

DECISION RECORD

DECISION

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environment impacts. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the Lander Resource Management Plan approved in June, 2014. This decision approves the proposed Double D Ranch Eco-sanctuary for the purpose of housing 100 excess wild horses on private and leased lands with the option to increase the numbers to 150 head. Pasturing of leased lands will be done in accordance with BIA permit regulations. If additional lands are secured within the project area as detailed in EA DOI-BLM-WY-050-2014-07-EA, additional horses could be considered.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION

This decision allows for the BLM to enter into a Cooperative Agreement (CA) for the care and maintenance of 100 excess wild horses, with the future option to increase the numbers if monitoring and compliance actions are successfully met. The Preferred Alternative will result in converting a cattle ranch operation into a wild horse eco-sanctuary. Only wild horses would be pastured on approved lands within the project area. Existing facilities, range improvements and modification of existing fencing between Double D Ranch controlled lands and adjacent private land are part of the Preferred Alternative. Wild horses maintained at the Double D Ranch will be non-reproducing animals gathered primarily from Wyoming's Herd Management Areas (HMAs).

APPEALS

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. If an appeal is taken (see 43 CFR 4.410), your notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days (see 43 CFR 4.411) from receipt of this decision to:

Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Lander Field Office
1335 Main Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why you think the final decision is in error (see 43 CFR 4.412).

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulations at 43 CFR 4.21 for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay:

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If you decide to submit a petition for stay of the decision, a copy of the notice of appeal, statement of reasons, and petition for stay should be simultaneously filed with the Office of Regional Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 755 Parfet Street, Suite 151, Lakewood, CO 80215.

If you have questions concerning this decision please contact Scott Fluer, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist or Rubel Vigil, Jr., Assistant Field Manager, Lander Field Office at (307) 332-8400.

Authorized Official:

Richard Vander Voet
Richard Vander Voet, Field Manager

12/09/14
Date