



2011 Sheldon Refuge Feral Horse Gather **Public Announcement**

Sheldon-Hart Mountain Refuge Complex, Lakeview Oregon

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On August 15, 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will begin gathering approximately 270 feral horses at Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge as part of its ongoing management actions to implement the Refuge's 2008 Environmental Assessment for Horse and Burro Management and associated Finding of No Significant Impact.

There are currently at least 1,100 feral horses within Sheldon NWR, which was created to provide habitat for native species such as pronghorn antelope and sage grouse. The purpose of the gather is to prevent an increase in damage to valuable and sensitive refuge habitats by removing feral horses in an effort to meet the 2008 Sheldon NWR Horse and Burro Plan management objective for maintaining a population of approximately 800 horses within Sheldon NWR.

Horses will be gathered, transported, sorted and shipped for adoption consistent with the 2008 Sheldon NWR Horse and Burro Plan including Appendix C: Standard Operating Procedures.

These documents are available on-line at:

www.fws.gov/sheldonthartmtn/Sheldon/horseburro.html

In order to conduct effective and efficient operations during the gather, to improve safety for horses during the gather, and to ensure public safety, portions of Sheldon NWR, including some roads, will be closed to public entry during gather operations. Public viewing and observation of gather operations and sorting may be possible at a distance from other roads and areas of Sheldon NWR open to the public.

Potential adopters can contact Carr's Wild Horse & Burro Center at CarrsHolding@aol.com or J&S Associates at (601) 546-2555.