

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Ridgecrest Field Office 300 South Richmond Road Ridgecrest, CA 93555-4436



CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7099 3220 0005 3367 4910 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

IN REPLY REFER TO: 1060 (CA-650.34)

NOV 3 0 2000

Wild Horse Organized Assistance Attn: Dawn Lappin P.O. Box 555 Reno, NV. 89504

Dear Dawn,

This is a notice of intent by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ridgecrest Field Office, to implement wild horse and burros removals from the Panamint, Slate Range and the Centennial Herd Management Areas (HMAs). These three HMAs have management levels for 0 burros and the Centennial HMA has an appropriate management level of 168 horses. Most of the Centennial HMA is within the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, which has management responsibility for wild horses and burros which occur on their administered lands.

The BLM proposes to utilize helicopter assisted gather methods to remove all <u>burros encountered</u> from the above mentioned HMAs, approximately 100 burros, and to assist the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station to remove up to 170 wild horses of all ages to achieve the appropriate management level for the Centennial HMA. They will be transported to the Ridgecrest Wild Horse and Burro Holding Facility where they will be prepared for adoption. The capture methods and handling of the animals is addressed in the "Ridgecrest Resource Area / Naval Air Weapons Station Capture Plan for Wild horses and Burros for the Centennial, Slate and Panamint Herd Management Areas, Fiscal Year 1997". The operation is planned to begin around January 8, 2001 and is expected to last for approximately 4 weeks. The capture plan and associated environmental assessment will be made available upon request.

The BLM provides for a thirty (30) day review and comment period, from receipt of this notice, in which individuals and organizations, affected by the proposed action, can submit their input to be considered in our planning and decision making process.

Therefore, I would appreciate it if you have any comments or questions concerning this action, or need further clarification concerning the capture, please contact me at the above address or contact Alex Neibergs, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist at 760-384-5434.

Thank you for your prompt attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

01100.00m

Hector Villalobos Field Manager

