Determination of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
DOI-BLM-ORWAV040-2016-0003-DNA
Three Fingers Wild Horse Gather

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

BLM OFFICE: Vale District

TRACKING NUMBER: DOI-BLM-ORWA-V040-2016-0003-DNA

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Three Fingers Wild Horse Gather

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Three Fingers Herd Management Area (HMA) (see attached maps).

APPLICANT (if any): NA

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:

The proposed action is to gather approximately 100 horses within and adjacent to the Three Fingers HMA during July/August 2016, consistent with 43 CFR 4710.3-1, 4710.4, 4720.1(a-c), 4720.2-1 and 4720.2-2. Approximately 50 horses will be permanently removed from the HMA. The extra 50 horses gathered (25 studs and 25 mares) will be returned to the HMA following the gather and application of the 22 month time release Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP-22) immunocontraceptive to the mares. Currently there are an estimated 156 wild horses residing within and outside the HMA, therefore, a 50-head removal would be consistent with the appropriate management level (AML) of 75-150 horses established for the Three Fingers HMA bringing the adult horse population in August 2016 to 106 horses. It is estimated that there are approximately 15 wild horses that have moved outside of the HMA. These horses would be the highest priority to be gathered and removed to prevent conflicts with other resources and private landowners, and to keep the wild horse herd within the HMA boundary.

The gather is necessary due to several factors. The most urgent factor is the impact of wild horse grazing occurring on the fire rehabilitation projects. This grazing is contributing to conversion of native vegetation and sage-grouse habitat to a weed dominated community. Escalating problems within this HMA include extended drought conditions, wild horse numbers in excess of the appropriate management level (AML), and heavy to severe wild horse grazing utilization that jeopardizes the health of the rangelands, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and ultimately wild horse health and condition.

This HMA has been identified in the Soda Fire Post-Fire Recovery Plan Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation 2015 Plan (BLM 2015a) as causing detrimental rangeland issues. Although the Three Fingers HMA was not burnt by the Soda fire, the excess wild horses and the drought within the HMA continue to force wild horses outside the HMA. They have been and will continue to negatively impact fire rehabilitation efforts adjacent to the HMA as the

horses are continually looking for food and water sources outside the HMA. Grazing outside the HMA will hinder success of the fire rehabilitation efforts for the Soda fire. Protecting these areas from wild horse grazing is necessary to prevent the spread of exotic annual weed species (cheatgrass and medusahead) that has the potential for rapid conversion of this vegetation community to a weed dominated community with an entire loss of sagebrush habitat. For these reasons, the authorized officer has determined that an excess of wild horses currently exists within the Three Fingers HMA and action is needed to prevent further damage to natural resources.

Gathering will begin on or around July 26, 2016, and continue until completed. The estimated gather timeframe is four days. Actual dates may change depending on dates that the contractor is available, location and extent of horses, and the number of trap sites necessary to safely capture wild horses. The main method of gathering will be by helicopter herding in accordance with 43 CFR 4740.1. Roping and bait trapping may be used as alternate methods for smaller numbers of horses, if appropriate for the situation at the time of gather.

Gathers of this HMA typically require an average of two to three temporary traps and one holding facility. Traps are typically 800 square feet in size and holding facilities are approximately 2000 square feet. If needed, traps may be located in Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Traps located within WSAs will follow the appropriate guidance set forth in BLM Manual 6330 Section 1.6 D. 10 c. iii (p. 1-36 to 1-37).

Fertility control treatments will be implemented for this gather because of the need to reduce population growth. Although summer application of PZP has lower efficacy rates than winter applications, there is still a benefit of using this fertility control. Application of PZP will be in accordance with Instruction Memorandum (IM) IM-WO-2009-090.

Horses are captured at temporary trap sites located within or adjacent to the HMA and then moved to a larger temporary holding facility, usually within an hour. At the holding facility horses are sorted by mares, studs, and foals to be transported by semi-truck to the Oregon Adoption facility near Burns/Hines OR. Horses do not remain at the trap site or temporary holding facility for more than a few hours up to one day. In the event that the Oregon Adoption facility would be closed by the time a load of horses would arrive, the horses are held at the temporary holding facility in the HMA overnight and shipped to Burns/Hines the next morning. Trap sites and temporary holding facilities are placed in already disturbed areas such as dry lakebeds, or areas with sparse or low vegetation, and near a gravel road to allow for transport vehicle traffic. Horses are moved out of the temporary holding facilities as soon as enough have been captured to constitute a truck load, at which point BLM then refills the temporary holding facility and repeats this process until the gather is complete. Although more horses will be moved from temporary traps and holding facilities, the placement of these facilities in already disturbed areas, will contain the area and extent of disturbance to defined areas that would be used no matter how many horses are removed. Therefore, the level of ground disturbance, footprint, and impacts to resources created by gathering additional horses would be the same as those described in the 2011 Three Fingers Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-OR-V040-2011-009-EA).

Mitigation Measures/Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Cultural Resources and Special Status Plants: Trap sites and temporary holding facilities will be located in previously used sites or other disturbed areas. If other trap sites and temporary holding facilities are needed, they will be inventoried, prior to being used, for cultural resources and special status plants. If these resources are found, the trap site will either not be used or will be modified to avoid affecting these resources.

Weeds: All vehicles and equipment used during the gather operations will be cleaned before and after implementation to guard against spread of noxious weeds and other invasive/nondesirable vegetation. Efforts will be made to keep trap and holding locations away from areas with noxious weeds. These locations will be monitored for at least two years after the gather and any necessary treatment or seeding will be implemented as needed.

Wild horses: Gather and trapping operations will be conducted in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) described in IM-WO-2015-151, which was created to establish policies and procedures to enable safe, efficient, and successful WH&B gather operations while ensuring humane care and treatment of all animals gathered (Appendix A). An Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) veterinarian will be onsite during the gather, as needed, to examine animals and make recommendations to BLM for care and treatment of wild horses.

Decisions to humanely euthanize animals in field situations will be made in conformance with BLM policy outlined in IM-WO-2015-70.

Data, including sex and age distribution, will be recorded on all gathered horses (removed and returned). Additional information such as color, condition class information (using the Henneke (1983) rating system), size, disposition of animals, and other information may also be recorded.

Excess animals will be transported to a BLM short term preparation facility where they will be prepared (freeze marked, vaccinated, and dewormed) for adoption, sale (with limitations), or long-term pasture.

Hair samples will be collected to assess genetic diversity of the herd, as outlined in IM-WO-2009-062.

Public and media management during helicopter gather and bait trapping operations will be conducted in accordance with IM-WO-2013-058. This IM establishes policy and procedures for safe and transparent visitation by the public and media at WH&B gather operations, while ensuring the humane treatment of wild horses and burros.

Wilderness: BLM Manual 6330 will be followed to ensure Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) are not impaired in any way that would prevent their eligibility for wilderness. Temporary trap locations in WSA may be seeded with native species, if necessary, to restore the area after the gather.

B. Conformance with one or more of the following Land Use Plans (LUP)/Programmatic Strategies:

LUP Name: Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (SEORMP/ROD), September 2002 and Final Environmental Impact Statement, April 2001.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Wild Horse Management Objective – Maintain and manage wild horse herds in established herd management areas (HMAs) at appropriate management levels (AMLs) to ensure a thriving natural ecological balance between wild horse populations, wildlife, livestock, vegetation resources, and other resource values (ROD, p. 55).

