



August 16, 2013

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BLM Rock Springs and Rawlins Open Scoping on Wild Horse and Burro Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is extending the public scoping period for the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan (RMP) and is opening a 30-day public scoping period to amend the 2008 Approved Rawlins RMP to address wild horse and burro management in the Rock Springs and Rawlins field offices, Wyo.

On April 3, the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming ruled in the case of *Rock Springs Grazing Association vs. Ken Salazar* by upholding a revised Consent Decree governing wild horse management in the checkerboard pattern of mixed public, private, and state land ownership in southern Wyoming. Under the Consent Decree, the BLM agrees to remove all wild horses from the Rock Springs Grazing Association's (RSGA) private lands. RSGA owns or leases more than 48 percent of the private land in four Herd Management Areas (HMAs) in the checkerboard pattern within the boundaries of the Rawlins and Rock Springs field offices.

The Rock Springs Field Office is presently revising its RMP through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Wild horse management, including HMA boundaries which encompass RSGA lands and appropriate management levels (AMLs), will be reviewed and reanalyzed during the NEPA process. This process allows for public involvement throughout with several opportunities for interested parties to comment and review.

The BLM will prepare to remove wild horses from the checkerboard lands within the respective HMAs once the population is estimated to exceed 200 wild horses for the combined Salt Wells Creek/Adobe Town Complex, or 100 wild horses for the Great Divide Basin HMA. The yearly gather/removal commitments are Salt Wells Creek and Adobe Town HMAs in 2013, Great Divide Basin HMA in 2014, and White Mountain HMA in 2015, with additional gathers in 2016, if necessary.

Between 205 to 300 wild horses will remain in the White Mountain HMA where the BLM will institute fertility control measures to maintain the numbers to the lower range of the AML. The BLM also commits to consider an amendment to the RMP to manage the White Mountain herd as non-reproducing.

Written comments will be accepted until Sept. 16. Comments may be emailed to RockSpringsRMP_WY@blm.gov (please include "Wild Horse Scoping" in the subject line), faxed to (307) 352-0329, or mailed to the Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office, Wild Horse Scoping, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, WY 82901.

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the individuals listed below during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the below individuals. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

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

For further information, please contact Jay D'Ewart at (307) 352-0331, or William West at (307) 352-0259.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2012, activities on public lands generated \$4.6 billion in revenue, much of which was shared with the States where the activities occurred. In addition, public lands contributed more than \$112 billion to the U.S. economy and helped support more than 500,000 jobs.

—BLM—

Note to editor: A link to the planning documents can be found at
<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/RockSprings.html>