CALIFORNIA DESERT WILD BURRO MANAGEMENT
FY 2001 ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

The Strategic Plan for the Management of Wild Burros, signed in January, 1999, established Goals and Objectives to work collaboratively in sharing staff and resources to manage wild burros in the most effective and efficient manner possible. This Annual Operating Plan is the product of the first goal and objective to coordinate the use of staff and resources for all scheduled field activities for the up-coming year.

The second goal to "Manage wild burro populations at current existing AMLs as identified in the BLM's California Desert Conservation Area Plan, signed in 1980 (and subsequent Amendments), until land use planning for the various agencies is completed, through aggressively removing existing excess burros to reach AMLs within the next three years." The FY2001 removal target is 1,187 animals desert-wide, as indicated in the following table:

FY2001 Gather Summary **- Remove 1,187 Wild Horses and Burros**

Area		Number of Animals (Cooperating Agencies)
Clark Mountain	-	150 burros (BLM, NPS)
Lee Flat	-	15 burros (BLM, NPS)
Picacho	-	50 burros (BLM, Picacho State Park, F&WS)
Chocolate-Mule Mtn	-	50 burros (BLM, Picacho State Park, F&WS)
Panamint	-	85 burros (BLM, NPS)
Centennial	-	187 horses/150 burros (BLM, NAWS, NPS)
Slate Range	-	50 burros (BLM, NAWS)
outside HMAs	-	50 burros (BLM, various agencies & land owners)
Death Valley N.P.	-	50 burros (BLM, NPS)
Mojave N.P.	-	350 burros (BLM, NPS)
Total		1,000 Burros and 187 horses

The third Goal established in the Strategic Plan for the Management of Wild Burros is to "Manage populations of burros where appropriate as an integral part of the natural system of the BLM managed lands; control their numbers where they threaten to alter natural ecosystems, seriously restrict or compete with native flora or fauna, or present a hazard to human health and safety; and achieve zero burro populations on all non-BLM lands." To achieve this goal, three objectives were identified; 1, Determine viable Herd Management Areas (HMAs) from the Herd Areas (HAs) remaining on BLM managed lands within the California Desert District; 2, Identify long-term management objectives and actions, and animal population levels within the remaining viable HMAs. These management objectives will recognize that for agencies managing other than BLM lands, animal prescription levels in excess of zero animals are not appropriate; and 3, Conduct scientific research to better understand wild burro behavior and the magnitude and direction of movement patterns for the remaining viable HMAs. This critical information has significant implications for burro management along shared agency boundaries.

FY2001 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

1. Remove 1,187 animals from the California desert. Of these, 687 animals will be placed into the BLM's National Adoption Program. Of the 787 animals (600 burros and 187 horses) from the California desert entering into the BLM adoption program, 120 will be from lands within Death Valley National Park, 50 animals from lands within the Mojave National Preserve, 100 from Military lands, 50 burros from various agency lands along the Colorado River and 280 burros will be from BLM lands.

The remaining 500 animals will be placed with various organizations as arranged through the National Park Service. These 1,187 animals will be removed throughout the year, so not to overflow the adoption system at any one time.

2. BLM and California Fish & Game will radio collar and track burros and deer in the Picacho and Chocolate-Mule Mountain HMAs. The objective of this cooperative effort is to collect data on the migratory patterns of these two animals to better understand their movement patterns and relationship. This will be a long-term study, tracking the animal's location weekly for more than 4 years. BLM will conduct a population census prior to this fiscal year's scheduled removal in these two HMAs.

3. BLM has hired two botanists who will be establishing key areas to assess and monitor rangeland health in the remaining HMAs, and along common administrative boundaries where burro management occurs. BLM will monitor and conduct population census on Picacho, Chocolate-Mule Mtn., Chemehuevi, Clark Mtn., Piper Mtn., and Centennial HMAs this fiscal year.

