



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Wind River/Bighorn Basin District
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Scoping Notice
Red Desert Herd Management Areas
Management Evaluations

Description of Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lander Field Office (LFO) and Rawlins Field Office (RFO) are preparing updates to Herd Management Area Plans (HMAP) for the Antelope Hills, Crooks Mountain, Green Mountain, Lost Creek, and Stewart Creek herd management areas (HMAs), referred to as the Red Desert Complex. Existing herd evaluations for these areas are more than 30 years old and need revised. The field offices also intend to gather excess wild horses from the HMAs. Updates to the HMAPs will guide future management of the HMAs and the wild horses going forward. Current wild horse populations exceed the appropriate management level (AML) established for the HMAs. The current AML for the complex is 480-724. By the fall of 2026 there is projected to be approximately 2,300 adult horses and foals in the complex.

Relationship to Existing Plans and Documents

The proposed action is in conformance with the Rawlins Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved in December 2008, and the Lander RMP approved in June 2014. Management objectives for wild horses include providing for the protection of rangeland resources while maintaining a self-sustaining, healthy population of wild horses on public lands within the area.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

To comply with NEPA, the BLM is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed HMAP update and gather of excess wild horses. The EA will serve several purposes. It will provide the public and governmental agencies with information about the potential environmental consequences of the project and alternatives; identify measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the proposed action and alternatives; and provide the responsible officials with information upon which to make an informed decision regarding the project and whether to prepare a finding of no significant impact or environmental impact statement. The EA will be prepared by an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists.

Public involvement is important to the NEPA process, and scoping activities are initiated early in the process to identify reasonable alternatives to be evaluated in the EA, identify environmental

issues of concern related to the proposed project, determine the depth of the analysis for issues addressed in the environmental document, and identify potential mitigation.

This scoping notice has been prepared to describe means by which governmental agencies, the general public, and other interested parties may participate in and contribute to the analysis process. Public input is important in establishing the scope of analysis for any NEPA document, and the BLM encourages public input.

Timing Requirements

Public input early in the process will enable the BLM to develop a well-informed EA. Comments should be submitted by **May 4, 2026**, through the BLM National NEPA Register at:

- Go to: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/>
- Search: DOI-BLM-WY-R050-2026-0012-EA

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The scoping notice, management evaluation, and all other future documents corresponding with this action will be posted to the project website listed above.

The EA will be posted to this site after comments from the public are incorporated. The EA is anticipated to be available later this spring of 2026.

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Enclosure: Maps
Cc: Interested Public