



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Eagle Lake Field Office
2950 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
www.ca.blm.gov/eaglelake



1-02-08
EAGLE LAKE

In Reply Refer to:
4100 (CA350) P
EA# CA-350-2007-35

01/02/08

DECISION RECORD Environmental Assessment CA-350-2007-35

RAVENDALE WILD HORSE GATHER PLAN

Decision

Based on all the information available to me, it is my decision to implement the Proposed Action of Environmental Assessment #CA-350-2007-35. No additional mitigation measures were identified as a result of the environmental analysis.

Rationale

The Proposed Action and No Action alternative was analyzed in Environmental Assessment # CA-350-2007-35.

The No Action Alternative was not selected as it would not restore a thriving natural ecological balance. Available water would continue to be limited and season-long wild horse use in upland and riparian areas would continue to increase. As the wild horse population grew, damage to the rangeland resources would result.

I have chosen to implement the Proposed Action because this alternative would lead to restoration of a thriving natural ecological balance between wild horses and their habitat. The proposed action is to gather and reduce the herd from about 75 to 15 to 25 horses or the Appropriate Management Levels (AML) identified for this herd. The proposed action is conformance with BLM's 2001 Wild Horse Strategy, which is to implement population management for each HMA.

Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Policies, Plans, or Other Environmental Analysis

Implementation of the Proposed Action is consistent with land use planning goals and objectives, and it is in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The Proposed Action is authorized under Section 3(b) (2) of the 1971 Free-Roaming Wild Horses and Burros Act and Section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) for this herd affected by the Proposed Action was signed in 1989. The Management Framework Plan provides general management direction, the 1983 decision established the AML, and the HMAP provides management parameters.

Discussion

An external scoping letter was sent (09/17/2007) to known interested and/or affected parties describing the proposed action and providing information on how to provide comments which would be used in determining issues needing to be addressed and whether or not there are unresolved conflicts with available resources. No written comments were received.

One phone conversation was received by an interested public and wild horse advocate. Bob Parker contacted the BLM (R. Mauck, Senior Rangeland Management Specialist) to discuss the reduction of wild horses. He was convinced that the BLM would zero out or eliminate this herd if the proposed action went forward. This was not the case and by the end of the conversation, Mr. Parker indicated that he had a better understanding of the wild horse management project in the Eagle Lake Field Office. He was assured the proposed action was a reduction down to management levels and not an elimination of this small herd. This herd has been managed this way since the 1980's with good results as indicated by healthy and adoptable horses.

Based upon Environmental Assessment #CA-350-2007-35, the comments received regarding the EA, and the evaluation of criteria requiring preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, I have determined that implementation of the Proposed Action of the Ravendale Herd Management Area Capture Plan would not result in any significant impacts on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, according to Section 102(2)(c) of NEPA, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Appeals:

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the authorized officer, (January 2, 2008) and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay.

Within 30 days of your receipt of this decision, you have the right of appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulation at 43 CFR, Part 4, Subpart E and 43 CFR 4770.3 (a) and (c). Within 30 days after filing a Notice of Appeal, you are required to provide a complete statement of the reasons why you are appealing. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. If you wish to file an Appeal and Petition for a Stay, the Petition for a Stay must accompany your Notice of Appeal and be in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 4, Subpart E and 43 CFR 4770.3 (c). Copies of the Notice of Appeal and Petition for Stay must be submitted to: (1) the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC, Arlington, VA 22203, (2) the Regional Solicitor's Office, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, room E-2753, Sacramento, CA 95825-1890, and (3) the Bureau of

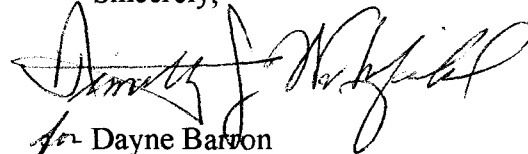
Land Management, Eagle Lake Field Office, 2950 Riverside Dr, Susanville, CA 96130. The original documents should be filed with the Eagle Lake Field Office.

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted. A petition for a stay of decision pending appeals shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and,
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) at the same time it is filed with the authorized officer. Refer to form 1842-1 for details.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dayne Barton", written over a horizontal line.

for Dayne Barton
Eagle Lake Field Manager

1-2-08



United States Department of the Interior



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EA# CA-350-2007-35

01/02/08

Dear Interested Party,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (EA # CA-350-2007-35) analyzing the impacts of authorizing a wild horse gather of approximately 55 wild horses from the Ravendale Herd Management area in the Ravendale Allotment. The reduction of wild horses will bring the total number of wild horses down to appropriate management levels (AMLs) of 15 to 25. Please find enclosed EA, Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and the decision record for your information and review.

Decision

Based on all the information available to me, it is my decision to implement the Proposed Action of Environmental Assessment #CA-350-2007-35. No additional mitigation measures were identified as a result of the environmental analysis.

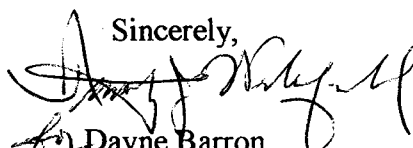
Rationale

The Proposed Action and No Action alternative were analyzed in the environmental assessment. The No Action Alternative was not selected as it would not restore a thriving natural ecological balance. Available water would continue to be limited and season-long wild horse use in upland and riparian areas would continue to increase. As the wild horse population grew, damage to the rangeland resources would result.

I have chosen to implement the proposed action because this alternative would lead to restoration of a thriving natural ecological balance between wild horses and their habitat. The proposed action is to gather and reduce the herd from current estimate of 75 to 15 to 25 horses. The proposed action is in conformance with BLM's 2001 Wild Horse Strategy, which is to implement population management for each HMA.

If you have questions please contact Ralph Mauck, Senior Rangeland Management Specialist of my staff at 1-530-257-0456 or email rmauck@ca.blm.gov. Specific information is provided in the final decision for any actions related to this decision.

Sincerely,


for Dayne Barron
Eagle Lake Field Manager