

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM SETS PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT USE ON WILD HORSE GATHERS

HINES, Oregon – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District has scheduled a public meeting to discuss agency procedures for gathering wild horses and how helicopters and other motorized equipment help the process. The public is encouraged to attend and hear information from BLM about the issue. The meeting is set for Thursday, August 13, at 5:30 p.m., at the Harney County Senior Center, 17 South Alder, in Burns, Oregon.

BLM Wild Horse and Burro Specialist Gary McFadden said, "Good wild horse management requires the use of modern-day tools and we have found the use of helicopters and other motorized equipment is the most humane method to gather horses from the open range and remote mountain areas where they live."

The BLM estimates about 36,000 wild horses and burros are roaming on BLM-administered rangelands in 10 Western states. Wild horses and burros have virtually no natural predators and their herd sizes can double about every four years. As a result, the agency must remove thousands of animals from the range each year to control herd sizes. The estimated current free-roaming population exceeds by some 9,400 the number the BLM has determined can exist in balance with other public rangeland resources and uses.

Oregon/Washington BLM gathers 400-500 horses on average annually from public lands. In 2009, gathers are tentatively planned for Herd Management Areas within the Burns, Lakeview, and Prineville Districts.

For additional information about the upcoming public meeting or future wild horse and burro adoptions, contact the Burns District BLM at (541) 573-4400.

