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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OFFICIALS REMIND RESIDENTS CENSUS FORMS ARRIVE THIS MONTH
Participation Directly Impacts Our Community

At a news conference held today, March 1, 2010, elected officials, law enforcement representatives, US Census Bureau officials and members of the Bannock County Complete Count Committee discussed the 2010 Census.

This month the 2010 Census forms will arrive at more than 130 million addresses across the nation. Bannock County residents were strongly encouraged to complete and return their forms between March 15, 2010 and April 15, 2010, because of the direct impact their information has in Bannock County.

Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to state, local and tribal governments based on Census data. Each person counted in our county helps local government leverage up to as much as \$1,400 federal dollars per year over 10 years for the local economy. Census data are used to reapportion seats in the US House of Representatives and for the subsequent redistricting of state and local governments. It can also help fund services for people in poverty, establish facilities for people with disabilities, determine locations for hospitals and senior centers and forecast transportation needs, such as new roads and public transit options.

Law enforcement representatives also reminded residents that there are already fraudulent Census forms circulating. These forms ask for Social Security numbers and/or banking information. The true 2010 Census forms **will not** ask for this information. Residents who receive a form they believe to be fraudulent should contact their police or sheriff's departments.

The 2010 Census is the shortest in history. There are only 10 questions that should take 10 minutes to complete. Answers are confidential and protected by law. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. For more information, residents should contact their local City Hall or the Bannock County Commissioners.

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Media Note: Electronic versions of most of the handouts distributed during the news conference are available.

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