



## United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson\\_city\\_field.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html)

In Reply Refer To:

5000 (NVC0100)

JUL 12 2012

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Stillwater Field Office (SFO) has issued the Decision Record (DR) for the Wild Horse Removal Phase of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) *Desatoya Mountains Resiliency, Health, and Restoration Project DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513-EA*. The decision is for the BLM to implement the Proposed Action of the Wild Horse Removal Phase (EA pages 21-23), which is to gather 450-525 wild horses, removing approximately 400 excess wild horses, treating an estimated 51 mares with a fertility control vaccine, and adjusting the sex ratio to favor males and releasing 127 wild horses back into the Desatoya HMA. Following the initial helicopter gather during the late summer or early fall of 2012, the BLM intends to use continuous annual bait/water trapping over the next 10 years in order to administer fertility control vaccine and remove small numbers (20-30) of excess wild horses to achieve and/or maintain the AML range and desired sex ratio. Future removals of excess wild horses will be based upon population inventories conducted through aerial or ground surveys. Gather activities over the next 2-10 years would be implemented in a manner utilizing the same procedures and analysis determined in EA-DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0513.

The EA was made available for public review and comment on March 5, 2012. Additionally, an invitation was sent out on May 12, 2012 for a site visit that was conducted to the project area on May 31, 2012. The site visit invitation was extended to over 3,900 individuals who had submitted comments by email during the public comment period. Three members of the public participated. A summary of the consolidated public comments and BLM responses are noted in Appendix H of the Final EA. Several minor changes were made to the content of the Final EA clarifying language and/or enhancing the effects analysis.

A determination was made that implementation of the Wild Horse Removal Phase (EA pages 14-19 and 22-24) would not result in significant environmental impacts to the natural and human environment, therefore a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared separately to document that determination, and a Decision Record has been issued providing rationale for approving the Proposed Action. The Final EA, FONSI, and DR are available at:

[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson\\_city\\_field/blm\\_information/nepa/nepa\\_archives.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa/nepa_archives.html).

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact John Axtell at 775-885-6146.

Sincerely,

Teresa J. Knutson  
Field Manager  
Stillwater Field Office