Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Ref. DO212-08
May 7, 2008

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The attached decision notice approves the Rosebud Battlefield State Park Final Management Plan for implementation. The plan guides park operations, recreational opportunities, and visitor services, while working to protect the park's nationally significant resources.

In October 2007, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) announced a draft management plan formed with the help of a volunteer advisory committee and many interested people. Public comments were considered and are summarized in the attached decision notice. The plan was modified accordingly.

This plan will be consulted regularly and possibly re-written in ten years, though it outlines decades of work. The advisory committee helped identify priorities to address. This list is sure to change over time, but focuses our efforts on the most important issues as viewed today. Several of the priorities below are already underway; many others will advance simultaneously or as opportunities arise, though they may not be listed here.

- Continue to build relations with neighbors and tribes.
- Work with mineral owners, developers and others to eliminate mineral development potential under the park.
- Pursue National Historic Landmark designation for the park and participating landowners; continue to protect resources and maintain historic structures.
- Update interpretive message in the short term, while gathering information for an in-depth interpretive plan and permanent displays.
- Develop a special use policy.
- Develop a wildfire protection plan.
- Develop a holistic vegetation management plan.
- Pursue additional staff allocation and accompanying funding to improve visitor services, and maintain and protect resources.
- Collaborate with others to conduct additional cultural and archeological research.
- Research and pursue alternative and permanent public access.

Copies of the final management plan can be obtained from the FWP Region 7 Headquarters at Industrial Site W, Miles City, Montana, or call 406-234-0900. The plan can also be found on the FWP web site at *http://fwp.mt.gov/parks/rosebudbattlefield.*

Sincerely,

M. Jeff Hagener
Director

Attachment