



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carson City District – Sierra Front Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, Nevada 89701-1448
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

In Reply Refer To:
4720 (NVC0200)

AUG 25 2011

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Sierra Front Field Office (SFFO) has made available for public review and comment the *Flanigan, Dogskin Mountain, Granite Peak Wild Horse Gather Environmental Assessment (EA)* (DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2011-0506-EA). The document and supporting maps may be viewed on-line at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa.html. Hard copies are also available at the Carson City District Office.

The EA analyzes the potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects to the human environment associated with the gather, treatment, and removal of wild horses within and adjacent to the Flanigan, Dogskin Mountain and Granite Peak Herd Management Areas (HMAs), located west of Pyramid Lake, in Washoe County, Nevada. In addition, the SFFO has preliminarily determined that the proposal would not have significant effects on the human environment, and has prepared a draft Finding of No Significant Impact.

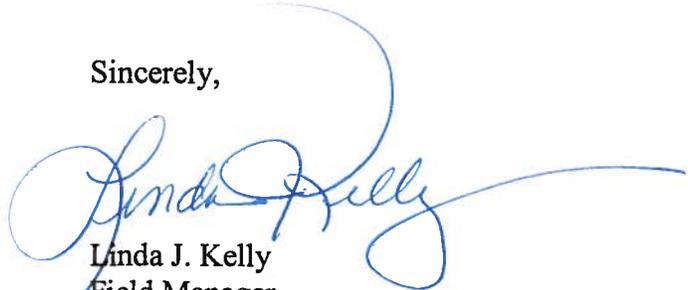
Based on aerial census, all HMAs have populations of wild horses in excess of the Appropriate Management Level (AML). The AML is defined as “the number of wild horses that can be sustained within a designated HMA which achieves and maintains a thriving natural ecological balance.” Aerial census estimated the populations to be as follows: Flanigan HMA 324 wild horses (244 animals above low AML); Dogskin Mountain 22 (12 animals above low AML); and Granite Peak 38 (27 animals above low AML). Approximately 283 animals would be permanently removed from the range. As a result of the overpopulation, a thriving natural ecological balance cannot be maintained.

During the gather, treatment and removal of animals, the BLM would remove all animals from outside the HMAs. A certain number of mares may be treated with Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP-22). Use of PZP-22 slows the growth rate of wild horse populations and can reduce the frequency of gathers. In addition the sex ratio of animals returned to the HMAs may be adjusted in favor of males. Excess animals would be moved to short-term holding facilities, then prepared for adoption or placed on long-term pastures in the Midwest.

The *Flanigan, Dogskin Mountain, Granite Peak Wild Horse Gather Environmental Assessment* is available for public review and comment until September 27, 2011. Only those comments received in a timely manner will be considered. Interested individuals can send written comments to the Carson City District Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, Nevada 89701 attn: Alan Bittner, Sierra Front Field Office, or email comments to: FlaniganEA2011@blm.gov. Comments can also be faxed to: (775) 885-6147 attn: Alan Bittner.

If you have questions on this matter, please contact Alan Bittner, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist at: (775) 885-6177.

Sincerely,



Linda J. Kelly
Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office