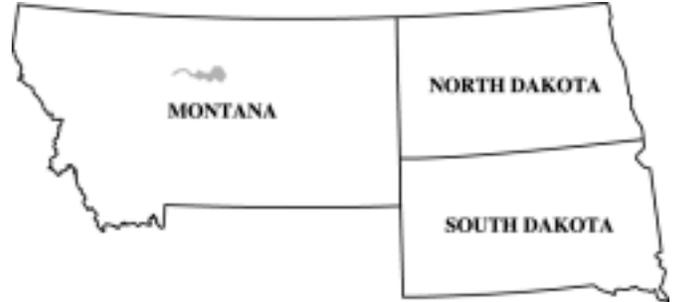




# Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- On January 17, 2001, the president designated the Upper Missouri River Breaks a national monument with a Presidential Proclamation.
- The Lewistown Field Office is beginning work on a resource management plan (RMP) for public lands in the monument.
- The RMP will guide resource decisions on approximately 375,000 acres of public land.
- The schedule is:
  - 2002 -- conduct public scoping and collect data;
  - 2003 -- collect data and develop alternatives;
  - 2004 -- estimate effects and release a draft RMP/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS);
  - 2005 -- respond to comments and release a final RMP/EIS and approved RMP.



## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- The proclamation recognizes the spectacular array of biological, geological and historical resources found on public lands in this area.
- The designation presents the public and BLM with an important opportunity to prepare a management plan to establish guidance, objectives and management actions for these lands and resources.
- The proclamation also emphasizes that the BLM will remain the managing agency for these public lands.
- The BLM is responsible for seeking public input and using that information throughout the RMP and EIS planning process.



## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- This RMP is a multi-year process that will require an ongoing commitment of agency resources.
- Scoping is the first stage of the planning process and closely involves the public with identifying issues, providing resource and other information, and developing planning criteria to guide preparation of the RMP.
- The RMP will likely address these issues:
  - How will human activities (recreation, off-highway vehicle use, livestock grazing and oil and gas exploration and development) be managed?
  - What facilities and infrastructure are appropriate to provide visitor interpretation and administration of the monument?
  - How will BLM manage biological, historical, cultural and visual values in the monument?
  - How will monument management be integrated with other agency and community plans?
  - How will transportation and access be managed?



## WHO ELSE IS CONCERNED?

- Public interest is high both locally and nationally.
- The conservation community and those involved in the tourism industry continue to support the monument designation.
- Those involved with agriculture along the river corridor or in the uplands fear the monument designation will impact their ability to use their private in-holdings and/or their BLM grazing permits within the monument.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Gary Slagel, Monument Manager, (406) 538-1950; or go to our website at <http://www.mt.blm.gov/ldo/um/index.html>.

