

BLM News Release ▼ BLM News Release**1301 South 'G' Street ▼ Lakeview, Oregon 97630 ▼ <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview>**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LV-07-06
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BLM Completes Emergency Wild Horse Gather

Lakeview- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) successfully conducted an emergency wild horse gather in eastern Oregon the week of July 30, 2007. A total of 255 wild horses were captured, 131 from the Beaty Butte Herd Management Area (HMA) and 124 from outside the HMA.

Severe drought conditions have persisted in this region over the last several months. This has resulted in shortages of water and forage for the horses, whose populations have grown to exceed the range carrying capacity. BLM specialists determined immediate intervention was necessary to offset these conditions and coordinated an emergency gather.

The BLM made arrangements for Dave Cattoor, a long-term BLM contractor specializing in wild horse gathers, to collect 250 of the threatened wild horses. The gather began July 30, 2007. Initial gather activities resulted in the capture of wild horses that were relatively healthy, but beginning to show signs that they were suffering from a lack of water.

Two days into the gather Cattoor conducted an air reconnaissance mission. While carrying out this operation he came across a herd of 40 wild horses congregated around a dry water hole. He noted that they were exhibiting unusual behavior. One of the animals was in a sitting position, an indication of weakness. Based upon his observations, he immediately notified BLM managers of the situation encountered.

BLM responded promptly by having veterinarian Rod Ferry flown to the scene to conduct a health assessment. Doctor Ferry examined the herd at the dry water hole site and determined they were dehydrated, but capable of being relocated under controlled conditions. The next morning, BLM and Doctor Ferry approved Cattoor's plan for the movement of these horses to the temporary holding facility assembled for the gather. All horses made the journey without experiencing any complications. At the corrals, BLM specialists and Cattoor immediately treated and stabilized these animals under the observation of Doctor Ferry.

The wild horse gather concluded on August 6, 2007. No other horses were found in the condition of those located at the dry water hole. All wild horses captured throughout the weeklong event were transported to Oregon's Wild Horse Corral Facility located in Hines, Oregon. All animals will be humanely cared for at this site until they are adopted by members of the public or relocated to one of BLM's long-term care facilities.

"This was a very successful gather, thanks to the efforts of Cattoor, Doctor Ferry, and all of the BLM specialists," said Lakeview District Manager Shirley Gammon. "Their expertise is apparent by the successful outcome of this event. Their efforts have resulted in the protection of eastern Oregon wild horses and rangelands."



Since 1973, more than 216,500 wild horses and burros have been adopted through the BLM's National Wild Horse and Burro Program. Additional information on this program may be obtained via the web at www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov/index.php or by calling toll free at 1-866-4MUSTANGS.

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

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