

2009 Four Mile and Sands Basin Wild Horse Gather Plan

Introduction: The Boise District Office will conduct gathers of the Four-Mile and Sands Basin Herd Management Areas (HMAs) beginning October 6, 2009. Horses removed from the range will be shipped to Boise Wild Horse Corrals for preparation into the adoption program.

A. Anticipated Gather Completion Schedule:

- Contractor: Cattoor Livestock Roundups
- Begin date: October 6, estimated duration 7 days
 - Four Mile HMA– Est. October 6-9
 - Sands Basin HMA – Est. October 10-13

Animal Capture: Clif Hall will be the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for the gather and at the trap site when gathering and transporting horses. Steve Leonard will be Project Inspector (PI) at the trap site and will help with location of fences, trapsites, and property boundaries.

The following is a breakdown of wild horses to be gathered.

HMA	Anticipated #’s Prior to Gather	# Removed	# Returned	Total # Captured	Wild Horses Remaining
Four-Mile	144	107	15	122	37
Sands Basin	132	99	13	112	33
TOTAL	276	206	28	234	70

In order to remove enough horses to achieve a population at the low end of Appropriate Management Level (AML), 85% or more of the population will be gathered. The additional wild horses gathered will receive fertility control and be returned to the HMAs. This will greatly improve the ability to select certain genetic traits, color, conformation, and sex ratios to ensure a healthy and viable wild horse herd. Immunocontraceptive research will be conducted on all mares that are returned to the public lands. A proportion of 60% studs and 40% mares will be returned to the HMAs to attain AML.

Public/Media Procedure: There will be a media day set up for October 9, 2009 (Boise District 2009 Gather Communications Plan). If there are complications with this date, other arrangements will be made to accommodate members of the media. BLM is aware of the need for transparency and appropriately accommodating the media. However, limitations will be imposed to assure safety and accomplishment of the mission. BLM policy dictates the general public, including media, may not enter the working corrals at the trap site or directly handle animals at any time or for any reason during the gather operation.

No public/media will be authorized at the trap site for closer viewing. Heather Tiel-Nielson will be notified by Steve Leonard the evening before the tour to identify where the public/media is to view operations.

There will be two designated observers (Friends of the Mustang) present each day of the gather to monitor the humane treatment of wild horses. Their presence gives BLM the additional credibility of providing transparency of our actions to our concerned public. Additionally a member of the Resource Advisory Committee will be present each day of the gather.

Removal Procedure: Cattoor Livestock Roundups will conduct the trapping at the Four Mile and Sands Basin HMAs. Steve Leonard, Kent Benson and Clif Hall will observe gather operations.

Multiple capture sites (traps) will be used to capture wild horses from the HMAs. Whenever possible, capture sites will be located in previously disturbed areas. All capture and handling activities (including capture site selections) will be conducted in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) described in Appendix 2 of EA # ID-130-2009-EA-3656. Approximately three trap sites at each HMA will be established to complete the gather and reduce the distance horses must run. Additional trap sites will be identified and inventoried prior to the gathers if new locations would provide wild horses a shorter distance to run and easier access to get equipment to and horses gathered into.

Consultation with the veterinarian will take place prior to euthanasia in accordance with IM # 2001-165.

Young foals that are gathered as orphans that are weak or need special care will be adopted at the Boise Wild Horse Corrals to qualified adopters immediately or given to horse rescue volunteers. Every precaution will be taken to ensure that young or weak foals are safely gathered and cared for.

Cattoor Livestock Roundups will be responsible for all air operations conducted during the gather.

Existing roads and trails will be used to move horses to traps to the greatest extent possible. BLM law enforcement will coordinate road restrictions with local law enforcement agencies.

Other safeguards to ensure the safety of the horses and people would include:

1. Allotment and pasture fences will be rolled back and made visible to the pilot, as appropriate, from the path of horses en route to the temporary traps.
2. The rate of movement of horses to the trap will not exceed those set by the COR, taking into account the distance to the trap, the prevailing weather conditions, the presence of foals, and the general condition of the horses.

