

Adobe Town/Salt Wells Round Ups- AGAIN!!! 2007

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BLM plans more horse roundups

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GREEN RIVER -- Last January, federal cowboys were able to round up about 920 wild horses in southwest Wyoming before bad weather shut down gathering operations.

Federal managers are proposing to return to some of those wild horse herds in the region later this summer and gather more horses in their continuing effort to reduce overpopulated herds, Bureau of Land Management officials said.

The wild horses will be captured from areas outside of the adjacent Adobe Town and Salt Wells herd management units, which, when combined, represent the biggest herd of wild horses in Wyoming, according to BLM plans.

Horses will also be rounded up from the Divide Basin herd management area and on private lands within the three herd management units, BLM officials said in a "scoping" statement. The three units are located in eastern Sweetwater and western Carbon counties.

Both proposed actions were analyzed and authorized in previous environmental assessments issued by the BLM in 2006 and 2007.

BLM officials have long maintained that Wyoming's wild horse population is above desired numbers and is growing.

Federal officials contend wild horses have no natural predators, and with a reproduction rate of about 15 to 20 percent annually, must be periodically removed from the range to achieve population objectives and to protect public rangelands from undue degradation.

In recent years, the state's wild horse populations have reached as high as 7,000 animals, more than double the BLM's target management level of 3,263 horses statewide, according to agency figures.

The BLM is proposing to gather from 60 to 70 adult horses plus foals from areas outside of the Adobe Town and Salt Wells herd management units.

The agency also plans to remove about 337 mature horses and 67 foals from the Divide Basin herd management area.

The BLM hopes to attain a post-gathering population of about 415 adult wild horses in the Divide Basin area and about 1,100 wild horses in the Adobe Town and Salt Wells units.

The BLM notice said multiple capture sites, or traps, will be used during the operation. Whenever possible, traps will be located at previously used sites.

The new proposal comes on the heels of another massive roundup planned for the fall in the White Mountain and Little Colorado herd management units northwest of Rock Springs. The agency plans to

capture and remove about 725 wild horses in that operation.

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