United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Elko District Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html

In Reply Refer To:
4700 (NVE03000)

JUN 14 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The Wells and Egan Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Elko and Ely District Offices are proposing to initiate a non-helicopter gather and removal of wild horses within the Triple B, Antelope Valley (west of US93), Maverick-Medicine Herd Management Areas (HMAs) and Cherry Springs Wild Horse Territory hereafter referred as the Triple B Complex. (Refer to the enclosed map for the location of the HMAs.) An environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared to discuss the proposed project. BLM is asking, as part of the scoping effort, for the public to submit any concerns for consideration, and any and all information that would help provide for a thorough and accurate analysis.

In 2011, the BLM conducted a gather of wild horses within the Triple B Complex. The 2011 gather removed 1,269 wild horses from the Triple B Complex; however, the Complex remains above established appropriate management levels (AML). The current estimated population of wild horses within the complex is 1,085 head which is, 161% above the low end Appropriate Management Level of the Triple B Complex.

Water availability concerns at Cherry and Sabala Springs, as well as other springs were identified in the May 17, 2011 "Final Environmental Assessment: Triple B, Maverick-Medicine, and Antelope Valley Herd Management Areas Wild Horse Gather." BLM proposed in the May 2011 Final EA to gather excess wild horses both within and outside the Triple B Complex. However, due to not achieving the AML during gather operations and current monitoring information, the BLM has determined that water resource concerns still exist throughout the combined area. The BLM hauled over 60,000 gallons of water in 2011 to the Triple B and Maverick-Medicine HMAs.

The Triple B Complex continues to experiencing severe drought conditions. To reduce these concerns, water /bait trapping would be utilized to relieve pressure off the springs or until a follow up gather can take place. The proposed gathering of the wild horses utilizing bait/water trapping would occur at any time of the year and would continue until the target number of animals are removed or attainment of AML, to relieve concentrated use by wild horses in the area, or to resolve resource concerns.

The proposed EA would continue to address water resource concerns identified in the May 17, 2011 "Final Environmental Assessment: Triple B, Maverick-Medicine, and Antelope Valley

Herd Management Areas Wild Horse Gather (Triple B Complex)" which still exist throughout the Triple B and Maverick-Medicine area.

The public is encouraged to participate throughout the planning process. If you have any information, data, analysis, or issues or concerns about this proposed gather and removal of wild horses, please submit them in writing, prior to 5 pm (PST) on June 28, 2012. Please address your comments to the BLM Wells Field Office, Attention: Wells Field Office Manager, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV. Comments may be mailed to the above address, faxed to (775) 753-0255, or e-mailed to: BLM_NV_ELDO_TripleBMaverickMedicine@blm.gov

Written comments in response to this scoping notice, including the names and addresses of each commenter will be available for public review. 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.

The public should be aware that submissions in the form of petitions are not generally considered comments. Submission of form letters or talking points will be considered as one comment, since they repeat the same thing and typically originate from single sources.

Thank you for your interest in wild horses. If you have questions concerning the proposed wild horse gather please call Bruce Thompson at (775) 753-0200.