Land Use Allocation – the designation of HMAs and forage allocations for wild horses are Land Use Plan level decisions (43 CFR 4710.1).

Management Direction - the management direction outlined in the SEORMP/ROD states BLM will manage wild horses according to principles of multiple use management and to achieve a thriving, natural ecological balance. It further states, wild horses and their habitat will be monitored to schedule and implement gathering to further refine and support adjustments of AMLs in each HMA (p. 55-56). The AML range for Three Fingers HMA is 75-150 horses (Table 8, p. 57).

LUP Name: Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement (BLM 2015d) and Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment and Record of Decision (ARMPA) (BLM 2015e).

Wild Horse Management Objectives – Manage wild horses as components of BLM-administered lands in a manner that preserves and maintains a thriving natural ecological balance in a multiple use relationship. Manage wild horse population levels within established AMLs (ARMPA, p. 2-21).

Management Direction – Manage herd management areas in greater sage-grouse (GRSG) habitat within established AML ranges to achieve and maintain GRSG habitat objectives. Prioritize gathers and population growth suppression techniques in HMAs in GRSG habitat (ARMPA, p. 2-21).

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

1. List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

- Three Fingers Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather Plan Environmental Assessment (BLM 2011, DOI-BLM-OR-V040-2011-009-EA).

- Vale District Normal Fire Year Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental Assessment (BLM 2005).

2. List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action

- Soda Fire Post-Fire Recovery Plan Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation 2015 Plan (BLM 2015a).
- Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management in the States of Oregon and Washington (BLM 1997).
- Soda Fire Oregon Wild Horses Resource Report 2015 (BLM 2015f).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes. The proposed action is essentially the same as that described in the Three Fingers Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather Plan Environmental Assessment; hereafter referred to as the 2011 EA (BLM 2011). Actions authorized in the 2011 Decision Record (DR) are based on a combination of alternatives analyzed in the 2011 EA. Based on the analysis in the 2011 EA, the DR stated that "the removal of excess wild horses is necessary to protect rangeland resources from further deterioration or impacts associated with the current overpopulation of wild horses within the Three Fingers HMA, p.2.

The 2011 EA covered the proposed action of conducting horse gathers as wild horse numbers exceed AML. The difference between the 2011 EA and this proposal is that only part of the excess animals will be removed. Therefore, the differences in the actions are lower impacts than those analyzed in the EA, are not substantial, and the analysis completed in the 2011 EA adequately covers a partial removal of excess animals.

Both the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan and the Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment state that wild horses should be managed to preserve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and that wild horse population levels be managed within established Appropriate Management Levels. The proposed gather is moving towards attaining these objectives by removing the excess wild horses from the Three Fingers HMA and surrounding areas within the AML range. The Vale District Normal Fire Year Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan and Environmental Assessment (BLM 2005) states "wild horse relocation and/or temporary removal may be necessary to encourage recovery of the burned area". The removal of 50 excess wild horses from the HMA and areas adjacent to it follows all of the direction provided in these NEPA documents.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

Yes. The 2011 gather EA analyzed five alternatives in detail:

A) Alternative 1- Remove Excess Wild Horses, Administer Fertility Control, and Adjust Sex Ratio of Studs and Mares
B) Alternative 2- Remove Excess Wild Horses – No Fertility Treatment or Sex Ratio Adjustment
C) Alternative 3- Remove Excess Wild Horses, Administer Fertility Control
D) Alternative 4- Remove Excess Wild Horses and Adjust Sex Ratio of Studs and Mares
E) Alternative 5 – No Action

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

Yes. Even though, new information is available from several sources, BLM Departmental Manual 516 DM 11.6 (b) states that if there are no new circumstances, new information, or unanticipated or unanalyzed environmental impacts that warrant new or supplemental analysis a Determination of NEPA Adequacy may be used.

BLM staff have reviewed monitoring data, modelling outputs, recent research, and a variety of new management guidance and found that this information supplements and supports the existing analysis, conclusions, and decisions in the 2011 EA and does not constitute significant new information or a change in circumstances that warrants the preparation of a new or supplemental NEPA document. New information is available from monitoring data which strongly supports the need to gather horses at this time, and confirms the need to keep horses within the HMA and maintain the population levels within the established AML. Wild horses have been stressed by lack of water; have damaged vegetation in some areas inside and outside the HMA, and approximately 30-50 horses have continually been damaging fences and moving outside the HMA to graze on fire rehabilitation projects.

A population model is presented in the 2011 EA as an attachment which describes the potential outcomes of the Gather Only, Gather with Fertility Control, and No Management alternatives. The model predicts outcomes as a result of different population control measures and clearly shows the benefit of some measure of population control. The difference between the model prediction and the results from this gather would be a larger than predicted population as this project is only a partial removal of excess wild horses. The larger-than-predicted wild horse population is not the type of new information requiring new or supplemental NEPA, as the impacts of increased wild horse populations was analyzed in the 2011 EA. Based on this analysis, this information leads BLM to believe that a gather is necessary to stop resource

degradation and to lessen impacts to the wild horse population as a whole.

New information on sage-grouse has been published since 2011. This includes: *Greater Sage-Grouse: Ecology and conservation of a landscape species and its habitats. Studies in Avian Biology Series* (Knick and Connelly 2011) (Monograph). The monograph was made available online in 2009 and was published in print in 2011. The Monograph is a compilation of recent research and addresses issues related to the management of sage-grouse at the regional or range-wide scale. Much of the research in the monograph was published in individual papers prior to the 2011 publication.

There is one research paper within the monograph that pertains directly to wild horses: *Influences of Free-Roaming Equids on Sagebrush Ecosystem, with a Focus on Greater Sage-Grouse* (Beever and Aldridge 2011). This research documents the negative impacts of dense horse populations on sage-grouse habitats and describes differences between livestock grazing and wild horse use. This information is consistent with the information before BLM at the time it prepared the 2011 EA and is not significant new information that would lead to the need to prepare new or supplemental NEPA.

Additional information on sage-grouse was published in 2010 in *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants and 12-Month Findings for Petitions to List the Greater Sage-Grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus) as Threatened or Endangered; Proposed Rule* (USFWS 2010) (12-month Finding). The 12-month Finding documents the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) determination that listing the Greater sage-grouse was warranted under the Endangered Species Act, but precluded due to other priorities. The 12-month Finding discussed, analyzed, and relied on much of the information in the Monograph. The 12-month Finding also documented the potential threats to sage-grouse across its entire range. The 12-month finding concluded that "*Similar to domestic grazing, wild horses and burros have the potential to negatively affect sage-grouse habitats in areas where they occur by decreasing grass cover, fragmenting shrub canopies, altering soil characteristics, decreasing plant diversity, and increasing the abundance of invasive Bromus tectorum.*" In 2015, the USFWS published another 12-month finding and determined that listing the greater sage-grouse is not warranted at this time. The USFWS concluded that the threats which caused the Service to initially designate the bird "warranted but precluded" in 2010 had been significantly reduced due to federal and state land use conservation plans. Implementation of these plans will reduce threats to the greater sage-grouse across 90 percent of the species' breeding habitat (USFWS 2015) (12- month Finding)

The *Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon: A Plan to Maintain and Enhance Populations and Habitats* prepared by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife was published in 2011(Oregon Strategy) (ODFW 2011). The Oregon Strategy was originally issued in 2005 and a revised version was issued in 2011. Information from both the 12-Month finding and the Monograph were used and cited extensively throughout the 2011 Oregon Strategy. Thus, the information was synthesized for use and application on the local scale (Oregon) within the context of the 2011 Oregon Strategy.

