



United States Department of the Interior

5/8/97

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca District Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445
702-623-1500

In Reply Refer To:
(NV-022.40)

May 8, 1997

NOTICE OF INTENT TO GATHER

Dear READER:

This letter is to inform you that the Winnemucca District plans to remove excess wild horses from the Little Owyhee and South Jackson Mountains Herd Management Areas (HMA's) starting no earlier than August 1, 1997. These removals are a continuation of the implementation of the Notice of Final Full Force and Effect Multiple Use Decisions for the following allotments:

| <u>Allotment</u> | <u>Date of Decision</u> | <u>Date of Capture Plan/EA</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Little Owyhee | March 26, 1993 | September 1, 1993 |
| Jackson Mountains | May 27, 1994 | August 30, 1994 |

The Multiple Use Decisions established the Appropriate Management Levels for these Allotments and the Capture Plans/EA's implemented those decisions. This removal constitutes no new decision and is therefore not an appealable action. The capture methods and procedures remain the same as stated in the documents listed above. These removals are 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.

The intent of these removals is to achieve AML, and to initiate management of the wild horse populations within the ranges established in the Notice Of Full Force and Effect Multiple Use Decisions for the above listed Allotments. Based on current policy, horses up to nine years of age may be removed.

The following table lists the management range and the estimated wild horse populations for the Allotments. The estimated populations are based on post removal numbers, census and distribution flights and projected annual rates of increase. The numbers include projected foals through July 1, 1997. These numbers will be verified with flights scheduled for the week of June 23, 1997.

| <u>HMA</u> | <u>AML/RANGE</u> | <u>POPULATION ESTIMATE</u> |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Little Owyhee | 194/298 adults | 850 |
| Jackson Mountain | 117 | 240 |

The AML may be reached on the Jackson Mountains HMA while it is unlikely the top end of the range for the Little Owyhee will be achieved. At this time given age structure and reproduction estimates the estimated post removal (1997) population for the Little Owyhee is 340 horses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ron Hall at (702) 623-1574.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin P. Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Colin P. Christensen
Assistant District Manager
Division of Renewable Resources