



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/ely>



In Reply Refer To:
NOPA-NV-040-06-01

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION LANDS IN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

NOV 10 2005

STATE: Nevada
COUNTY: Nye
FIELD OFFICE: Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500
702 North Industrial Way.
Ely, Nevada 89301

RECEIVED

NOV 15 2005

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS: Park Range, Antelope Range

PROPOSED ACTION: Conduct wild horse maintenance gather within the Monte Cristo wild horse Herd Management Areas Complex.

Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely Field Office and Tonopah Field Station are proposing integrated management of the wild horse population within the Monte Cristo wild horse Herd Management Areas Complex. The Monte Cristo Complex is located approximately 30 miles west, south west of Ely, Nevada, 10 miles southeast of Eureka, Nevada and 80 miles northwest of Tonopah Nevada. Past capture, census, field observations and distribution data collected indicate movement among wild horses between the Herd Management Areas within the complex. The Monte Cristo Wild Horse Complex consists of the Monte Cristo, Sand Springs East, and Sand Springs West Wild Horse Herd Management Areas (HMA) as well as the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Monte Cristo Wild Horse Territory. The Park Range and Antelope Range Wilderness Study Areas are located partially within the Sand Springs East Herd Management Area. (See attached map).

BLM has determined there are excess wild horses present and the Proposed Action is needed to restore wild horse herd numbers to levels consistent with the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the Complex.

Description of the Proposed Action

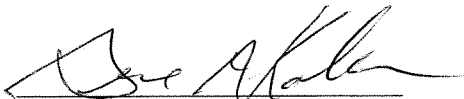
The BLM is proposing that the wild horse herd within the Monte Cristo Complex be managed at a level of 285 wild horses following the gather and not exceed 542 wild horses prior to the next scheduled maintenance gather in order to promote a thriving natural ecological balance.

The proposed action would consist of capturing approximately 85% of the current estimated population or 840 wild horses, selectively removing 700 wild horses, and releasing 145 wild horses back into the complex. Capture techniques would consist of helicopter-drive trapping method and/or roping from horseback. The gather is proposed to occur in January 2006, and last approximately three weeks.

Multiple capture sites (traps) would be used to capture wild horses from the complex. No trap sites, holding facilities, or camping areas would be set up in Wilderness Study Areas. Landing of aircraft and use of other motorized vehicles would not be authorized within the Wilderness Study Areas.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared for the proposal. All comments are to be sent directly to the Field Manager for consideration and use in evaluating and processing the proposed action at the address above within the comment period of

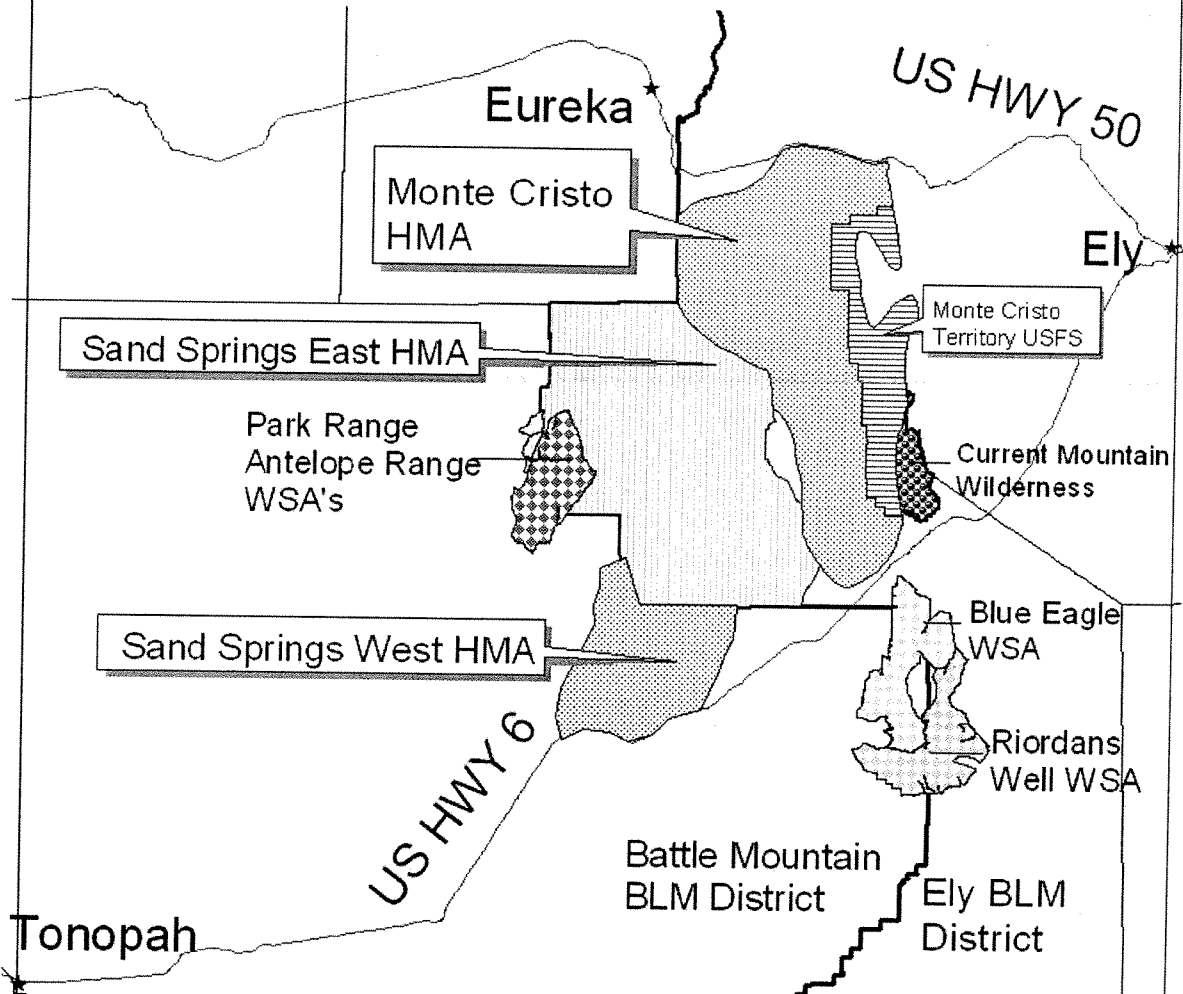
DEC 11 2005



Gene A. Kolkman,
Field Manager

10/25/05
Date

Monte Cristo Complex



Ely Field Office
September 20, 2005
Jared Bybee

"No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data."

