



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office
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Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html



In Reply Refer to:
NOPA-NVL00000-10-02

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DEC 14 2009

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION LANDS IN WILDERNESS

STATE: Nevada

COUNTY: Lincoln

DISTRICT OFFICE: Ely District Office
HC 33 Box 33500
702 North Industrial Way.
Ely, Nevada 89301

WILDERNESS AREA: Parsnip Peak, Fortification Range and White Rock Range

PROPOSED ACTION: Conduct wild horse gather within Eagle Horse Management Area (HMA)

Background

The Wilson Creek HMA and Deer Lodge Canyon HMA were combined in the 2008 Ely District Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan becoming the Eagle HMA. A wild horse gather would be conducted in coordination and in conjunction with the Cedar City Utah Field Office, due to historic movement between the Eagle, Chokecherry and Mt. Elinor HMA's. The Eagle HMA is located approximately 50 miles south east of Ely, Nevada, and 20 miles northeast of Caliente, Nevada, within Lincoln County.

Description of the Proposed Action

The gather would occur in February 2010, and last approximately 15 days. The action should prevent deterioration of the range, as well as restore a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple use relationship on public lands in the area. The proposed action is to remove approximately 80-85% of the wild horse population or approximately 506 excess wild horses from the Eagle HMA. Once captured, wild horses would be sent to BLM holding facilities where they are prepared for adoption and/or sale to qualified individuals who can provide them with a good home or to long term holding (grassland pastures). About 50 wild horses residing permanently outside the HMA would also be removed. Following the gather, approximately 100 wild horses would remain (i.e., the low range of the AML).

The primary capture technique would consist of the helicopter-drive trapping method. The use of roping from horseback could also be used when necessary. Multiple capture sites (traps) would be used to capture wild horses both from within or outside the HMAs. No trap sites would be set up in sage grouse leks, riparian areas, cultural resource sites, or Congressionally Designated Wilderness Areas. Capture sites would be located in previously disturbed areas. All trap sites, holding facilities, and camping areas on public lands would be recorded with Global Positioning System equipment, given to the weed coordinator, and then assigned for monitoring during the next several years for noxious weeds. All capture and handling activities (including capture site selections) will be conducted in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures.

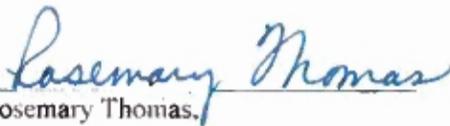
Expected Decision and Implementation

It is expected that the BLM, Ely District Office will make a decision to approve or disapprove the wild horse gather on the Eagle HMA in January, 2010. If approved the horse gather would occur in February of 2010.

Public Comment

The public comment period for these actions will begin on December 8, 2009. The EA has been prepared for the Eagle HMA horse gather and will be available on the BLM Ely District Website within the next two weeks. For questions or for a copy of the Eagle Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather EA contact Ben Noyes, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist at 775-289-1836 or benjamin_noyes@blm.gov.

All comments are to be sent directly to the District Manager for consideration and use in evaluating and processing the proposed action at the address above within the 30 day comment period ending **January 12, 2010.**


Rosemary Thomas,
District Manager
Ely District Office