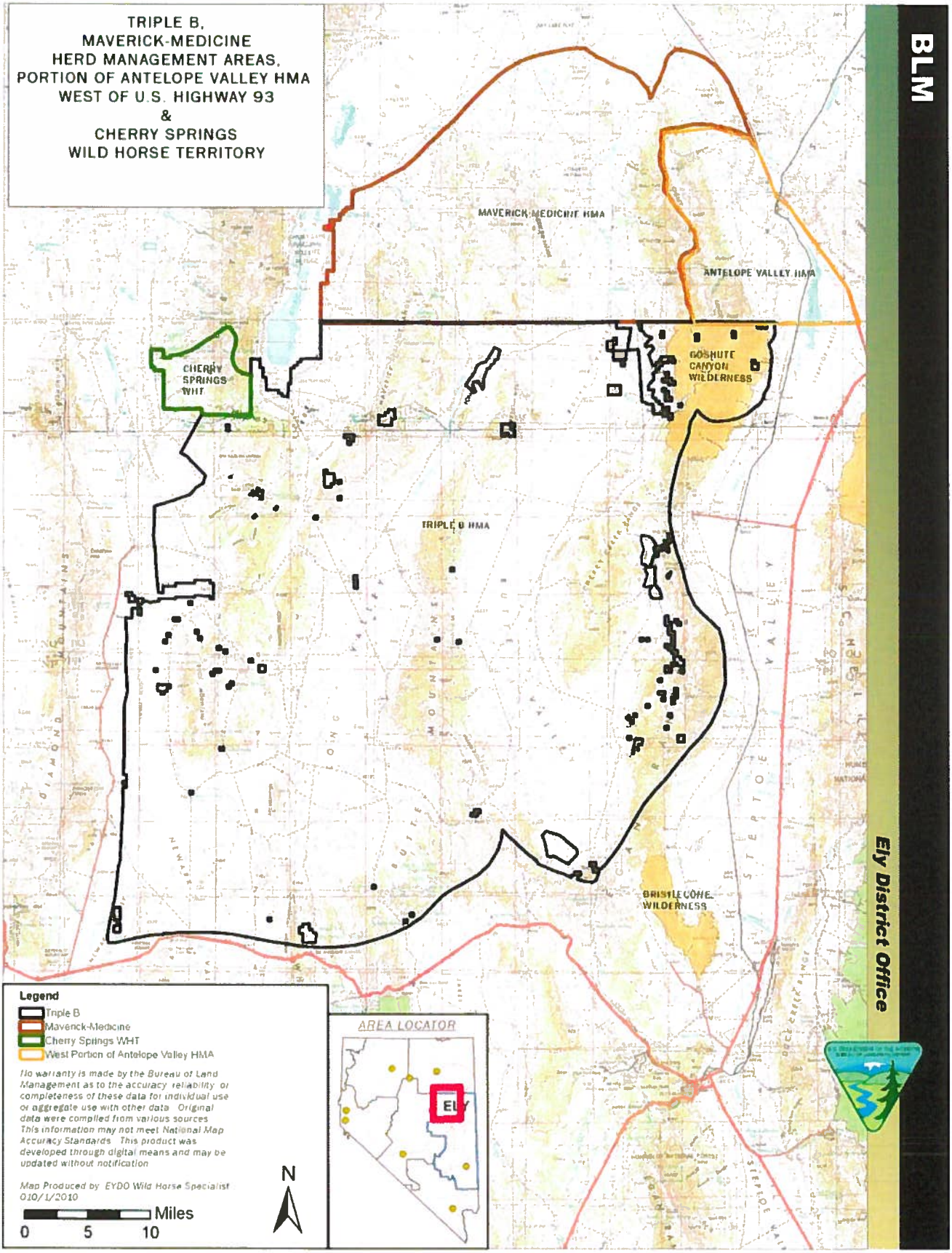
Sincerely,

Bryan K. Fuell, Manager
Wells Field Office

Enclosure

CC:
Animal Rescue Network International
Barrick Cortez, Inc.
Kathleen Bertrand
Wesley Bowlen
Brough Partnership
Mary L. Bush
John C. Carpenter
The Cloud Foundation
Congressman Amodei
Kathryn M. Cushman
Mark Damele
Dawley Creek Ranch
Craig C Downer
Double U Livestock
Elko County Natural Resources
Elko County Manager
Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
Ely District BLM
Ely Ranger District
Eureka County Natural Resources Dept.
Eureka Producers Cooperative
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Pete Goicoechea
Sam and Clelia Henroid
Vaughn Higbee
Dan Hoots

Martha Hoots
Vaugh Higbee
Kenneth Jones
In Defense for Animals
Karen Klitz
Priscilla Lane
Robin C Lahnes
Kay and Mary K. Lear
Kit Lear
The Little Paris Sheep Company, LLC
RC McClymonds
Kenny Merkley
Michael O. Morrison
McKay Livestock, Inc.
Moorman Ranch LLC
Theresa Minolitti
Jeanne Nations
National Mustang Association
Neil and Kristin McQueary
Roberta L. Moore
Tina Nappe
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Farm Bureau
NDOW
Resource Concepts, Inc.
Elnoma Reeves
Doug d. Robison
Herbert Stathes
Michael Stafford
Don & Sheila Phillips
Micheal J. Podborny -NDOW
Leona Rawley
Senator Dean Rhoads
Raymond & Sandy Rosenlund
Honorable Harry Reid
Mike Scott - NDOW
Leona Rawley
Doug D. Robison
Robert Scholl
Warren W Scoppettone
Sierra Club
Sierra Club – Toiyabe Chapter
Sierra Club – Toiyabe Chapter
Carl Slagowski
Tumbling Jr Ranch
Turner & Irlbeck Ranch
John Uhalde & Co
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Henry C. Vogler
Jack and Irene Walther
Barbara Warner
Jim West
Western Watershed Project White Pine Co Commissioners
Wild Horse Preservation League
Wild Horse Sanctuary
Wild Horse Spirit
Buster and Gwen Wines
Sterling Wines


TRIPLE B,
MAVERICK-MEDICINE
HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS,
PORTION OF ANTELOPE VALLEY HMA
WEST OF U.S. HIGHWAY 93
&
CHERRY SPRINGS
WILD HORSE TERRITORY
MAVERICK-MEDICINE HMA
ANTELOPE VALLEY HMA
CHERRY SPRINGS WHT
GOSHUTE CANYON WILDERNESS
TRIPLE B HMA
BRISTLECONE WILDERNESS
Legend
Triple B
Maverick-Medicine
Cherry Springs WHT
West Portion of Antelope Valley HMA
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data Original data were compiled from various sources This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification
Map Produced by EYDO Wild Horse Specialist 010/1/2010
Miles
0 5 10
N
AREA LOCATOR
ELY
BLM
Ely District Office