



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tonopah Field Office

P.O. Box 911 (1553 S. Main St.)

Tonopah, Nevada 89049

Phone: 775-482-7800; Fax: 775-482-7810

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/battle_mountain_field.html

In Reply Refer To:
4700 (NVBO200)

JUN 29 2011

Dear Interested Public:

The Tonopah Field Office is planning to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts of conducting a wild horse gather in the Stone Cabin and Saulsbury Herd Management Areas (HMA). The gather areas are located in central Nye County, Nevada.

The Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the Stone Cabin HMA and a portion of the Saulsbury HMA were established through a Consent Decision signed by Administrative Law Judge David Torbet on May 11, 1992, through the Department of Interior Office of Hearings and Appeals, Hearings Division. The Consent Decision established an AML for the Stone Cabin Allotment (and HMA) of 364 wild horses, and the Ralston allotment portion of the Saulsbury HMA at 10 wild horses. The AML for the portion of the Saulsbury HMA in the Hunts Canyon Allotment was established as 30 wild horses through the Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) in 1996 for the Hunts Canyon Allotment. The FMUD was issued following an interdisciplinary analysis of monitoring data and the involvement of interested public.

The proposed gather would involve the removal of all wild horses outside of the HMAs, thereafter; wild horses would be removed from inside the HMAs as needed to achieve population objectives. All mares to be released will be treated with Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) for fertility control, and released back to their respective HMA. The following table lists the AML, current population estimate, proposed number to gather, proposed number to remove, proposed number to treat and release, and estimated post-gather populations of wild horses.

HMA	Allotment	AML	Est. Population ^a	Est. Number to Gather ^b	Est. Number to Remove	Est. Mares to Treat and Release ^c	Est. Post Gather Population
Stone Cabin	Stone Cabin	364	552	524	334	87	218
	Total	364	552	524	334	87	218
Saulsbury	Ralston	10	28	27	21	3	7
	Hunts Canyon	30	172	163	150	9	22
	Total	40	200	190	171	10	29
Grand Totals		404	752	714	505	97	247

^a Represents the estimated population based on August 2009 inventory adjusted for 16% rate of increase for 2010 and 2011.

^b Estimated gather numbers based on the ability to capture 95% of the estimated population. Efficiency could be influenced by season, weather conditions, and terrain.

^c Assuming a 60/40 stud:mare ratio of released wild horses.

Gather operations would commence after the completion of an Environmental Assessment/Gather Plan, Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and the issuance of a decision pending any appeals or court decisions. The wild horse gather could take place as early as February 12, 2012.

As interested public, you are asked to submit comments, issues, alternatives, recommendations, or other input for the inclusion into the Environmental Assessment. Please make your submissions in writing or via email at StoneCabinHMA@blm.gov. Comments must be received in this office no later than Monday, July 25th. Comments received after this date will be considered in the final EA.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment for us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you would rather not remain on the mailing list for the Stone Cabin or Saulsbury HMA wild horse gathers, and do not wish to receive the Environmental Assessment /Gather Plan and subsequent decision documents, please submit your request in writing to the address identified on the letterhead.

The Final Environmental Assessment will be available to the interested public on compact disk upon request. However, this request will not extend the comment period.

For more information regarding the proposed gather, please contact Dustin Hollowell at (775)482-7847.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Seley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas J. Seley
Field Manager



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In Reply Refer To:

4700 (NVBO200)

Dear Interested Public:

The Tonopah Field Office is planning to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts of conducting a wild burro gather in the Bullfrog Herd Management Area (HMA). The gather area surrounds the town of Beatty, in Nye County, Nevada.

The Appropriate Management Level (AML) range for the Bullfrog HMA was established through the Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) for the Montezuma Allotment Complex, completed in 2007. The FMUD was issued following an interdisciplinary analysis of monitoring data, the completion of a Rangeland Health Evaluation (RHE) for the complex, and the involvement of interested public.

The proposed gather would involve the removal of all wild burros outside of the HMA and any wild horses that may be encountered, thereafter; wild burros would be removed from inside the HMAs as needed to achieve a population within the AML range. The following table lists the AML, current population estimate, proposed number to gather, proposed number to remove, and estimated post-gather populations of wild burros.

HMA	Allotment	AML		Est. Population ^a	Est. Number to Gather	Est. Number to Remove	Est. Post Gather Population
		High	Low				
Bullfrog	East*	23	15	144	74	74	70
	West**	68	43				
	Total	91	58	144	74	74	70

^a Represents the estimated population based on a February 2010 inventory adjusted for 16% rate of increase for 2010 and 2011.

* The portion of the HMA on the east side of Highway 95 and includes portions of the Razorback and most of the Springdale 2 Allotments.

** The portion of the HMA on the west side of Highway 95 and is comprised only of the Razorback Allotment.

Gather operations would commence after the completion of an Environmental Assessment/Gather Plan, Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and the issuance of a decision pending any appeals or court decisions. The wild burro gather could take place as early as March 1, 2012.

As interested public, you are asked to submit comments, issues, alternatives, recommendations, or other input for the inclusion into the Environmental Assessment. Please make your

submissions in writing or via email at BullfrogHMA@blm.gov. Comments must be received in this office no later than Monday, August 1st. Comments received after this date will be considered in the final EA.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment for us to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you would rather not remain on the mailing list for the Bullfrog HMA wild burro gathers, and do not wish to receive the Environmental Assessment /Gather Plan and subsequent decision documents, please submit your request in writing to the address identified on the letterhead.

The Final Environmental Assessment will be available to the interested public on compact disk upon request. However, this request will not extend the comment period.

For more information regarding the proposed gather, please contact Dustin Hollowell at (775)482-7847.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Seley
Field Manager