



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Boise District Office

3948 Development Avenue

Boise, Idaho 83705

<http://www.id.blm.gov/offices/lsrcd>



In Reply Refer To:
4700 ID130

September 11, 2009

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Interested Public:

A copy of the Decision Record (DR) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Sands Basin and Four Mile Herd Management Areas Wild Horse Gathers (ID-130-2009-EA-3686) is available at <http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/nepa.2.html>. The decision approves a gather to remove about 206 excess wild horses from the two HMAs beginning approximately October 6 through October 13, 2009. The Sands Basin HMA encompasses 11,715 total acres and the Four Mile HMA includes 18,034 total acres. The Sands Basin HMA is located approximately ten miles southwest of Marsing, Idaho and the Four Mile HMA is located approximately fifteen miles north of Emmett, Idaho. Removal of excess wild horses is needed to prevent further resource damage and is necessary to achieve a thriving natural ecological balance. Removal of excess wild horses will return horse numbers to the Sands Basin appropriate management level (AML) of 37-60 horses and to the Four Mile's AML of 33 - 64 horses. A scoping document was completed on May 27, 2009 and was sent to State, County, local governments, the Tribes, and interested publics for comments. Comments were received from Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Animal Welfare Institute, and Mr. Michael Lane. All comments were carefully considered and incorporated into EA # ID-130-2009-EA-3686 where appropriate.

In addition, a public hearing was held for the use of motorized vehicles and/or aircraft for the gather of wild horses was held on September 4, 2009, at the Boise District Office, Boise, ID from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. No public attended this meeting; thus, no additional information and/or concerns were identified.

The attached decision is effective upon issuance, consistent with the authority provided in 43 CFR 47700.3(c).

If you wish to file an appeal and petition for stay of the decision, it must be filed within 30 days of receipt in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. Please follow the appropriate appeal procedures outlined in the Final Decision Record.

These documents can be reviewed at <http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/nepa.2.html>. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the documents or if you have any questions, please contact Steve Leonard at (208) 384-3454, e-mail stephen_leonard@blm.gov, or mail at the following address: Steve Leonard, Acting Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, Boise District Office, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, Idaho, 83705

Sincerely,

/s/ Aden L. Seidlitz

Aden L. Seidlitz
District Manager
Boise District Office