



United States Department of the Interior

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

In Reply Refer To:
(NV-022.42)
4720.1

December 15, 1997

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 Kamma Mountains Herd Management Area (HMA) and Antelope Range Herd Area (HA) starting no earlier than February 1, 1998. 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. A fertility control research project is scheduled in conjunction with the removal.

The multiple use decision established the Appropriate Management Level for the Kamma Mountains HMA, and the Sonoma-Gerlach MFP-III established that all wild horses were to be removed from the Antelope Range HA. The 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 reduce the wild horse population in the Antelope Range HA, achieve AML in the Kamma Mountains and initiate management of the wild horse within the population range of 48 to 64 head established in the Notice of Final Full Force and Effect Multiple Use Decision. 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 Antelope Range must be returned to the HA

The following table lists the management range and the estimated wild horse population for the Kamma Mountains HMA and Antelope Range HA. The estimated population is based on an December 1997 census.

<u>HMA</u>	<u>AML</u> <u>Management Range</u>	<u>Population</u> <u>Estimate</u>
Kamma Mountains	horses 48 to 64	106
Antelope Range	horses 0	161*

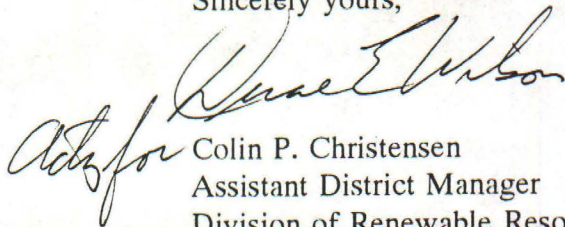
* includes 51 that moved from the Antelope Range HA to the checkerboard area of the Seven Troughs HMA.

Enclosed is a preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) which analyzes the environmental consequences of implementing a proposed fertility control research project on Kamma Mountains HMA and Antelope Range HA. Please provide your comments concerning the proposed fertility control project by January 16, 1998. After the comment period and incorporation of public comments, a Record of Decision will be issued Full Force and Effect in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations 4770.3(c).

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, Nadine Francis, or Tom Seley at (702) 623-1500.

Sincerely yours,


Colin P. Christensen
Assistant District Manager
Division of Renewable Resources