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BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Wild Horse and Burro Management*

Christopher McAlear, CCD Manager
5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701
Office hours are 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Phone: (775) 885-6000
FAX: (775) 885-6147

The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

Half of the nation's wild horses and burros live on Nevada rangelands managed by the BLM. In 1971, the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (Act) established herd areas which were identified by the presence of wild horses at the time the Act was passed. The BLM, for management purposes, further identified some of these areas as Herd Management Areas (HMAs). The Carson City District manages 21 Herd Areas (HA). Horses are only managed in the portions of the HAs that are identified as HMAs. Currently the Pah Rah, Horse Springs and Jumbo areas, as well as the southern portion of the Pine Nut HA, are not designated as HMAs, therefore they are not managed for wild horses due to a checker board land pattern.



The appropriate management level (AML) has been determined for all of the HMAs within the district. AML is defined as the number of wild horses that can be sustained within a designated HMA which achieves and maintains a thriving natural ecological balance while preventing degradation of the range within the concept of multiple use.

Soil type and climate dictate the type of vegetation within each HMA and the type of vegetation dictates the success of foraging. Drought, overgrazing, wildfires, and population growth can adversely affect habitat and in some instances herd health. However, the trend is moving toward a desired condition as wild horse and burro management efforts, including gathers and population control methods, have moderated population growth and habitat degradation. Managing for healthy rangelands improves habitat and forage quality for wildlife, livestock, and wild horses and burros.

How Are These Resources Currently Managed?

The BLM manages wild horses and burros under the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195). Under the Act, the BLM is responsible for preserving and protecting wild horses and burros and for managing healthy rangelands. The act was amended by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 to require the protection, management, and control of wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands.

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The BLM would like your input...

Should HMA boundaries be adjusted, combined and/or eliminated?

What criteria should be used to make habitat and population suitability and viability determinations?

What methods, other than removal through gathers, should be considered to achieve AMLs?

How should BLM address wild horse and burro urban-interface issues?

Which HMAs are suitable for the long-term management of wild horses and burros?

What age structure and sex ratios are appropriate to ensure healthy future herds of wild horses and burros?

Where are habitat improvement projects appropriate? What kinds of improvement projects are feasible?

When is it appropriate to develop or augment water for horses and burros?

Any other issues or concerns with the management of wild horses or burros?

CCD Planning Webpage:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

Comments can also be mailed
to:
Colleen Sievers,
RMP Project Manager
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701

Email address for public
comments:
BLM_NV_CCDO_RMP@blm.gov
