



Date: April 12, 2004
Contact: Mary Apple, 406-896-5258

BILLINGS -- The Bureau of Land Management Billings Field Office is asking the public to review and comment on an environmental assessment (EA) of activities planned for the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range. The BLM plans to continue fertility control on wild horse mares this summer.

Fertility control research began on the Pryor herd in 2001 and continued in 2002 and 2003. The BLM proposes to vaccinate all yearling and two-year-old mares as well as those 14 years and older with the immunocontraceptive Porcine Zona Pellucida (PZP) vaccine. The vaccine would induce one year of infertility, allowing the younger mares to mature in a healthier condition before becoming pregnant. Fertility control will allow older mares to live the remainder of their lives in better overall health without the burden of gestation and/or lactation.

The proposed fertility control implementation is scheduled to begin no earlier than July 1, 2004, and will continue until all selected mares have received a booster vaccine conferring one year of infertility. Any subsequent fertility control efforts involving animals not identified in this EA will be covered by additional National Environmental Policy Act documents.

Comments on the EA must be submitted in writing with original signatures, and be postmarked by May 10, 2004, to: Bureau of Land Management, Billings Field Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101. Copies of the EA can be obtained from the Billings Field Office or on the internet at www.mt.blm.gov/bifo/whb/doc2.html.

###