4. Through monitoring efforts, specific actions will be identified to reduce animal drift off BLM managed lands. These possible recommended actions may include fencing of common boundaries; fencing of springs, riparian areas, and sensitive resources, and developing additional watering sources.

Status Report as of June 20, 2001

Completed Gathers on:	Centennial HMA	- 66 Horses, 228 burros
	Slate Range HMA	- 26 burros
	Chocolate/ Mule Mtn. HMA	- 48 burros
	Clark Mountain HMA	- 128 burros
	Mojave National Preserve	- 377 burros

Still plan to water trap 75 burros from on the west side of the Clark Mt.HMA.

Completed Population Census on; Chemehuevi, Chicago Valley, Centennial

Still planing to complete census on Picacho, Chocolate/Mule Mtn., Piper Mtn.

Burro Migration and movement study: BLM has successfully placed radio collars on 16 burros during the week of May 17th through 22nd. Three data flights have been completed so far, and all 16 are being located.

Although BLM hired two botanists, we lost one shortly after coming onboard. Presently, we are collecting vegetative monitoring data within the Picacho and Chocolate/Mule Mountain HMAs. Plans are to complete Chicago Valley, Chemehuevi, Clark Mountain, Piper Mountain, and Centennial HMAs.

CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT
WILD HORSE AND BURRO MANAGEMENT

Up-dated June 15, 2001

Herd Management Area	Appropriate Management Level	Last Removal year and Number Removed	Estimated Present Population	Excess/ (Deficit)	Estimated Fiscal Year to Reach AML
Piper Mountain	82 Burros[5] 17 Horses	1994 1 Horse	0 Burros 40 Horses	(82) Burros 23 Horses	2004
Sand Springs/ Last Chance	0 Burros	2000 30 Burros	17 Burros[2]	17 Burros	2003
Lee Flat[1]	30 Burros	2000 12 Burros	12 Burros	(16 Burros)	2003
Waucoba-Hunter Mountain[1]	357 Burros 0 Horses	2000 40 Burros	159 Burros[3] 6 Horses	(198 Burros) 6 Horses	2003
Centennial	168 Horses 0 Burros	2001 228 Burros 66 Horses	100 Burros 202 Horses	100 Burros 34 Horses	2004
Panamint	0 Burros	2000 90 Burros	123 Burros[3]	123 Burros	2003
Slate Range	0 Burros	2000 26 Burros	70[4]	70 Burros	2003
Clark Mountains[1]	44 Burros	2001 128 Burros	205 Burros	161 Burros	2002
Chemehuevi	150 Burros	2001	500 Burros[6]	350 Burros	2004
Picacho	42 Horses[5]	1997 7 Burros	50 Burros	50 Burros (42 Horses)	2002
Chocolate-Mule Mountains	22 Burros[5]	2001 48 Burros	29 Burros	7 Burros	2001
Chicago Valley	28 Burros[5] 28 Horses[5]	2001 2 Horses	0 Burros 7 Horses	(28 Burros) 21 Horses)	2000
Dead Mountains	0 Burros	1982 6 Burros	19 Burros	19 Burros	2002
Piute Mountain	0 Burros	1984 75 Burros	36 Burros	36 Burros	2002
Morongo	0 Burros	1990 4 Burros	0 Burros		2000
Kramer	0 Burros	1990 20 Burros	0 Burros		2000
Palm Canyon	6 Horses	unknown	12 Horses	6 Horses	2000

1 The acreage in this HMA has significantly changed in 1994, due to the Desert Protection Act and the AML is no longer viable and must be modified accordingly.

2 These animals reside on National Park Service Land and spend no time on BLM Lands.

3 Approximately 80% of these animals reside within Death Valley NP, and 20% move across administrative boundaries between BLM and NPS.

4 These animals reside within the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake) lands.

5 The AML is not a viable number due to limitations of habitat/resource potential and/or inconsistent land use plan directives.

6 Completed population census using the Simultaneous Double Count method. Arizona Game & Fish is compiling the data, and not yet completed however, 455 burros were directly counted in the process.