



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

September 8, 2016

News Release

Oregon/Washington

Contact: Larisa Bogardus 541-947-6237



Vale District BLM announces Cold Springs gather

VALE, Ore. – The Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will begin gathering horses in the Cold Springs Herd Management Area (HMA) Sept. 15 using a bait-trap method which will draw horses to a predetermined trap site stocked with food and water.

The purpose of the gather is to return and maintain the wild horse population within the established Appropriate Management Level on Cold Springs HMA, protect rangeland resources from deterioration associated with overpopulation, and restore a natural ecological balance and multiple use relationship on public lands in the area consistent with the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971. Overpopulation within the HMA is jeopardizing the health of surrounding rangelands, wetlands, wildlife habitat and ultimately, the health and well-being of the horses themselves.

Gather operations could take one week to several months, depending on the number of animals to trap, weather conditions, and other considerations. The Cold Springs Herd Management Area (HMA) is approximately 25 miles southwest of Harper, Ore. The HMA contains nearly 30,000 acres of BLM managed land and nearly 3,000 acres of interspersed private lands.

A population inventory flight in June 2016 counted 258 adult horses and 77 foals. The Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the HMA is 75-150 wild horses. The gather objective is to capture 150 wild horses, remove 100, and apply approved fertility control treatment to approximately 25 mares to be returned to the HMA. Total herd population following the gather operation will be approximately 235 adult horses and foals.

Captured wild horses are planned to be released back to the HMA in order to maintain a diverse age structure and sex ratio. Additionally, released horses will be selected to preserve herd characteristics, in the case of the Cold Springs herd, common colors of grey, sorrel, buckskins bay, brown, black and red roan. Maximum effort will be undertaken to return released horses to the same general area they were gathered.

Fertility control treatments will be implemented for this gather because of the need to reduce population growth. Approximately 25 mares that are two years of age or older will be returned to the HMA after receiving PZP fertility treatment.

Bait/water trap gathers are not conducive to capture site viewing opportunities. However, the BLM will host public viewing days at temporary holding corrals near the capture site as horses are gathered and sorted.

If you are interested in observing the gather, you must contact Larry Moore at the BLM Vale District Office (l2moore@blm.gov or 541-473-6218) to have your name added to the viewing list. Observation will be offered in order of request. If for some reason you are not able to attend, please notify Mr. Moore as soon as possible so that your slot can be offered to the next person.

Gathered horses will be transported by semi-truck to the Oregon Adoption facility near Burns/Hines, Ore., and will be available for adoption later in the year. The public may visit the Adoption Corral Facility anytime between regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

-BLM-

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and

productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.