



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer to:
4700/1792 (NV030.03)

DEC 05 2008

Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca District Office has completed the *Buffalo Hills Herd Management Area Wild Horse Capture Plan and Preliminary Environmental Assessment* (EA). The purpose of this EA is to analyze the impacts associated with the BLM's proposal to capture about 555-585, release about 91-123, and remove approximately 462 excess wild horses from the Buffalo Hills Herd Management Area (HMA). The gather would begin in about January 2009. This HMA is located about 80 miles north of Reno and 100 miles west of Winnemucca near Gerlach, Nevada, within Washoe County, and is approximately 132,000 acres in size.

This gather would reduce the current wild horse population to the established appropriate management levels to protect horse health and sustainability, making significant progress toward achievement of the Sierra Front-Northwest Great Basin Standards for Rangeland Health. In addition, the gather would help create a thriving natural ecological balance between wild horses, wildlife, vegetation, riparian-wetland resources, water resources, and domestic livestock.

This preliminary EA can be reviewed online at http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/wfo/blm_information/nepa0.html or in hardcopy at the Winnemucca District Office. Upon request, hardcopies are also available by mail.

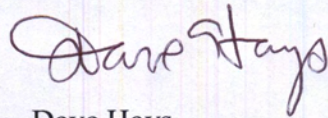
The BLM would appreciate receiving substantive comments on this preliminary EA and should be submitted by close of business on Wednesday, December 24, 2008 to ensure your comments receive adequate consideration in the process of finalizing the EA. Questions and comments regarding the *Buffalo Hills Herd Management Area Wild Horse Capture Plan and Preliminary Environmental Assessment* EA should be directed to:

Susie Stokke
Wild Horse & Burro Program Manager
BLM Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your

personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dave Hays". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dave Hays
Field Manager
Black Rock Field Office