Wild Horse and Burro Management
Briefing for Desert Manager's Group
FY2002 Accomplishments, September 12, 2002

FY2002 target: *remove* 838 burros and 40 horses
221 from NPS lands
487 burros from BLM lands
100 burros and horses from Military lands

Place/Adopt 1,000 animals

Completed Removals:

539 burros and 7 horses have been removed from the Mojave Desert this FY. BLM has removed 3 horses and 416 burros. Death Valley has removed 123 burros and 4 horses. In addition, BLM Ridgecrest corrals have received more than 300 horses and burros from Arizona and Nevada BLM. These removals include:

75 burros removed from Butte Valley and the Panamint mountain as well as from the Owlshead mountains

38 burros and 4 horses from saline Valley, Hunter mountain and Lee Flat.

313 burros from Chemehuevi HMA

92 burros from Clark mountain HMA

3 horses from Chicago Valley HMA

13 burros from Park Moab, California

Completed Adoptions: The California BLM has adopted more than 1,200 animals from the corrals and satellite adoptions.

Other Completed Actions: BLM has completed population census on Chemehuevi and Chicago HMAs. BLM also has completed monitoring on Chemehuevi, Centennial, Clark Mtn, Picacho, Chocolate-Mule Mtn., Chicago Valley.

CALIFORNIA DESERT WILD BURRO MANAGEMENT
FINAL FY 2002 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 two years." The FY2002 removal target is 878 animals desert-wide, as indicated in the following table:

FY2002 Gather Summary **- Remove 878 Wild Horses and Burros**

Area		Number of Animals (Cooperating Agencies)	
Clark Mountain	-	82 burros (BLM, NPS)	*completed*
Chemehuevi	-	400 burros (BLM)	*partial completed - 313*
Lee Flat	-	15 burros (BLM, NPS)	*partial completed - 7*
Panamint	-	75 burros (BLM, NPS)	*completed - 75*
Centennial	-	40 horses/100 burros (BLM, NAWS, NPS)	
Slate Range	-	25 burros (BLM, NAWS)	
Waucoba-Hunter Mtn	-	31 burros (BLM, NPS)	completed - 31
Death Valley NP	-	30 burros (NPS)	
Outside HMAs	-	80 burros (BLM, NPS, other agencies/land owners)	
Total		838 Burros and 40 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.

FY2002 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

1. Remove 878 animals from the California desert. Of these, 848 animals will be placed into the BLM's National Adoption Program. Of the 848 animals (808 burros and 40 horses) from the California desert entering into the BLM adoption program, 121 will be from lands within Death Valley National Park, 100 animals from lands within the Mojave National Preserve, 100 from Military lands, and 487 burros will be from BLM lands. The remaining 30 animals (removed from within the interior of Death Valley) will be placed with private contractors. These 878 animals will be removed throughout the year, so not to overflow the adoption system at any one time.

2. BLM and California Fish & Game have radio collared and are tracking 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 is a long-term study, tracking 25 burro's location weekly for 4 years. During this period, BLM and California Fish & Game are collecting vegetation production, composition data, as well as grazing use levels.

3. BLM has hired a botanist who is assessing and monitoring riparian and rangeland health in the remaining HMAs, and along common administrative boundaries where burro management occurs. A second position will be hired this FY to speed up the assessment process. BLM will monitor and/or conduct population census on Clark Mountain, Waucoba-Hunter, Piper Mountain, Chemehuevi, Picacho, Chocolate-Mule Mountain, and Chicago Valley this fiscal year.

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