Recommendations and Conservation Guidelines from ODFW (2011) are listed as follows:

Wild Horses--The management goals for wild horses are to manage them as components of the public lands in a manner that preserves and maintains a thriving natural ecological balance in a multiple use relationship. Wild horses are managed in twenty Herd Management Areas (HMAs) that involve 2.8 million acres of public land, primarily in southeastern OR.

1) The cumulative Appropriate Management Level (AML) for horse numbers should be kept within current AML (1,351 to 2,650) in herd management areas.

a) Management agencies are strongly encouraged to prioritize funding for wild horse round-ups in sage- grouse areas that are over AML.

b) Evaluate the AMLs for impacts on sagebrush habitat.

c) Further measures may be warranted to conserve sage-grouse habitat even if horses are at, above, or below the appropriate AML for a herd management area

This information and management guidelines are consistent with the information available to BLM at the time it prepared the 2011 EA because the recommendations for wild horse management did not change between the 2005 and 2011 versions of the Oregon Strategy, and therefore, this document does not meet the definition of significant new information.

A new Instruction Memorandum for BLM directing Interim Management Policies and Procedures for sage-grouse (IM-WO-2012-043) (BLM 2012a) was published in 2012. This interim guidance supports the proposed action as follows:

Wild Horse and Burro Management - Ongoing Authorizations/Activities

1. *Manage wild horse and burro population levels within established Appropriate Management Levels (AML).*
2. *Wild Horse Herd Management Areas will receive priority for removal of excess horses.*
3. *Wild horses and burros remaining in Herd Management Areas where the AML has been established as zero will receive priority for removal.*
4. *When developing overall workload priorities for the upcoming year, prioritize horse gathers except where removals are necessary in non-PPH to prevent catastrophic herd health and ecological impacts.*

Since 2011, there has also been increased emphasis placed on Greater Sage-grouse habitat within and adjacent to the Three Fingers HMA. The Three Fingers HMA is located in a General Habitat Management Area (GHMA) for Greater Sage-Grouse, and adjacent to 34,148 acres of designated Priority Habitat Management Area (PHMA). The HMA is adjacent to the sage-grouse Owyhee North Fire and Invasive Assessment Tool (FIAT) Project Planning Area and the Cow Lakes Priority Area of Conservation (PAC). Several documents and analyses have been prepared stressing the importance of maintaining wild horses within AML to reduce impacts on sage-grouse habitats (ODFW 2011), (Knick and Connelly 2011). Excessive numbers of horses can impact sage-grouse by removal of cover around nesting areas and around brood rearing areas. This reduced cover increases the predator success rates on nest sites and chicks. This removal of

vegetation is even more exacerbated during periods of drought (Beever and Aldridge 2011). The western BLM states Land Use Plans, including Oregon, were amended by the ARMPA and have incorporated additional management direction for sage-grouse (BLM 2015e). The proposed action will protect sage-grouse habitat from further degradation and is consistent with IM 2012-043, the Oregon Strategy, the ARMPA and information and monitoring results related to the area.

Additional research is available on immunocontraception effects to reproductive cycles in horses (Nunez et al. 2010). In summary, the use of PZP can extend the reproductive cycling into the fall which can result in decreased group stability and extension of male reproductive behavior. This could have effects on foal survivorship if foals are born late in the fall. PZP has been used in the Three Fingers HMA in the past without long-term reduced herd growth results that would reduce the overall viability of horses within the HMA. PZP records and wild horse inventory records are located in the Three Fingers Wild Horse files. The use of PZP in the Three Fingers herd has not resulted in a long term decline in herd numbers and the herd has remained viable. This is likely due to the breaks between PZP treatments allowing for normal or near normal reproduction to resume 2 years after treatment. Nunez et. al. (2010) also indicated that breaks between treatments can also ameliorate other unintended behavioral or physiological changes in mares treated with PZP. Overall, Nunez et. al. (2010) indicated that PZP is currently the most humane and cost effective method for population control. This new research would not change the overall impacts described in the EA, especially since BLM intends to ensure that adequate breaks of at least five years occur between PZP treatments.

IM-WO-2015-070 and IM-WO-2013-059 were provided by the Washington office in 2015 and 2013, respectively, to ensure the health, maintenance, evaluation, and response of wild horse and burros. Guidelines and policy of these IMs will be adopted as mitigation measures during gathering, holding and transporting of wild horses. This is not a significant change from the methods described in the 2011 EA.

Additional genetic analysis has been performed on the Three Fingers horses. Following the 2011 gather, hair samples were obtained from 50 horses in Three Fingers HMA and submitted to Texas A &M University for analysis of genetic analysis. This report indicates high genetic variability and notes that heterozygosity levels have not changed much in this herd since the previous genetic analysis in 2002 (Cothran 2012).

The 6330 manual for Management of Wilderness Study Areas was updated in 2012. Wild horse and Burro management is addressed on pages 1-36 to 1-37. All guidance in this manual will be followed. When practical alternatives do not exist to locate traps outside of WSAs, temporary traps may be located within WSAs for the effective removal of animals in excess of the appropriate management level established for the HMA. Vehicles necessary for set up and take down of traps and for transporting excess wild horses away from the area may be driven off existing primitive routes or boundary roads on a route specified through NEPA analysis. Given that predetermined trap locations are not practical, all routes within the WSAs may be driven off existing routes where necessary to set up/ remove traps and transport animals out of the area.

However, it is anticipated that only one trap will be set up, and it will not be within an existing WSA. Therefore, impacts from vehicles traveling off-road will be minimized and very localized to a few areas. Proposed actions are likely to result in short-term soil and vegetation disturbance

at the trap sites and are not expected to require rehabilitation. These impacts have been previously analyzed (BLM 2011). In the unlikely event that rehabilitation is required, areas where vegetation is reduced will be seeded with native species and vehicle tracks will be raked in to the original contour of the soil so that the route is no longer visible to subsequent motor vehicle operators. Thus, the preservation of naturalness, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, opportunities for solitude, and the supplemental values for which the WSAs were established will be maintained in conformance with the 6330 Manual. In addition, proposed activities in the WSAs will meet one of the exceptions to the non-impairment standard as the proposed action benefit the WSAs by protecting and/or enhancing wilderness values such as naturalness and will be carried out in a manner least disturbing to the site. The removal of approximately 50 horses will enhance areas in the WSAs particularly around water features and allowing them to re-vegetate and enhance naturalness in the WSAs (refer to BLM Manual 6330 Section 1.6 C 2.f, .Pgs. 1-12 – 1-13.

4. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?

Yes. The direct and indirect impacts have previously been analyzed in the existing NEPA documents. The impacts expected from the proposed gather are essentially the same as those described in the 2011 EA. As described in section 3 above, there is no "significant new information" that would indicate the impacts of gathering horses would be different from those previously analyzed. The impacts of managing horse numbers within AML and conducting periodic gathers to remove excess horses within the HMA, as well as removing all of the horses that are outside the HMA, have been adequately analyzed in existing NEPA documents.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. Public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA document is adequate for the current proposed action. The 2011 EA, FONSI, and DR were mailed to 60 interested public and tribal representatives. The EA was available for public review beginning on March 7, 2011. A 30 day appeal period began on May 10, 2011 and ended on June 10, 2011. No appeals were received.

