



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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September 25, 2001

DECISION RECORD/FONSI

Environmental Assessment # CA-370-01-07

LITTLE HIGH ROCK APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT LEVEL ESTABLISHMENT/CAPTURE PLAN

Decision

Based on all the information available to me, it is my decision to implement the Proposed Action of Environmental Assessment # CA-370-01-07, which was sent out for public review on June 8, 2001. No additional mitigation measures were identified as a result of the environmental analysis.

Rationale

The Proposed Action and two alternatives were analyzed in Environmental Assessment # CA-370-01-07. The No Action alternative was not chosen as it would not restore a natural thriving ecological balance. Degradation of riparian habitats would continue, and animals would be increasingly stressed due to the lack of available water to support growing herds.

I have chosen to implement the Proposed Action because this alternative would lead to restoration of a natural thriving ecological balance, resulting in overall positive impacts to both the wild horses and their habitat. Implementation of the Proposed Action is consistent with land use planning goals and objectives and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Due to the concern of animals perishing during the summer of 2001, because of a severe water shortage in the area, a Full Force and Effect decision was issued on June 21, 2001 to allow for the immediate removal of animals to the lower end of the population called for in the Proposed Action. This removal was accomplished in July, 2001.