United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Email: AugustaMts_HMA_PrelimEA@blm.gov
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

In Reply Refer to:

4700/1792 (NV-010-18)

OCT 06 2010

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Humboldt River Field Office (HRFO) is proposing to gather up to 344 horses from the Augusta Mountains HMA and surrounding area. The wild horses gathered from within the Augusta HMA would be released back into the HMA. Of these, all mares released would be vaccinated with PZP-22 (Porcine Zona Pellucida) fertility control vaccine to slow population growth, maintain population size within the appropriate management level (AML), and extend the time before another gather to remove excess wild horses would be needed. Approximately 50 excess wild horses have established home ranges well outside of the HMA in the adjoining Fish Creek Mountains and would be gathered and removed from the range during this gather. The proposal and associated impacts are described and analyzed in the *Preliminary Environmental Assessment/ Augusta Mountains HMA Wild Horse Gather Plan* (preliminary EA). The preliminary EA can be reviewed online at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html. Hardcopies are available upon request from the Winnemucca District Office.

This action is needed to slow population growth, maintain population size within Appropriate Management Level (AML), manage wild horses within the management areas designated for management and extend the time before another gather would be needed to remove excess wild horses. By maintaining population size within AML, rangeland resources would be sustained and protected from the deterioration associated from wild horse overpopulation. This strategy ensures a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple use relationship on public lands in the area and is consistent with the provisions of Section 3(b)(2) of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (WFRHBA). The action would also result in fewer wild horses being placed in short or long-term holding or the adoption and sale programs over the next 5 to 10 years. Another need is to control WH&B population growth over time to allow fire rehabilitation treatments to become established and successfully re-vegetate areas where past fires burned.

The BLM would appreciate receiving substantive comments on this preliminary EA within thirty days from the date of this letter. Questions and written comments should be directed to:

Michael Truden, Field Manager, Humboldt River Field Office
BLM Winnemucca District Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd
Winnemucca, NV 89445-2921

Comments may also be submitted by email to AugustaMts_HMA_PrelimEA@nv.blm.gov. Email messages should include "Augusta Mountains Gather Plan (Fox)" in the subject line.

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 made 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.

After the public review period has ended on the Augusta Mountains HMA Wild Horse Gather Plan Preliminary EA, comments will be analyzed and considered in finalizing the EA.

Sincerely,

Michael Truden
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office