



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Burns District Office  
28910 Hwy 20 West  
Hines, Oregon 97738  
<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>

JUN 29 2018

Dear Interested Party:

The Burns District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) (DOI-BLM-ORWA-B050-2018-0016-EA) and an unsigned finding of no significant impact (FONSI) analyzing the effects of the Spay Feasibility and On-Range Behavioral Outcomes Assessment and Population Management Plan for Warm Springs Herd Management Area (HMA). The research project is proposed by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Colorado State University (CSU) in cooperation with the Burns District.

The Burns District BLM proposes to allow the USGS and CSU to evaluate the safety, complication rate, and feasibility of ovariectomy via colpotomy on wild horse mares and the impacts to mare and band behavior once returned to the range as compared with an untreated herd.

In conjunction with the feasibility study, Burns District BLM also proposes a 10-year population management plan for Warm Springs HMA. The plan includes this study, followed by a gather to low AML at the completion of the study, and additional gathers and removals of excess wild horses and burros. Wild horse mares returned to the range following gathers would receive population growth treatments. The study is being initiated to document the BLM experience with this established method for managing the population growth of wild horse herds on public lands; no burros would be involved in the study. The population management plan is being proposed to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and manage the wild horse and burro populations within appropriate management level (AML) over a 10-year timeframe.

A no action alternative is also analyzed to assess the effects of not conducting population management actions.

The EA and unsigned FONSI are available at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office>. This link takes you to BLM's ePlanning website. To search for the EA and unsigned FONSI you can either use the map to locate Burns District, Oregon or click on the "Text Search" tab and search by state, document type, year, and program.

If you have comments on the EA or unsigned FONSI, submit them *postmarked* by July 30, 2018, to Lisa Grant, Burn District Office, at the address above. Email comments should be sent to: [blm\\_or\\_spaystudy\\_warmsprhma@blm.gov](mailto:blm_or_spaystudy_warmsprhma@blm.gov). After consideration of your substantive comments, a decision outlining the action to be taken within the scope

of the EA will be developed and issued. If you submit comments to this EA or unsigned FONSI, please include your name and mailing address, and you will receive a copy of the decision. If you do not have comments but wish to receive a copy of the decision, please submit a written request, otherwise you will not receive a copy. The decision will also be posted to <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office>.

Comments, including the names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Burns District Office during regular business hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays), and may be published as part of the decision. Before including your address, phone number, email 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. Anonymous comments will not be considered. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety. Similar comments or form letters will be considered one comment and summarized with one response given.

If you need further information or to receive additional copies, please contact Wild Horse and Burro Specialist Lisa Grant of the Burns District Office at 541-573-4555.

Sincerely,



Jeff Rose  
District Manager  
Burns District BLM