



Malheur National Forest

P.O. Box 909, John Day, OR. 97845 (541) 575-3000

www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2009

For More Information: Pattie Hammett
Phone: 541-575-3144

MURDERERS CREEK WILD HORSE ROUNDUP PLANNED

John Day, OR - A wild horse roundup in the Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory is planned for late July through approximately August 2009, announced Brooks Smith, Blue Mountain District Ranger.

The roundup is part of the overall management plan for the Murderers Creek wild horse herd. The objective is to ensure that horse numbers are maintained at levels which will not damage the resources, explained Smith. "If left on their own, the herd will quickly grow to a size that exceeds the capacity of the range," he stated. "If successful, this year's gather operations should bring us in line with our herd management level. We can then resume a schedule of gathers every three years." The management plan provides for the maintenance of an average of 100 head. The last roundup was held in 2007/2008 when 134 horses were gathered.

The roundup will begin in late July and could continue through late August. Approximately 100 to 150 wild horses will be gathered by a private contractor under the supervision of Forest Service personnel. The captured horses will be transported to the Oregon's Wild Horse Corral Facility in Hines and made available for adoption.

"The Bureau of Land Management facility handles a large number of adoptions each year," said Smith. "They are better equipped to provide proper care and match prospective adoptors with available horses. This coordination allows both agencies to provide better services at a reduced cost."

The gather operations will be conducted in the entire Murderers Creek Wild Horse Territory and potentially adjacent Forest Land.

To ensure the safety of the contractor and the horses, an area closure will be implemented. The closure is anticipated to take effect late July through late August. The specifics of this closure will be announced to the public and the area posted in advance of implementation of the closure. Copies of the closure notice and maps identifying the closed areas will be available at the Malheur National Forest Supervisor's office in John Day and at www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur August 1, 2009.

Anyone interested in adopting a wild horse should contact the Bureau of Land Management, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, OR 97738, (541)-573-4400 or www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov

###