



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Elko District Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html

In Reply Refer To:
4700 (NVE03000)

SEP 05 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The Wells and Egan Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Elko and Ely District Offices have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Three HMA Water-Bait Trapping Wild Horse Gather. The document (DOI -BLM-NV-N030-2012-0522) will be available to be viewed on September 5, 2012 online at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html. Hardcopies are available upon request from the Elko and Ely District Offices. Comments will be accepted until 4:30 pm Pacific Daylight Time on October 4, 2012. No comments will be accepted after 4:30 pm Pacific Daylight Time.

The Three HMA Water-Bait Trapping Project Area is located approximately 60 miles south of Wells, Nevada, within Elko and White Pine Counties. The Three HMA Project Area includes the Triple B Herd Management Area (HMA) managed by the Ely District Egan Field Office and the Maverick-Medicine and Antelope Valley HMAs which are managed by the Elko District Wells Field Office. (Refer to the attached map for general location.) The Wells and Egan Field Offices are proposing to gather wild horses from various riparian and upland areas within the Project Area as resource concerns are identified. (Refer to the enclosed map for the location of the three HMAs.)

The water-bait trapping gather is needed to:

- Bring wild horse numbers in balance with available water sources to maintain horse health;
- Reduce impacts caused by wild horses to limited perennial water resources and upland areas with limited forage within the Project Area;
- Remove excess wild horses within the HMAs and wild horses that are permanently residing outside areas designated as HMAs;
- Maintain a thriving herd 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.

By implementing the actions outlined in the Preliminary water-bait trapping environmental assessment, the BLM will be able to improve vegetation, habitat, and watershed health; removing excess animals from areas of resource concern will allow the BLM to continue to make significant progress toward achieving the Standards for Rangeland Health identified by the

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council. As part of the proposed action the BLM will also collect information on herd characteristics and determine herd health during the gather.

This EA is being provided to the interested public on the website for review for 30 days. We welcome your feedback and encourage you to submit comments, issues, alternatives, and/or recommendations for inclusion into the Final EA. Comments will be accepted until October 4, 2012. In order to provide meaningful input, please submit your comments that are applicable to the proposed wild gather, referencing the EA where possible.

Interested individuals should mail written comments to the BLM Elko District Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801 Attn: Three HMA Water-Bait Trapping EA. Comments may also be provided through email to this address:

BLM_NV_ELDO_TripleBMaverickMedicine@blm.gov. Be advised that *only* the comments received by postal mail or to this specific e-mail address will be considered in the completion of the Final EA, Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record.

Written comments in response to this notice, including the names and addresses of each commenter will be available for public review. 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 publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The public should be aware that submissions in the form of petitions are not generally considered comments. Submission of form letters or talking points will be considered as one comment, since they repeat the same thing and typically originate from single sources.

All comments received during the public comment period will be fully considered and evaluated for preparation of the Final EA. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Bruce Thompson, BLM Elko District Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, at (775) 753-0200 or Ruth Thompson, BLM Egan Wild Horse and Burro Specialist at (775) 289-1800.

Sincerely,



Bryan K. Fuell, Manager
Wells Field Office

Enclosure

CC:

