

## Owyhee Complex 2016 Gather Fact Sheet

**What?** Owyhee Complex Wild Horse Gather (HMAs to be gathered: Owyhee, Little Owyhee and Rock Creek)**Where?** Located 50 miles north east of Winnemucca, in the northeast corner of Humboldt County and the northwest corner of Elko County, Nevada **When?** The initial gather would begin on or about November 1, 2016 and take approximately 55 days to complete.

### What is the AML Range? for each HMA?

- Total Range for the three HMAs is: 483-779
- Owyhee HMA: 139-231
- Little Owyhee HMA: 194-298
- Rock Creek HMA: 150-250

### What is the planned number of horses to be gathered and removed?

- Total number of wild horses to be gathered in three HMAs: 1,600
- Total number of wild horses to be removed in three HMAs: 1,100
- Owyhee                    230 removed 125
- Little Owyhee        920 removed 650
- Rock Creek            450 removed 325

### Will fertility control be implemented? If so, how many mares will be treated with PZP 22

- Nationwide, the BLM is committed to working with its partners to use all available and practical tools, including fertility-control vaccines such as PZP, to manage wild horses and burros in a manner that achieves healthy horses on healthy rangelands therefore, fertility control will be implemented.
- Implement fertility control on approximately 500 gathered mares – releasing them back to the range.

### Why is the gather necessary?

- To safely and humanely remove excess wild horses to return wild horse population size to within the appropriate management level in an effort to restore a thriving natural ecological balance, and to sustain healthy rangeland resources. Additionally, to prevent a further decline of Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFA) (prime Sage grouse habitat) caused by the impact of wild horse populations in the area. Escalating conditions on the range necessitate conducting the gather at this time.

### What gather method will be used?

- A helicopter gather would be the primary gather mechanism.

## **How does the BLM balance wild horses with livestock management and wildlife?**

- Overall, livestock use in the HMA has declined by 61 percent over the past 50 years. Currently, under the 2016 plan, BLM authorizes up to 3,700 cattle and 10,000 sheep to use the allotment during specified times throughout the year.
- Forage is allocated by Animal Unit Months or AUMs. An AUM is the amount of forage consumed in a month by an adult horse, a mare and foal, two burros, an adult cow or cow and calf, or five sheep.
- Under the plan, 22,481 AUMs are allocated annually for cattle and 10,000 AUMs for sheep. Wild horses and burros are allocated 5,808 to 9,792 AUMs based on the range of AML numbers.
- Cattle have used about 11,498 AUMs, or 50% of their authorized allocation annually over the last 10 years and sheep have used about 2,940 AUMs or about 30%. Wild horse and burro use has increased annually to 24,228 AUMs in 2016.

For general information about the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program, please visit the BLM's Website: [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov).

BLM WH&B Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/BLMWildHorseandBurro>

BLM YouTube "playlist" (WH&B section): <http://bit.ly/BLMWHB>

Quick Facts about the program: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogram.html>

Myths and Facts about wild horse management:

[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogram/history\\_and\\_facts/myths\\_and\\_facts.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogram/history_and_facts/myths_and_facts.html)

Information about the wild horse and burro adoption program:

[http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogram/adoption\\_program.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogram/adoption_program.html)