



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Carson City District – Stillwater 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 (NVC01000)

October 3, 2012

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carson City District, Stillwater Field Office (SWFO), has issued the Decision Record (DR) for the final environmental assessment (EA) for the *Wassuk Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather Plan*, EA # DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2012-0061-EA. The decision is for the BLM to implement the Proposed Action as described in Chapter 2 of the EA.

The EA analyzed potential impacts on the natural and human environment that could result from implementation of the proposed wild horse gathers and application of population control measures within the Wassuk Herd Management Area (HMA). The primary objective of the Proposed Action is to improve rangeland and wild horse health by removing excess wild horses within the HMA to achieve the low range of the established Appropriate Management Level (AML) and to attain a thriving natural ecological balance within the HMA. The proposed action entails the following:

- Initial gather of approximately 500 wild horses from within and outside of the Wassuk HMA;
- Removal of approximately 250 wild horses from the range and put into holding facilities;
- Return approximately 250 wild horses back onto the range following the gather;
- Vaccinate 100 of the mares that would be returned to the range with PZP-22;
- Adjust sex ratios favoring stallions of those wild horses released back to the range; and
- Follow-up gathers and population control measures would be conducted over the next 10 years.

The EA was made available for a 30-day public comment/review period from July 25, 2012 through August 25, 2012 in which the BLM received comments from 34 individuals, State agencies, and non-governmental organizations. All comments received were reviewed, considered and responded to by the SWFO. Additional analysis, information and clarifications have been included in the Final EA in response to the comments received.

A determination has been made that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant environmental impacts to the natural and human environment, therefore a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared to document that determination, and a DR has been issued providing the rationale for approving the Proposed Action. The Final EA, DR and FONSI are available at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa.html.

If you have any questions, please contact Angelica Rose or Linda Appel at (775) 885-6000 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

Teresa J. Knutson
Manager,
Stillwater Field Office