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Public comment sought on wild horse roundup

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Federal officials, who last week concluded a controversial wild horse roundup in Nevada, are seeking public comment on another one proposed for the Twin Peaks area northeast of Susanville.

The Bureau of Land Management roundup, tentatively planned for August and September, would involve about 1,800 wild horses and 180 burros, said Jeff Fontana, an agency spokesman in Susanville.

The current Twin Peaks population is estimated at 2,300 horses and 250 burros – four times the number the range can sustain without damaging natural resources, he said.

Opponents tried to halt a similar roundup of nearly 2,000 wild horses in the Calico Mountains north of Reno and just east of the California state line. Branding it unnecessary and inhumane, they staged protests across the country and in London, but were unsuccessful in stopping the gathering, which used helicopters and other vehicles.

BLM officials on Friday reported 1,922 mustangs were removed from the Calico Mountains complex.

A 30-day public comment period on the Twin Peaks roundup ends March 5. The BLM expects to issue an environmental assessment and proposed decision in early May, Fontana said.

Comments can be sent to Eagle Lake Field Office, Attention: Twin Peaks Wild Horse Gather, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, or e-mailed to twinpeaks@ca.blm.gov.

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