



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mount Lewis Field Office  
50 Bastian Road  
Battle Mountain, NV 89820  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



APR 4 2008

RECEIVED

APR 28 2008

In Reply Refer To:  
4700 (NV060)

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

Dear Interested Public:

The Mt. Lewis Field Office<sup>1</sup> is planning to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts of conducting a wild horse gather within the Callaghan Complex. The Callaghan, Bald Mountain and Rocky Hills Herd Management Areas (HMAs) are included within this Complex, as well as areas outside of HMA boundaries. The Complex is located within Lander and Eureka Counties in Northern Nevada, including portions of the Carico Lake Austin, Grass Valley, and JD grazing allotments. Refer to the enclosed maps of the gather areas for more information.

The Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs) for all HMAs were established within Final Multiple Use Decisions (FMUDs) issued following interdisciplinary analysis of monitoring data, completion of Allotment Evaluations or Rangeland Health Assessments, and involvement of the interested public. The proposed gather operations would involve removal of wild horses so as to achieve the low range of the established AMLs. The following table displays the estimated population and gather information.

**Table 1. Callaghan Complex Estimated Population and Gather Information**

HMA	AML Range	Est. Population <sup>2</sup>	Est. Gather Number <sup>3</sup>	Est. to Remove	Est. to Release	Est. Post Gather
Callaghan	147-237	995	945	848	97	147
Rocky Hills	86-143	166	158	80	78	86
Bald Mountain	129-215	607	577	481	96	129
Complex Total	359-595	1,768	1,680	1,409	271	359

Wild horses residing in areas outside of established HMA boundaries would be removed from the range during the gather. During the gather operation, gathered horses would be aged and sorted for release, or transport to BLM Wild Horse and Burro Facilities. Select wild horses would be chosen for release back to the range in order to represent a variety of characteristics

<sup>1</sup> The Mt. Lewis Field Office was formally the Battle Mountain Field Office, and through internal re-organization, has been renamed.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated population represents the population following 2008 foaling. The most recent census was conducted March 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated gather numbers based on ability to capture 95% of the population. Gather efficiency would be influenced by time of year, snow cover and terrain.

and ages. Wild horses within the Complex exhibit pinto, grey/roan, Appaloosa, and curly characteristics, and are average or larger size, with good confirmation. In conjunction with the gather activities, the Mt. Lewis Field Office may select wild horses to offer to qualified adopters through a "trap-site" adoption event held at the gather location.

The proposed gather could also involve treating mares released back to the range with an immunocontraceptive vaccine, Porcine Zona Pellucidae (PZP), for fertility control research. Approximately 136-163 mares could be treated.

The gather operation would commence after the issuance of the Environmental Assessments/Gather Plans, Decision, and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The gather could take place fall/winter 2008/2009.

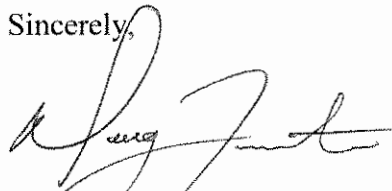
As the interested public, you are asked to submit comments, issues, alternatives, recommendations, or other input for inclusion into the Environmental Assessment. Please make your submissions in writing to be received in this office by **May 30, 2008**.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail 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.

If you would rather not remain on the mailing list for the Callaghan Complex wild horse gather, and do not wish to receive the Environmental Assessment/Gather Plan and subsequent decision documents, please submit your request in writing to Shawna Richardson, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist at the address identified in the letterhead.

For more information about the proposed gathers, please contact Shawna Richardson of my staff at 775-635-4181.

