

## 4740 – MOTOR VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT (PUBLIC)

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## 4740 – MOTOR VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT (PUBLIC)

.01 Purpose. This Manual Section describes the authorities, objectives and policies that guide the use of motor vehicles and aircraft in the management of wild horses and burros.

.02 Objectives. The BLM's objectives in this Manual Section are:

A. To improve the efficiency of wild horse and burro management by the use of aircraft or motor vehicles.

B. To inform the public by holding a public hearing before using any motorized vehicles or aircraft in the management of wild horses and burros.

C. To ensure the safety and of personnel and animals by requiring that all aircraft and motor vehicles used in wild horse and burro management meet appropriate standards and are operated in a safe and humane manner.

.03 Authority. See BLM Manual Section 4700.

.04 Responsibility. See BLM Manual Section 4700.

.05 References. See BLM Manual Section 4700 and 4720.

.06 Policy. See BLM Manual Section 4700.

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.1 Use of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft. Any type of motor vehicle or aircraft may be used in the management of wild horses and burros, except that helicopters shall be the only mechanized means used to herd wild horses and burros for capture. See BLM Manual Section 4720.

.11 Operation of Helicopters. Helicopters shall be used in a manner consistent with BLM policy set forth in BLM Manual Section 9400, Aviation Management. Additional considerations applicable to use of helicopters in wild horse and burro management are listed below:

A. Helicopters shall be used to herd wild horses and burros in a manner that allows foals to remain with their mares (or jennies) whenever possible. In the event a foal is separated from a band, the pilot must either record a positive location for later capture with the assistance of a ground crew, or abandon the capture attempt for that group of animals.

B. Helicopters shall be used in a manner that minimizes the stress to the animals by limiting the speed and distance the animals are herded in accordance with the condition of the animals, the nature of the terrain, and the weather.

C. Helicopters used to herd wild horses or burros must be equipped to allow communication throughout the removal process between the helicopter, the ground crew, and the BLM personnel supervising the gather.

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### .2 Transporting Wild Horses and Burros.

.21 Standards. The standards in 43 CFR 4720.2 shall be used to determine the suitability of vehicles for transporting wild horses and burros. Only single straight deck trucks or trailers shall be used to transport wild horses or burros.

.22 Inspections. Vehicles used to transport wild horses and burros shall be inspected before use to ensure the vehicle can safely transport wild horses and burros. The inspection should determine that the standards referenced in .21 above are met and that the interior of the vehicle is in sanitary condition.

### .23 Loading of Animals.

A. The loading of animals into each compartment shall be closely monitored to ensure the animals contained therein have sufficient space to turn about freely.

B. Animals shall be separated as deemed necessary to ensure their safe transportation.

1. The authorized officer shall separate animals, as necessary to ensure their safe transportation from capture (trap) sites to temporary holding facility(s).

2. The authorized officer shall segregate wild horses and burros by age and sex, and load them in separate compartments when shipping the animals from temporary holding facilities to preparation facilities or from/to other locations, except that mares or jennies and their un-weaned foals may be shipped together.

.24 Shipment Following Capture. Transportation of recently captured wild horses or burros from the temporary holding facility to BLM preparation facility(s) will be limited to a maximum of 8 hours.

.25 Rest Periods. When shipping from a BLM preparation facility to other locations, wild horses and burros shall be transported a maximum of 24 hours. Immediately prior to transportation, and after every 24 hours of transportation, animals shall be offloaded and provided a minimum of 8 hours on-the-ground rest.

A. During the rest period, each animal shall be provided access to unlimited amounts of clean water and 2 pounds of good quality hay per 100 pounds of body weight with adequate bunk space to allow all animals to eat at one time.

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B. The authorized officer may waive the rest period in situations where the anticipated travel time exceeds the 24-hour limit but, in the authorized officer's judgment, the stress of offloading and reloading is likely to be greater than the stress involved in the additional period of uninterrupted travel. In making this judgment, the authorized officer shall consider variables such as weather, the condition of the animals, and the time involved compared to the 24-hour and 8-hour limitations.

.26 Health Certification. A veterinarian authorized to certify that a horse or burro meets health requirements for shipping must certify that each wild horse or burro shipped from a BLM preparation, holding or adoption center meets the health requirements for interstate movement. (See U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations at 9 CFR 71.3 for prohibitions against interstate movement of diseased animals).

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.3 Public Hearings. Public hearings are required before using motorized vehicles or aircraft in the management of WH&B (43 CFR 4740.1(b)). Motorized vehicles or aircraft may include use of fixed wing aircraft for population surveys; use of helicopters for population surveys or capture; or other motorized vehicles for WH&B transport or in-field monitoring activities.

Hearings are held in the state where the activities are proposed. Either a single state-wide hearing or a set of hearings at local offices may be held. Notification of a hearing may be made by issuing a press release and sending a letter announcing the hearing to the affected and interested public. Publication of a *Federal Register* notice is not required. In states that conduct removal operations every year, an annual hearing should be scheduled. Once the hearing has been completed, the hearing record shall be compiled and retained in the 4740 case file.