Transportation, Holding, and Processing Procedures: Food and water will be available if it becomes necessary to hold horses at the temporary trap site longer than 12 hours. Additionally, Water will be given to gathered horses at the gather site as the need arises. Captured animals will be transported by truck from the temporary trap sites to the Boise District Corrals in Boise by Cattoor Livestock Roundups. The horses will be separated by sex, age class, and wet/dry mares and injured animals.

Preparation, including sorting horses, freeze branding (using liquid nitrogen), aging, worming, blood samples for Coggins testing, and inoculations, will be conducted at the Boise District Corrals on Pleasant Valley Road. Roger Cada will be the corral/facility supervisor, and will be in charge of all corral operations. The veterinarian (Liz Scotto or Robert Washington) will do a visual examination and conduct vaccinations of each horse to ensure that there are no physical or biological abnormalities or life threatening conditions present.

All branded horses caught during the gathering process will be impounded at the corrals in Boise until the owner can provide proof of ownership of the horse. Proof of ownership will be subject to the laws of the State of Idaho. A willful trespass fee per Animal Unit Month (AUM) and a prorated cost of the removal will be charged to retrieve these animals. Unclaimed branded animals would be turned over to the Idaho State Brand Inspector.

All medical waste generated during the course of operations will be handled and disposed of by the licensed veterinarian. The liquid nitrogen will be handled only by experienced BLM personnel. The hazmat coordinator will be notified in the case of nitrogen spillage.

Destruction of Old, Sick, and Lamé Horses: Injured or lame horses would be destroyed by the veterinarian or a BLM employee only after approval by the BLM authorized officer. Animals would be destroyed in the most humane manner possible by lethal injection or with a firearm. Only injectable barbiturates (e.g. sodium phenobarbital) would be permitted for use as euthanasia agents. Firearms would be used only as a last resort where a horse cannot be safely restrained for the administration of drugs. At no time would carcasses or any part thereof be sold or processed into a commercial product.

The carcasses of the animals that must be destroyed as a result of age, injury, lameness, or noncontagious disease or illness would be disposed of by contacting an animal disposal company (for animals destroyed at the Boise corrals) or placing them in an inconspicuous location to minimize visual impacts (for animals destroyed at remote locations). Carcasses would not be placed in drainages regardless of drainage size or downstream destination.

Personnel and Responsibility:

Gather/Prep

Mike Truden	Incident Commander	
Heather Tiel-Nielson (TFDO)*	Lead Public Affairs/Media	
MJ Byrne	Public Affairs/Media	
Jessica Gardetto	Public Affairs/Media	
Clif Hall	COR	
Steve Leonard*	PI/Gather Lead	
Kent Benson*	Gather Coordinator	October 5-23
Sam Mattise (contract)	Prep/Branding	October 8-23
Raul Trevino*	Prep/Assist Branding	October 6-23
Roger Cada*	Corral/Facility Supervisor	October 6-23
Keven Lloyde *	Prep/Sort	October 8-23
Jim Shuster	Prep/Sort	October 8-23

Dani Mendiola	Prep/Sort	October 6-23
Dale Nichols	Prep/Sort	October 6-23
Reed Markham	Prep/Sort	as available
Chris Robbins	Prep/Sort	October 8-23

Lee Kliman/Mou Herrera	Law Enforcement (trap site)	October 6-13
Wendy Hoffman*(Salmon)	Records/WHBIS	October 8-23
Gabriel Dance (Emergency Hire)	Records/WHBIS	October 8-23
Nikki Bachman	Records	October 8-23
Charlotte Alexander	Records	As available
Shaney Rockefeller (Vale)	PZP	~October 15

Euthanasia

Veterinarian
Chris Robbins
Steve Leonard
Kent Benson

Weekend Feed/Doctoring

Chris Robbins	Feed/Dr.	October 17-18
Dani Mendiola	Feed/Dr.	October 24-25
Steve Leonard	Feed/Dr.	October 31-November1
Raul Trevino	Feed/Dr.	November 7-8

* State Wild Horse Team member