The 2011 Gather EA stated, "Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions (RFFAs) include gathers every 4 years to remove excess wild horses in order to manage population size within the established AML range" (p. 28). This statement allowed readers to anticipate the new proposed action to take place in 2016.

A Decision Record for this proposed action would be issued at least 31 days prior to the proposed gather start date. This DNA and the Decision Record will be posted on the E-Planning website, http://1.usa.gov/28OA9rm, and sent to our current Vale District wild horse and burro interested publics list. A news release will also be posted on the Vale District BLM District Home Newsroom page at http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale/index.php.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted:

Name	Title	Resource Represented
Shaney Rockefeller	Wild Horse and Burro Specialist	Wild Horses
Kari Points	Recreation	Wilderness
Marcella Tiffany	Rangeland Management Specialist	Livestock Grazing
Megan McGuire	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Lynne Silva	Natural Resource Specialist	Weeds
Brent Grasty	Planning Coordinator	Planning
Cheryl Bradford	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources

G. Conclusion:

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use or other existing plans and, therefore, meets the land use plan consistency requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Further, the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Jonathan Westfall (Acting FM) 06/21/2016

Thomas Patrick "Pat" Ryan Date:
Field Manager
Malheur Field Office

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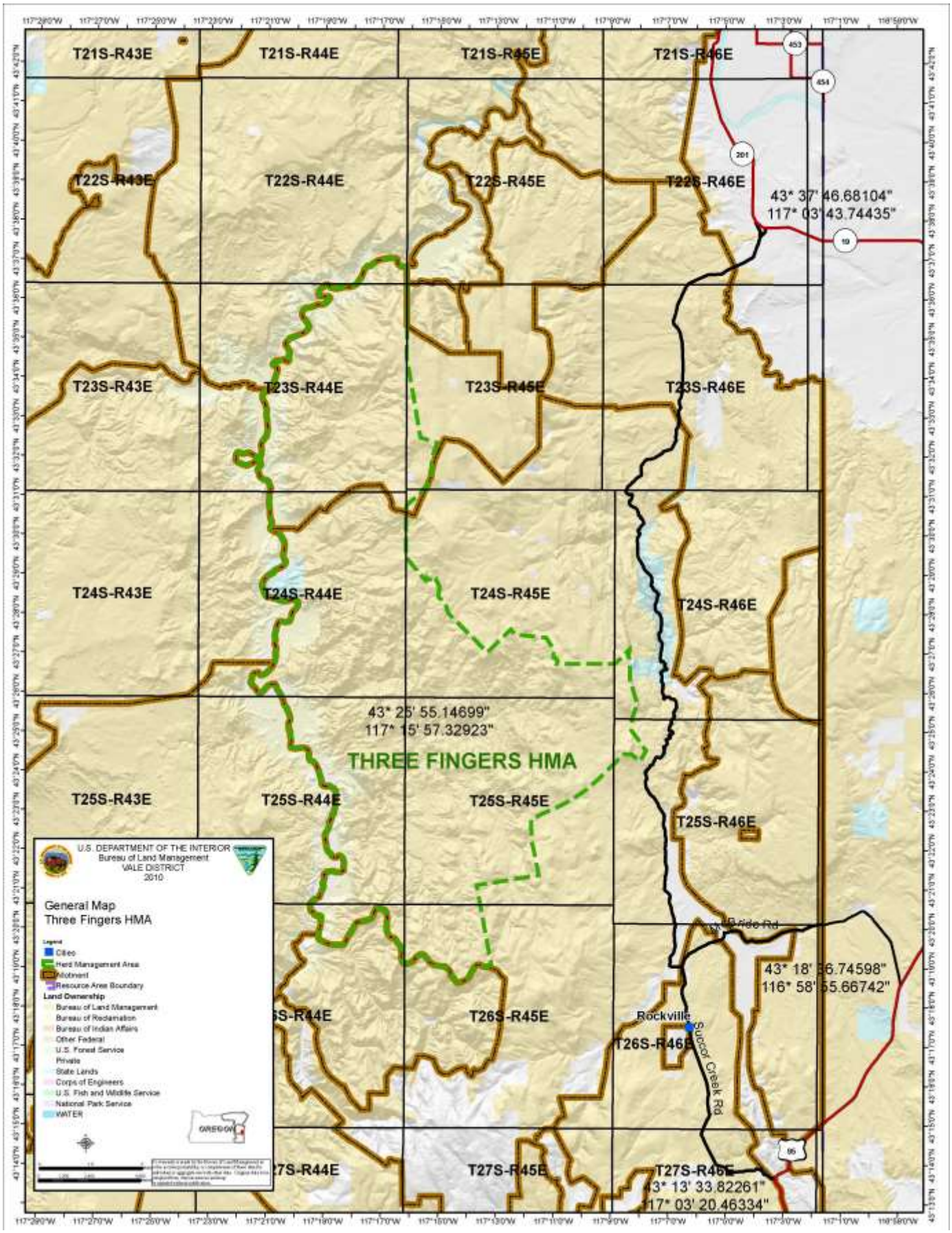
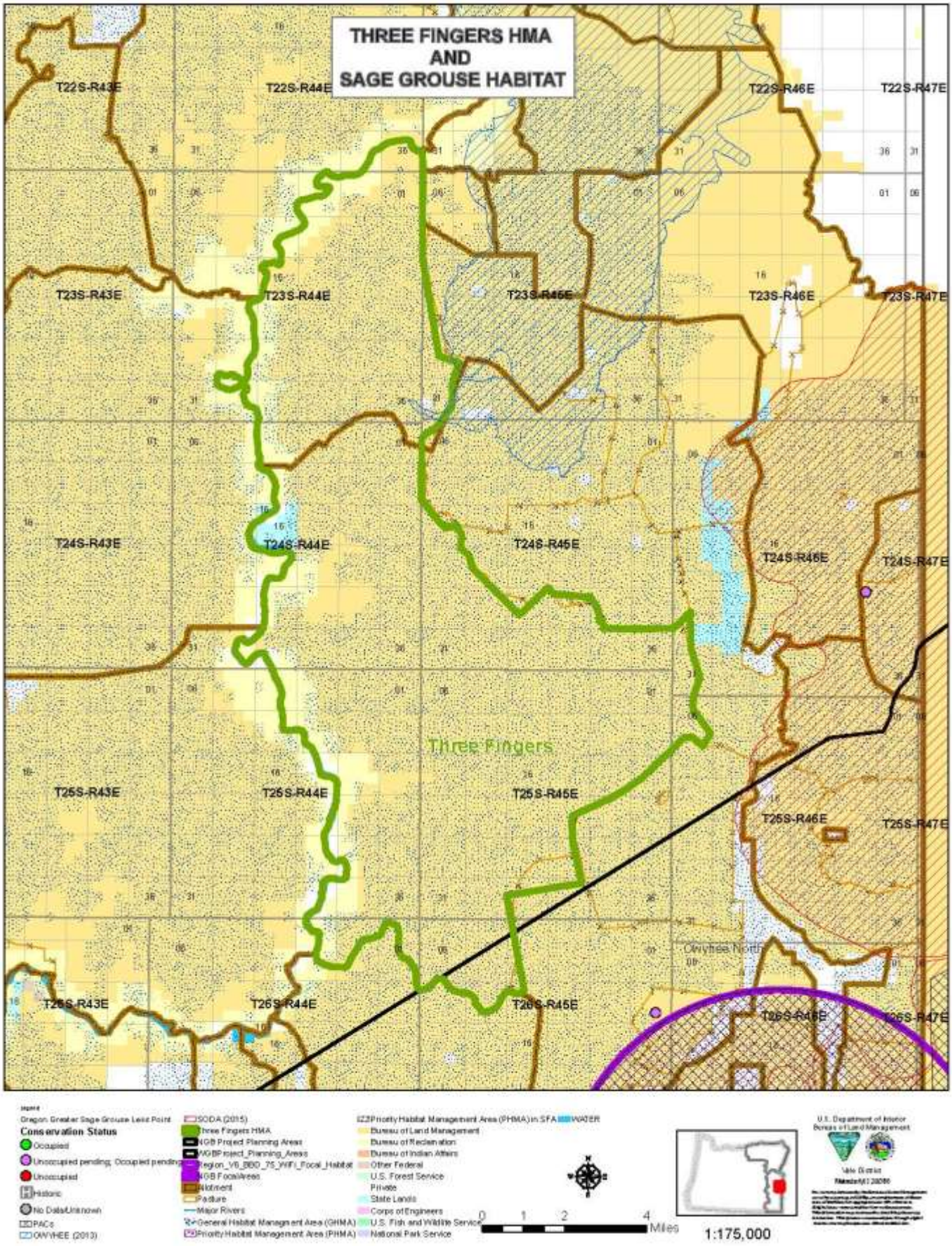
Map 1 – Three Fingers Herd Management Area General Location



