

For immediate release:
Contact: Jaime Gardner
February 28, 2008
(303-239-3681)

BLM Seeks Nominations to Resource Advisory Councils

The Bureau of Land Management in Colorado announced today that it is seeking public nominations for five open positions on each of its three Resource Advisory Councils, which advise the BLM on public land issues. The BLM will consider the nominations for 45 days after today, when the agency is publishing its formal call for nominations in the Federal Register.

The BLM's Resource Advisory Councils (RACs), composed of citizens chosen for their expertise in natural resource issues, help the Bureau carry out its stewardship of 258 million acres of public lands. The Bureau, which manages more land than any other Federal agency, has 24 RACs across the West, where most BLM-managed land is located. Each RAC consists of 12 to 15 members with an interest in public land management, including such individuals as ranchers, conservationists, outdoor recreationists, state and local government officials, Tribal officials, and academics. The diverse membership of each RAC is aimed at achieving a balanced outlook that the BLM needs for its mission, which is to manage the public lands for multiple uses.

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."

Individuals may nominate themselves or others to serve on an advisory council. Nominees, who must be residents of the state or states where the RAC has jurisdiction, will be judged on the basis of their training, education, and knowledge of the council's geographical area. Nominees should also demonstrate a commitment to consensus building and collaborative decisionmaking. All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from any represented interests or organizations; a completed background information nomination form; and any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications.

The fifteen RAC positions open in Colorado are in the following categories:

Category One – BLM grazing permittees and representatives of organizations associated with energy and mineral development, the timber industry, transportation or rights-of-way, off-highway vehicle use, and commercial recreation.

Category Two – Representatives of nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations, archaeological and historical organizations, dispersed recreation activities, and wild horse and burro organizations.

Category Three – Representatives of state, county, or local elected office; representatives and employees of a state agency responsible for the management of natural resources; representatives of Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the RAC is organized; representatives and employees of academic institutions who are involved in natural sciences; and the public-at-large.

Nominations should be sent by April 14, 2008 to:

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: John Dow, e-mail john_r_dow@co.blm.gov
3170 E. Main St., Canon City, CO 81212 (Phone 719.269.8553)
For more information, please contact:

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

– BLM –

**Contact: David Boyd,
Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 319-4130
February 26, 2008**

BLM seeks scoping comments on Overland Pass Pipeline proposal

MEEKER, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management seeks public scoping comments on a proposal to build a 153-mile pipeline from southwest of Meeker, Colo., to east of Wamsutter, Wyo.

Scoping comments will help BLM identify issues of concern related to this proposal before it completes a Draft Environmental Assessment, which will also be released for public review and comment.

The Overland Pass Pipeline Company has proposed a 14-inch pipeline to transport natural gas liquids from the proposed Willow Springs Plant 20 miles southwest of Meeker to the existing Echo Springs Pump Station 10 miles east of Wamsutter. The right-of-way would cross Rio Blanco and Moffat counties in Colorado, and Carbon and Sweetwater counties in Wyoming.

All but 15-20 miles of the proposed Overland Pass Pipeline parallels existing pipeline rights-of-way. About 84 miles of the proposed 153-mile pipeline cross federal or state land, with the remainder crossing private land.

Natural gas liquids (NGLs) are hydrocarbon liquids associated with the production and processing of natural gas. NGLs and inert gases must be removed from natural gas to make it salable and transportable. Once removed from the natural gas, the NGLs are transported for processing through separate pipelines.

A project map, additional information on the proposal and information about providing comments are available at www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/land_use_planning/EA/overland_pipeline.html or by calling the White River Field Office, (970) 878-3800. For additional information, contact Mark Mackiewicz, (435) 636-3616.

BLM will accept scoping comments through March 14, 2008. The Environmental Assessment is expected to be released for a 30-day public comment period in June.

