

North Antelope Treatment Site Modifications Completed
Monday, Dec. 6, 2004

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The BLM Ely Field Office on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2004, completed its modifications to the North Antelope Valley Cheatgrass, Halogeton, and Russian Thistle Treatment Research Project Site in northern White Pine County.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
SHERIFF IN CHIEF
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION



Shown from the inside is one of three finger, or escape, gates installed in the fencing along the North Antelope Valley Cheatgrass, Halogeton, and Russian Thistle Treatment Research Project site.

Modifications consisted of realigning the fence to exclude from the project area two water sources and installation of five wire and three finger, or escape, gates. Wire gates were installed on roadways to provide for easier vehicle access. Finger, or escape, gates were installed at strategic locations to allow horses egress from the project area. One finger, or escape, gate was installed in the upper and smaller enclosure, and two were installed in the lower and larger enclosure. The spring-loaded finger, or escape, gates were constructed at the Ely field office, based on examples used by the BLM Las Vegas District.

RESEARCH ENCLOSURES
IF LARGE ANIMALS ARE SEEN
INSIDE THE ENCLOSURES,
PLEASE CONTACT ELY BLM OFFICE
775-289-1800

Signs were also posted at strategic locations along the fence encouraging the public to immediately contact the field office should they see any large animals inside the project area.

The modifications accomplished, the project has resumed.

Monitoring of the site will continue.

The modifications were initiated following the deaths of seven wild horses, discovered in May 2004. Upon making the discovery, the BLM Ely Field Office immediately had the existing project gates wired-open and water restored to a source inside the enclosure.

BLM Ely Field Office staff subsequently determined that the project was not constructed in accordance with stipulations described in the Environmental Assessment (EA). Staff reviewed the project from conception to construction to determine why the gates and other specific stipulations had not been implemented as documented in the decision record.

Upon making the discovery, the BLM Ely Field Office notified the following of the deaths and ongoing investigation: Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, National Mustang Association, National Wild Horse Association, Northeast Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, Nevada State Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, and Wild Horse Organized Assistance.

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