

BLM NEVADA 5-YEAR GATHER PLAN FACT SHEET (May 2021)

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada manages 83 Herd Management Areas (HMAs) and 77 Herd Areas (HAs). HMAs are areas of public lands established within a Land Use Plan (LUP) for the long-term management of wild horses and burros. HAs are public lands identified as areas used by wild horses and burros but not managed in the long-term for wild horses and burros. BLM Nevada manages approximately 47% of the BLM's wild horse and burro HMAs as well as 54% of the total estimated national population. Out of the 83 HMAs, only 17 HMAs are at or within appropriate management level (AML). These percentages do not include the United States Forest Service (USFS) Wild Horse and Burro Territories (WHBT) located in Nevada. Although BLM Nevada does not have jurisdiction over these populations; the State and District Offices coordinate with the USFS about areas that are jointly managed to achieve healthy and sustainable populations on public lands.



Deer Springs is located in the Antelope Valley HMA – No livestock has grazed the area around the spring since the early 1980's. Picture on left taken in 1984 and the one on the right taken in 2021.

In February 2021, the BLM Nevada State Office developed a 5-year gather plan with the goal of making progress towards achieving healthy and sustainable populations of wild horses and burros on the public lands in Nevada. The proposed 5-year plan was developed in association with Nevada's draft HMA and HA analysis to achieve state-wide appropriate management level (AML) within 20-years. Removals necessary to reach AML in 5, 10 or 20 years based on 2020 population estimate are displayed below:

| Achieve AML Statewide in 5 years | | Achieve AML Statewide in 10 years | | Achieve AML Statewide in 20 years | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Average removal per year | Cumulative 5 -year total removed | Average removal per year | Cumulative 10-year total removed | Average removal per year | Cumulative 20-year total removed |
| 16,500 | 82,500 | 12,000 | 120,000 | 10,500 | 221,000 |

The severely overpopulated HMAs within Nevada will require multiple gathers over multiple years to reach AML. Due to the current large population sizes within many of the herd management areas, gathers need to be conducted in phases so the state can address critical areas by taking excess animals off the range as well as implementing population growth suppression when possible.

BLM Nevada’s 5-year plan (FY 2022 through FY 2026) proposed removals and treatment levels:

| Fiscal Year | Gather (# of Animals) | Removals (# of Animals) | Population Growth Suppression Treatments (# of animals) |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 2022 | 13,112 | 11,141 | 554 |
| 2023 | 12,708 | 11,425 | 790 |
| 2024 | 11,422 | 10,665 | 799 |
| 2025 | 13,699 | 11,286 | 965 |
| 2026 | 13,209 | 11,657 | 746 |

For FY2021, BLM Nevada, based on its 20-year HMA analysis, proposed to gather approximately 10,264 animals and remove 8,563 excess animals from multiple HMAs/HAs across the State of Nevada. As of February 1, 2021 (for FY2021) BLM Nevada has completed three planned gathers and two emergency gathers resulting in 2,019 animals gathered, 1,881 removed and 105 mares were treated with population growth suppression vaccines. A fourth planned gather for the Owyhee Complex has been approved and is anticipated to begin early September 2021.



Nevada’s proposed plan is a fluid document and is subject to adjustments. This plan provides a strategy to address the chronic overpopulation of wild horses and burros within the State of Nevada in order to make progress to obtain appropriate management level within Herd Management Areas and prevent damage to America’s public rangelands and herd health.

The picture is the Black Hills area located within the Antelope Valley HMA. Black Hills is generally full of cheat grass however, it has all been grazed off - cattle has been removed and are currently being fed on private land.

Key Points:

- Gathering and removing excess animals remains the most effective tool for quickly and humanely reducing overpopulation and protecting herd and rangeland health.
- Without management to control growth, wild horse and burro herds increase exponentially at 15-20 percent each year, which can double herd size every 4-5 years.
- Overpopulated herds are already severely damaging natural resources and sensitive water resources. These impacts are expected to dramatically increase as the population continues to grow.
- The steady increase of excess wild horses and burros will increase private property and public safety concerns as animals search for forage and water resources. Excess wild horses and burros will expand beyond designated HMA boundaries and impact areas not designated for their long-term management.