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**US Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region
Bureau of Land Management, Colorado
For Immediate Release: February 25, 2008
CONTACTS: Janelle Smith, US Forest Service,
303-275-5359 (office) or 720-289-7587 (cell)
Jaime Gardner, Bureau of Land Management,
303-239-3681 (office) or 303-589-2795 (cell)**

Colorado Recreation Resource Advisory Committee Meeting

DENVER, Feb. 25, 2007 – The Colorado Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (Recreation RAC) will convene in Denver on February 27, 2008. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m., and will be held at the REI Denver Flagship store at 416 Platte St, Denver, CO.

This is the first meeting to address fee proposals, of which there are 23 from five Colorado forests and grasslands. The Recreation RAC will not consider any BLM fee proposals at this meeting. Follow this link for details about each proposal being reviewed:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/recreation/rrac/meetings/022708-meeting/proposals/proposals-index.shtml>

Additional topics will be discussed to help inform Recreation RAC members as they engage with the agency's recreation programs. Members of the public interested in recreation fees in Colorado may attend; general comments may be entertained from 8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Comments may be taken during discussions on specific topics at the discretion of the Chair. Those who are interested in commenting, please contact Pam DeVore at 303-275-5043 or pdevore@fs.fed.us. Individual comment presentations will be limited to five minutes. Registration for comment period will be required at the door.

Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within five minutes, and should be sent to Greg Griffith, Deputy Regional Forester (also the Designated Federal Official for the Recreation RAC) at the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 740 Simms Street, Golden, Colorado 80401. Written statements received less than one week prior to the meeting may not be available to the members until after the meeting.

The Recreation RAC was established as part of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide recommendations on fee proposals for the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in Colorado. Recreation RAC members were selected among applicants to represent 11 interests to include motorized, non-motorized, environmental, Indian tribes, local government and others from throughout the state.

Visit the Colorado Recreation Resource Advisory Committee web page for additional information at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/recreation/rrac/index.shtml>

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**For Immediate Release:
Mel Lloyd, BLM 970-244-3097
February 25, 2008**

Sage grouse meeting scheduled

MONTROSE, Colo. — The Crawford Gunnison Sage Grouse Working Group has scheduled a meeting for 1 p.m., Thursday, March 6, at the Hotchkiss Annex for Delta County, located at 196 W. Hotchkiss Ave., in Hotchkiss. The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) coordinates these meetings to bring together interested parties, including members of the public, to discuss the current status of the Crawford population of the Gunnison sage grouse. The group will also receive updates on potential projects, as well as the North Rim Landscape Strategy.

Throughout the past several years, a number of partners have worked closely with the BLM toward improving habitat and ensuring the future of the Gunnison sage grouse population in the Crawford area. Those partners include: Black Canyon Audubon Society, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Consolidated Woolgrowers Association, Delta County Livestock Association, Delta and Montrose Counties, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area, as well as members of the public.

For more information about the Crawford Sage Grouse Working Group or to be added to the mailing list, contact BLM's Biological Staff Supervisor Missy Siders at (970) 240-5332 or by e-mail at msiders@blm.gov.

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For Immediate Release: February 14, 2008

Contact: Steven Hall 303-239-3672

Jaime Gardner 303-239-3681

James Sample 303-239-3861

BLM Colorado's February 2008 oil and gas lease sale nets \$3.9 million

DENVER — Today, the BLM Colorado State Office sold 35 parcels of 35 offered at its quarterly oil and gas lease sale, totaling 24,835 acres of public lands. The high bid, for a 45-acre parcel in Garfield County, was \$3,100 per acre; the high total bonus bid was \$864,000, for a 360-acre parcel, also in Garfield County. The lease sale earned \$3.9 million in proceeds, of which 48 percent will go to the State of Colorado. The State received \$123 million in Fiscal Year 2007 from royalties, rentals and bonus bid payments for all federal minerals (including coal).

