



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca Field Office
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Winnemucca, Nevada 89445
702-623-1500

G 6/1/98
In Reply Refer To:
(NV-22.41)
4720.1

June 1, 1998

NOTICE OF INTENT TO GATHER

Dear Reader:

This letter is to inform you that the Winnemucca Field Office plans to remove excess wild horses from the Lava Beds, Seven Troughs, Bluewing Mtns., Kamma Mtns., and Shawave/Nightingale Mtns. Herd Management Areas (HMAs) as well as the Selenite Range, Antelope Range, and Trinity Range Herd Areas (HAs) starting no earlier than July 1, 1998. A helicopter census, scheduled to start June 15th, will determine the current number of wild horses and burros, and the number to be removed during the gather. The removal is a continuation of the implementation of the Notice of Final Full Force and Effect Multiple Use Decision for the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Allotment issued December 6, 1994, and the Sonoma-Gerlach MFP-III.

The multiple use decision established the Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs) and management ranges for the HMAs listed above. The Sonoma-Gerlach MFP-III established that all wild horses and burros were to be removed from the Selenite Range, the Antelope Range, and Trinity Range HAs. Capture methods remain the same as stated in the Winter 1995 Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Wild Horse and Burro Removal Plan and Environmental Assessment dated December 6, 1994, and the Checkerboard Wild Horse and Burro Removal Plan dated April 27, 1992. The removal is in accordance with the Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-195) section 3(b)(1) and (2), as amended. This removal constitutes no new decision and is not an appealable action.

The intent of the removal is to achieve AML in the above HMAs. The action will initiate a management range of 336 to 448 wild horses and 55 to 73 burros in the HMAs and allow wild horses and burros to be reduced to the established AML of zero in the Selenite Range, the Antelope Range, and the Trinity Range HAs. The removal will help achieve a thriving natural ecological balance on the concerned range and help maintain healthy, viable herds in the indicated HMAs. Based on current policy, horses up to nine years of age may be removed. This requires that horses 10 years of age and older captured in the HAs be returned to the HA from which it was caught or relocated to an HMA.

The following table indicates the management range for each HMA:

<u>HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS</u>	<u>HORSE AML Management Range</u>	<u>BURRO AML Management Range</u>
Lava Beds	89 to 119	10 to 13
Seven Troughs	93 to 124	28 to 37
Kamma Mountains	48 to 64	0
Shawave/Nightingale	84 to 112	0
Bluewing Mountains	<u>22 to 29</u> 336 to 448	<u>17 to 23</u> 55 to 73

The estimated population of the Lava Beds, Seven Troughs, Bluewing Mtns., Shawave/Nightingales, and the Selenite Range is based on the census of June 1995 and factors in an 11% rate of increase per year. Population information for the Kamma Mtns, the Antelopes, and the Trinity Range is based on February 1998 Kamma Mtn. and Antelope Range gather information and December 1997 Trinity Range census information. Both include an 11% rate of increase for 1998.

<u>HMA/HA</u>	<u>1998 ESTIMATED WILD HORSE POPULATION</u>	<u>1998 ESTIMATED BURRO POPULATION</u>
Lava Beds	411	38
Seven Troughs	400	94
** Kamma Mtns.	78	0
Shawave/Nightingale	687	0
Bluewing Mtns.	41	38
** Antelope Range HA	36	0
Selenite Range HA	72	22
Trinity Range HA	<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>
	1746	200

** In February 1998 a removal and fertility study were conducted in these areas. Neither the Kamma Mountains nor the Antelope Range will be included in the proposed removal activity unless horses/burros enter them from adjoining areas during gather procedures and must be removed.

The total estimated population is 1946 animals. Of these, it is estimated that 1200 animals will meet the age criteria and be removed from the range.

The Winter 1995 Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Wild Horse and Burro Removal Plan and Environmental Assessment, and the Checkerboard Wild Horse and Burro Removal Plan are available for review at the Winnemucca Field Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Rodger Bryan, Tom Seley, or Nadine Francis at (702) 623-1500

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Colin P. Christensen".

Colin P. Christensen
Assistant District Manager
Division of Renewable Resources