



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Spotted Bear
Ranger District
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8975 Highway 2 East
P.O. Box 190340
Hungry Horse, MT 59919

File Code: 1500-1

Date: July 22, 2003

Gary Slagel, Monument Manager
Bureau of Land management
PO Box 1160
Lewistown, MT 59457

Gary,

I am writing at the request of the Recreational Airstrip Committee of the Montana Pilots Association, MPA. I understand they are involved with you on the planning process of the Upper Missouri Break National Monument.

I have actively worked with MPA and individuals on the use and maintenance of three remote airstrips. On the Spotted Bear Ranger District we manage the Spotted Bear, Meadow Creek and Schafer Meadows airstrips. For the past twenty years there has been an active partnership with it being more informal previous to this with the Schafer Meadow airstrip. There has been an annual work weekend, and other time committed as needed to keep a safe operating airstrip. In addition the pilots have helped to minimize touch and go's at this location as this is a wilderness airstrip. We just completed the work weekend for 2003 and had close to 50 individuals helping with fence maintenance, gopher holes, rocks, staining, wind socks, maintenance of adjacent campground etc. Major projects that have been taken on over time are the construction of a handicapped accessible toilet and ongoing cleaning and maintenance, and maintaining filtered water for the campground.

In 2000 we initiated additional work parties to help at Spotted Bear and Meadow Creek airstrips. Work at these is very similar.

These individuals have been very good to work and very committed to maintenance of these strips to provide for a safe and fun recreational experience. We have made improvements related to noxious weeds, garbage and litter at all of these sites as result of this partnership. Please contact me if I can provide other information on how we successfully work together.

DEBBIE MUCKLOW
District Ranger

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