“Natural gas production from Colorado’s federal lands continues to play an important role in meeting the nation’s energy needs,” said Duane Spencer, BLM Colorado Acting 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 Spencer. “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 contain the specific serial number of the parcel being protested and must have been received via mail or fax at the Colorado State Office by 4 p.m. (close of business), on January 30, 2007 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. All parcels in this sale were protested. Protested parcels are still offered for bid, although bidders are notified that BLM will not issue a lease until the protests are resolved.

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.

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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February 2008 Oil & Gas Lease Sale

For release: Feb. 8, 2008

Contacts: Tom Gorey (BLM) (202-452-5137)

Donna Drelick (Forest Service) (202-205-0914)

BLM and Forest Service Announce 2008 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 2008, the same level as it was in 2007. The 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 AUM 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. In effect, the fee rises, falls, or stays the same based on market conditions, with livestock operators paying more when conditions are better and less when conditions have declined. Without the requirement that the grazing fee cannot fall below \$1.35 per AUM, this year's fee would have dropped below one dollar per AUM because of declining beef cattle prices and increased production costs from the previous year.

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 \$1.35 per AUM, down from \$1.37 in 2007, 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, 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 public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska.

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.

– BLM –

For Immediate Release: Feb. 8, 2008
Contact: David Boyd,
Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 947-2832

New Castle Fire to be re-seeded from the air

(Glenwood Springs, Colo.) – The Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Colorado Division of Wildlife's Habitat Partnership Program are working together to

aerially re-seed areas burned by last summer's New Castle Fire.

During the week of Feb. 11, a single engine air tanker will drop 13,000 pounds of native grass seeds on 445 acres of BLM-managed lands and 249 acres of private lands. The flights should be completed in one day, weather permitting.

"The melting snow should provide a good moisture base for seed germination," said Carla DeYoung, ecologist for the Glenwood Springs Field Office. "We want to give the native species a chance to get established before invasive, non-natives like cheatgrass can take hold."

Ecologists will monitor the burned areas this summer to measure the success of the re-seeding effort and to watch for noxious weeds.

Operations will be based at the Garfield County Airport in Rifle. Area residents may notice an increase in small plane traffic between Rifle and Canyon Creek while the re-seeding operation occurs.

"The plane can hold about 1,000 pounds of seed per flight," DeYoung said, "so we're looking at a little more than a dozen flights."

The New Castle Fire burned 1,240 acres in June east of New Castle, Colo., near the Canyon Creek subdivision.

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For Immediate Release: February 7, 2008

Contact: Heather Feeney (202) 452-5031

David Boyd (970) 947-2832

<http://ostseis.anl.gov>

Public Meetings Will Provide Information on BLM Oil Shale Planning

The Bureau of Land Management will host open house public meetings on Feb. 13 in Rifle and Feb. 14 in Meeker to offer information about the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendments and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS) for oil shale and tar sands resources in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The Draft PEIS was published on December 21, 2007 and is open for public comment through March 20, 2008.

Two sessions will be held in Rifle Feb. 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Garfield County Fairgrounds, 1001 Railroad.

The Meeker open house will be Feb. 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Mountain Valley Bank, 400 Main St.

Specialists in various topics addressed in the Draft PEIS will staff information stations arranged around the meeting room, offering those attending the open house an opportunity to ask questions about the document and the planning process.

Computer terminals will be available at the open house for submitting written comments through the PEIS project website, <http://ostseis.anl.gov>. There will be no means to submit or record oral

comments at the meeting. Written comments may be submitted at any time through March 20, 2008 through the website or by mail to: BLM Oil Shale and Tar Sands PEIS, Argonne National Laboratory EVS/900, 9700 S. Cass Avenue, Argonne IL 60439.

The BLM is developing the PEIS pursuant to direction in Section 369(d) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The Act declares oil shale and other unconventional fuels to be strategically important domestic energy sources that should be developed to reduce the Nation's growing dependence on imported oil. Most U.S. oil shale resources are found in the Green River Formation of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The federally owned portion of this resource is more than 50 times the country's proven conventional oil reserves and nearly five times the proven reserves of Saudi Arabia.

