

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
COMPLIANCE RECORD FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (CX)
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2022-0034-CX

A. Proposed Action

BLM Office:

Lake Havasu Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

N/A

Proposed Action Title:

Outside Chemehuevi HMA: Chemehuevi Nuisance Wild Burro Gather

Applicant:

Bureau of Land Management, Lake Havasu Field Office

Location of Proposed Action:

County: San Bernardino County
Township and Ranges: San Bernardino Base and Meridian:
Chemehuevi Herd Management Area (See Attachment 1):

The project location will be on Tribal lands within the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation, Colorado River Indian Tribe lands and Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Private Property:

- In the surrounding community of Havasu Lake and Big River, California.

Township 4 N, R 25 E, Sec: 6 NWNW.

Township 5 N, R 25 E, Sec: 18 SESE; Sec: 30 SWSW.

Township 1N 25E Sec. 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24

Township 1N 26E Sec. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19

Township 2N 25E Sec. 25, 35, 36

Township 2N 26E Sec. 9, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34

Previously used trap locations on MWD - private land will include:

Gene Wash Reservoir T. 2 N, R. 27 E, Sec. 5 NENE, SB. M.B.M

Copper Basin Reservoir T. 2 N, R. 26 E, Sec. 3 NENW, SB. M.B.M

Copper Basin Wash T. 2 N, R. 27 E, Sec. 19 NE 1/4 SB. M.B.M

Parker Dam T. 2 N, R. 27 E, Sec. 4 SENE, SB. M.B.M

Description of Proposed Action:

The Lake Havasu Field Office in cooperation with the Needles Field Office proposes to utilize wildlife friendly bait trapping techniques to capture and remove approximately 275 nuisance burros outside the Chemehuevi Herd Area (HA) and Herd Management Area (HMA), primarily near Havasu Landing, Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) Lands and Private property, California.

Current Appropriate Management Level for the Chemehuevi HMA is 108 burros. The estimated population for this HMA as of March 2022 is 764 burros based on various analytical population count data and reports. Due to this over population, wild burros are drifting into populated areas causing disturbance within the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation at Havasu landing, creating hazardous conditions to the public near highways and public health and safety issues on private property.

A series of bait traps would be used to catch nuisance wild burros. The gathered animals would then be transported to the Ridgecrest Wild Horse and Burro facility, where they would enter the Wild Horse and Burro adoption program. The gather area would be located within Tribal Lands on the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation west of Lake Havasu City, CRIT lands and the Metropolitan Water District private lands, Arizona. The need for this gather is a result of complaints of property damage, public health and safety, and the hazardous conditions burros pose to the public traveling on roads in the area (see attachment 2)

Mitigation Measures/Design Features:

Stipulations that would apply to the proposed action are attachments 3 and 4.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name:

Lake Havasu Field Office Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP)
Approved May 2007

Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management (NECO) Plan (an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan 1980 and Sikes Act Plan with the California Department of Fish and Game) and Final Environmental Impact Statement
Approved July 2002

The proposed action is in conformance with these LUPs because it is either specifically provided for, or it is clearly consistent with, the following LUP decision(s):

Decision(s) and Page Number(s):

Lake Havasu Field Office RMP, (2007) pg. 120 - Land Use Allocations, The California side of the HMA (Havasu-CA HMA) will be managed in accordance with the NECO Plan 2002.

The amended plan combined the Chemehuevi and Havasu HMAs into a single burro HMA, referred to as the Chemehuevi HMA (147,630 acres), with an appropriate management level of 108 burros.

NECO Plan (2002) pg3-48 Removal of Excess Burros- Burros that through their habits create health and safety risk which could lead to death or injury to the public and/or the animals

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 (*BLM CXs*) or 43 CFR 46.210 (*DOI CXs*).

BLM Categorical Exclusions D. Rangeland Management 4. "Removal of wild horses and burros from private land at the request of the landowner."

D. Extraordinary Circumstances Review

In accordance with 43 CFR 46.215, if any of the following circumstances are present, then further NEPA analysis is required unless mitigating measures or other actions can be incorporated into the proposed action to avoid significant effects.

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(1)) apply. The project would:			
(a) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.			
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed gather activities using bait traps is of low risk to public health and safety. It is proposed to occur on previously disturbed lands located outside of the Chemehuevi HMA.	Preparer's Initials CB
(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.			
Yes	No X	Rationale: None of these resources or areas with unique geographic characteristics are present in the proposed gather areas. The bait traps would be located in previously disturbed areas to the extent possible. Any new areas would have a biological and cultural survey conducted prior to placing traps to ensure avoidance of sensitive resources.	Preparer's Initials CB
(c) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)].			
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposal would have negligible impacts. No conflicts between alternative resource uses are anticipated. Similar projects implemented in the past have not resulted in resource conflicts or controversial impacts. This action is required by 43 CPR 4720.2-1 Removal of Strayed Animals from Private Lands, which requires removal as soon as practicable following receipt of written request by the landowner.	Preparer's Initials CB
(d) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.			
Yes	No X	Rationale: The environmental impacts would be negligible. No unique unknown environmental risks are anticipated. The impacts are predictable based on previous similar projects.	Preparer's Initials CB
(e) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.			
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed action is in response to a private landowner's request to remove nuisance wild	Preparer's Initials CB

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(1)) apply. The project would:			
		burros. The placement of temporary traps on private land is not precedent setting and is consistent with policy regarding wild horses or burros that have strayed on to private land (43 CPR 4700.20) outside of the HMA. This action would not prompt future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant effects.	
(f) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.			
Yes	No X	Rationale: The impacts of the proposed bait trapping would not contribute to potentially cumulative significant effects now or in the reasonably foreseeable future.	Preparer's Initials CB
(g) Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau.			
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed burro gathering would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places because historic properties would be avoided.	Preparer's Initials CB
(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: There would be no effect to federally listed endangered, threatened, candidate or proposed species from this project. Species do not occur within the project area.	Preparer's Initials CB
(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: This project would not violate any Federal, State, local or tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.	Preparer's Initials CB
(j) Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).			
Yes	No X	Rationale: The proposed gather activities would not have any disproportionately high or adverse effects on low income or minority populations.	Preparer's Initials CB
(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 X	Rationale: The proposed action would not limit access to any sacred sites or those for ceremonial use,	Preparer's Initials CB

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215(a)-(1)) apply. The project would:			
		nor affect the integrity of any sites. The proposed gather activities would be temporary in nature.	
(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 X	Rationale: Trap sites would be located in previously disturbed areas to the extent possible. Any new sites would be placed in areas not infested with noxious weeds. Best management practices for these types or actions would further limit the potential spread of noxious and invasive species.	Preparer's Initials CB

Preparers and Reviewers		
Name:	Resource Program:	Signature/Date:
Chad Benson	Wild Horse and Burro Specialist	
Angelica Rose	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	
Augustine Potor	Archaeologist	
Mike Ahrens	Needles Field Manager	

E. 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.

Approving Official:

Title: District Manager, Lake Havasu Field Office

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Chad Benson, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, Kingman Field Office, 2755 Mission BLVD, Kingman, AZ 86401, and 928-718-3750.