Map 2 – Sage-grouse habitat and Fire History in Relation to the Three Fingers Herd Management Area



Appendix A - COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM FOR WILD HORSE AND BURRO GATHERS

Developed by The Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse and Burro Program in collaboration with Carolyn L. Stull, PhD, Kathryn E. Holcomb, PhD, University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

CONTENTS

STANDARDS

Standard Definitions

Major Standard: Impacts the health or welfare of WH&Bs. Relates to an alterable equipment or facility standard or procedure. Appropriate wording is "must," "unacceptable," "prohibited."

Minor Standard: unlikely to affect WH&Bs health or welfare or involves an uncontrollable situation. Appropriate wording is "should."

Lead COR = Lead Contracting Officer's Representative

COR = Contracting Officer's Representative

PI = Project Inspector

WH&Bs = Wild horses and burros

I. FACILITY DESIGN

A. Trap Site and Temporary Holding Facility

1. The trap site and temporary holding facility must be constructed of stout materials and must be maintained in proper working condition, including gates that swing freely and latch or tie easily. (**major**)
2. The trap site should be moved close to WH&B locations whenever possible to minimize the distance the animals need to travel.(minor)
3. If jute is hung on the fence posts of an existing wire fence in the trap wing, the wire should be either be rolled up or let down for the entire length of the jute in such a way that minimizes the possibility of entanglement by WH&Bs unless otherwise approved by the Lead COR/COR/PI. (minor)
4. Fence panels in pens and alleys must be not less than 6 feet high for horses, 5 feet high for burros, and the bottom rail must not be more than 12 inches from ground level. (**major**)
5. The temporary holding facility must have a sufficient number of pens available to sort WH&Bs according to gender, age, number, temperament, or physical condition. (**major**)
   a. All pens must be assembled with capability for expansion. (**major**)
   b. Alternate pens must be made available for the following: (**major**)
      1) WH&Bs that are weak or debilitated
      2) Mares/jennies with dependent foals
   c. WH&Bs in pens at the temporary holding facility should be maintained at a proper stocking density such that when at rest all WH&Bs occupy no more than half the pen area. (minor)
6. An appropriate chute designed for restraining WH&Bs must be available for necessary procedures at the temporary holding facility. This does not apply to bait trapping operations unless directed by the Lead COR/COR/PI. (**major**)
7. There must be no holes, gaps or openings, protruding surfaces, or sharp edges present in fence panels or other structures that may cause escape or possible injury. (**major**)
8. Padding must be installed on the overhead bars of all gates and chutes used in single file alleys. (**major**)
9. Hinged, self-latching gates must be used in all pens and alleys except for entry gates into the trap, which may be secured with tie ropes. (**major**)
10. Finger gates (one-way funnel gates) used in bait trapping must be constructed of materials approved by the Lead COR/COR/PI. Finger gates must not be constructed of materials that have sharp ends that may cause injuries to WH&Bs, such as "T" posts, sharpened willows, etc. (**major**)
11. Water must be provided at a minimum rate of ten gallons per 1000 pound animal per day, adjusted accordingly for larger or smaller horses, burros and foals, and environmental conditions, with each trough placed in a separate location of the pen (i.e. troughs at opposite ends of the pen). Water must be refilled at least every morning and evening. (**major**)

12. The design of pens at the trap site and temporary holding facility should be constructed with rounded corners. (minor)
13. All gates and panels in the animal holding and handling pens and alleys of the trap site must be covered with materials such as plywood, snow fence, tarps, burlap, etc. approximately 48" in height to provide a visual barrier for the animals. All materials must be secured in place.(**major**)

These guidelines apply:

a. For exterior fences, material covering panels and gates must extend from the top of the panel or gate toward the ground.(**major**)

b. For alleys and small internal handling pens, material covering panels and gates should extend from no more than 12 inches below the top of the panel or gate toward the ground to facilitate visibility of animals and the use of flags and paddles during sorting. (minor)

c. The initial capture pen may be left uncovered as necessary to encourage animals to enter the first pen of the trap. (minor)

14. Non-essential personnel and equipment must be located to minimize disturbance of WH&Bs. (**major**)
15. Trash, debris, and reflective or noisy objects should be eliminated from the trap site and temporary holding facility. (minor)

B. Loading and Unloading Areas

1. Facilities in areas for loading and unloading WH&Bs at the trap site or temporary holding facility must be maintained in a safe and proper working condition, including gates that swing freely and latch or tie easily. (**major**)
2. The side panels of the loading chute must be a minimum of 6 feet high and fully covered with materials such as plywood or metal without holes that may cause injury. (**major**)
3. There must be no holes, gaps or openings, protruding surfaces, or sharp edges present in fence panels or other structures that may cause escape or possible injury. (**major**)
4. All gates and doors must open and close easily and latch securely. (**major**)
5. Loading and unloading ramps must have a non-slip surface and be maintained in a safe and proper working condition to prevent slips and falls. Examples of non-slip flooring would include, but not be limited to, rubber mats, sand, shavings, and steel reinforcement rods built into ramp. There must be no holes in the flooring or items that can cause an animal to trip. (**major**)
6. Trailers must be properly aligned with loading and unloading chutes and panels such that no gaps exist between the chute/panel and floor or sides of the trailer creating a situation where a WH&B could injure itself. (**major**)
7. Stock trailers should be positioned for loading or unloading such that there is no more than 12" clearance between the ground and floor of the trailer for burros and 18" for horses. (minor)

