



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office
Black Rock Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445-2921
<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html>
Phone: (775) 623-1500



In Reply Refer to:
4700/1792 (NV-010-21)

APR 17 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Winnemucca District, Black Rock Field Office is soliciting public comment on the Jackson Mountains Herd Management Area (HMA) Wild Horse Gather Plan Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA). The Proposed Action calls for a phased-in approach to reach the appropriate management level over a six to 10 year period. This will be accomplished by conducting an initial wild horse removal in July 2012, and implementing fertility control, adjusting sex ratios and managing a non-breeding population of geldings in subsequent gathers.

The proposed gather is needed to remove excess wild horses to help prevent further deterioration of range conditions, reduce population growth rates, achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and maintain healthy wild horse populations. High wild horse numbers combined with low precipitation have resulted in poor forage and water conditions in the HMA. If the situation continues to escalate, wild horses may need to be gathered earlier than proposed. Helicopter drive trap and/or bait trapping may be considered.

The proposal and associated impacts are described and analyzed in the Jackson Mountains Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather Plan and can be viewed online at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html. Hardcopies of these documents are available upon request from the Winnemucca District Office.

The BLM would appreciate receiving substantive comments on this preliminary EA by close of business (4:30 pm), May 1, 2012. Questions and written comments should be directed to:

Melanie Mirati, Project Lead, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
BLM Winnemucca District Office
Black Rock Field Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd
Winnemucca, NV 89445-2921

Comments can also be submitted by email to BLM_NV_WDOJacksonMtnsWildHorseEA@blm.gov. Email messages should include "Jackson Gather" in the subject line.

Commenters should be aware before including their address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in their comment, that their entire comment - including personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While they can ask BLM in their comment to withhold personal identifying information from public review, BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. Anonymity is not allowed for submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

After the public review period has concluded (May 1, 2012) for the Jackson Mountains Gather Preliminary EA, comments will be analyzed and considered in preparation of the final EA.

Sincerely,



Sheila Mallory
Black Rock Field Office Manager