



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445-2921
Phone: (775) 623-1500 Fax: (775) 623-1503
Email: NV_WFO_Webmail@blm.gov
www.nv.blm.gov/winnemucca



In Reply Refer to:
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Dear Reader:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca Field Office (WFO) completed the North Stillwater and Fox & Lake Range **emergency** wild horse removals in early July 2008. Horses were shipped to the Palomino Valley Center, north of Reno, Nevada. There they are fed and watered, inoculated to protect them from disease, and freeze-marked with a unique number. Many of the wild horses gathered in July will be available for adoption or sale to interested members of the public about mid-late August.

The emergency gathers were needed due to declining habitat conditions, which included insufficient forage to carry wild horse populations through the summer, unseasonably low water flows and declining horse health. Much of northern and central Nevada is experiencing its 10th consecutive year of drought. An overpopulation of wild horses, continuing drought conditions and overly-stressed habitat resources placed animals at risk of dehydration, starvation and death.

The North Stillwater gather occurred from July 2nd until July 9th with 336 wild horses captured, 335 removed, and 1 released. Captured mares were a little thin with ribs showing, foals were healthy, and stud horses were in fair to good condition. A few younger and older horses were obviously thin. An estimated 126 to 151 horses remain post-gather. Field monitoring will continue to assure these animals have sufficient feed and water available throughout the summer.

The Fox & Lake gather occurred from July 11th until July 16th with 233 wild horses captured, 232 removed, and 1 released. All horses were generally in good condition and health. Only a few younger and older horses were thin. However, these horses did not have the forage available to last them through the summer/fall without a decline in health going into the winter months. Current habitat conditions, weather and horse population numbers were very similar to the summer of 2004. When those horses were gathered in February 2005, they were in poor body condition and health, especially foals, lactating mares, growing juveniles and older animals. The July 2008 emergency gather reduced the population to an estimated 152 to 172 horses. These remaining horses should have sufficient feed and water to stay in good condition going into the winter. Field monitoring will continue to assure this is the case.

If you have any questions, please contact Arlan Hiner, Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources at the BLM Winnemucca Field Office at 775-623-1500 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

Arlan G. Hiner
Assistant Field Manager,
Renewable Resources

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BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION