energy
- Draft Little Snake Resource Management Plan
- Wild and Scenic River and BLM planning
- Draft recreation strategy
- Healthy Landscape Initiative

The Northwest RAC is one of three advisory councils to BLM Colorado. Composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, individuals serving in each RAC represent a broad range of public land interests, including environmental, local government, and commercial activity. The Northwest RAC advises the Grand Junction, White River, Little Snake, Kremmling and Glenwood Springs BLM field offices.

For more information on Colorado RACs, go to http://www.blm.gov/rac/co/co_index.htm.

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For Immediate Release: February 9, 2007

**Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist (970) 319-4130
or Jaime Gardner, Public Affairs Specialist, (303) 239-3681**

BLM seeks public comment on Draft Little Snake Resource Management Plan

CRAIG, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management today released the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Little Snake Field Office in northwestern Colorado for a 90-day public comment period.

The plan will provide a framework to guide subsequent management decisions on approximately 1.3 million surface acres and 1.9 million subsurface acres administered by the Little Snake Field Office in Moffat, Routt, and Rio Blanco counties.

The Draft RMP analyzes four alternatives covering all aspects of BLM land and mineral management within the Little Snake Field Office boundaries, including energy development, resource protection, travel management, wildlife habitat, special designations, grazing, and realty actions.

The Draft identifies a “preferred alternative” that balances resource protection with commodity production. This alternative includes an innovative approach to oil and gas leasing that would limit surface disturbance to one percent of the acres leased within the 77,000-acre Vermillion Basin. The preferred alternative would also reduce wildlife habitat disturbance in critical sagebrush communities by offering incentives for oil and gas operators to leave larger blocks of habitat undisturbed.

BLM will host three public open houses to provide information and an opportunity to comment on the Draft. The open houses will be held from 4-7 p.m., with brief presentations by BLM at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

- March 13, Maybell, Maybell School gym, Highway 40
- March 14, Steamboat Springs, Community Center, 1255 Lincoln Ave.
- March 15, Craig, Moffat County Fairgrounds Pavilion, 750 East 4th Street

For additional information or to receive copies of the Draft RMP, visit the Little Snake Field Office web site at www.co.blm.gov/lspa/rmp or contact Jeremy Casterson, BLM Little Snake Field Office, at 970-826-5071. BLM will accept public comment on the Draft EIS/RMP through May 16, 2007.

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Note: you can find additional fact sheets that summarize specific aspects of the Little Snake Draft RMP at <http://www.co.blm.gov/lspa/rmp/rmp-docs.htm#OutreachMaterials>

Release on request: February 8, 2007

**Contact: Jaime Gardner BLM 303-239-3681
or Vaughn Whatley BLM 303-239-3766**

February 2007 O&G Lease Sale

- “ 46 parcels totaling about 29,435 acres of land were offered at BLM’s February 8, 2007, quarterly oil and gas lease auction. Of those parcels offered, 32 were sold totaling 21,445 acres.
- “ Of the 46 parcels offered, 35 parcels were protested by local governments, environmental groups, and individual citizens.
- “ Prior to the sale, BLM Colorado decided to defer all lands within State Wildlife Areas for further review and discussions.
- “ BLM Colorado listens to the concerns of those impacted by oil and gas leasing. We rely on input from the public in the planning process and we make every effort to work with local communities, municipalities and other State and federal agencies to ensure any leasing that may occur is conducted with adequate safeguards in place to protect the environment.
- “ Federal and State protections are in place to minimize potential impacts from oil and gas exploration, development and production. Oil and gas exploration and development is one of the most regulated activities on public lands.
- “ Energy development and protection of natural resources are not mutually exclusive activities. BLM ensures that development of energy resources is done in an environmentally sound manner on all lands we manage.
- “ BLM manages more than 8 million acres of public lands for multiple-use in Colorado. BLM also administers mineral leasing for other Federal agencies with lands throughout the State.
- “ Federal laws, including the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987, require BLM to offer lands for lease on a quarterly basis.
- “ Any U.S. citizen, 18 years-old or older, may bid on the parcels offered at quarterly lease auctions, provided the individual is a registered bidder. Typically, BLM does not select lands to offer for lease. In Colorado, lands nominated by an interested party are made available for leasing, if oil and gas development is allowed by the approved land use plan. In years past, all land available for lease was offered at auction regardless of the interest from industry. Information about BLM oil and gas lease sales, as well as the posting of the official results (available by February 15, 2007) can be obtained at the BLM field offices or at the Colorado State Office Public Room.
- “ BLM is mandated by the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act to manage public lands for multiple uses - which may include energy development - under existing, approved land use plans developed with considerable public input, and extensive environmental analysis.
- “ BLM consults with other federal, State and local agencies, partners, environmental groups and industry throughout the land use planning process. These collaborations result in measures to protect all uses and resource values, such as wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species’ habitats, recreation, cultural resources, grazing, and others, while still allowing for environmentally sound energy development.

“ In all of the areas where parcels were offered, the current land use plans allow energy development. When preparing land use plans, revisions, or when parcels are nominated for leasing, the BLM considers available new information to determine if any significant new circumstances or impacts have occurred since the completion of the most recent land use plan. Every parcel offered for lease in this sale was analyzed to determine whether existing environmental analysis was adequate.

“ BLM leases carefully. Every lease contains standard terms and stipulations designed to protect Threatened and Endangered Species habitat. Leases also may include any number of additional stipulations to further protect air, water, wildlife, wilderness, historic and cultural resources as well as require reclamation. For example, No Surface Occupancy stipulations can protect against any surface disturbance. Other stipulations can protect viewsheds, water quality, cultural resources, or may require operations only during certain seasons to protect wildlife or wildlife habitat in the winter or during the breeding season or birthing times.

“ Issuing a lease doesn't necessarily result in drilling. The drilling of an exploratory well doesn't guarantee there will be widespread development of wells. Economics, supply versus demand, and geologic information drive industry to nominate areas for leasing, exploration and mineral resource development. Some leases are never drilled, and are allowed to expire due to changes in supply vs. demand, company finances, or new/updated geologic information.

“ BLM Colorado has increased its outreach efforts to prior to the lease sale. In response to requests from the public and interest groups, BLM Colorado now provides the public with the oil and gas lease sale notice 15 days earlier than required to by law (60 days). BLM notifies media outlets statewide when the lease sale notice is posted and informs county commissioners of parcels being offered for lease in an upcoming sale through individual notification and through the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission's county liaison program. BLM Colorado also offers presentations at county meetings throughout the state on the oil and gas leasing process, and we post a map of parcels and other lease sale information on the BLM Colorado website <http://www.co.blm.gov/oilandgas/leasinfo.htm>.

“ BLM Colorado follows its national policy concerning split-estate Application for Permit to Drill processing, which requires: a copy of or evidence of a signed surface use agreement between the surface owner and the oil and gas operator (but not the actual agreement itself). If an agreement cannot be reached; the operator can gain access to the property through reclamation bonding. BLM Colorado has not had to use the bonding process for any APD's on split estate lands.

“ The private surface owner is always invited to the on-site pre-drill inspection, and their concerns are incorporated into BLM approved APDs. BLM Colorado worked with the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission on their onsite inspection policy for split- estate wells on private minerals. The State's policy, adopted with industry support, took effect Feb. 15, 2005, and addresses road placement, planning concerns, and gives landowners the right to an on-site meeting about a proposed drilling site. Such procedures have long been in effect for split-estate involving Federal minerals.

“ Wilderness Areas can only be designated by Congress. In Colorado, BLM has four existing Wilderness Areas, comprising 149,000 acres, and 50 Wilderness Study Areas, encompassing 623,000 acres. A coalition of environmental groups has proposed areas for wilderness status. Over time, their proposals have added additional areas for consideration, or, in some cases, added additional lands around existing wilderness or wilderness study areas. None of the parcels offered in the February sale are within Congressionally-designated Wilderness Areas, BLM identified Wilderness Study Areas, or areas proposed by citizens groups for wilderness status.

“ When parcels of land in Colorado are leased for oil and gas development, the federal government returns to the State of Colorado one-half of what is collected on federal bonuses, rentals and royalties from energy development on the public lands within the State. The money is used to help fund counties, schools, cities and some State offices.

“ Our goal is sustainable energy development. BLM aims to help meet our country’s energy needs while effectively managing the other natural resources that are under our care. The U.S. Department of the Interior is a significant contributor to America’s energy supplies. About one-third of all energy produced in America originates from lands managed by the Department of the Interior. Environmentally sound energy development on public lands is one vital part of our national strategy to ensure economic and national security.

“ Anyone may file a protest; however, all protests of parcels nominated for inclusion in the lease sale must be received by mail or fax at the Colorado State Office by 4 p.m. (Mountain Time), 15 days prior to the date of the sale to be considered. If a protest is filed by fax, it must be sent to 303-239-3799. This policy allows the Bureau to review protests in advance of the sale, allow for an appropriate announcement of protests at the sale, and attempt to meet the statutory deadline for issuing leases. Protested parcels may still be offered; however, bidders are notified that BLM will not issue a lease until the protests are resolved.