II. CAPTURE TECHNIQUE

A. Capture Techniques

1. WH&Bs gathered on a routine basis for removal or return to range must be captured by the following approved procedures under direction of the Lead COR/COR/PI. (**major**)
   a. Helicopter

   b. Bait trapping

2. WH&Bs must not be captured by snares or net gunning. (**major**)
3. Chemical immobilization must only be used for capture under exceptional circumstances and under the direct supervision of an on-site veterinarian experienced with the technique. (**major**)

B. Helicopter Drive Trapping

1. The helicopter must be operated using pressure and release methods to herd the animals in a desired direction and should not repeatedly evoke erratic behavior in the WH&Bs causing injury or exhaustion. Animals must not be pursued to a point of exhaustion; the on-site veterinarian must examine WH&Bs for signs of exhaustion. (**major**)
2. The rate of movement and distance the animals travel must not exceed limitations set by the Lead COR/COR/PI who will consider terrain, physical barriers, access limitations, weather, condition of the animals, urgency of the operation (animals facing drought, starvation, fire, etc.) and other factors. (**major**)

a. WH&Bs that are weak or debilitated must be identified by BLM staff or the contractors. Appropriate gather and handling methods should be used according to the direction of the Lead COR/COR/PI. (**major**)

b. The appropriate herding distance and rate of movement must be determined on a case-by-case basis considering the weakest or smallest animal in the group (e.g., foals, pregnant mares, or horses that are weakened by body condition, age, or poor health) and the range and environmental conditions present. (**major**)

c. Rate of movement and distance travelled must not result in exhaustion at the trap site, with the exception of animals requiring capture that have an existing severely compromised condition prior to gather. Where compromised animals cannot be left on the range or where doing so would only serve to prolong their suffering, euthanasia will be performed in accordance with BLM policy. (**major**)

3. WH&Bs must not be pursued repeatedly by the helicopter such that the rate of movement and distance travelled exceeds the limitation set by the Lead COR/COR/PI. Abandoning the pursuit or alternative capture methods may be considered by the Lead COR/COR/PI in these cases. (**major**)
4. When WH&Bs are herded through a fence line en route to the trap, the Lead COR/COR/PI must be notified by the contractor. The Lead COR/COR/PI must determine the appropriate width of the opening that the fence is let down to allow for safe passage through the opening. The Lead COR/COR/PI must decide if existing fence lines require marking to increase visibility to WH&Bs. (**major**)
5. The helicopter must not come into physical contact with any WH&B. The physical contact of any WH&B by helicopter must be documented by Lead COR/COR/PI along with the circumstances. (**major**)
6. WH&Bs may escape or evade the gather site while being moved by the helicopter. If there are mare/dependent foal pairs in a group being brought to a trap and half of an identified pair is thought to have evaded capture, multiple attempts by helicopter may be used to bring the missing half of the pair to the trap or to facilitate capture by roping. In these instances, animal condition and fatigue must be evaluated by the Lead COR/COR/PI or on-site veterinarian on a case-by-case basis to determine the number of attempts that can be made to capture an animal.(**major**)
7. Horse captures must not be conducted when ambient temperature at the trap site is below 10ºF or above 95ºF without approval of the Lead COR/COR/PI. Burro captures must not be conducted when ambient temperature is below 10ºF or above 100ºF without approval of the Lead COR/COR/PI. The Lead COR/COR/PI will not approve captures when the ambient temperature exceeds 105 ºF. (**major**)

C. Roping

1. The roping of any WH&B must be approved prior to the procedure by the Lead COR/COR/PI. (**major**).
2. The roping of any WH&B must be documented by the Lead COR/COR/PI along with the circumstances. WH&Bs may be roped under circumstances which include but are not limited to the following: reunite a mare or jenny and her dependent foal; capture nuisance, injured or sick WH&Bs or those that require euthanasia; environmental reasons such as deep snow or traps that cannot be set up due to location or environmentally sensitive designation; and public and animal safety or legal mandates for removal. (**major**)

3. Ropers should dally the rope to their saddle horn such that animals can be brought to a stop as slowly as possible and must not tie the rope hard and fast to the saddle so as to intentionally jerk animals off their feet. (**major**)
4. WH&Bs that are roped and tied down in recumbency must be continuously observed and monitored by an attendant at a maximum of 100 feet from the animal. (**major**)
5. WH&Bs that are roped and tied down in recumbency must be untied within 30 minutes. (**major**)
6. If the animal is tied down within the wings of the trap, helicopter drive trapping within the wings will cease until the tied-down animal is removed. (**major**)
7. Sleds, slide boards, or slip sheets must be placed underneath the animal's body to move and/or load recumbent WH&Bs. (**major**)
8. Halters and ropes tied to a WH&B may be used to roll, turn, position or load a recumbent animal, but a WH&B must not be dragged across the ground by a halter or rope attached to its body while in a recumbent position. (**major**)
9. Animals captured by roping must be evaluated by the on-site/on-call veterinarian within four hours after capture, marked for identification at the trap site, and be re-evaluated periodically as deemed necessary by the on-site/on-call veterinarian. (**major**)

D. Bait Trapping

1. WH&Bs may be lured into a temporary trap using bait (feed, mineral supplement, water) or sexual attractants (mares/jennies in heat) with the following requirements:

a. The period of time water sources other than in the trap site are inaccessible must not adversely affect the wellbeing of WH&Bs, wildlife or livestock, as determined by the Lead COR/COR/PI. (**major**)
b. Unattended traps must not be left unobserved for more than 12 hours. (**major**)
c. Mares/jennies and their dependent foals must not be separated unless for safe transport. (**major**)
d. WH&Bs held for more than 12 hours must be provided with accessible clean water at a minimum rate of ten gallons per 1000 pound animal per day, adjusted accordingly for larger or smaller horses, burros and foals and environmental conditions. (**major**)
e. WH&Bs held for more than 12 hours must be provided good quality hay at a minimum rate of 20 pounds per 1000 pound adult animal per day, adjusted accordingly for larger or smaller horses, burros and foals. (**major**)

1) Hay must not contain poisonous weeds, debris, or toxic substances. (**major**)
2) Hay placement must allow all WH&Bs to eat simultaneously. (**major**)

III. WILD HORSE AND BURRO CARE

A. Veterinarian

1. On-site veterinary support must be provided for all helicopter gathers and on-site or on-call support must be provided for bait trapping. (**major**)
2. Veterinary support must be under the direction of the Lead COR/COR/PI. The on-site/on-call veterinarian will provide consultation on matters related to WH&B health, handling, welfare, and euthanasia at the request of the Lead COR/COR/PI. All decisions regarding medical treatment or euthanasia will be made by the on-site Lead COR/COR/PI. (**major**)

B. Care

1. Feeding and Watering

a. Adult WH&Bs held in traps or temporary holding pens for longer than 12 hours must be fed every morning and evening with water available at all times other than when animals are being sorted or worked. (**major)**

b. Water must be provided at a minimum rate of ten gallons per 1000 pound animal per day, adjusted accordingly for larger or smaller horses, burros and foals, and environmental conditions, with each trough placed in a separate location of the pen (i.e. troughs at opposite ends of the pen). . (**major**)

c. Good quality hay must be fed at a minimum rate of 20 pounds per 1000 pound adult animal per day, adjusted accordingly for larger or smaller horses, burros and foals. (**major**)

i. Hay must not contain poisonous weeds or toxic substances. (**majo**r)

ii. Hay placement must allow all WH&Bs to eat simultaneously. (**major**)

d. When water or feed deprivation conditions exist on the range prior to the gather, the Lead COR/COR/PI should adjust the watering and feeding arrangements in consultation with the onsite veterinarian as necessary to provide for the needs of the animals. (minor)

