

FACT SHEET

Wild Horse Gather in the Checkerboard of the Great Divide, Adobe Town and Salt Wells Creek Herd Management Areas

August 2014

- The Great Divide Basin, Adobe Town and Salt Wells Creek herd management areas (HMAs) total approximately 2,427,220 acres, with 1,242,176 acres in the checkerboard.
- The majority of private land in the HMAs is in the checkerboard. These private lands are owned or controlled by the Rock Springs Grazing Association (RSGA).
- The BLM, the RSGA and the US Geological Survey conducted census flights in April 2014 using the simultaneous double count method:

2014 Statistically Corrected Census Counts		
HMA	Total within HMA	Total within Checkerboard
Great Divide Basin	618	394
Salt Wells Creek	728	402
Adobe Town	566	10

- The BLM will use a contractor to remove all wild horses within the checkerboard.
- Wild horses will be offered for adoption through the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Program or placed in long-term holding pastures.
- Interested members of the public and the media will be afforded opportunities to attend gather operations and to observe the animals prior to shipping to short-term holding; however, public viewing will not be available on or from private land.

Consequences of Postponing/Not Removing Wild Horses

- Not removing wild horses in the checkerboard would result in non-compliance with Section 4 of the Wild Horse and Burro Act (WHBA), 16 U.S.C. 1334, its implementing regulations found at 43 CFR 4700 and the provisions of the 2013 Consent Decree. Non-compliance would essentially place the BLM in contempt of court, necessitating further action at the court's discretion.

