Consultation and Coordination With Tribal Governments (Executive Order 13175)

The Department of the Interior strives to strengthen its government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes through a commitment to consultation with Indian Tribes and recognition of their right to self-governance and Tribal sovereignty. We have evaluated this notice under the Department’s consultation policy and under the criteria of Executive Order 13175 and have determined there to be substantial direct effects on federally recognized Tribes because the irrigation projects are located on or associated with Indian reservations. To fulfill its consultation responsibility to Tribes and Tribal organizations, BIA communicates, coordinates, and consults on a continuing basis with these entities on issues of water delivery, water availability, and costs of administration, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of projects that concern them. This is accomplished at the individual irrigation project by project, agency, and regional representatives, as appropriate, in accordance with local protocol and procedures. This notice is one component of our overall coordination and consultation process to provide notice to, and request comments from, these entities when we adjust irrigation assessment rates.

Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use (Executive Order 13211)

The rate adjustments are not a significant energy action under the definition in Executive Order 13211. A Statement of Energy Effects is not required.

Regulatory Planning and Review (Executive Order 12866)

These rate adjustments are not a significant regulatory action and do not need to be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

These rate adjustments are not a rule for the purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act because they establish “a rule of particular applicability relating to rates.” 5 U.S.C. 601(2).

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

These rate adjustments do not impose an unfunded mandate on state, local, or Tribal governments in the aggregate, or on the private sector, of more than $130 million per year. They do not have a significant or unique effect on State, local, or Tribal governments or the private sector. Therefore, the Department is not required to prepare a statement containing the information required by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Takings (Executive Order 12630)

These rate adjustments do not affect a taking of private property or otherwise have “takings” implications under Executive Order 12630. The rate adjustments do not deprive the public, State, or local governments of rights or property.

Federalism (Executive Order 13132)

Under the criteria in section 1 of Executive Order 13132, these rate adjustments do not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement because they will not affect the States, the relationship between the national government and the States, or the distribution of power and responsibilities among various levels of government. A federalism summary impact statement is not required.

Civil Justice Reform (Executive Order 12988)

This notice complies with the requirements of Executive Order 12988. Specifically, in issuing this notice, the Department has taken the necessary steps to eliminate drafting errors and ambiguity, minimize potential litigation, and provide a clear legal standard for affected conduct as required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

These rate adjustments do not affect the collections of information which have been approved by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The OMB Control Number is 1076–0141 and expires January 31, 2023.

National Environmental Policy Act

The Department has determined that these rate adjustments do not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and that no detailed statement is required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321–4370(d)), pursuant to 43 CFR 46.210(i). In addition, the rate adjustments do not present any of the 12 extraordinary circumstances listed at 43 CFR 46.215.

Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan for the Missoula Field Office, Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, the Department of the Interior, Montana/Dakotas Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for BLM public lands and resources managed by the Missoula Field Office, Montana. By this notice, the BLM is announcing the availability of the Record of Decision and Approved RMP.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Record of Decision and Approved RMP are available at the Missoula Field Office, 3235 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804, or may be viewed online at: https://eplanning.blm.gov.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maggie Ward, RMP Project Manager, Missoula Field Office, at telephone: (406) 329–3914, and at the mailing address and website listed earlier. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact Ms. Ward during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Missoula Approved RMP replaces the 1986 Garnet RMP. The Missoula Approved RMP provides a single, comprehensive land use plan that guides management on approximately 163,000 acres of BLM-managed public lands and 267,000 acres of Federal mineral estate in western Montana in Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, and Sanders counties. Over 99 percent of the BLM-managed public lands are in Granite, Missoula, and Powell counties.

The BLM developed the Missoula RMP in collaboration with three cooperating agencies. The alternative selected as the Approved RMP is Alternative B with components of sub-Alternative C, as described in the Proposed RMP. It provides for a balanced combination of goals, objectives, allowable uses, and management actions.

The Notice of Availability for the Missoula Proposed RMP was published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2020, which initiated a 30-day protest period and a 60-day Governor’s consistency review period (85 FR 8607). The BLM received 72 timely protest submissions. All protests have been reviewed and dismissed by the BLM. For a full description of the issues raised during the protest period and how they were addressed, please refer to the Director’s Protest Resolution Report, which is available at the website listed earlier.

The Montana Governor submitted a letter identifying certain concerns related to the consistency of the Proposed RMP with State plans. After a thorough review, the BLM determined that the Approved RMP is consistent with existing State plans.

The Approved RMP identifies comprehensive long-range decisions for the management and use of resources on BLM-administered public lands, focusing on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield set forth in FLPMA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan for the Lewistown Field Office, Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, the Department of the Interior, Montana/Dakotas Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Final Environmental Impact Statement for BLM public lands and resources managed by the Lewistown Field Office, and a portion of the Butte Field Office in northern Lewis and Clark County, Montana. By this notice, the BLM is announcing the availability of the ROD and Approved RMP.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the ROD and Approved RMP are available at the Lewistown Field Office, 920 NE Main Street, Lewistown, MT 59457, or may be viewed online at: https://eplanning.blm.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Brunkhorst, RMP Project Manager, Lewistown Field Office, at telephone: (406) 539–1981, and at the mailing address and website listed earlier. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact Mr. Brunkhorst during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Lewistown Approved RMP replaces the 1994 Judith RMP and the 1984 Headwaters RMP. The Lewistown Approved RMP provides a single, comprehensive land use plan that guides management on approximately 651,200 acres of BLM-managed public lands and 1,196,800 acres of Federal mineral estate in central Montana in Cascade, Fergus, Judith Basin, Meagher, Petroleum, Pondera, Teton, Chouteau, and Lewis and Clark counties. These lands and minerals are managed by two BLM offices located in Lewistown and Butte, Montana. The BLM developed the Lewistown RMP in collaboration with nine cooperating agencies.

The alternative selected as the Approved RMP is a slightly modified version of Alternative C2, as described in the Proposed RMP. It provides for a balanced combination of goals, objectives, allowable uses, and management actions. The Notice of Availability for the Lewistown Proposed RMP was published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2020, which initiated a 30-day protest period and a 60-day Governor’s consistency review period (85 FR 8607). The BLM received 150 timely protest submissions. All protests have been resolved and/or dismissed by the BLM Director. For a full description of the issues raised during the protest period and how they were addressed, please refer to the Director’s Protest Resolution Report, which is available at the website listed earlier.

The Montana Governor submitted a letter identifying certain concerns related to the consistency of the Proposed RMP with State plans. After a thorough review, the BLM determined that the Approved RMP is consistent with existing State plans; however, as a result of the Governor’s consistency review comments, the BLM clarified in the glossary that administrative use applies to State access needs, and provided additional wording in the Judith Mountains Special Recreation Management Area for the protection of westslope cutthroat trout habitat.

The Approved RMP identifies comprehensive long-range decisions for the management and use of resources on BLM-administered public lands, focusing on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield set forth in FLPMA.

Authority: 40 CFR 1506.6 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

John Mehlhoff, State Director, Montana/Dakotas BLM.

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