2. Dust abatement

a. Dust abatement by spraying the ground with water must be employed when necessary at the trap site and temporary holding facility. (**major**)

3. Trap Site

a. Dependent foals or weak/debilitated animals must be separated from other WH&Bs at the trap site to avoid injuries during transportation to the temporary holding facility. Separation of dependent foals from mares must not exceed four hours unless the Lead COR/COR/PI authorizes a longer time or a decision is made to wean the foals. (major)

4. Temporary Holding Facility

a. All WH&Bs in confinement must be observed at least once daily to identify sick or injured WH&Bs and ensure adequate food and water. (major)

b. Foals must be reunited with their mares/jennies at the temporary holding facility within four hours of capture unless the Lead COR/COR/PI authorizes a longer time or foals are old enough to be weaned during the gather. (major)

c. Non-ambulatory WH&Bs must be located in a pen separate from the general population and must be examined by the BLM horse specialist and/or on-call or on-site veterinarian as soon as possible, no more than four hours after recumbency is observed. Unless otherwise directed by a veterinarian, hay and water must be accessible to an animal within six hours after recumbency.(major)

d. Alternate pens must be made available for the following: (major)

1) WH&Bs that are weak or debilitated

2) Mares/jennies with dependent foals

e. Aggressive WH&Bs causing serious injury to other animals should be identified and relocated into alternate pens when possible. (minor)

f. WH&Bs in pens at the temporary holding facility should be maintained at a proper stocking density such that when at rest all WH&Bs occupy no more than half the pen area. (minor)

C. Biosecurity

1. Health records for all saddle and pilot horses used on WH&B gathers must be provided to the Lead COR/COR/PI prior to joining a gather, including: (**major**)

a. Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (Health Certificate, within 30 days).

b. Proof of:

1) A negative test for equine infectious anemia (Coggins or EIA ELISA test) within 12 months.

2) Vaccination for tetanus, eastern and western equine encephalomyelitis, West Nile virus, equine herpes virus, influenza, *Streptococcus equi*, and rabies within 12 months.

2. Saddle horses, pilot horses and mares used for bait trapping lures must not be removed from the gather operation (such as for an equestrian event) and allowed to return unless they have been observed to be free from signs of infectious disease for a period of at least three weeks and a new Certificate of Veterinary Examination is obtained after three weeks and prior to returning to the gather. (**major**)

3. WH&Bs, saddle horses, and pilot horses showing signs of infectious disease must be examined by the on-site/on-call veterinarian. (**major**)

a. Any saddle or pilot horses showing signs of infectious disease (fever, nasal discharge, or illness) must be removed from service and isolated from other animals on the gather until such time as the horse is free from signs of infectious disease and approved by the on-site/on-call veterinarian to return to the gather. (**major**)

b. Groups of WH&Bs showing signs of infectious disease should not be mixed with groups of healthy WH&Bs at the temporary holding facility, or during transport. (minor)

4. Horses not involved with gather operations should remain at least 300 yards from WH&Bs, saddle horses, and pilot horses being actively used on a gather. (minor)

IV. HANDLING

A. Willful Acts of Abuse

1. Hitting, kicking, striking, or beating any WH&B in an abusive manner is prohibited. (**major**)
2. Dragging a recumbent WH&B without a sled, slide board or slip sheet is prohibited. Ropes used for moving the recumbent animal must be attached to the sled, slide board or slip sheet unless being loaded as specified in Section II. C. 8. (**major**)
3. There should be no deliberate driving of WH&Bs into other animals, closed gates, panels, or other equipment. (minor)
4. There should be no deliberate slamming of gates and doors on WH&Bs. (minor)
5. There should be no excessive noise (e.g., constant yelling) or sudden activity causing WH&Bs to become unnecessarily flighty, disturbed or agitated. (minor)

B. General Handling

1. All sorting, loading or unloading of WH&Bs during gathers must be performed during daylight hours except when unforeseen circumstances develop and the Lead COR/CO/PI approves the use of supplemental light. (**major**)
2. WH&Bs should be handled to enter runways or chutes in a forward direction. (minor)
3. WH&Bs should not remain in single-file alleyways, runways, or chutes longer than 30 minutes. (minor)
4. Equipment except for helicopters should be operated and located in a manner to minimize flighty behavior . (minor)

C. Handling Aids

1. Handling aids such as flags and shaker paddles must be the primary tools for driving and moving WH&Bs during handling and transport procedures. Contact of the flag or paddle end of primary handling aids with a WH&B is allowed. Ropes looped around the hindquarters may be used from horseback or on foot to assist in moving an animal forward or during loading. (**major**)
2. Electric prods must not be used routinely as a driving aid or handling tool. Electric prods may be used in limited circumstances only if the following guidelines are followed:

a. Electric prods must only be a commercially available make and model that uses DC battery power and batteries should be fully charged at all times. (major)

b. The electric prod device must never be disguised or concealed. (major)

c. Electric prods must only be used after three attempts using other handling aids (flag, shaker paddle, voice or body position) have been tried unsuccessfully to move the WH&Bs. (major)

d. Electric prods must only be picked up when intended to deliver a stimulus; these devices must not be constantly carried by the handlers. (major)

e. Space in front of an animal must be available to move the WH&B forward prior to application of the electric prod. (major)

f. Electric prods must never be applied to the face, genitals, anus, or underside of the tail of a WH&B. (major)
g. Electric prods must not be applied to any one WH&B more than three times during a procedure (e.g., sorting, loading) except in extreme cases with approval of the Lead COR/COR/PI. Each exception must be approved at the time by the Lead COR/COR/PI. (major)
h. Any electric prod use that may be necessary must be documented daily by the Lead COR/COR/PI including time of day, circumstances, handler, location (trap site or temporary holding facility), and any injuries (to WH&B or human). (major)

V. TRANSPORTATION

A. General

1. All sorting, loading, or unloading of WH&Bs during gathers must be performed during daylight hours except when unforeseen circumstances develop and the Lead COR/CO/PI approves the use of supplemental light. (major)
2. WH&Bs identified for removal should be shipped from the temporary holding facility to a BLM facility within 48 hours. (minor)
a. Shipping delays for animals that are being held for release to range or potential on-site adoption must be approved by the Lead COR/COR/PI. (major)
3. Shipping should occur in the following order of priority; 1) debilitated animals, 2) pairs, 3) weanlings, 4) dry mares and 5) studs. (minor)
4. Planned
5. transport time to the BLM preparation facility from the trap site or temporary holding facility must not exceed 10 hours. (major)
6. WH&Bs should not wait in stock trailers and/or semi-trailers at a standstill for more than a combined period of three hours during the entire journey. (minor)

