



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801-4611
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



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JUN 28 2004

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

In Reply Refer To:
4700(NV-012)

June 25, 2004

Dear Interested Party:

The BLM is proposing to gather approximately 1,435 wild horses, make available for adoption approximately 1,237 head, and return 100 mares and 98 studs to the Rock Creek and Little Humboldt herd management areas, located in the northwestern portion of Elko County, Nevada. The gathers would be conducted in the summer of 2004, to protect public rangeland from undue degradation caused by excessive numbers of wild horses. The post gather population of 198 wild horses would represent the lower level of the appropriate management level for the two herds.

Multiple capture sites (traps) would be used. Whenever possible, capture sites would be located at previously used sites. The Elko Field Office Wild Horse Specialist would record and sort captured horses by sex, age and color. To assess herd health, factors such as pregnancy, parasite loading, physical condition, etc., would be recorded. Animals would be returned to the herd management areas based on desired characteristics for each herd.

To lengthen the time before a future gather may be required, BLM is also considering participating in immunocontraceptive research as part of this gather. All of the release mares would receive the drug, porcine zona pellucidae (PZP). This vaccine has been shown to be effective in preventing pregnancy for two years without undesired side effects.

An environmental assessment is being prepared for this gather. BLM requests receipt of written comments by July 23 2004. Please address your comments to the BLM Elko Field Office, Attention: Bryan Fuell, Wild Horse Specialist, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801.

More information about the Rock Creek and Little Humboldt herds and this gather plan is available from the web site at <http://www.nv.blm.gov/elko/wildhorses.htm>

Thank you for your interest in wild horses and public land management. If you have questions, please call Bryan Fuell at (775) 753-0314.

Sincerely,

Kathy McKinstry, acting
for Clinton R. Oke
Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources