



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
Cody Field Office
1002 Blackburn Street
Cody, Wyoming 82414-8464
www.blm.gov/wy



In Reply Refer To:
4700 (WYR020)

January 9, 2023

Scoping Notice

**Population Control Measures and Removal of Excess Wild Horses in the
McCullough Peaks Herd Management Area**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cody Field Office is seeking public input to help inform the analysis of environmental effects of gathering wild horses and applying wild horse population control measures in the McCullough Peaks Herd Management Area (HMA), over a 10-year period.

To protect the landscape and overall herd health of the McCullough Peaks HMA, the Cody Field Office works to achieve and maintain a population of wild horses in the McCullough Peaks within its appropriate management level (AML) of 70–140 horses. The current population is 179 horses based on direct counts in 2022. The BLM is proposing to gather and remove excess wild horses to the low AML. The BLM also proposes to use alternate fertility control for those mares not responding to PZP treatments.

The BLM will utilize information presented from the scoping to prepare an environmental assessment (EA). Scoping activities identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the environmental analysis that meet the purpose and need for the project. Through this process, environmental issues related to the proposed gather are identified, the depth of analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document determined, and potential mitigation for population control are identified. The EA will identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the project and alternatives and provide the responsible official with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project as well as affording the public an opportunity to provide comments and input. The EA will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists.

A bait trap could begin sometime after November 1, 2023, as dictated by NEPA readiness, the national wild horse gather schedule, and available space in off range holding facilities.

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.

All comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 7, 2023, to be considered.

Written comments will be accepted at the address below or through the BLM's NEPA register at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022012/510>. Please refer to Project Number DOI-BLM-WY-R020-2023-0003-EA.

BLM Cody Field Office
Attn: Abel Guevara, Wildlife Biologist
1002 Blackburn Street
Cody, Wyoming 82414

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 Abel Guevara at (307) 578-5903. 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.

This scoping notice and all other future documents corresponding with this action will be posted on the BLM's ePlanning site at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022012/510>.

The EA will be posted to this site followed by a 30-day comment period. Paper copies of these documents will be available by request. Questions should be directed to BLM Cody Field Office Wildlife Biologist Abel Guevara by email at aguevara@blm.gov or using the contact information provided above.

Sincerely,

Cade Powell
Cody Field Manager

Enclosure: