

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COLORADO STATE OFFICE
2850 YOUNGFIELD STREET
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80215-7093

July 7, 1999

In Reply Refer To:
4700 (CO-932) P

EMS Transmission 07/07/99
Instruction Memorandum No. CO-99-029
Expires: 09/30/2000

To: All Field Office Managers

From: Deputy State Director, Resource Services

Subject: Wild Horse and Burro (WH&B) Duties DD: 08/04/99

As a result of organizational changes within the state and policy changes in the WH&B program over the past couple of years, there is a need to identify roles and responsibilities for WH&B functions in the various field offices. While herd management and adoption workloads within the program are already identified to specific offices, there is still confusion about which offices are required to perform compliance duties. In the past the District Offices were ultimately responsible for their area of jurisdiction, but with the dissolution of the Districts, the Field Offices are now responsible.

Regulatory changes within the past two years require the Bureau of Land Management to:

- * Phone all wild horse and burro adopters within six months of adoption.
- * On a state-by-state basis, conduct enough compliance inspections to ensure, with 95 percent confidence, that all adopted animals are being properly cared for. Each year, the state is given a list of mandatory compliance inspections, roughly 35 for fiscal year (FY) 1999, as well as a target for total inspections, roughly 167 for FY 1999.

The compliance workload varies from office to office depending on a number of factors. However, all offices will be required to complete, at a minimum, the mandatory compliance

inspections and phone calls. For those offices that traditionally have not had much involvement in the WH&B program, there are several options available for completing the work.

There are a number of trained volunteers throughout the state that are capable and available to do the work. A list of qualified individuals can be obtained by contacting the state office WH&B program leader. These volunteers require reimbursement for mileage, perhaps a lunch allowance, and occasionally per diem. The volunteers need a point of contact within the office to assign the work and resolve any problems that may arise.

Another option is to work out an arrangement with a neighboring office or center that already has the expertise available. This could be done through an informal agreement. However, it is important to note that the field office managers are ultimately responsible for any decisions pertaining to their area of jurisdiction.

A training course in the use of the Wild Horse and Burro Information System (WHBIS) database was conducted earlier this FY to enable some of the offices to become self-sufficient in meeting their workload measures and reporting accomplishments. Another course will be offered if there is enough demand. For the remainder of this FY, the Royal Gorge Field Office and State Office will continue to provide reports, enter compliance data, or make phone calls if requested by any field office. In the absence of any request, it is assumed that the work is completed as required. Beginning in FY 2000 each office will be responsible for entering and reporting their own data.

Please provide the name of the wild horse and burro contact for your office and the method of completing the compliance duties to Fran Ackley (CO-50000), State Program Lead, by August 8, 1999. If you have any questions, please contact him at 719-269-8511.

Signed by
Dave Strunk
Acting Deputy State Director,
Resource Services

Authenticated by
Don Snow
EMS Operator