The complete Draft PEIS is available in electronic form (PDF) on the project website, <http://ostseis.anl.gov>. Paper and CD-ROM copies of the Draft are also available at the BLM State Offices in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming; and BLM Field Offices in Vernal, Price, Richfield and Monticello, Utah; Meeker, Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction, Colorado; and Kemmerer, Rawlins and Rock Springs, Wyoming.

-BLM

For Immediate Release: February 7, 2008
Contact: Heather Feeney BLM 202-452-5031
Denise Adamic BLM 303-239-3671

Public Meeting Will Provide Information on BLM Oil Shale Planning

DENVER – The Bureau of Land Management will host an open house public meeting on Tuesday, February 12, in Lakewood to offer information about the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendments and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS) for oil shale and tar sands resources in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The Draft PEIS was published on December 21, 2007 and is open for public comment through March 20, 2008.

The Lakewood meetings will be held at:

Sheraton Denver-West Hotel and Conference Center
360 Union Boulevard, Lakewood

The first session will begin at 2:00 p.m. and run until 4:00 p.m. with a second session scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Specialists in various topics addressed in the Draft PEIS will staff information stations arranged around the meeting room, offering those attending the open house an opportunity to ask questions about the document and the planning process.

Computer terminals will be available at the open house for submitting written comments through the PEIS project website: <http://ostseis.anl.gov>. There will be no means to submit or record oral comments at the meeting. Written comments may be submitted at any time through March 20, 2008 through the website or by mail to:

BLM Oil Shale and Tar Sands PEIS
Argonne National Laboratory EVS/900
9700 S. Cass Avenue
Argonne IL 60439

The BLM is developing the PEIS pursuant to direction in Section 369(d) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The Act declares oil shale and other unconventional fuels to be strategically important domestic energy sources that should be developed to reduce the Nation's growing dependence on imported oil. Most U.S. oil shale resources are found in the Green River Formation of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The federally owned portion of this resource is more than 50 times the country's proven conventional oil reserves and nearly five times the proven reserves of Saudi Arabia.

The complete Draft PEIS is available in electronic form (PDF) on the project website, <http://ostseis.anl.gov>

Paper and CD-ROM copies of the Draft are also available at the BLM State Offices in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming; and BLM Field Offices in Vernal, Price, Richfield and Monticello, Utah; Meeker, Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction, Colorado; and Kemmerer, Rawlins and Rock Springs, Wyoming.

-BLM-

For release: Monday, Feb. 4, 2008

Contacts: Tom Gorey, 202-452-5137

Carl Rountree, 202-452-7745

Steven Hall, 303-239-3672

President Proposes Budget for BLM in FY 2009 to Protect Resources and Manage Uses of Public Lands

With a focus on the protection and sustainable development of public land resources, the Administration today requested a \$1.002 billion gross budget for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management in Fiscal Year 2009.

The FY 2009 budget proposal includes a \$10 million increase for the BLM's role in implementing Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne's Healthy Lands Initiative, which supports landscape-level restoration work in key areas across eight Western states. These targeted areas have experienced numerous pressures – such as population growth, energy development, wildfire, and the spread of weeds – that affect the health of the land.

“Today's budget proposal supports the BLM's commitment to managing for healthy public lands in today's fast-growing, fast-changing West,” said BLM Director Jim Caswell. “This funding will enable the BLM to address the key challenges facing our agency in the years ahead.”

Director Caswell said the BLM's top priorities in 2009 and the coming years are to protect the health of public land resources, including wildlife habitat; to conserve resources in the management units comprising the National Landscape Conservation System, which includes Wilderness Areas and other sensitive resource areas; and to protect natural and cultural resources on public lands affected by illegal immigration on the U.S.-Mexico border.

