



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko District Office

3900 Idaho Street

Elko, Nevada 89801-4211

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko field office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html)

In Reply Refer To:  
4700(NVE03000)

Dear Interested Party:

The Wells and Schell Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Elko and Ely District Offices are proposing to gather approximately 1,977 wild horses and remove 1,506 within the Antelope, Antelope Valley, Goshute, and Spruce/Pequop Herd Management Areas (HMAs.) For this action these the four HMAs will be referred to as the Antelope Complex and have been gathered together in four previous population management actions (gathers). (Refer to the enclosed map for the location of the HMAs.) Past capture and current, census, and distribution data indicate movement among these HMAs as there are no barriers to prevent movement between HMA's.

The proposed gather would be conducted in the summer-fall of 2010. The gather is needed to protect public rangeland from undue degradation caused by excessive numbers of wild horses and to protect herd health by insuring adequate forage resources are available. The post-gather population of 471 wild horses would represent the lower limit of the appropriate management level (AML) and should allow the herd to grow to the upper limit of xxx animals over a four year period without the need for additional gathers to remove excess animals in the interim.

Removal of excess wild horses from the Antelope Complex to the lower limit of the established AMLs is proposed to prevent deterioration of the range and to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance keeping with the multiple-use management concept for the area as authorized under Section 3 (b) (2) of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act and Section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

During the proposed gather multiple capture sites (traps) would be used. Whenever possible, capture sites would be located at previously used sites. The Elko and Ely District Office Wild Horse Specialists would record pertinent horse data such as sex, age, and color, and horses would be sorted by sex and final disposition (release or remove as excess). To assess herd health, factors such as pregnancy and physical body condition based on Henneke scale, would be recorded as well as taking hair samples for genetic health assessments. Animals would be returned to the HMA based on desired characteristics (including maintaining a normal age structure and sex ratio for the herd).

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To lengthen the time before a future gather may be required, BLM is also considering the implementation of fertility control treatments and/or sex ratio adjustments as part of this gather. Approximately 236 mares released would receive the fertility control vaccine, *porcine zona pellucida* (PZP). This vaccine has shown effectiveness of 94% in Year One, 82% in Year Two, and 68% in Year Three.

However, since this is a summer/fall gather the fertility control treatment may not be effective beyond two years. Therefore, treated mares would be expected to foal normally in 2011, but fewer mares would foal in 2012, and 2013. The average annual growth rate of the herds would be expected to decline slightly which would allow the BLM to increase the gather cycle to four years instead of the normal three years.

An environmental assessment is being prepared for this gather. If you have any information, data, analysis, or issues or concerns about this proposed gather and removal of wild horses, please submit them in writing, prior to January 27, 2010. Please address your comments to the BLM Wells Field Office, Attention: Wells Field Office Manager, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801.

Also, if you would like to continue receiving the information concerning any of these HMA's, please notify this office in writing at the above address by January 27, 2010, to remain on the mailing list. Please specify in which of the HMAs you are interested: Antelope, Antelope Valley, Goshute or Spruce/Pequop.

Thank you for your interest in wild horses. If you have questions concerning the proposed wild horse gather please call Bruce Thompson at (775) 753-0286.

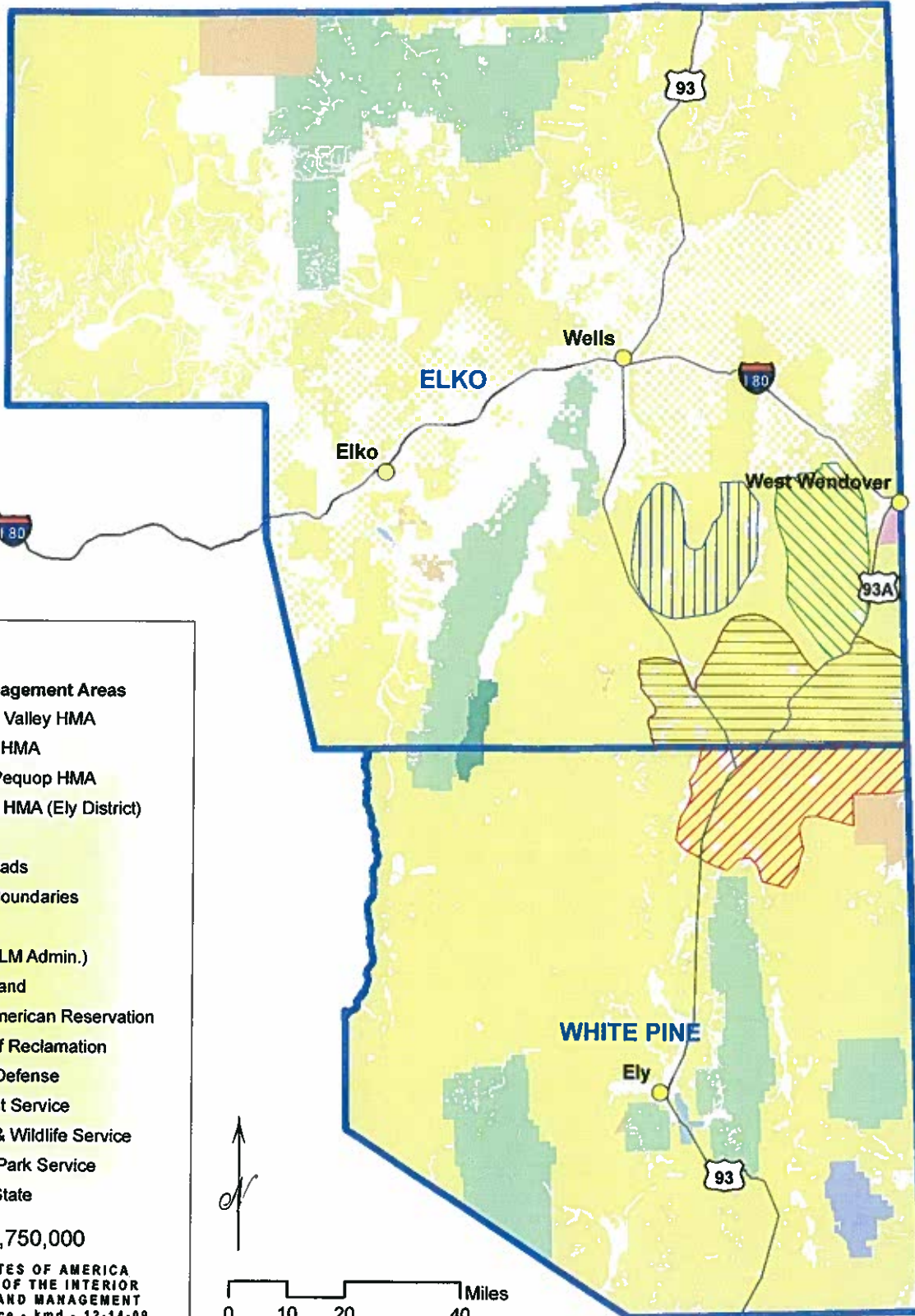
Sincerely,

*Donna E Jewell, Acting*  
for Bryan K. Fuell, Manager  
Wells Field Office

Enclosure



# Antelope Complex Herd Management Areas



**LEGEND**

**Elko Herd Management Areas**

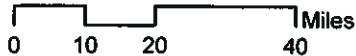
- Antelope Valley HMA
- Goshute HMA
- Spruce-Pequop HMA
- Antelope HMA (Ely District)
- Cities
- Major Roads
- County Boundaries

**Land Status**

- Public (BLM Admin.)
- Private Land
- Native American Reservation
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Dept. of Defense
- US Forest Service
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Nevada State

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