

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

PART I. – PROPOSED ACTION

BLM Office: Hassayampa Field Office

NEPA No.: DOI-BLM-AZ-P010-2015-0001-CX

Case File No.:

Proposed Action Title/Type: Relocation of Wild Burros for Public Health and Safety on State and Private Lands, Outside of the HMA near State Route 74

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management

Location of Proposed Action: State and private lands along 211th Ave south of State Route 74 in south central Arizona and Lake Pleasant HMA

Description of Proposed Action: Relocate nuisance wild burros that regularly access lands managed by the State of Arizona, and private lands south of State Route 74 (SR 74), and west of 211th Ave. The corrals and trap set are existing and are on properties managed by the State Land grazing lease holder. These nuisance burros are outside of the Lake Pleasant Herd Management Area (HMA) and have been creating a public health and safety issue along SR 74 (see attached map). The nuisance removal request is from the state lands grazing lease holder on private and Arizona State Land Department properties. The request is to remove up to 20 nuisance burros from the area. Nuisance burros have historically and are currently accessing areas from this private and state land area on to SR 74 creating public health and safety concerns and are considered a nuisance for the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS), Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) the leasee and motorists. The nuisance burros are also creating issues with the ranching operation by keeping livestock away from the water source and agitating the cattle causing them to run through fences. In fiscal year 2014 there were 35 instances where burros were struck and killed by motor vehicles along road ways.

Temporary traps will not be constructed as the leasee has a water trap, corral and alley way that has been made available for this operation. The area in which the trap is located is in an area that is not well traveled and, aside from those participating in the trapping effort, should receive negligible human contact. Captured burros will be humanely transported back into the HMA by the Wild Horse and Burro Specialist and set free. Captured burros will not be prepped for adoption but returned to their home range within the HMA.

Part II. – PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan(s): Bradshaw-Harquahala Resource Management Plan

Decisions and page nos.: Wild Burro Management, Page 56

Management Action HB-4: "Burros will be removed . . . if burros are determined to be nuisance animals as defined by the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971."

Date plan approved/amended: 4/22/2010

This proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with these plans (*43 CFR 1610.5-3, BLM Manual 1601.04.C.2*).

PART III. – NEPA COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION REVIEW

AZ-1790-1
August 2013

		<p>nuisance/public health and safety burros located near and around 211th Ave. and SR 74. Regarding public health and safety: wild burros are habitually moving across these roads at dawn and dusk during low visibility hours which has created vehicle/burro accidents. The intent of the removal of burros is to reduce, and hopefully eliminate, the presence of these burros on or near the roadways creating a potential risk of vehicle strikes or other traffic accidents and reduce damages caused by the nuisance burros to surrounding vegetation and infrastructure.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>SB</u></p>
<p>(b) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.</p>		
Yes	No X	<p>Rationale: The act of removing and relocating wild burros would not impact the above mentioned items.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>SB</u></p>
<p>(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].</p>		
Yes	No X	<p>Rationale: The proposed action of relocating nuisance wild burros does not involve any highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved environmental issues.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>SB</u></p>
<p>(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.</p>		
Yes	No X	<p>Rationale: Relocation of nuisance wild burros is a common practice and does not involve any unknown environmental risks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>SB</u></p>
<p>(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.</p>		
Yes	No X	<p>Rationale: Relocation of nuisance wild burros does not set a precedent or represent a decision in principle for a future action. Future actions will be considered on their own merit independent of this action.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>SB</u></p>
<p>(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.</p>		
Yes	No X	<p>Rationale: The proposed action would not cause any significant cumulative environmental effects.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Preparer's Initials <u>SB</u></p>
<p>(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.</p>		
Yes	No X	<p>Rationale: Transportation will occur on existing roads and the proposed action will not have a significant impact on historic properties.</p>

			Preparer's Initials <u>CP</u>
(h) Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.			
Yes	No X	Rationale: None present	Preparer's Initials <u>SB</u>
(i) Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.			
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed action will comply with all applicable laws and requirements.	Preparer's Initials <u>SB</u>
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).			
Yes	No X	Rationale: None present	Preparer's Initials <u>SB</u>
(k) Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).			
Yes	No	Rationale: Not applicable	Preparer's Initials <u>SB</u>
(l) Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).			
Yes	No	Rationale: Relocation of the nuisance wild burros will not contribute to the existence or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.	Preparer's Initials <u>SB</u>
PART V. - COMPLIANCE REVIEW CONCLUSION			
I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record, and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.			
MITIGATION MEASURES/OTHER REMARKS:			
No additional mitigation is proposed beyond what has been described in the proposed action.			
APPROVING OFFICIAL: <u>D. Peirce-Hans</u>			DATE: <u>11/20/2014</u>
TITLE:			

Note: The signed conclusion on this compliance record is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. A separate decision to implement the action should be prepared in accordance with program specific guidance.

Map 1
Area of Existing Corrals

