

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM Plans Beaty Butte Wild Horse Gather

Lakeview, Ore -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lakeview District announced today that it is going to gather approximately 1,500 horses associated with the Beaty Butte Herd Management Area in early October 2015. Exact dates will be set based on the herd's location closer to the gather period. The Beaty Butte Herd Management Area is located east of Adel, Oregon in southeast Lake County.

Approximately 1,400 horses will be permanently removed from the Beaty Butte Herd Management Area. One hundred horses (60 studs and 40 mares) will be returned to the Beaty Butte Herd Management Area. This is consistent with the appropriate management level of 100 to 250 horses, established for the Herd Management Area.

"The herd population is currently six times the appropriate management level, which is damaging habitat and forage for wildlife, particularly sage grouse habitat," said BLM Oregon/Washington Director Jerome Perez. "Our goal is to manage the resources and the horses to the best of our ability."

Heavy to severe wild horse grazing utilization jeopardizes the health of the rangelands, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and ultimately wild horse health and condition. Horses have overgrazed sagebrush and other plants to the extent that plants and soils are being lost entirely. The problem is compounded by the extensive drought, which has already stressed plants to their limits.

Once gathered, the horses will be taken to a temporary holding facility, where they will be provided abundant hay and water. Following a veterinary assessment, the horses will be transported to an off-range BLM holding facility and made available for adoption or sale, or relocated to a permanent holding facility.

A limited number of members of the public will be allowed to view the gather activities in BLM-escorted groups. Interested parties should contact Larisa Bogardus at: lbogardus@blm.gov or (541) 947-6237.

The BLM's goal is to maintain healthy, free-roaming herds at levels that balance a thriving natural ecological existence with local habitat and other multiple uses in each area. On average, Oregon herd numbers increase annually by 20 percent. Decisions to gather excess animals are based on rangeland monitoring studies, availability of forage and water, and wild horse numbers compared to established population targets for each HMA. Normally, three to five of Oregon's herds are gathered annually to balance population numbers per the range's sustainable capabilities.

The supporting planning documents for the upcoming gather are available online at: <http://blm.gov/kfmd>

About the BLM: The BLM manages 245 million acres of public land known as the National System of Public Lands. The lands are primarily located in 12 Western states, including 75 million acres in Alaska. With a budget of about \$1 billion, the bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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