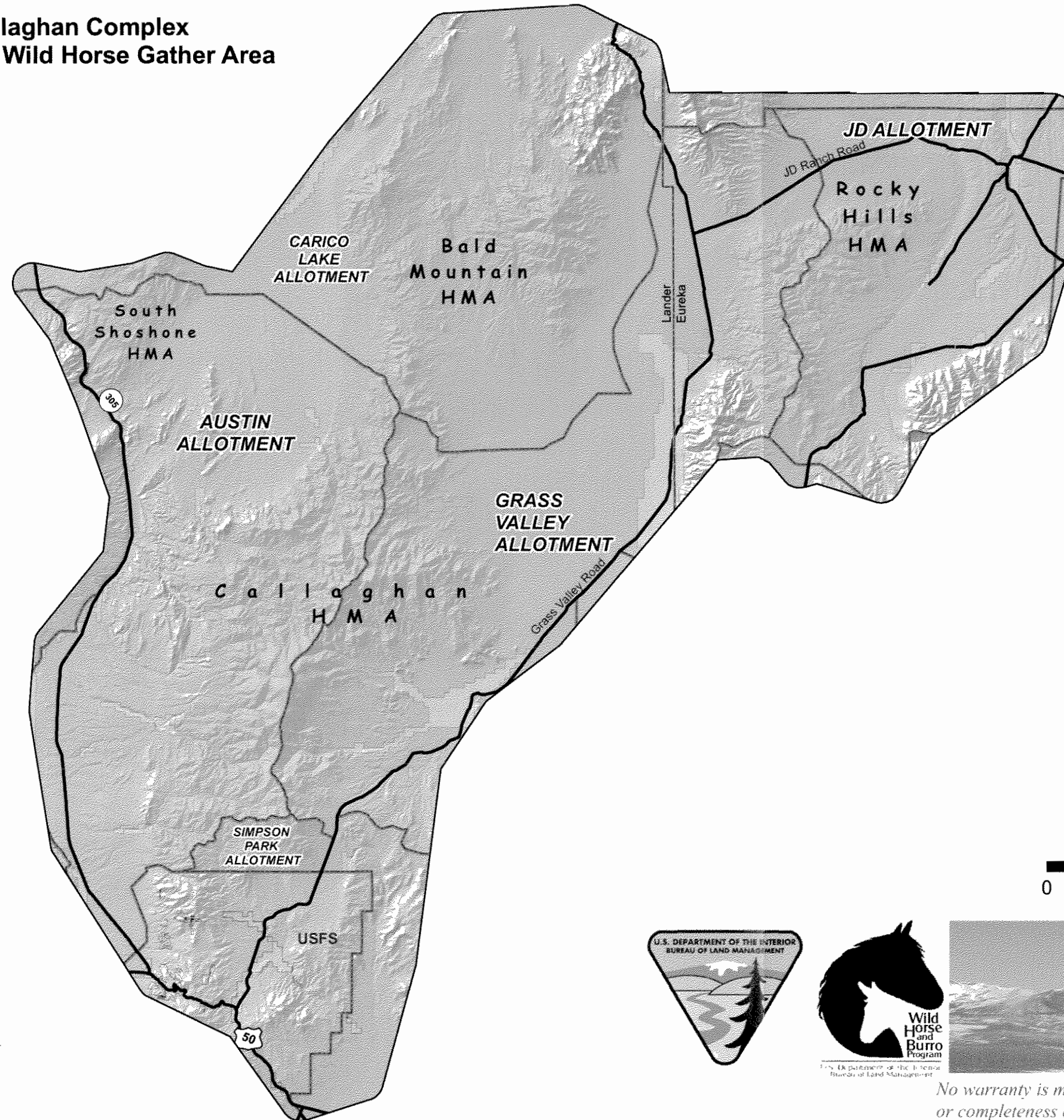
Sincerely,



Douglas W. Furtado  
Field Manager  
Mt. Lewis Field Office

Enclosures (1)

# Callaghan Complex Proposed Wild Horse Gather Area

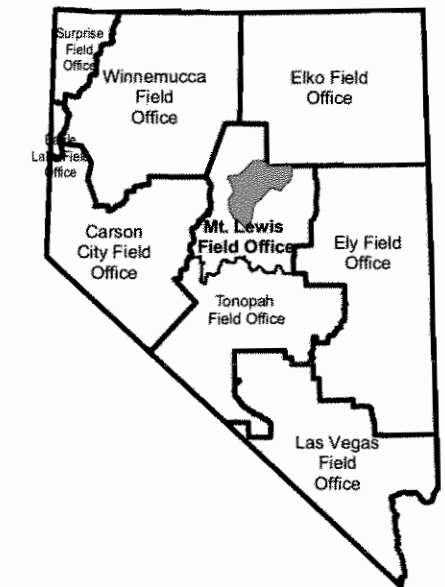


### LEGEND

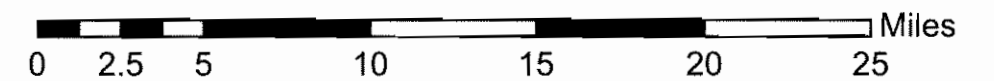
- County Boundary
- Major Roads
- Grazing Allotments
- Herd Management Areas (HMAs)

### Land Ownership

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- Private
- Other



2009 Callaghan Complex Gather Area  
 BLM Field Office Boundary



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 50 Bastian Road  
 Battle Mountain, NV 89820  
 (775)-635-4000  
 April, 2008

*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.*