

**Finding of No Significant Impact
Bureau of Land Management
Rock Springs Field Office**

**White Mountain – Little Colorado Herd Management Areas Wild Horse Gather
WY-040-EA11-124**

BACKGROUND

The proposed action is for removal of excess wild horses from the White Mountain and Little Colorado Herd Management Areas (HMAs).

The following alternatives were analyzed in detail:

- Alternative A (Proposed Action) – Remove Excess Animals to Lower Limit of AML Range with Fertility Control and Adjustment of Sex Ratios
- Alternative B – Remove Excess Animals to Lower Limit of AML Range
- Alternative C (No Action) – No Gather or Removal
- Alternative D – Remove Excess Animals to Lower Limit of AML Range with Implementation of a Non-reproducing Herd by Returning Gelded and/or Spayed Wild Horses

Alternatives A, B, and D were developed based on the need to remove excess animals to manage the range in a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use relationship and to prevent range deterioration. The removal of wild horses under these alternatives will ensure that the wild horses remaining within the HMAs have adequate forage and water to survive and maintain satisfactory physical condition. Removal of excess wild horses will also help to sustain the long-term productivity of the rangeland resources on the public lands that wild horses depend on. Although Alternative C (No Action) does not comply with the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971, as amended, nor meet the purpose and need for this action, nor comply with the 2003 Consent Decree Agreement with the State of Wyoming, it is included as a basis for comparison with the three action alternatives.

PLAN CONFORMANCE AND CONSISTENCY

The proposed action is in conformance with the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a). Any action in the Rock Springs Field Office is subject to requirements established by the Green River Resource Management Plan (RMP) (1997). The White Mountain and Little Colorado HMAs have been designated as suitable for long-term, sustained wild horse use in the Rock Springs Field Office area. The proposed capture and removal conforms to the land use decisions and resource management goals and objectives of the Green River RMP.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT DETERMINATION


Based upon the information contained in the attached environmental assessment, *White Mountain and Little Colorado Herd Management Areas Wild Horse Gather*, and all other

information available to me, it is my determination that: (1) the implementation of Alternative A, B, or D will not have significant environmental impacts beyond those already addressed in the Green River RMP; (2) Alternatives A, B, and D are in conformance with the RMP; and (3) Alternative A, B or D do not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), both with regard to the context and to the intensity of the impacts described in the EA or as articulated in the letters of comment.

Alternatives A, B, and D have been designed to avoid or minimize environmental impacts to the extent feasible. Additional mitigation measures that will be implemented for the proposed action are identified in the EA (see Section 3.9, Cumulative Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Suggested Monitoring).

Authorized Official:



Lance C. Porter
Rock Springs Field Manager

Date: 13 June 2011