The bureau also will promote America's energy security through environmentally sound development on public lands; deal with increased recreational use of public lands and other impacts resulting from population growth; ensure visitor and employee safety; and maintain working landscapes by ensuring timely renewals of grazing permits and making forest woodland products available for commercial

production.

Besides the increase requested for BLM's role in the Healthy Lands Initiative, operations funding for the BLM increases by \$10.2 million, including funding most of the 2009 fixed costs increases. Other highlights in the Administration's proposed BLM budget for 2009 include the following:

An \$11.2 million increase in the oil and gas program to continue remediation of the Alaska North Slope legacy wells that pose significant threats to the Arctic environment.

An increase of \$1 million for continued mitigation of resource damage resulting from illegal immigration and drug smuggling on public lands along the Southwest Border in support of the Safe Borderlands Initiative. This builds on a significant funding increase for Southwest border law enforcement provided in 2008.

Stable funding for the wild horse and burro management.

A re-direction of some funding to areas experiencing rapid growth, where there is a greater need for the protection of resources from off-highway vehicle impacts.

The budget consolidates funding for the National Landscape Conservation System into a line item in the Management of Lands and Resources account and one line item in the Oregon and California Grant Lands account. This presentation will provide greater visibility and transparency to funding for the system of national monuments and other areas of special designation. The 2009 budget includes \$22.3 million for the System and maintains \$3 million of a \$4.9 million increase provided by Congress in 2008.

In order to focus on operational funding needs, the budget reduces funding for land acquisition by \$4.5 million and construction by \$1.9 million. Funding for deferred maintenance is also reduced by \$10 million.

The proposed \$1.002 billion gross budget for BLM represents a net decrease of \$5.8 million from the 2008 enacted funding level. The 2009 budget also proposes a cancellation of unobligated balances of \$24.7 million, which results in a total net budget of \$977.4 million. In the current fiscal year, BLM-managed lands will generate an estimated \$5.1 billion in revenue, including royalties from oil and gas leases.

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. 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.

In a break from past budgets, the Department-wide Wildland Fire Management appropriation – starting in FY 2009 – will be reassigned from BLM to the Office of the Secretary. The change will facilitate better fire-management coordination among four Interior agencies (BLM, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs).

The BLM's proposed FY2009 budget is online at www.BLM.gov.

– BLM –

For release: Friday, Feb. 1, 2008

Contact: Tom Gorey (202-452-5137)

Denise Adamic (303-239-3671)

BLM Sets Meeting of National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board for February 25 in Tucson

The Bureau of Land Management's National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet on Monday, February 25, 2008, in Tucson, Arizona, to discuss issues relating to the management, protection, and control of wild horses and burros on Western public rangelands. The one-day meeting will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., local time, at the Radisson Suites Tucson, 6555 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, Arizona 85710.

The Advisory Board provides input and advice to the BLM as it carries out its responsibilities under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The law mandates the protection, management, and control of these free-roaming animals in a manner that ensures healthy herds at levels consistent with the land's capacity to support them. The BLM manages about 29,000 wild horses and burros that roam BLM-managed rangelands in 10 Western states.

The public may address the Advisory Board at the February 25 meeting at an appropriate point in the agenda, which is expected to be about 3 p.m., local time. Individuals who want to make a statement should register with the BLM by noon on the day of the meeting at the meeting site (Radisson Suites Tucson, 6555 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, Arizona 85710; telephone: 520-721-7100). Depending on the number of speakers, the Board may limit the length of presentations, set at three minutes for previous meetings.

The agenda of the meeting can be found in the January 25, 2008, Federal Register.

Speakers must submit a written copy of their statement to the BLM at the meeting; those who would like to comment but are unable to attend may submit a written statement by February 15, 2008, to: Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program, WO-260, Attention: Ramona DeLorme, 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada, 89502-7147. Comments may also be e-mailed to: Ramona_DeLorme@blm.gov. Those submitting comments electronically should include the identifier "WH&B" in the subject of their message and their name and address in the body of the message.

