



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Boise District Office

3948 Development Avenue

Boise, Idaho 83705

<http://www.id.blm.gov/offices/lsrcd>



In Reply Refer To:
4700 ID130

Dear Interested Public:

A copy of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hardtrigger and Black Mountain Herd Management Areas (HMA) Capture, Treat and Release (CTR) Wild Horse Gathers (ID-030-2010-EA-0021) is available at https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do.

The Black Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA) comprises 50,611 acres and Hardtrigger HMA includes 66,063 total acres of public and other land. The HMAs are adjacent to each other in Owyhee County and located south of the Snake River between Murphy and US Highway 95.

The proposed capture, treat, and release gather is a proactive effort to slow population growth in HMAs, reduce the frequency of removal gathers, and reduce the number of wild horses put into the adoption program. Approximately 160 horses would be gathered. Adult mares (approximately 64) would be treated onsite with a fertility control vaccine (PZP-22) to help slow population growth. Approximately 140 horses, including all treated mares, would be released back into the HMAs. Up to 15% of gathered horses could be removed to ensure their welfare. These horses would be offered for adoption or placed in long-term pastures depending on their age and condition. Captured horses would be safely and humanely handled.

A scoping document was sent to State, County, local governments, the Tribes, and interested publics for comments on June 4, 2010. Comments were received from Western Watersheds Project and will be incorporated in the Final EA where appropriate.

The Boise District is requesting comments on the proposed action, possible alternatives, and impact analyses addressed in the Preliminary EA. Comments would be most helpful if they are directly relevant to the proposal and project area and are received as soon as possible so that they can be incorporated into the EA.

Comments will be accepted:

- through the BLM NEPA web page (https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do) (locate the project by searching under State = Idaho, Office = ID - Owyhee FO, Document Type = EA, and Fiscal Year = 2010, then follow the instructions under How to Get Involved);
- Via email (Owyhee_Wildhorse_Capture@blm.gov) with the project title in the subject line; or
- via US mail at the address listed below.

Please identify whether comments are submitted as an individual or the designated spokesperson for an organization. Issues that are outside the scope of the proposal will not be addressed at this planning level.

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the documents or if you have any questions, please contact Steve Leonard at (208) 384-3454, e-mail Owyhee_Wildhorse_Capture@blm.gov, or mail at the following address: Steve Leonard, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, Boise District Office, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, Idaho, 83705

Sincerely,

/s/ Aden L. Seidlitz

Aden L. Seidlitz
District Manager
Boise District Office