

# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Montana State Office

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In Reply To:

1786/6840/1610(923)P

February 2, 2004

EMAIL TRANSMISSION - 02/02/04

Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2004-024

Expires: 9/30/05

To: Field Managers  
Attention: Biologists and Planners

From: State Director

Subject: Draft Consultation Agreement

DD: 03/01/04

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Montana State Office and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have initiated discussions on an agreement on how to complete Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species consultation on new Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and/or revisions of existing plans. (This should not be confused with the *backlog consultation* process currently underway. The agreement is designed for new planning efforts.)

This agreement was developed due to the large expected workload for development of RMPs and associated Section 7 Consultation for T&E species as required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This agreement was patterned after similar agreements developed and used in other states and has been informally discussed with Washington Office personnel.

The consultation agreement will detail what is needed and expected by both parties, simplify the process, may shorten the time needed to finish the formal consultation process, and help the FWS plan their workload. This agreement will be extremely important if individual field offices contract all or portions of the RMP. Task orders can include specifics on when to get FWS involved and what documentation will need to be developed. Until the agreement is formal, this draft may be used as a pattern for those offices already in the planning process.

Please review the attached document and offer comments by March 1, 2004, so we can revise and formalize the agreement. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Gayle Sitter (896-5024) or Jim Beaver (896-5023) at the Montana State Office or Lou Hanebury (247-7367) at the FWS.

Signed by: Martin C. Ott

Authenticated by: Merry Prestridge (MT923)

1 Attachment

1-[Consultation Agreement](#) (9 pp)

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