For additional information regarding the meeting, please contact Ramona DeLorme, Wild Horse and Burro Administrative Assistant, at 775-861-6582. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may reach Ms. DeLorme at any time by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

The Advisory Board meets at least two times a year and the BLM Director may call additional meetings when necessary. Members serve without salary, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses according to government travel regulations.

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 public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 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, cultural, and other resources on the public lands.

– BLM –

For Immediate Release: February 1, 2008
Contact: Mel Lloyd BLM 970-244-3097

BLM revises schedule for planning meetings

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. — The Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) has revised its schedule of working group meetings on Recreation Management Zones (RMZ) for the Gateway Special Recreation Management Area. The working group meeting for RMZs 1 and 2, previously scheduled for Feb. 5, will be held Monday, Feb. 4, to avoid conflicting with the Tuesday night caucuses. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. and will be held at the GJFO located at 2815 H Road. A second meeting for RMZs 6, 7, and 8 has been added after receiving additional public interest in these zones. That meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 11, at the Gateway Community Center in Gateway.

Recreation Management Plans are an important tool to public land managers as more people make public lands their choice destination. There will be several more opportunities for the public to participate in this planning process. Planning documents; including comment forms, information about the RMZs, and a schedule for the working group meetings; can be found online at www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo.html.

Public scoping provides BLM valuable information that will be considered during the environmental review process for this planning project. The public may submit written comments to the BLM Grand Junction Field Office, ATTN: Gateway Plan, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506; by fax to (970) 244-3083; or by e-mail to GJFO_webmail@blm.gov. Public scoping ends Feb. 29, 2008. For additional information, contact Outdoor Recreation Planner Ken Straley at (970) 244-3031.

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For Immediate Release: Feb. 1, 2008
Contact: David Boyd, 970-947-2832

Northwest Resource Advisory Council meets Feb. 14 in Glenwood Springs

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo.—The Bureau of Land Management's Northwest Resource Advisory

Council will meet 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 14 in Glenwood Springs at the Community Center, 100 Wulfsohn Road.

The meeting is open to the public, with public comment periods scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Agenda topics include:

- Updates from NW Colorado BLM Field Offices
- The Programmatic EIS for Commercial Oil Shale Leasing
- Update from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission on its new rulemaking
- Presentation from Randy Udall: "The Role of Renewables in the New Energy Economy"
- Resource Management Plan subgroups updates

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, log onto http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Resources/racs/nwrac.html.

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Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management

NEWS RELEASE: Feb. 1, 2008

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 947-2832

BLM to burn slash piles at Canyon Creek

(Glenwood Springs, Colo.) – The Bureau of Land Management Glenwood Springs Field Office is planning this month to burn about 25 "slash piles" generated by last fall's fuels reduction project northeast of the Canyon Creek subdivision.

Federal fire crews from the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit created an 11-acre defensible space buffer on BLM lands on the east side of the community by thinning trees and removing low branches that can carry a fire into the canopy.

"This 11-acre buffer will increase public and firefighter safety by slowing any wildfires advancing towards homes in the area," said Jamie Connell, Glenwood Springs BLM Field Manager. "This fire break also reduces the risk of a wildfire burning from public land onto private land."

The piles will be burned when wind and smoke dispersal are favorable to avoid affecting the subdivision. Some drift smoke could impact homeowners for a short period of time. Anyone with health conditions that may be affected by short durations of smoke should contact Ody Anderson, the project leader, at (970) 947-2800.

The burning could take a week to complete, depending on weather, smoke and fuel conditions. The piles will be burned under the authority of an approved burn plan and when adequate moisture in adjacent fuels is at acceptable levels.

Additional slash piles farther east from the homes will be burned in the winter of 2008/2009. Homeowners adjacent to the project have begun working with the Colorado State Forest Service to build defensible space on their private land as well.

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