

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Salt Lake Field Office 491 North John Glenn Road Salt Lake City, Utah 84116 http://www.blm.gov/utah



February 4, 2022

In Reply Refer To: 4710 (UTW010)

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Salt Lake Field Office (SLFO) is launching a 30-day public scoping period on an environmental assessment (EA) being prepared for the proposed wild horse population control plan on the Cedar Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA). We invite your participation in this scoping period and assistance in identifying issues, alternatives and providing data that would be used in preparing this EA supporting the SLFO's decision-making process.

The SLFO proposes to review and analyze multiple aspects in its long-term management of the wild horse population within the HMA. This effort would focus on the current wild horse numbers against the established Appropriate Management Level (AML), resource impacts (such as vegetation, wildlife, and socioeconomics), gather methods/frequency (immediate and long-term), data collection, identification/tracking/handling, fertility control options, wild horse use outside of the established HMA, emergency actions, and monitoring.

Specifically, the SLFO proposes to gather and remove excess wild horses to the low AML. The current population of wild horses on the HMA is estimated at 790 animals, (not including 2022 foals), with the AML set at 190-390 wild horses. The SLFO estimates that over 600 wild horses would need be removed from the HMA to achieve a low AML. The proposed gather would take place no sooner than fall 2022.

Interested members of the public, local governments, tribal members, organizations, and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide comments during this public scoping period to help identify alternatives, refine the proposed action, clarify issues, and identify new issues.

Comments may be submitted through:

Regular Mail/Hand Carried Salt Lake Field Office Attention: Tami Howell 491 North John Glenn Road Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

<u>BLM's NEPA Register</u> Project Number: DOI-BLM-UT-W010-2022-0005-EA Project Website: https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanningui/project/2017715/510

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To be considered, comments must be submitted by the close of business on the last day of the public scoping period (4:30 p.m. MST on March 5, 2022). All documents related to this project will be maintained on this project's website.

Please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, it is not guaranteed.

For additional information, please contact Tami Howell at (435) 743-3190. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to leave a message or question for the above individual. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Replies are provided during normal business hours.

Sincerely,

Jessica Wade Field Manager