

BLM Wraps Up Dann Horse Gather

Reno, NV—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ended its roundup of trespass horses on public lands in Crescent Valley on Tuesday. After gathering 534 trespass horses, the BLM decided to stop the gather as the number they were able to bring in grew smaller each day.

“Realistically, gathering all but a small percentage of horses is excellent progress in reducing the pressure on the rangeland on the South Buckhorn allotment,” said Bob Abbey, BLM Nevada state director. “The two main reasons we decided to end the gather at this time are the cost efficiencies of continuing to use a helicopter to bring in dwindling numbers of horses, and the increasing potential to compromise the health of the remaining horses which are in poor condition.

BLM Elko Field Manager Helen Hankins said she is pleased with the progress made, since less than a year ago there were about 2,000 cows and horses in trespass on public lands on the South Buckhorn allotment.

“About 95 percent of the cattle and horses the Danns had on the allotment in trespass are now off the range,” said Hankins. “The remaining horses are widely scattered and continuing to gather the horses at this time is counterproductive. We plan to remove all trespass animals from the area, so we expect to come back for these horses in a few months. By reducing the grazing pressure in the area we can expect forage and stream conditions to improve on the allotment.”

The BLM began gathering the trespass horses on Feb. 6. When presented with the opportunity to claim ownership of the gathered horses by Brand Inspectors of the Nevada State Department of Agriculture, the Danns signed sworn affidavits of ownership and then immediately transferred ownership of the horses to Slick Gardner of Gardner Ranches in California. Gardner said the horses would not be sold for slaughter. As owner of the horses, Gardner is responsible for ensuring the horses are not returned to public lands in Crescent Valley.

Abbey expressed his appreciation to the State Brand Inspectors for their role in the removal.

“The work of Jim Connelley and the brand inspectors during the operation has been outstanding,” said Abbey. “They went the ‘extra mile’ to assure a smooth disposition of the horses.”

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