“ When a protest is made, the standard process is for it to be reviewed by the appropriate BLM field office and/or Colorado State Office. BLM Colorado attempts to resolve all protests within 60 days and no longer than 120 days; however, some protests have taken as long as a year to resolve. Before a final decision is reached to issue any leases, a thorough review of the protests on the parcels is undertaken. If a protest is denied, the protesting party has 30 days, from receipt of the decision, to appeal to the Interior Board of Lands Appeals in Washington, D.C. If a protest is upheld, the lease is not issued and the winning bidder’s money is refunded.

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For Immediate Release: February 8, 2007
Contact: Jaime Gardner BLM 303-239-3681
or Vaughn Whatley BLM 303-239-3766

BLM Colorado’s February 2007 oil and gas lease sale nets over \$2.6 million

DENVER - Today the BLM Colorado State Office sold 32 parcels of 46 offered at its quarterly oil and gas lease sale, or about 21,445 acres out of the 29,435 acres of public lands offered. The lease sale earned \$2,652,378 in proceeds, of which 50 percent will go to the State of Colorado. Prior to the sale, BLM Colorado decided to defer all lands within State Wildlife Areas for further review and discussions. Pending the outcome of the review and discussions, the parcels may or may not be added to a future lease sale.

BLM manages more than 8 million acres of public lands for multiple uses in Colorado, as well as over 27 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate. The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and the 1987 Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act authorize leasing of federal oil and gas resources; the 1987 law, which amended the Mineral Leasing Act, requires each BLM state office to conduct oil and gas lease sales on at least a quarterly basis where there is an interest in such sales. The degree of interest is

driven by market demands. In addition to overseeing mineral leasing on BLM public lands, the Bureau also administers mineral leasing on all other federal lands.

"Natural gas production from Colorado's federal lands continues to play an important role in meeting the nation's energy needs," said Lynn Rust, BLM Colorado Deputy State Director for Energy, Lands and Minerals. "Our focus is on smart up-front planning, solid implementation of best practices and working with industry to reduce environmental impacts."

Land-use plans, which govern all BLM-managed lands, involve an extensive environmental-review process that determines which lands will be available for specific uses, and what conditions will be applied to minimize impacts. The public has opportunities to provide input throughout the process. BLM also consults with other federal, State and local agencies, environmental groups and industry throughout the land-use planning process.

When preparing or revising land-use plans, or when parcels are nominated for leasing, the BLM considers available new information to determine whether any significant new circumstance or impact has occurred since the completion of the most recent land-use plan. The parcels offered for lease in this sale were analyzed individually to determine whether the existing environmental analysis was adequate.

Leases for oil and gas development come with general requirements to protect the environment from adverse impacts; additional site-specific stipulations are also included, such as limits on seasons when drilling can occur and restrictions on surface occupancy by oil and gas operators. These stipulations protect resources and values such as wildlife habitat and scenic vistas. Once an operator proposes exploration or development on a BLM-issued lease, the Bureau conducts further environmental analysis to determine what impact-limiting measures are needed.

"Protections are in place to minimize potential impacts from oil and gas exploration, development and production." said Rust. "It's important to remember that energy development and protection of natural resources are not mutually exclusive. BLM ensures that the development of energy resources is done in an environmentally sound manner on all lands we manage."

BLM Colorado notifies the public of each land sale through the media, internet and other means. Anyone may file a protest on a parcel nominated for inclusion in a lease sale; however, all protests must be received by mail or fax at the Colorado State Office by 4 p.m. (Mountain Time), 15 days prior to the date of the sale to be considered. This policy allows the Bureau to review protests in advance of the sale, provides for an appropriate announcement of protests at the sale, and helps the agency meet its statutory deadline for issuing leases. Protested parcels may still be offered, although bidders are notified that BLM will not issue a lease until the protests are resolved.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land -- 258 million surface acres -- than any other federal agency. Most of this land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the Nation.

Under the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The BLM accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, energy production and mineral development, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural and

other resources on the public lands.

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For Immediate Release: February 6, 2007

Contact: Ken Smith BLM 719-269-8553

South Park Land Tenure Adjustment Plan Comment Period

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is part of the way through their public comment period on the South Park Land Tenure Adjustment Plan and they have received several comments. The public comment period continues through March 1, 2007.

