

Highland Peak Herd Management Area



Highland Peak Wild Horse-Removed 12/11/06-From BLM National Adoption Website

This following is an example of the Bureau of Land Managements legal treatment of wild horses within their federally protected herd areas.

On January 16, 2007 the following e-mail was sent to American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign from a supporter stating:

“To whom it may concern.

Here is one that shows that the round ups are for big business.

On 12/8/06 thru 12/17/06 there was a round up of 200 horses just west of Lincoln County Airport, Panaca NV then about two weeks later three tractor trailer loads of sheep were unloaded there. They have been bringing in loads of sheep up to today. There has to be more then 1000 sheep now.”

The Ely Field Office in Nevada removed 217 wild horses in December in several of their Herd Management Areas. The Highland Peak herd was one of these with round ups conducted to “maintain a thriving ecological balance”. BLM reported removing 64 Highland Peak horses and leaving 25 on the range.

BLM personnel confirmed that shortly after the wild horses were removed, legally permitted sheep were then stocked in the area. The current forage allocation approved for sheep by BLM is 3,704 animal unit months. The approved forage allocations issued for wild horses on their “protected” 136,091 acres, is just 10% of the sheep or 396 animal unit months.

With a genetically viable number of at least 150 horses needed to ensure a stable population, this current management strategy poses a serious threat to their continued survival.

The cost to taxpayers to remove, contain and adopt the Highland Peak horses while providing forage for private livestock owners, who lease public lands for about 1/10th of the private market rates, is estimated at a minimum of \$138,944.00.

A little over a month after they were captured, the wild horses were being auctioned off on BLM’s National Internet Satellite Adoptions.

