

**Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)  
U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management  
Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado  
Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range 2014  
Wild Horse Introduction  
DOI-BLM-CO-130-2014-0032-DNA**

**A. Purpose and Need:**

The purpose of the proposed action is to improve the genetic diversity within the Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Range (LBCWHR). Introduction of wild horses from other Herd Management Areas (HMA) was identified in the 1992 Herd Management Plan (HMAP) and subsequent Population Management Plan (PMP) in 2002. Introductions were analyzed in NEPA documents for both the plan and the PMP amendment to the plan. These plans identified the need and importance of occasionally introducing wild horses from other HMAs to maintain genetic diversity. It has been determined that when horse populations are fewer than 200 head that introductions are necessary. A comparison of the Genetic Analysis Reports from 2002 and 2013 shows a decline in genetic diversity in the LBCWHR population. Prior to 1998 several introductions had been completed to improve genetic diversity.

**B. Proposed Action:**

The proposed action is to release 2 to 4 mares from other HMAs into the LBCWHR to improve genetic diversity. The mares would be obtained from the Salt Wells, Adobe Town, or Divide Basin HMAs in southern Wyoming. These three HMAs will be conducting gathers to remove excessive horses during August and September 2014. Mares were selected as the desired sex to release because addition of mares to the herd would have a more immediate impact to the herd genetics. This approach was selected based on recommendations from E. Gus Cothran the author of the Genetic Analysis of the Little Book Cliff WHR. Mares would be selected based on color, age, conformation, and disposition and would be released in different areas within the range. The Appropriate Management Level of 150 would not be exceeded with the addition of the mares. The current population is estimated at 140-145 horses. The wild horses to be released would be placed in selected areas of the range that would provide the most benefit from the genetics as well as color. The Friends of the Mustangs, a local volunteer group will be consulted in regards to the desired type and color of horses to release and participate in the introduction as well.

The introduction of wild horses from other HMAs was identified and analyzed in the LBCWHR plan as well as the Population Management Plan, an amendment to the plan.

See attached map.

**C. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance**

LUP Name: Grand Junction Resource Area RMP    Date Approved: January 1987  
Area E; Emphasis on Wild Horses

Decision Number/Page: 2 – 43

Decision Language: “Periodically, place wild horses from other areas in the area to avoid undesirable effects of inbreeding.”

**D. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Management Plan      Date Approved: June 1992

Decision Page: 10

Planned Action: Periodically wild horses from other BLM districts may be placed in the Little Bookcliffs Range. This will be done as necessary to avoid the undesirable effects of inbreeding, to maintain vigor as well as good conformation and to keep a diversity of color in the herd.

Little Book Cliffs Wild Horse Population Management Plan – Amendment to Wild Horse Management Plan.

NEPA Document: CO-GJFO-01-99-EA    Signed: June 26, 2002

Management Action: Introduction of Horses: Due to the relative small population of wild horses within the Little Book Cliffs herd inbreeding is an inevitable consequence which over the long term results in the loss of genetic variability. As discussed above in order to counteract the loss of genetic variation within the Little Book Cliffs herd it is necessary to periodically introduce new horses from other wild herds.

The following criteria would be used for selecting individual horses for introduction:

- Wild horses selected for introduction would be from those herds which closely resemble (per DNA analysis) and exhibit the same characteristics and conformation of this herd.
- Wild Horses from the same geographic area containing habitat characteristics similar to the LBCWHR.
- Various colors of individual horses could be selected for introduction.
- Younger mares (2-5 years old) would be the preferred sex, but stallions meeting the other criteria are also acceptable. Mares tend to be more readily acceptable by other horses into established existing bands.
- Only individual horses that exhibit good health, strength, vigor and good conformation would be selected for introduction. Individual horses with severe injuries, gross deformities or disease would not be selected for introduction.

**E. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?**

The proposed action is the same action as analyzed in previous NEPA documents including the HMAP and PMP. The action is occurring within the LBCWHR which is the same area that was previously analyzed.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Existing NEPA documents analyzed the proposed action or the No Action alternative, which is a reasonable range of alternatives for this action given resource values and concerns. The primary impact from the proposed action would be to the LBCWHR herd. No other resources or resource uses would be impacted.

**3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?**

There are no prominent differences in information or circumstances related to the action than those previously analyzed.

**4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?**

Yes, the purpose and need for the proposed action and criteria for selection are the same as previously analyzed.

**5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?**

Yes. Impacts from the proposed action would remain the same as previously analyzed because management continues under the same management plans, and no additional resource concerns have been identified.

**6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?**

Yes. Impacts from the proposed action would remain the same as previously analyzed because management continues under the same management plans, and no additional resource concerns have been identified.

**7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Yes, public involvement has been utilized through the previous NEPA documents and no additional issues have been identified by interested publics.

**F. Interdisciplinary Analysis:** Team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this worksheet.

Name	Title
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist
Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist
Natalie Clark	Archaeologist
Julia Christiansen	Natural Resource Specialist
Nathan Dieterich	Hydrologist
Anna Lincoln	Ecologist
Heidi Plank	Wildlife Biologist
Christina Stark	Planning & Environmental Coordinator

**Table 1– Potentially Impacted Resources**

Resources	Not Present On Location	No Impact	Potentially Impacted	Mitigation Necessary?	BLM Evaluator Initial & Date	Comments
<b>PHYSICAL RESOURCES</b>						
Air and Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ND 8/25/14	
Water (surface & subsurface, floodplains)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ND 8/25/14	
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ND 8/25/14	
Geological/Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 8/5/14	
<b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b>						
Special Status Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	ARL 8/25/14	
Special Status Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	HLP 8/4/14	
Migratory Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	HLP 8/4/14	
Other Important Wildlife Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	HLP 8/4/14	
Vegetation, Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JRD 7/29/14	
Invasive, Non-native Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	MT 8/26/14	
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CS 8/22/14	
<b>HERITAGE RESOURCES AND HUMAN ENV.</b>						
Cultural or Historical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	NFC 8/5/14	
Paleontological	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	DSG 8/4/14	
Tribal & American Indian Religious Concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	NFC 8/5/14	
Visual Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CPP 8/01/14	
Social/Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CS 8/22/14	
Transportation and Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CPP 8/01/14	
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	AK 8/12/14	
<b>LAND RESOURCES</b>						
Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CPP 8/01/14	
Special Designations (ACEC, SMAs, WSR)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CPP 8/01/14	
Wilderness & Wilderness Characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	CPP 8/01/14	
Range Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JRD 7/29/14	
Wild Horse and Burros	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JRD 7/29/14	
Land Tenure, ROW, Other Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	RBL 8/25/14	
Fire/Fuels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	JP 8/8/14	

**REMARKS:**

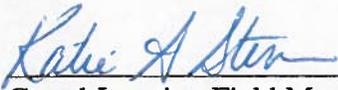
NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Christina Stark

DATE: 9/23/14

**Conclusion**

X Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:**

  
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Grand Junction Field Manager

**DATE SIGNED:** 9-23-2014

The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.

**SITE SPECIFIC STIPULATIONS:**

- The following criteria would be used for selecting individual horses for introduction:
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  - Wild Horses from the same geographic area containing habitat characteristics similar to the LBCWHR.
  - Various colors of individual horses could be selected for introduction.
  - Younger mares (2-5 years old) would be the preferred sex, but stallions meeting the other criteria are also acceptable. Mares tend to be more readily acceptable by other horses into established existing bands.
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