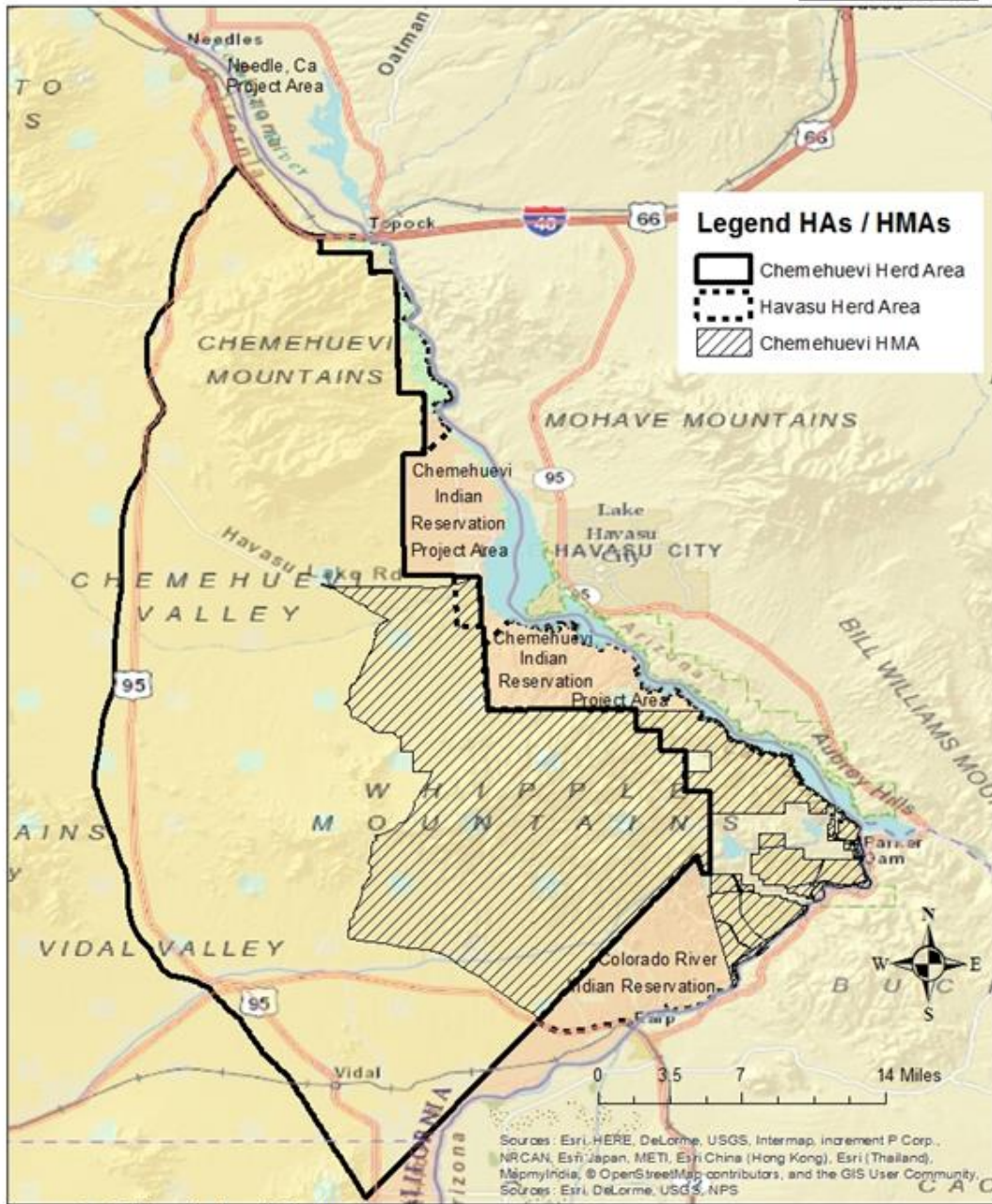
Note: The signed conclusion on this compliance record is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. A separate decision to implement the action will be prepared in accordance with program specific guidance.

List of Attachments:

- 1 – Nuisance Removal Request Letter
- 2 – Project Maps
- 3 – Stipulations
- 4– Guidelines for Handling Desert Tortoise Encountered on Roads and Vehicle