B. Vehicles

1. Straight-deck trailers and stock trailers must be used for transporting WH&Bs. (major)
a. Two-tiered or double deck trailers are prohibited. (major)
b. Transport vehicles for WH&Bs must have a covered roof or overhead bars containing them such that WH&Bs cannot escape. (major)
2. WH&Bs must have adequate headroom during loading and unloading and must be able to maintain a normal posture with all four feet on the floor during transport without contacting the roof or overhead bars. (major)
3. The width and height of all gates and doors must allow WH&Bs to move through freely. (major)
4. All gates and doors must open and close easily and be able to be secured in a closed position. (major)
5. The rear door(s) of the trailers must be capable of opening the full width of the trailer. (major)
6. Loading and unloading ramps must have a non-slip surface and be maintained in proper working condition to prevent slips and falls. (major)
7. Transport vehicles more than 18 feet and less than 40 feet in length must have a minimum of one partition gate providing two compartments; transport vehicles 40 feet or longer must have at least two partition gates to provide a minimum of three compartments. (major)
8. All partitions and panels inside of trailers must be free of sharp edges or holes that could cause injury to WH&Bs. (major)
9. The inner lining of all trailers must be strong enough to withstand failure by kicking that would lead to injuries. (major)

10. Partition gates in transport vehicles should be used to distribute the load into compartments during travel. (minor)
11. Surfaces and floors of trailers must be cleaned of dirt, manure and other organic matter prior to the beginning of a gather. (major)

C. Care of WH&Bs during Transport Procedures

1. WH&Bs that are loaded and transported from the temporary holding facility to the BLM preparation facility must be fit to endure travel. (major)
a. WH&Bs that are non-ambulatory, blind in both eyes, or severely injured must not be loaded and shipped unless it is to receive immediate veterinary care or euthanasia. (major)
b. WH&Bs that are weak or debilitated must not be transported without approval of the Lead COR/COR/PI in consultation with the on-site veterinarian. Appropriate actions for their care during transport must be taken according to direction of the Lead COR/COR/PI. (major)
2. WH&Bs should be sorted prior to transport to ensure compatibility and minimize aggressive behavior that may cause injury. (minor)
3. Trailers must be loaded using the minimum space allowance in all compartments as follows: (major)
a. 12 square feet per adult horse.
b. 6.0 square feet per dependent horse foal.
c. 8.0 square feet per adult burro.
d. 4.0 square feet per dependent burro foal.
4. The Lead COR/COR/PI in consultation with the receiving Facility Manager must document any WH&B that is recumbent or dead upon arrival at the destination. (**major**)
a. Non-ambulatory or recumbent WH&Bs must be evaluated on the trailer and either euthanized or removed from the trailers using a sled, slide board or slip sheet. (**major**)
5. Saddle horses must not be transported in the same compartment with WH&Bs. (**major**)

VI. EUTHANASIA OR DEATH

A. Euthanasia Procedure during Gather Operations

1. An authorized, properly trained, and experienced person as well as a firearm appropriate for the circumstances must be available at all times during gather operations. When the travel time between the trap site and temporary holding facility exceeds one hour or if radio or cellular communication is not reliable, provisions for euthanasia must be in place at both the trap site and temporary holding facility during the gather operation. (**major**)
2. Euthanasia must be performed according to American Veterinary Medical Association euthanasia guidelines (2013) using methods of gunshot or injection of an approved euthanasia agent. (**major**)
3. The decision to euthanize and method of euthanasia must be directed by the Authorized Officer or their Authorized Representative(s) that include but are not limited to the Lead COR/COR/PI who must be on site and may consult with the on-site/on-call veterinarian. (**major**)
4. Photos needed to document an animal's condition should be taken prior to the animal being euthanized. No photos of animals that have been euthanized should be taken. An exception is when a veterinarian or the Lead COR/COR/PI may want to document certain findings discovered during a postmortem examination or necropsy. (minor)
5. Any WH&B that dies or is euthanized must be documented by the Lead COR/COR/PI including time of day, circumstances, euthanasia method, location, a description of the age, gender, and color of the animal and the reason the animal was euthanized. (**major**)
6. The on-site/on-call veterinarian should review the history and conduct a postmortem physical examination of any WH&B that dies or is euthanized during the gather operation. A necropsy should be performed whenever feasible if the cause of death is unknown. (minor)

B. Carcass Disposal

1. The Lead COR/COR/PI must ensure that appropriate equipment is available for the timely disposal of carcasses when necessary on the range, at the trap site, and temporary holding facility. (**major**)
2. Disposal of carcasses must be in accordance with state and local laws. (**major**)
3. WH&Bs euthanized with a barbiturate euthanasia agent must be buried or otherwise disposed of properly. (**major**)
4. Carcasses left on the range should not be placed in washes or riparian areas where future runoff may carry debris into ponds or waterways. Trenches or holes for buried animals should be dug so the bottom of the hole is at least 6 feet above the water table and 4-6 feet of level earth covers the top of the carcass with additional dirt mounded on top where possible. (minor)

CAWP
REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEAD COR/COR/PI

Required Documentation Section	**Documentation**
II.B.5	Helicopter contact with any WH&B.
II.C.2	Roping of any WH&B.
III.B.3.a and III.B.4.b III.C.1	Reason for allowing longer than four hours to reunite foals with mares/jennies. Does not apply if foals are being weaned. Health status of all saddle and pilot horses.
IV.C.2.h	All uses of electric prod.
V.C.4	Any WH&B that is recumbent or dead upon arrival at destination following transport.
VI.A.5	Any WH&B that dies or is euthanized during gather operation.

Responsibilities Section	**Responsibility**
I.A.10	Approve materials used in construction of finger gates in bait trapping
II.A.1	Direct gather procedures using approved gather technique.
II.B. 2	Determine rate of movement and distance limitations for WH&B helicopter gather.
II.B.2.a	Direct appropriate gather/handling methods for weak or debilitated WH&B.
II.B.3	Determine whether to abandon pursuit or use other capture method in order to avoid repeated pursuit of WH&B.

II.B.4	Determine width and need for visibility marking when using opening in fence en route to trap.
II.B.6	Determine number of attempts that can be made to capture the missing half of a mare/foal pair that has become separated.
II.B.7	Determine whether to proceed with gather when ambient temperature is outside the range of 10°F to 95°F for horses or 10°F to 100°F for burros.
II.C.1	Approve roping of any WH&B.
II.D.1.a	Determine period of time that water outside a bait trap is inaccessible such that wellbeing of WH&Bs, wildlife, or livestock is not adversely affected.
III.A.2	Direct and consult with on-site/on-call veterinarian on any matters related to WH&B health, handling, welfare and euthanasia.
III.B.1.e	Adjust feed/water as necessary, in consultation with onsite/on call veterinarian, to provide for needs of animals when water or feed deprivation conditions exist on range.
III.B.4.c	Determine provision of water and hay to non-ambulatory animals.
IV.C.2.g	Approve use of electric prod more than three times, for exceptional cases only.
V.A.1	Approve sorting, loading, or unloading at night with use of supplemental light.
V.A.2.a	Approve shipping delays of greater than 48 hours from temporary holding facility to BLM facility.
V.C.1.b	Approve of transport and care during transport for weak or debilitated WH&B.
VI.A.3	Direct decision regarding euthanasia and method of euthanasia for any WH&B; may consult with on-site/on-call veterinarian.
VI.B.1	Ensure that appropriate equipment is available for carcass disposal.