



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Billings Field Office
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, Montana 59101-4669
www.blm.gov/mt

In Reply Refer To:

4700 (MT010.JB)

January 13, 2015

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Billings Field Office (BiFO) is conducting a public comment period on an environmental assessment (EA) which analyzes the continued use of fertility control on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (PMWHR). The BiFO is issuing a new EA, DOI-BLM-MT-010-2015-006 and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to be available for a 30 day public review and comment period beginning January 20, 2015 and ending February 20, 2015. In addition to public comments, the BLM is inviting the public to provide any information, data or analysis that could be included in a final EA. The documents are available at the BLM website at http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/billings_field_office/wildhorses/pryorherd.html.

A preliminary EA was developed in 2013. After public comment, BLM determined that further study to the effectiveness of the existing Fertility Control prescription was warranted and did not issue a decision. This EA is tiered to the PMWHR/Territory EA (MT-010-08-24) and Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) May 2009. This tiered EA has been prepared to analyze the impacts associated to wild horses and other resources from modification to the current fertility control prescription. The analysis from the HMAP and the 2011 Fertility Control EA are incorporated by reference. All other impacts and affected environments are already described and analyzed in the HMAP and subsequent FONSI and Decision Record (DR). These documents are also available at the BLM website listed above.

Comments can be sent to blm_mt_wildhorse@blm.gov or at the letterhead address by close of business February 20, 2015. To best ensure interested party's comments are received, comments can be sent in a written form and mailed or hand-delivered to the Billings Field Office. The BLM will consider any substantive comments and revise the EA or FONSI as appropriate. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the PMWHR by the Billings Field Office. If you have any questions concerning the EA or unsigned FONSI, please contact Jared Bybee at (406) 896-5223.

Sincerely,

James M. Sparks,
Field Manager