



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Miles City Field Office
111 Garryowen Road
Miles City, Montana 59301
<http://www.blm.gov/montana-dakotas>

March 15, 2023

Chandra Rosenthal
Rocky Mountain Office Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
crosenthal@peer.org

Dear Mrs. Rosenthal:

We appreciate your interest in eastern Montana's public lands. In your email dated 3/8/2023, you asked about public participation opportunity specifically related to the Miles City Field Office's 2023 Categorical Exclusion (CX) used to re-issue certain grazing permits. Since 2015, BLM has had authority under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to use a CX to issue grazing permits when certain criteria are met. Since the allotments covered under the Miles City Field Office's CX meet the criteria, the Field Manager is using the CX to issue grazing permits and leases. Application of this CX may be used to prioritize focus on resource needs and manage permit administration workload. It doesn't reduce or eliminate regulatory requirements or other program-specific policies including issuing a decision that provides opportunity for protest and/or appeal.

In addition, the Miles City Field Office posts National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents, including this CX, to ePlanning along with contact information for the relevant project lead at least two weeks before posting any decision. This gives members of the public opportunity to be informed of the project and to contact the project lead if interested before a decision is made.

If you have further questions, please contact Jon David, Acting Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist at jdavid@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Eric D. Lepisto
Field Manager