

Dry Lake "Complex"

Issued by the Nevada BLM Ely Field Office in October 2006, The Dry Lake Complex Wild Horse Gather Plan and Preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) listed the Dry Lake, Rattlesnake and Highland Peak HMAs in Nevada as comprising the "Complex".

These 3 HMAs comprise 695,445 acres with a maximum wild horse population or "appropriate management level" (AML) not to exceed 128 animals within the Complex. (1) The majority of these AMLs were established in 2001 and 2004. (2)

Thirteen livestock allotments were cited in the EA as being present within the HMAs. (3) According to the Ely District 2005 Grazing Use Authorizations, these thirteen allotments authorize 84,986 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) of forage allocations for cattle and sheep, 55,484 AUMs and 29,502 AUMs respectively, though it is unclear what percentage of these allotments overlap the wild horse HMAs. (4) Wild horses have been issued a maximum total forage allocation of 1,536 AUMs between the 3 HMAs, with the Rattlesnake HMA completely zeroed out in 2004 for all wild horse use despite 1,108 AUMs still authorized for cattle. (5)

All HMAs within this Complex are also part of the 1999 Lincoln County Elk Management Plan. Within this plan, 14 HMAs are identified as affecting the Elk Management Areas with a maximum of AML of 644 wild horses (6) for all HMAs and an elk population target of 1,850. (7)

In December 2006, the BLM removed a total of 200 horses, 2 horses died or were destroyed, with an estimated 100 horses remaining. (8) The estimated cost of these removals is approximately \$434 thousand dollars. (9)

(1) Dry Lake Complex Wild Horse Gather Plan and Preliminary Environmental Assessment, (E.A.) NV-040-07-002, Department of the Interior, BLM Ely Field Office, December 2006. Pg. 2, I. Background, Table 1-Acres.

(2) Dry Lake Complex Wild Horse Gather Plan and Preliminary Environmental Assessment, (E.A.) NV-040-07-002, Department of the Interior, BLM Ely Field Office, December 2006. Pg. 27, I. Appendix I, Appropriate Management Levels.

(3) Dry Lake Complex Wild Horse Gather Plan and Preliminary Environmental Assessment, (E.A.) NV-040-07-002, Department of the Interior, BLM Ely Field Office, December 2006. Pg. 27, Appendix I, Appropriate Management Level.

(4) 2005, Appendix R- Ely District Grazing Allotments, D. Thompson.

(5) Notice of Wild Horse Management Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Establishment of Appropriate Management Levels for Twelve Wild Horse Herd Management Areas within the Ely District, EA NV-040-03-036, Department of the Interior, BLM Ely Field Office, November 2003.

(6) 1999 Lincoln County Elk Management Plan, Pg. 4, Table 2-Herd Management Areas (HMAs) and Established AML.

(7) 1999 Lincoln County Elk Management Plan, Population Goals and Objectives, Potential for Elk Distribution, Population Management Levels, and Elk Free Zones, Pg. 14, Action 3

(8) Ely Field Office Gather Summary, Dry Lake Complex, December 2006. Courtesy of Benjamin Noyes, WH&B Specialist, Ely Field Office.

(9) Based on figures provided in An Economic Analysis of Alternative Fertility Control and Associated Management Techniques for Three BLM Wild Horse Herds by John M. Bartholow. Cost estimates were taken from budget planning spreadsheet supplied by Linda Coates-Markle, BLM/MT (4/29/2003) as interpreted by Don Glenn, BLM/DC (6/17/2003) and Lili Thomas, BLM/NV (9/22/2003). Includes cost of removal, transportation, medical, & assumes 1 year containment with all animals successfully adopted.

Photos taken from BLM Internet Adoption Websites. HMA & AML Statistics from BLM FY06 Herd Statistics. Research, Data & Statistics Compiled by Mac Donald
June 2007



Dry Lake Wild Horse
Captured: 12/14/06
2 Year Old Gelding

HMA Acres: 494,371 Acres
AML: 94
Acres Per Horse: 5,259
Removed: 136
Remaining: 75

CFR §4710.5 Closure to livestock grazing.

"If necessary to provide habitat for wild horses or burros, to implement herd management actions, or to protect wild horses or burros from disease, harassment or injury, the authorized officer may close appropriate areas of the public lands to grazing use by all or a particular kind of livestock."



Highland Peak Wild Horse
Captured: 12/11/06
1 Year Old Filly

HMA Acres: 137,975 Acres
AML: 33
Acres Per Horse: 4,178
Removed: 64
Remaining: 25