



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca District Office
Humboldt River Field Office
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www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo.html

In Reply Refer To:
4700/1792 (NV-010-21)

SEP - 7 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Winnemucca District, Humboldt River Field Office and Elko District, Tuscarora Field Office are soliciting public comment on the Owyhee Complex Herd Management Area (HMA) Wild Horse Gather Plan Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA). The Action Alternatives are as follows:

Alternative A. Phased-in Gather and Selective Removal of Excess Wild Horses with Population Growth Control using fertility control treatments (PZP-22 or most current formulations), and sex ratio adjustments.

Alternative B. Gather and Selective Removal of Excess Wild Horses to Low End AML with Population Growth Control using fertility control treatments (PZP-22 or most current formulations) and sex ratio adjustments.

Alternative C. Gather and Remove Excess Animals to within AML without Fertility Control or Sex Ratio Adjustment.

The gather is needed to remove excess wild horses to help prevent further deterioration of range conditions, reduce population growth rates, achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and maintain healthy wild horse populations. High wild horse numbers combined with low precipitation have resulted in poor forage and water conditions in the HMA. Helicopter drive trap and/or bait trapping may be considered. The gather is currently proposed for November 2012 and is expected to take approximately 45 days.

The proposal and associated impacts are described and analyzed in the Owyhee Complex Herd Management Area Wild Horse Gather Preliminary Environmental Assessment and can be viewed online at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html. Hardcopies of these documents are available upon request from the Winnemucca District Office.

The BLM would appreciate receiving substantive comments on this preliminary EA by close of business (4:30 pm), October 9, 2012. Questions and written comments should be directed to:

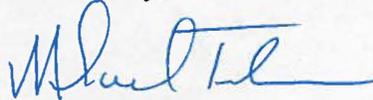
Bonnie Million, Project Coordinator
BLM Winnemucca District Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd
Winnemucca, NV 89445-2921

Comments can also be submitted by email to OwyheeComplexEA@blm.gov. Email messages should include "Owyhee Complex Gather" in the subject line.

Commenters should be aware before including their address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in their comment, that their entire comment -including personal identifying information -may be made publicly available at any time. While they can ask BLM in their comment to withhold personal identifying information from public review, BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. Anonymity is not allowed for submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

After the public review period has concluded (October 9, 2012) for the Owyhee Gather Preliminary EA, comments will be analyzed and considered in preparation of the final EA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Truden", written in a cursive style.

Michael Truden
Field Manager
Humboldt River Field Office