

# North Lander Complex Fact Sheet

## General

The BLM proposes removing excess horses from the North Lander Complex, which consists of the Conant Creek, Dishpan Butte, Muskrat Basin and Rock Creek herd management areas (HMAs), in order to return wild horse numbers to the low end of appropriate management level (AML) within the Complex.

The gather would reduce the current population of approximately 900 wild horses in the Complex, which is about 200 percent over the low AML of 320 horses. The AML range within the Complex is 320 (low end) to 536 (high end).

By achieving and maintaining AML in the Complex, the BLM will also meet its goal to preserve and maintain healthy and viable wild horse herds in balance with other uses.

The Complex was last gathered in July 2009.

The health of the wild horse herds and resource conditions on public lands are the primary concerns to the BLM. The area within the North Complex experienced one of the most intense and severe droughts in recent memory.

Gathering wild horses to low AML helps preserve and maintain healthy wild horse populations able to survive and thrive during severe winters, drought, or other uncontrollable and unforeseeable environmental influences.

The BLM is implementing fertility control measures to slow the growth rate of the populations returned to the HMAs. The implementation of this action should reduce gather frequency in the future.

Wild horses have virtually no natural predators and herd sizes can double about every four years. As a result, the BLM must remove thousands of animals from the Western range each year to ensure herd sizes are consistent with the land's capacity to support them.

The BLM fully intends to continue managing for healthy wild horse populations in these HMAs in balance with other resources and uses.

Animals removed from the range will be made available for adoption through the BLM's wild horse and burro adoption program, or placed in long-term holding pastures. Many horses will be sent to Wyoming's training facilities where they will be gentled and prepared for adoption.

The BLM is a multiple-use agency. Our goal is to strike the right balance in our management to sustain the health and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. We manage all resources for healthy ecosystems including:

- Protection of wilderness characteristics
- Outdoor recreation
- Oil & gas and other mineral development, and renewable energy development

