

6-7-06



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Surprise Field Office
602 Cressler Street
Cedarville, CA 96104
www.ca.blm.gov/surprise

In Reply Refer To:
4700 (CA-370) P
CA-264

June 7, 2006

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

STATE: Nevada

COUNTY: Washoe

FIELD OFFICE: Surprise Field Office

PROPOSED ACTION: Gather and remove wild horses from the High Rock Herd Management Area

WILDERNESS AREAS: High Rock Canyon
East Fork High Rock Canyon
Little High Rock Canyon

Background

Portion of the High Rock Herd Management Area (HMA) are within the High Rock Canyon, East Fork High Rock Canyon and Little High Rock Canyon wilderness areas (see attached map).

An Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the wild horse population within the High Rock HMA is established at a range of 78–120 animals in environmental assessments CA-028-93-03, and CA-370-01-07. An AML range is the minimum and a desired upper level for the population of horses within a HMA.

The estimated population for the High Rock HMA, including foals is 482 wild horses. However, an unknown number of these horses have moved to adjacent lands outside the HMA.

Description of the Proposed Action

The Surprise Field Office proposes to gather and remove an estimated 404 wild horses (including foals) from the High Rock HMA and adjacent areas. The goal would be to leave 78 wild horses

within the HMA consistent with low end of the AML range. Following the gather, wild horses would be allowed to increase to the upper end of the AML range when additional gathers would be scheduled (approximately 3-4 years). The gather would be completed using a helicopter to herd horses from the wilderness areas and other portions of the HMA into trapping facilities. The gather is scheduled for September, 2006. Gathering facilities would be located outside of wilderness area boundaries.

The proposed action also includes repair of the existing fence on the east side of the herd management area that acts as boundary between the High Rock HMA and the Warm Springs Canyon HMA. An preliminary environmental assessment analyzing potential effects of capturing and managing wild horses within the herd management areas will be issued and available for review in late June 2006.

If you have comments on this proposed activity please contact Owen Billingsley, Field Manager at the address above, or at 530-279-6101. The comment period for this notice will close on July 10, 2006.

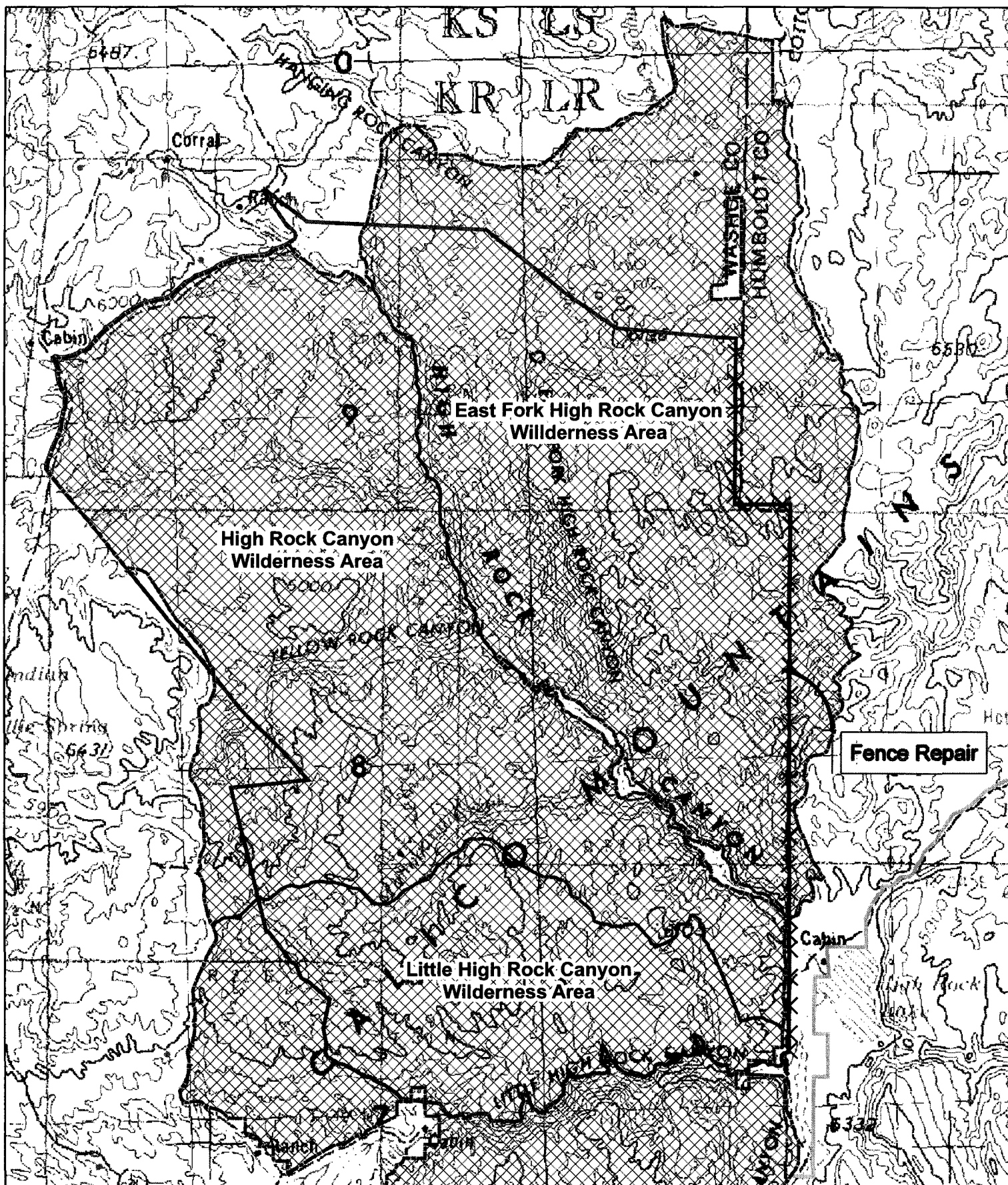
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Owen Billingsley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.




Owen Billingsley
Surprise Field Manager

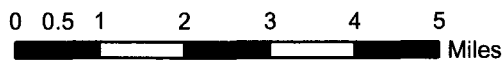
Attachment:

High Rock Herd Management Area and wilderness area map



High Rock Herd Management Area
And Wilderness Area Map

-  Fence to be Repaired
-  Herd Management Area (HMA)
-  Wilderness Area



BLM Surprise Field Office
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