Attachment 1

Vicinity Map Chemehuevi HA/HMA and Havasu (CA) HA/HMA

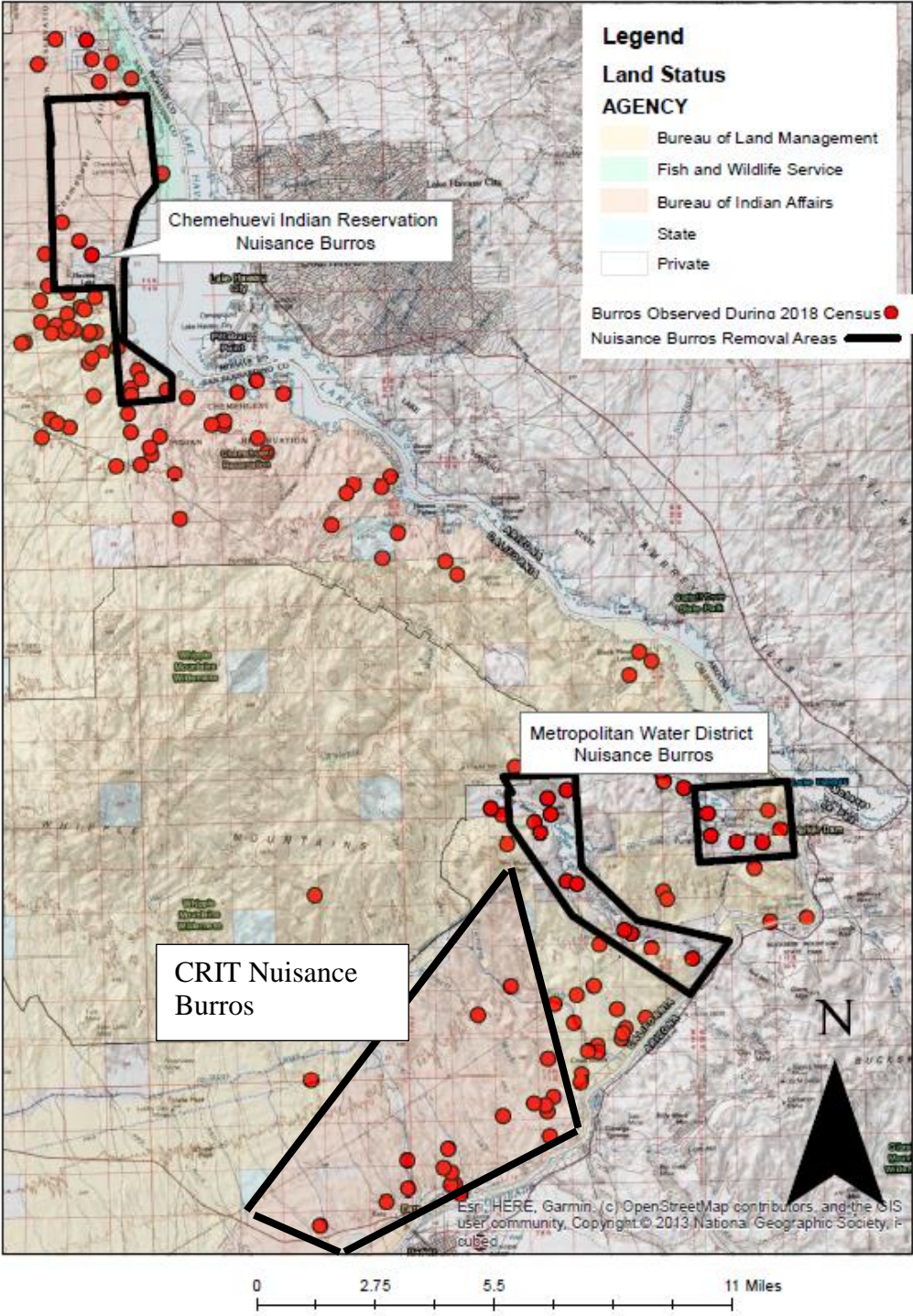


Legend - California Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- State
- Private

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community.
 Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS

Chemehuevi Indian Reservation and Metropolitan Water District Nuisance Burro Locations



Attachment 2

Re: [EXTERNAL] Burro roundup

Ahrens, Michael W <mahrens@blm.gov>

Mon 6/13/2022 1:25 PM

To: Sierra Pencille, Chairman <chairman@cit-nsn.gov>; Neiberger, Alexander G <aneiberg@blm.gov>

Cc: Symons, Carl B <csymons@blm.gov>

Chairman,

Thank you for the call last week and this follow up note.

Alex, Chairman Lodge called last week to inform me that nuisance burros are causing a lot of property damage on the Chemehuevi tribal lands including several vehicle related incidents.

He request we organize a gather to reduce the herd size. As always, the Chairman also offered to allow the burros to be gathered on tribal lands and the assistance of the tribes Conservation Officers.

And of course, please let me and the Needles Field Office know if there is anything we can do to assist you.

Thanks

Mike Ahrens

Field Manager

BLM, Needles Field Office

Department of Interior, Region 8

1303 S. U.S. Hwy 95

Needles CA 92363

From: Glenn Lodge <chairman@cit-nsn.gov>

Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 10:23 AM

To: Ahrens, Michael W <mahrens@blm.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Burro roundup

Mr. Ahrens,

I am following up on our conversation yesterday concerning Burro capture here on the Chemehuevi reservation.

Do you need a formal request from the Tribe? If so, I can prepare one for you.