Animal Rescue Network International
Barrick Cortez, Inc.
Kathleen Bertrand

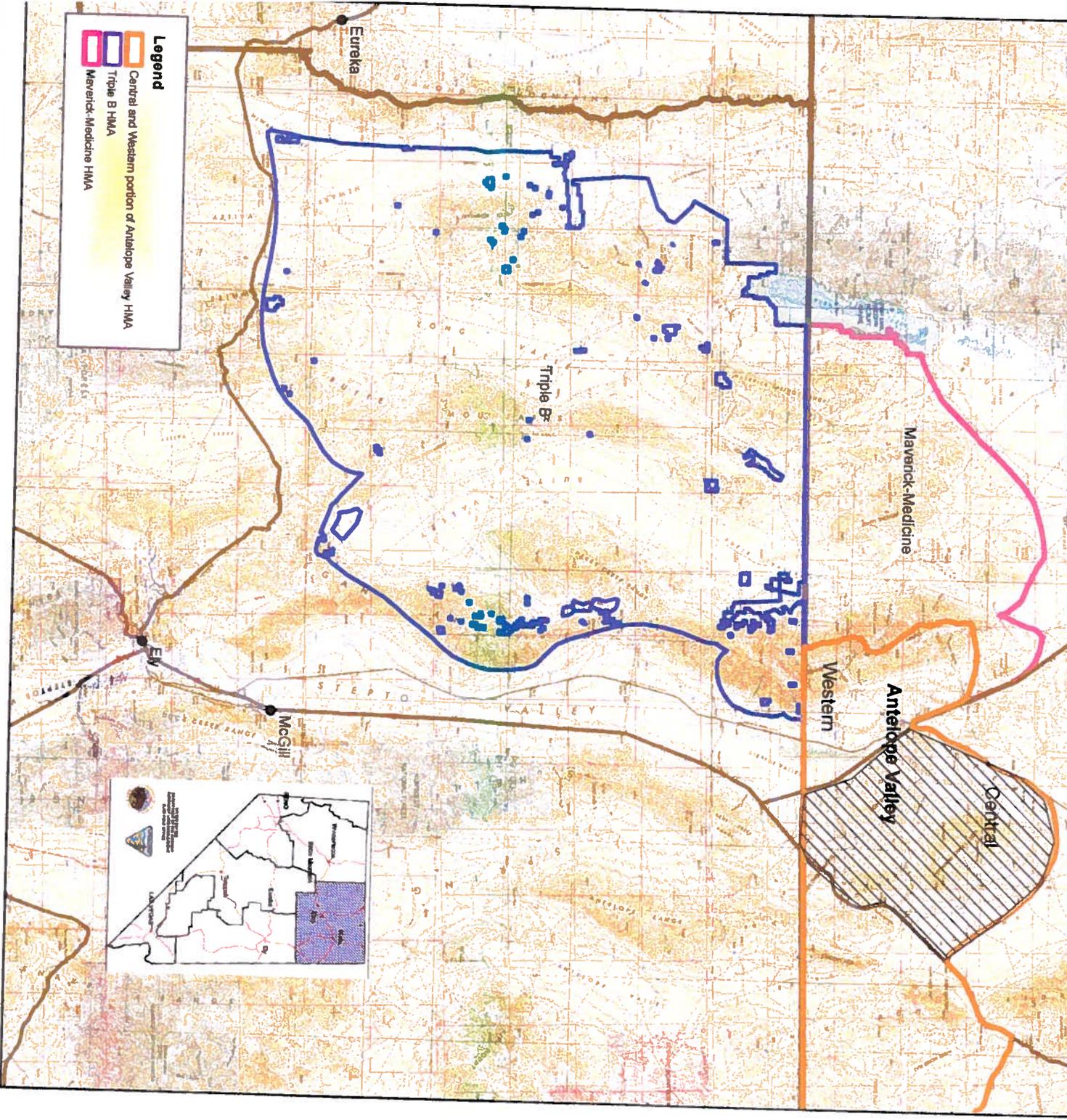
Wesley Bowen
Brough Partnership
Mary L. Bush

John C. Carpenter
Jim Bauman
Robert Child and Chad Edgington
The Cloud Foundation
Ken Conley
Congressman Arnoedi
Kathryn M. Cushman
Mark Damele
Dawley Creek Ranch
Craig C Downer
Double U Livestock
Elko County Natural Resources
Elko County Manager
Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
Ely District BLM
Ely Ranger District
Eureka County Natural Resources Dept.
Eureka Producers Cooperative
Flat Top Sheep Company
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Pete Goicoechea
Sam and Clelia Henroid
Vaughn Higbee
Dan Hoots
Martha Hoots
Vaughn Higbee
Kenneth Jones
In Defense for Animals
Karen Klitz
Priscilla Lane
Robin C Lahnes
Kay and Mary K. Lear
Kit Lear
The Little Paris Sheep Company, LLC
RC McClymonds
Kenny Merkle
Michael O. Morrison
McKay Livestock, Inc.
Moorman Ranch LLC
Theresa Minolitti
Jeanne Nations
National Mustang Association

Neil and Kristin McQueary
Roberta L. Moore
Tina Nappe
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Farm Bureau
NDOW
Resource Concepts, Inc.
Elnoma Reeves
Doug d. Robison
Herbert Stathes
Michael Stafford
Don & Sheila Phillips
Michael J. Podborry -NDOW
Leona Rawley
Senator Dean Rhoads
Raymond & Sandy Rosenlund
Honorable Harry Reid
Mike Scott - NDOW
Leona Rawley
Doug D. Robison
Robert Scholl
Warren W Scoppettone
Saving Americas Mustang
Sierra Club
Sierra Club – Toiyabe Chapter
Sierra Club – Toiyabe Chapter
Carl Slagowski
Tumbling Jr Ranch
Turner & Irlbeck Ranch
John Uhalde & Co
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Henry C. Vogler
Jack and Irene Walther
Barbara Warner
Jim West
Western Watershed Project
White Pine Co Commissioners
Wild Horse Preservation League
Wild Horse Sanctuary
Wild Horse Spirit
Buster and Gwen Wines
Sterling Wines



**Triple B,
Maverick-Medicine
and Western and Central Portions of the
Antelope Valley HMA**

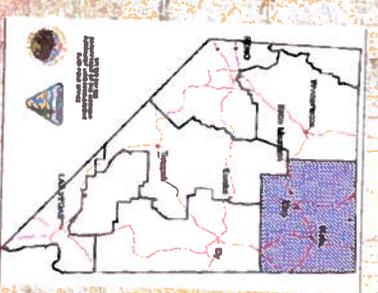


Legend

- Central and Western portion of Antelope Valley HMA
- Triple B HMA
- Maverick-Medicine HMA



1:800,000



Data published in:
North American Datum 1983 (NAD83)
UTM coordinates, Zone 11, meters
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