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BLM to take comprehensive look at wild horse management in White River Field Office

MEEKER, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management announced today it is withdrawing its 2010 West Douglas Gather Plan Environmental Assessment and Sept. 3, 2010 Decision Record. BLM will take a comprehensive look at wild horse management within lands managed by the White River Field Office.

This process will encourage participation from all our stakeholders, and provide several well-advertised opportunities for public involvement. Although BLM determined in the 2010 Decision Record and EA that all horses in the West Douglas Herd Area were excess, the BLM decided it can best fulfill its mission to manage public lands for multiple uses by reconsidering management of wild horses within the White River Field Office.

The West Douglas HA currently has an isolated population of about 100 wild horses near Rangely, Colo.

Under the authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, BLM manages, protects, and controls wild horses and burros as part of its overall multiple-use mission. The Bureau works to ensure that population levels are in balance with rangeland resources and other uses of the public lands. Wild horses have virtually no predators and can double in population about every four years if not managed.

BLM manages four Herd Management Areas in western Colorado for wild horse herds: The Piceance-East Douglas west of Meeker, the Little Bookcliffs Herd northeast of Grand Junction, the Sand Wash Herd west of Craig, and the Spring Creek Herd southwest of Montrose.

The BLM encourages those who are interested in providing good homes to wild horses or burros to visit http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/wild_horse_and_burro.html for information about adoptions or sales.

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