This has become a huge problem here and is only going to get worse. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Glenn H. Lodge

Chairman, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

1990 Palo Verde Dr Havasu Lake, CA 92363

Mr. Ahrens,

I am following up on our conversation yesterday concerning Burro capture here on the Chemehuevi reservation. Do you need a formal request from the Tribe? If so, I can prepare one for you. This has become a huge problem here and is only going to get worse. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Glenn H. Lodge

Chairman, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
1990 Palo Verde Dr Havasu Lake, CA 92363
W: (760) 858-4219 M: (760) 718-8641

[EXTERNAL] RE: Nuisance Burros

chairman@cit-nsn.gov <chairman@cit-nsn.gov>

Mon 7/26/2021 9:52 AM

To: Ahrens, Michael W <mahrens@blm.gov>

Cc: Neibergs, Alexander G <aneiberg@blm.gov>

Good morning Mr. Ahrens,

Thank you very much for the outreach. The burros are plentiful and very healthy looking lately, and it is nice to see all the small ones. Unfortunately, they have been known to cause many vehicle accidents. Our community would greatly appreciate a roundup at this time. Please consider this our formal request and let me know what will happen next.

Thank you,

Sierra Pencille
Chairwoman
Chemehuevi
760.858.4219

From: Ahrens, Michael W <mahrens@blm.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 7:57 AM
To: Charles F. Wood, Chairman <chairman@cit-nsn.gov>
Cc: Neibergs, Alexander G <aneiberg@blm.gov>
Subject: Nuisance Burros

Chairman,

I understand from a conversation I had with Fredrick Rivera that there are many burro causing a nuisance for the tribe within the tribal community. We would like to help by arranging a gather. Per regulation, to do so we require a written request for our help in removing the burros. That request can be in the form of a formal letter or email; including in a response to this email.

Thanks and look forward to helping with this problem.

Mike Ahrens
Field Manager
BLM, Needles Field Office
Department of Interior, Region 8
1303 S. U.S. Hwy 95



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

July 29, 2021

VIA E-MAIL AND USPS

Mr. Jason West
Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Lake Havasu Field Office
1785 Kiowa Avenue
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
JRWest@blm.gov

Dear Mr. West:

Burro Relocation from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Desert Properties

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is a public agency and regional water wholesaler located in portions of six counties in Southern California, including Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Metropolitan is requesting assistance from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to remove and relocate approximately 100 wild burros from its property at the Gene Pump Plant (Gene Camp), located at 158000 MWD Road, Parker Dam, California 92267, and surrounding Metropolitan lands in San Bernardino County.

The wild burros have become an increasing nuisance in the general area, creating a public safety hazard by blocking traffic, walking on the roadways, and begging for food. Recently, an overwhelming number of burros have moved into the residential village. They are actively mating and very aggressive, creating an increasing danger to staff and their families that live onsite. In addition, burros have been congregating near the 230kV high voltage transformers near the Gene Camp, which is a danger to both the burros and Metropolitan's water delivery system. Burros populations are also increasing along the Copper Basin Wash, creating public safety issues along the Parker Strip. Last week, a Metropolitan vehicle was involved in an accident with a burro. Thankfully, no one was injured and the burro walked away, seemingly unharmed, but there was damage to the Metropolitan vehicle.

BLM staff relocated burros from the same property in August 2018. Metropolitan is submitting this request for a wild burro relocation at your earliest convenience. While the increase in the number of burros at Gene Camp and Copper Basin Wash prompted this request, Metropolitan has extensive land holdings in the area where burros also reside. Included with this letter are 17 figures detailing four regions near the Gene Camp where the burro population has also increased dramatically. Additional information about these areas is available upon request.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Mr. Jason West
Page 2
July 29, 2021

In the past, BLM has used existing space located at Gene Camp that can accommodate the temporary corrals needed to facilitate the relocation. Metropolitan can offer this space again to help with the relocation. Some of Metropolitan's property is behind locked gates that will require access and possibly an escort.

Please contact Mr. Justin Davis, Assistant Unit Manager of Desert Operations, at (442) 262-2600 or by cell phone at (520) 709-4280 to schedule the roundup and provide access and an escort to the sites. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact Malinda Stalvey at (213) 217-5545.