In December, the BLM held a public meeting in Fairplay and began the comment period on their Land Tenure Adjustment Plan. The Plan will amend BLM's current Land Use Plan to re-identify those lands in Park County that will be retained as public lands managed by BLM and those that may be disposed to other ownership. Comments received from the public, will be used to modify the alternatives being considered for the Plan.

Anyone who would like to provide comments on the Plan Amendment can write to: Bureau of Land Management, ATTN: South Park Land Tenure Plan, 3170 E. Main Street, Canon City, CO 81212; or email to rgfo_comments@blm.gov. For further information contact: Joe Vieira or Erik Brekke, at (719) 269-8500.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: February 5, 2007

Contact: Celia Boddington 202-452-5125,

Carl Rountree 202-452-7745

or Vaughn Whatley 303-239-3766

President Bush's FY 2008 Budget Proposes \$1.8 Billion for BLM to Provide Energy, Enhance Habitat, and Improve Efficiency

WASHINGTON – The Bush Administration today proposed a \$1.8 billion budget in appropriated funds for the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management. This is \$57.8 million above the Fiscal Year 2007 budget request. The budget fully funds fixed costs of \$44.1 million. The BLM budget features a \$15 million increase to implement a new Healthy Lands Initiative that will ensure energy access while protecting habitat and wildlife in the wildlife-energy interface.

The President's proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget for the BLM also includes \$142.9 million to ensure that the agency continues to provide dependable, accessible energy from public lands in an environmentally responsible manner.

"This budget request supports some of our country's most important priorities," BLM Acting Director Jim Hughes said. "Improving the health of the land, continuing to do our part in providing domestic energy, and working more efficiently to better serve taxpayers will help our agency meet current and future public land management challenges."

Hughes said the Healthy Lands Initiative will allow the BLM to conduct landscape-scale restoration in six areas: southwest Wyoming; the northwest and southeast portions of New Mexico; southcentral Idaho; southwestern Colorado; Utah; and the three-corner state area between Idaho, Oregon, and Nevada. The money budgeted for this initiative is expected to result in an additional \$10 million in in-kind and monetary contributions from Federal, state, local, and oil and gas industry partners that will work collaboratively with the BLM. The Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey are included in this initiative, providing support to the BLM's habitat restoration goals.

The 2008 budget request includes an increase of \$3.1 million over FY 2007 for the BLM's oil and gas inspection and monitoring activities, which will ensure that energy development is done in an environmentally sensitive way and that terms of energy-related permits are enforced. The increased funding would provide the BLM with the capacity to perform an additional 1,572 inspections by 2009, with 522 additional inspections occurring in 2008. The spending increase would also enable the Bureau to monitor the effectiveness of oil and gas lease stipulations at 280 locations.

The 2008 budget proposes to address the split-estate issue, seeking authorization to retain funding from the sale of mineral rights to current non-Federal surface landowners. Revenue would be used to acquire important habitat.

The 2008 budget also includes reductions in programs that will result in the deferral of lower-priority activities.

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

-BLM-

For Immediate Release: February 2, 2007
Contact: Tom Gorey BLM 202-452-5137,
Jennifer Plyler Forest Service 202-205-1777,
Jim Sample BLM 303-239-3861

BLM and Forest Service Announce 2007 Federal Grazing Fee

The Federal grazing fee for Western public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service will be \$1.35 per animal unit month (AUM) in 2007, down from \$1.56 in 2006. The newly adjusted fee, determined by a congressional formula and effective on March 1, applies to nearly 18,000 grazing permits and leases administered by the BLM and more than 8,000 permits administered by the Forest Service.

The formula used for calculating the grazing fee, established by Congress in the 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act, has continued under a presidential Executive Order issued in 1986. Under that order, the grazing fee cannot fall below \$1.35 per AUM, and any increase or decrease cannot exceed 25 percent of the previous year's level. An Animal Unit Month is the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month.

The annually adjusted grazing fee is computed by using a 1966 base value of \$1.23 per AUM for livestock grazing on public lands in Western states. The figure is then adjusted according to three factors – current private grazing land lease rates, beef cattle prices, and the cost of livestock production. Based on this formula, the 2007 fee declined primarily because of an increase in production prices.

The \$1.35 per AUM grazing fee applies to 16 Western states on public lands administered by the BLM and the Forest Service. The states are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The Forest Service applies different grazing fees to national grasslands and to lands under its management in the Eastern and Midwestern states and parts of Texas. The national grassland fee will be \$1.37 per AUM, down from \$1.73 in 2006, and will also take effect March 1. The fee for the Eastern and Midwestern states and parts of Texas will be out later this month.

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

The Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, manages 193 million acres of Federal lands in 44 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

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