

**FY 2000 Work Plan
CALIFORNIA DESERT WILD BURRO MANAGEMENT**

Background

Early settlers and miners introduced burros to the desert and a wild population developed quickly. Today, their numbers have increased dramatically due to lack of natural predators, their adaptability to the desert environment, and a lack of funding for control programs. Uncontrolled populations have led to extreme overgrazing, local extirpation of some native plant species, extensive disturbance of soils, and declines in biological diversity around spring areas.

The Strategic Plan for the Management of Wild Burros, signed in January, 1999, established Goals and Objectives DOI and State agencies and the military to work collaboratively in sharing staff and resources to manage wild burros in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

Project Goals and Objectives

This Work Plan addresses two primary goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

1. Manage wild burro populations at Appropriate Management Levels (AML) identified in the BLM's California Desert Conservation Area Plan until land management planning for the various agencies is completed, through aggressively removing existing excess burros to reach AMLs within the next three years.

2. Manage populations of burros 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.

Task Description

1. Remove 1,200 burros from the California desert region (BLM, NPS, FWS, and State lands).

Of the 1200 animals captured in FY 2000, 660 (540 from California Desert, 120 from Lake Mead) will be placed into the BLM's National Adoption Program. Of the 540 burros from the California desert entering into the BLM adoption program, 120 burros will be from Death Valley National Park, 100 burros from the Mojave National Preserve, 100 from Military lands, 100 burros from various agency lands along the Colorado River and 120 burros will be from BLM lands. The remaining 540 animals will be placed with various organizations as arranged through the National Park Service. These 1,200 animals will be removed throughout the year, so not to overflow the adoption system at any one time.

2. Conduct population surveys within the herd management areas in cooperation with National Park Service, Naval Air Weapons Station, Chocolate Mountain Gunnery Range, California State Parks, Chemehuevi Indian Reservation, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

3. Implement vegetative monitoring in all remaining HMAs through key area stratification and sampling. Through this monitoring, and the development/revision of Herd Management Area Plans, determine appropriate long-range population levels on BLM lands and appropriate management prescriptions on NPS and other agencies' managed lands.

FY2000 Budget Summary

Tasks	Death Valley NP	Lake Mead Recreation Area	Mojave National Preserve	NPS Total	Bureau of Land Mgmt
Burro Removal & Placement	\$250,000	\$180,000	\$375,000	\$805,000	\$375,000
Management Implementation	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$350,000	\$150,000
Habitat/Population Monitoring	\$25,000	\$20,000		\$45,000	\$75,000
Total	\$375,000	\$325,000	\$500,000	\$1,200,000	\$600,000

Description of Final Product

1. Removal of 1200 burros from the California Desert
2. Implementation of Management Actions to control and manage wild burros
3. Assessment of the numbers of burros in designated herd management areas