



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/ely>



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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

In Reply Refer To:
NOPA-NV-040-06-04

DEC 08 2005

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION **LANDS IN WILDERNESS**

STATE: Nevada

COUNTY: Lincoln

FIELD OFFICE: Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
702 North Industrial Way.
Ely, Nevada 89301

WILDERNESS AREAS: Meadow Valley Range, and Clover Mountains

PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action is to capture and remove all wild horses from the Delamar Mountains, Applewhite, Meadow Valley Mountains, Bluenose Peak, Clover Mountains, and Clover Creek HMAs.

Background

The Southern Nevada Complex Fires were ignited by dry lightning storms and burned approximately 740,000 acres from June 22, 2005 to July 10, 2005. Of the total areas burned, 597,096 acres are on lands managed by the Ely BLM Field Office. These fires burned or affected portions of the following Wild Horse Herd Management Areas (HMAs): Delamar Mountains, Meadow Valley Range, Blue Nose Peak, and Clover Mountains HMAs which include portions of the Meadow Valley Range Wilderness and the Clover Mountains Wilderness.

A helicopter flight was completed in order to determine if current Wild Horse population estimates were accurate, ascertain distribution patterns and observe wild horse herd and individual animal health. The flight indicated wild horse population estimates were accurate as well as animals suffering from a lack of forage. Emaciated animals were observed in burned areas in the Delamar Mountains, Clover Mountains, Meadow Valley Mountains, and Blue Nose Peak.

Description of the Proposed Action

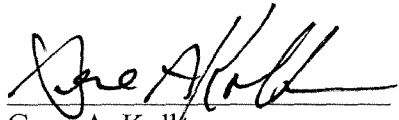
The Proposed Action is to capture and remove all wild horses from the Delamar Mountains, Applewhite, Meadow Valley Mountains, Bluenose Peak, Clover Mountains, and Clover Creek HMAs. The proposed gather areas overlap with the Meadow Valley Range Wilderness and the Clover Mountains Wilderness. (See attached map) Approximately 100-150 wild horses are currently living in the affected area, and the BLM would attempt to capture and remove all of those wild horses. It is expected that 85 percent of the wild horses in the area could be caught, leaving approximately 25 wild horses (although a 100 percent capture rate would be attempted). That would make the expected population after gathering to be approximately 25 wild horses which could require subsequent gathering.

Capture techniques would consist of helicopter-drive trapping method and/or roping from horseback. The gather is proposed to occur in January 2006, and last approximately three weeks.

Multiple capture sites (traps) would be used to capture wild horses from the complex. No trap sites, holding facilities, or camping areas would be set up in Wilderness Areas. Landing of aircraft and use of other motorized vehicles would not be authorized within the Wilderness Areas.

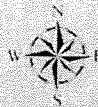
An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared for the proposal. All comments are to be sent directly to the Field Manager for consideration and use in evaluating and processing the proposed action at the address above within the comment period of

JAN 09 2006

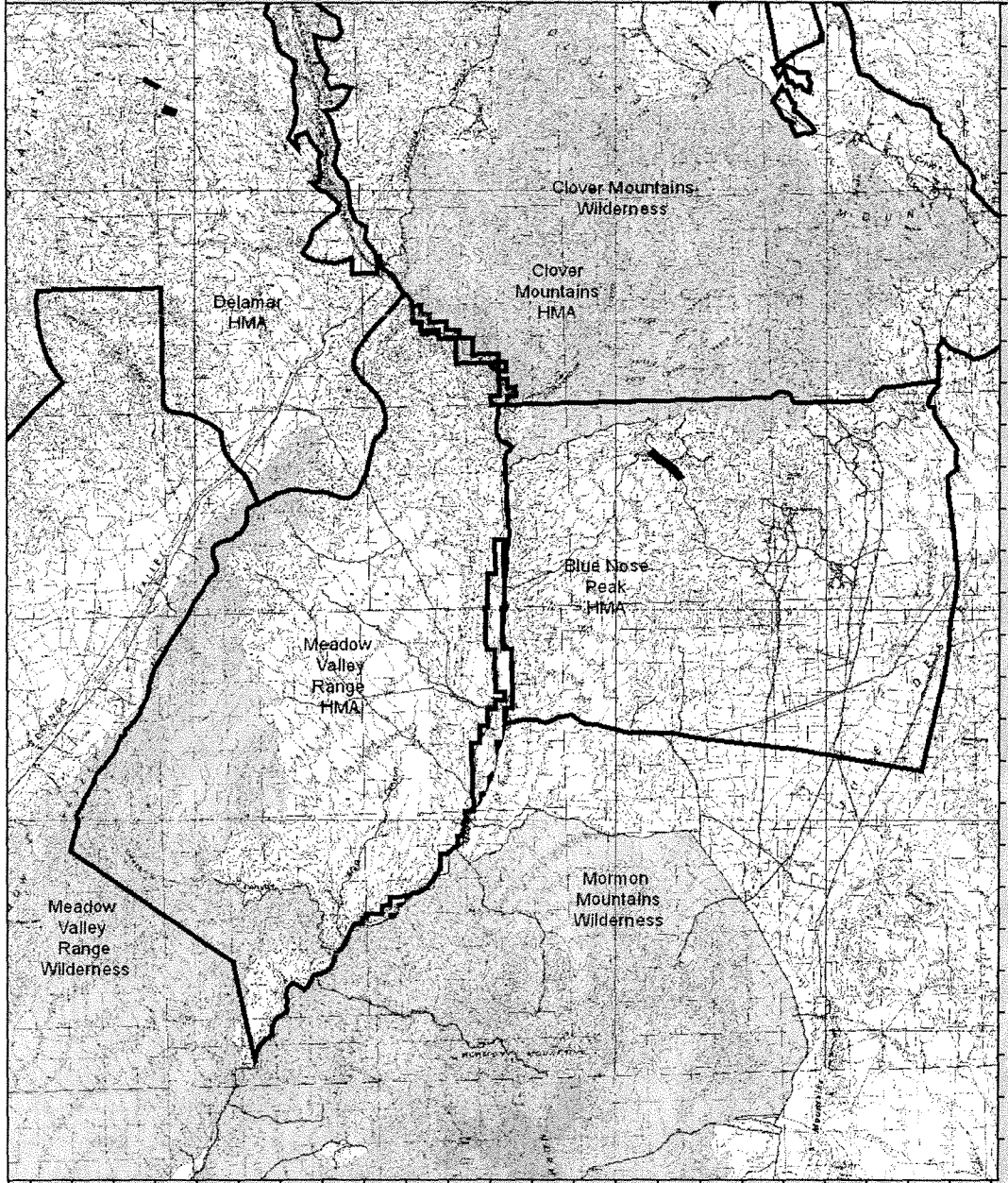


Gene A. Kolkman,
Field Manager

12/18/05
Date



South Desert Fire Proposed Horser Gather Area



702000 704000 706000 708000 710000 712000 714000 716000 718000 720000 722000 724000 726000 728000 730000 732000 734000 736000 738000 740000 742000 744000 746000 748000

Legend

- Wilderness Boundary
- Herd Management Area



1:180,000
Projection: NAD 83 Zone 11 North

Ely BLM Field Office
December 2004
For more information call 775-289-1800

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