

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
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BLM Plans South Steens Wild Horse Bait Trap Gather

HINES, Ore. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District announced today plans to conduct a bait/water trap gather of wild horses within the South Steens Herd Management Area (HMA) beginning in August 2016. The objective is to capture 200 horses, selectively remove for adoption 100 horses, and apply a fertility vaccine to up to 40 mares that will be returned to the range.

The South Steens HMA is located south of Frenchglen, Oregon, in southern Harney County. The Appropriate Management Level (AML) – the number of horses the range can sustainably support in conjunction with other animals and resource uses – for this area is 159 to 304 horses and the current population is over 600. Heavy to severe wild horse grazing jeopardizes the health of rangelands, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and ultimately animal health and condition. Although the South Steens gather will not immediately return the herd to within AML, it will reduce resource impacts and briefly cut reproduction rates. After removing 100 horses, there will still be over 500 horses remaining in the HMA.

Animals selected for removal from the range will be transported to Oregon's Wild Horse Corral Facility in Hines to be prepared for adoption. For viewing, the public may visit the Corral Facility anytime between regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bait/water trap gathers are not conducive to capture site viewing opportunities. However, the BLM will host public viewing days at temporary holding corrals near the capture site as horses are gathered and sorted. Viewing may be scheduled on short notice but can accommodate as many as are interested each day. Viewing opportunities and twice per week gather reports will be shared here: <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/whb/steens2016.php>

The supporting planning documents for the South Steens bait/water trap gather are available online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/plans/plans-details.php?id=3054>.

The gather will likely last through the end of September 2016, though exact start and end dates will be determined by the contractor's availability. Those interested in viewing at the temporary holding corrals should contact Tara Thissell at tthissell@blm.gov or (541)573-4519 for more information.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.

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