

As discussed during the second Fish Springs Wild Horse Workshop held at the Fish Springs Fire Station on July 17, 2013, we have included the Citizen Proposed Alternative. At the next workshop we will start the discussion where we left off. Further discussion will be had on looking at all of the alternatives and shaping them into 1 alternative that we will move forward on.

Actions common to all alternatives –

1. All foals (horses less than 1 year of age) should be removed and placed into the adoption program as releasing wild horses is very stressful and the younger wild horses would not be expected to fare as well. The BLM rarely release foals back into the HMAs because the release and resulting increased chances of band composition changes is very stressful and is not tolerated well by foals. This is especially true when wild horses are released into an unfamiliar area and may encounter resident horses and released wild horses may travel substantial distances before establishing a new home range.
2. All mares would be treated with PZP a 2-year contraceptive.
3. Any released wild horses that return to an urban interface will be recaptured and placed into the adoption program or grassland pastures.
4. The BLM does not euthanize any healthy wild horses or allow them to be slaughtered. The more adoptable wild horses (younger) are placed into the adoption program and the older animals for which no adoption demand exists are placed in large grassland pastures in the Midwest.

Alternatives:

Alternative 1. Capture all the wild horses in the Fish Springs area. Release up to 10 wild horses at the intersection of Buckeye Road and Buckeye Creek, if there is agreement with the private landowner. Under this option the wild horses would be released approximately 6 miles from the Fish Springs urban interface and may return to the urban interface. They would still be outside or the HMA but they would be closer to the HMA and out of the urban interface. The wild horses may wander away from the water sources and be unable to find alternative water sources. This could result in the BLM conducting an emergency wild horse gather.

Alternative 2a. Is substantially similar to Alternative 1 with the difference being that the wild horses would be released on water in Eldorado Canyon which is inside the HMA. Under this alternative the wild horses would be released approximately 11 miles north from the Fish Spring

urban interface and 8.5 miles from the Carson City urban interface (Deer Run Rd.) substantially decreasing the chances that these wild horses would move back to an urban interface. The release site would be inside the Sunrise Grazing Allotment, the appropriate management level (AML) for the Sunrise Grazing Allotment is 9 to 13 wild horses. There are an unknown number of wild horses inside the Sunrise allotment. The wild horses may wander away from the water sources and be unable to find alternative water sources. This could result in the BLM conducting an emergency wild horse gather.

Alternative 2b. Is substantially similar to Alternative 1 with the difference being that the horses would be released on water in Eldorado Canyon which is inside the HMA. Under this alternative the wild horses would be released approximately 11 miles north from the Fish Spring urban interface and 8.5 miles from the Carson City urban interface (Deer Run Rd.) substantially decreasing the chances that these wild horses would move back to an urban interface. The release site would be inside the Sunrise Grazing Allotment, the appropriate management level (AML) for the Sunrise Grazing Allotment is 9 to 13 wild horses. There are an unknown number of wild horses inside the Sunrise Grazing Allotment. In the RMP Revision underway, the BLM would consider extending a portion of the existing Pine Nut HMA boundary south or consider a new HMA east of Fish Springs on public lands. The wild horses may wander away from the water sources and be unable to find alternative water sources. This could result in the BLM conducting an emergency wild horse gather.

Alternative 3. Capture and place all of the wild horses into the adoption program and grassland pastures. Under this alternative there would no longer be a need to insure a permanent water source for the wild horses outside the HMA.

Alternative 4 (Citizen Proposed): Remove the 3 rogue stallions (to long-term holding); keep family units intact no matter where the animals will reside or be moved to; 10 remain in Fish Springs; 10 moved to Bentley properties; all remaining horses would be moved into the Pine Nut HMA; all mares would be treated with PZP; through RMP revision, consider extension of Pine Nut HMA boundary or creation of a new HMA east of the Fish Springs area; provide Tribe and allotment owners opportunity for input; consider cooperative agreement with community-based group for long-term management of horses in the Fish Springs area.

BLMs management of wild horses is constrained by provisions of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971(Public Law 92-195), Code of Federal Regulations and the Wild Horses and Burros Management Handbook which can be found at the following links:

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971
(Public Law 92-195):

<http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov/92-195.htm>

Code of Federal Regulations, CFR 4700:

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&SID=f6ba8cbccc431956404a4984e8294bce&n=43y2.1.1.4.96&r=PART&ty=HTML#43:2.1.1.4.96.1>

Wild Horses and Burros Management Handbook:

http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Information_Resources_Management/policy/blm_handbook.Par.11148.File.dat/H-4700-1.pdf