



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL WEAPONS CENTER  
CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA 93555

11-20-79  
IN REPLY REFER TO

November 20, 1979

To: Those Interested

The Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a management plan for control of non-native feral (wild free-roaming) burros (Equus asinus) on lands administered by the Commander, Naval Weapons Center.

The purpose of this action is the development of a long-range program of management and control for feral burros on the Naval Weapons Center. Excessively high populations of feral burros on the desert lands occupied by the Center are damaging costly test and evaluation equipment, and creating safety hazards on public roads and highways as well as the Navy access roads. Additionally, the extent of environmental damage caused by large numbers of burros around springs and watering places is detrimental to the welfare of native vegetation and wildlife. The competition between native species and burros for habitat is a matter of serious concern in the exercise of good stewardship over the lands and the resources for which the Naval Weapons Center is responsible.

The EIS will consider the following alternatives: a management and control program compatible with the welfare of native species, available water and the carrying capacity of the habitat; adoption of burros by interested private citizens; total elimination of feral burros from Naval Weapons Center land; other methods of population control; and no project.

A public scoping meeting will be held on the EIS to determine the issues of concern and to identify significant issues related to the proposed action. This meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on December 12, 1979 in the Lecture Center at Burroughs High School in Ridgecrest, California.

The meeting is open to the public for comment on the proposed action. Comments should summarize the viewpoint of the speaker and will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker. Detailed comments may be submitted in writing for consideration. Written comments may be sent to the address shown below. For information concerning the proposed EIS contact:

Naval Weapons Center  
Attention: Public Works Officer, Code 26309  
China Lake, California, 93555  
Telephone 939-3411, extension 382, 383, or 384.