



2013 Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge **Feral Horse Gather**

Public Announcement

Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Lakeview, Oregon
Contact: Megan Nagel, megan_nagel@fws.gov, 503-231-6123

On September 9, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will begin gathering approximately 400 feral horses at Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) as part of its ongoing management actions to implement the Service's 2012 Record of Decision for the Sheldon NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan and associated Final Environmental Impact Statement.

There are approximately 830 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 restore valuable and sensitive refuge habitats by removing feral horses in an effort to meet the Comprehensive Conservation Plan management objective of removing all feral horses and burros from Sheldon NWR by 2017.

Animals will be gathered, transported, sorted and shipped for adoption consistent with the Sheldon NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan, including Appendix H: 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, to improve safety for horses, and to ensure public safety, portions of Sheldon NWR surrounding gather operations, including some roads, will be closed to public entry during the gather.

Persons interested in adopting Sheldon horses should contact Carr's Wild Horse & Burro Center at 615-654-2180 or rpcarrfarm@aol.com, or J&S Associates at (601) 546-2555.