



Date: June 29, 2006  
Contact: Linda Coates-Markle  
406-896-5013

### **BLM Issues Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Decision**

The Bureau of Land Management Billings Field Office plans to continue fertility control on wild horse mares on the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range this season.

According to the decision record dated June 29, 2006, 24 mares aged 11 years and older would receive fertility control (Porcine Zona Pellucida or PZP) vaccine for the purposes of suppressing herd growth rates in order to manage for healthy horses on healthy rangelands. In addition, whenever a mare reaches the age of 11, she would be added to the fertility control program which will continue annually through 2010. This year's fertility control is scheduled to begin no earlier than July 10.

The BLM also plans to capture and remove a maximum of 22 wild horses (11 bachelor stallions and 11 yearlings) from the range this year by bait trapping them. The horses will be available for adoption once the 22 horses have been captured.

Fertility control research began on the Pryor herd in 2001 and has continued every year since then. The BLM has analyzed the impacts of the fertility control each year in an environmental assessment. Current estimates place the population of the Pryor herd at 160 horses with an expected foal crop of 38.

The decision record and environment assessment can be found on the internet at: <http://www.mt.blm.gov/bifo/whb/PMWHR/2006/index.html> or by contacting the Billings Field Office at 406-896-5013.

###