Very truly yours,

DocuSigned by:

1C5AACFD9804493...
Jennifer Harriger
Unit Manager, Environmental Planning Section

MKS:mks
SharePoint\Gene Camp Burro Relocation Request 2021

Enclosures (17)

cc w/enclosures:

Alex Neiberg
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
Bureau of Land Management
Ridgecrest Field Office
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
aneiberg@blm.gov

C. M. Stites
G. A. Patricio
J. W. Davis



COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES
Colorado River Indian Reservation

26600 MOHAVE ROAD
PARKER, ARIZONA 85344
TELEPHONE (928) 669-1220
FAX (928) 669-1216

April 16, 2020

Via Email and U.S. Mail

William Mack, Jr.
Bureau of Land Management
Colorado River District Manager
1785 Kiowa Avenue
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403-2847

Re: Assistance Managing Burro Population on the Colorado River Indian Reservation

Dear Mr. Mack,

On behalf of the Colorado River Indian Tribes ("Tribes" or "CRIT"), I am writing in regards to the burro population management problem faced on the Colorado River Indian Reservation. Thank you for visiting the Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes on Thursday, March 12, 2020, and for mentioning your offer to assist our Fish and Game Department with the round up of the burro population on the Reservation.

CRIT appreciates this offer for help. As a preliminary matter, the Colorado River Indian Tribes are a federally recognized Indian tribe comprised of over 4,440 members belonging to the Mohave, Chemehuevi, Hopi and Navajo Tribes. The almost 300,000-acre Colorado River Indian Reservation sits astride the Colorado River between Blythe, California and Parker, Arizona. The Tribes have a Fish and Game Department, and the personnel on staff take their jobs seriously. However, the Reservation has experienced an increase in the burro population, and as such, the animals have become a nuisance to the residents of the Reservation, destroying personal property and rummaging through trash cans, leaving trash to litter the Reservation. The burros have also caused a number of vehicle accidents within the community, putting the residents of the Reservation at risk.

Tribal Council requests the assistance of the Bureau of Land Management to assist in the removal of the burros from the Reservation. It is the understanding of Tribal Council that all burros are adopted out and not euthanized. Tribal Council has approved this letter to grant permission to the Bureau of Land Management to remove burros from the Reservation.

BLM - LHFO
2020 APR 21 09:10:10

Thank you for your willingness to help CRIT resolve this issue of the excessive burro population on the Reservation. Should you have any questions, or need anything additional, please contact Chief of Fish and Game, Josephine Tahbo at 928-669-9285 or josephine.tahbo@crit-nsn.gov or Deputy Attorney General Toni Flora at 928-669-1271 or aflora@critdoj.com.

Sincerely,

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Patch", is written over the printed name.

Dennis Patch
Chairman

Xc: Tribal Council
Josephine Tahbo, Fish and Game Chief Game Warden
Rebecca Loudbear, Attorney General
Antoinette Flora, Deputy Attorney General

Attachment 3

Stipulations

1. Actions which result in impacts to archaeological or historical resources shall be subject to the provisions of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 as amended (ARPA) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. These statutes protect cultural resources for the benefit of all Americans. No person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any historic or prehistoric site, artifact or object of antiquity located on public lands without authorization. Damaging cultural resources more than 100 years of age is a punishable act under ARPA. Criminal and/or civil penalties may result if damage to archaeological resources is documented, as provided under ARPA and its implementing regulations at 43 CFR 7.
2. Tortoise Protection: The following stipulations would be followed to avoid impacting tortoises:
 - a. All gather crews shall be made aware of the status of the desert tortoise. Crews shall be made aware the penalties for "take", and the stipulations to be followed for this project. The crew may contact the BLM biologists for clarification and additional information.
 - b. Garbage shall be kept in closed containers to discourage ravens and other scavengers from coming to the site.
 - c. Each proposed capture site within desert tortoise habitat will be inventoried for tortoises and their burrows by a biologist or designated BLM representative who has done field work with desert tortoises. Temporary structures, vehicles, equipment and other activity shall be located in areas free of tortoises and their burrows.
 - d. One member of the team conducting the gather shall be responsible for overseeing compliance with protective stipulations for the desert tortoise and for coordination on compliance. This individual shall have the authority to halt all activities that are in violation of the stipulations. The person may be a BLM employee.
 - e. The area of disturbance shall be confined to the smallest practical area, considering topography, placement of facilities, locations of burrows, public health and safety, and other limiting factors. To the extent possible, previously disturbed areas within the site shall be utilized.
 - f. Upon locating a dead or injured tortoise, the gather crew is to notify the Lake Havasu Field Office, who will notify the appropriate field office of USFWS by telephone within three days of the finding.
 - g. No dogs shall be allowed on site during the operation.

GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING DESERT TORTOISE ENCOUNTERED ON ROADS AND VEHICLE WAYS:

1. Stop your vehicle and allow the tortoise to move off the road.
2. If the tortoise is not moving, gently** pick up the tortoise and move it approximately 200 feet off the road to a shaded location.
 - a. Do not turn the tortoise over.
 - b. Move the tortoise in the direction it was traveling. If it was crossing the road, move it in the direction it was crossing.
 - c. Keep the tortoise within 12-18 inches of the ground, move slowly so as not to cause it to become alarmed.
 - d. Release the tortoise under the shade of a bush or rock. ** Tortoise store water in their bladder. If a tortoise becomes alarmed its defense is to void its bladder onto the captor. This could lead to dehydration of the tortoise and potentially to death
3. The holder shall immediately bring to the attention of the Lake Havasu or Needles Field Office (or designated representative) any cultural resources (prehistoric/historic sites or objects) and/or paleontological resources (fossils) encountered during permitted operations and maintain the integrity of such resources pending subsequent investigation. All permitted operations within 30 meters (100 feet) of the cultural resources shall cease until written authorization to proceed is received from the Authorized Officer.
4. Gather personnel shall receive a copy of the tortoise handling guidelines (attached) and distribute to all workers the day of the project and advise on handling procedures.
5. In the event hazardous materials are encountered during any activities associated with this, all activity would cease with the hazardous material and a BLM Law Enforcement Ranger would be contacted immediately.



Attachment 4 United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Lake Havasu Field Office
1785 Kiowa Ave
Lake Havasu City, AZ
www.blm.gov/arizona



GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING DESERT TORTOISE ENCOUNTERED ON ROADS AND VEHICLE WAYS

1. Stop your vehicle and allow the tortoise to move off the road.
2. If the tortoise is not moving, gently** pick up the tortoise and move it approximately 200 feet off the road to a shaded location.
 - a. Do **not** turn the tortoise over.
 - b. Move the tortoise in the direction it was traveling. If it was crossing the road, move it in the direction it was crossing.
 - c. Keep the tortoise within 12-18 inches of the ground, move slowly so as not to cause it to become alarmed.
 - d. Release the tortoise under the shade of a bush or rock.

** Tortoise store water in their bladder. If a tortoise becomes alarmed its defense is to void its bladder onto the captor. This could lead to dehydration of the tortoise and potentially to death.



DECISION MEMORANDUM
OUTSIDE CHEMEHUEVI HMA: NUISANCE WILD BURRO GATHER PROJECT
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CALIFORNIA

Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2022-0034-CX

INTRODUCTION

The Lake Havasu and Needles Field Offices propose the use of bait traps to capture 275 nuisance wild burros outside the Chemehuevi Herd Management Area. A series of bait traps would be used to catch nuisance wild burros. The gathered animals will then be transported to the Ridgecrest Wild Horse and Burro facility, where they will enter the Wild Horse and Burro adoption program. The gather area would be located within Tribal Lands and Private Property south and west of Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

The need for this gather is a result of complaints of property damage, public health and safety, and the hazardous conditions burros pose to the public traveling on roads in the area.

DECISION

Based on the analysis of the *Outside Chemehuevi HMA: Nuisance Wild Burro Gather* Project, described in Categorical Exclusion (CX) # DOI-BLM-AZ-C030-2022-0034-CX, and field office staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the Lake Havasu Field Office Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan, approved May 2007 and the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management (NECO) Plan (an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan 1980 and Sikes Act Plan with the California Department of Fish and Game) and Final Environmental Impact Statement, approved July 2002, and is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed with incorporation of the stipulations and mitigation measures attached to the CX document. This decision is effective upon issuance in accordance with Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at §4700.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OR APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the attached Form 1842-1.

Field Manager, Lake Havasu Field Office

Attachment:
Form 1842-1