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APPENDIX C

DESCRIPTION/SPECIFICATIONS/WORK STATEMENT

C.1 GENERAL

a. The work consists of the capture of wild horses and/or burros from the States of Nevada, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, New Mexico, California, Colorado, Oregon, and Utah, care of those animals. This work also consist of the care and transportation of the animals to a designated preparation facility identified in the specific task order not to exceed 12 hours under normal driving conditions from the temporary holding site. Except as otherwise provided in this contract, the Contractor shall furnish all labor, supplies and equipment necessary to accomplish the work. The work shall be accomplished in a safe and humane manner and be in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR Part 4700 and the following specifications and provisions.

b. Copies of laws or regulations referenced herein may be obtained from following BLM offices:

Bureau of Land Management
Arizona State Office
222 N. Central Avenue
P.O. Box 555
Phoenix, AZ 85001-0555

Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834
Sacramento, CA 95825-0451

Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215-7076

Bureau of Land Management
Idaho State Office
1387 S. Vinnell Way
Boise, ID 837059-1657

Bureau of Land Management
Montana State Office
5001 Southgate Drive
P.O. Box 36800
Billings, MT 59107-6800

Bureau of Land Management
Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Boulevard
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office
1474 Rodeo Road
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115

Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
1515 S.W. 5th Avenue
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Bureau of Land Management
Utah State Office
324 South State Street, Suite 301
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
5363 Yellowstone Road
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82003

C.2 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

a. Refer to Section J for a listing of the gathers that are tentatively scheduled for October 2003 through September 2004. It is important to note that the list is tentative and gather locations and/or numbers may be changed.

b. Specific historical information concerning each Herd Management Area (HMA) can be obtained from the respective administrative office of jurisdiction. It should be noted that certain HMAs may have a past history of removals, aerial census, research activities involving collaring of animals, limited access, and other disturbances to the animals or their habitat. In addition, under conditions of emergency, some animals may require special treatment to compensate for their weakened condition such as provision of additional water and/or pens. In a few burro gathers special handling may be necessary to load and unload animals onto and off of a Government furnished boat. It may be necessary in some HMAs for the Contractor to utilize a government furnished portable "Fly" chute to restrain, age and/or provide additional care for the animals. This care may include inoculating captured animals for infectious diseases, restraint for marking release animals, or other procedures specified by BLM or their contracted veterinarian. BLM will provide inoculate and all necessary equipment for inoculating animals. Fertility management practices may require capture of up to 90% of entire herds, selective removals based on predetermined criteria, treating mares with fertility control drugs and holding the animals for up to 21 days or until they can be released back into the HMA in such a manner as to not interfere with the total capture operation. Holding animals may necessitate the need for additional holding pens.

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c. Gather operations may include work on military and or other restricted areas. The contractor will be required to obtain all necessary clearances to conduct operations for equipment and personnel.

C.3 TASK ORDERS

The specific work to be performed shall be stated in the individual task order (see Section H for Criteria for Issuing Task Orders). Methodology to be used in a gather will be determined by the contractor with concurrence from the BLM. This will be finalized prior to issuance of a task order. Each task order will contain the following information:

- a. Capture Method
- b. Description of the work area and maps
- c. Detail as to whether the removal is a partial or total removal. Some removals may be defined as total capture with removal of a specified number. Identify if capture is a selective removal and what the target group is.
- d. Capture order/priority
- e. Number of animals to be captured by priority area
- f. Location of Wilderness, WSA, or other areas with restricted access.
- g. A description of specific roundup area(s) and numbers of animals within general contract area(s) as animal concentration, terrain, physical barriers and weather conditions dictate
- h. Required performance time
- I. Estimated number of animals to be held for fertility treatments and approximate duration of holding
- j. Transportation destination point.

C.4 TRAPPING AND CARE

a. The primary concern of the contractor is the safe and humane handling of all animals captured. All capture attempts shall incorporate the following:

All trap and holding facilities locations must be approved by the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) and/or the Project Inspector (PI) prior to construction. The Contractor may also be required to change or move trap locations as determined by the COR/PI. All traps and holding facilities not located on public land must have prior written approval of the landowner.

b. The rate of movement and distance the animals travel shall not exceed limitations set by the COR/PI who will consider terrain, physical barriers, weather, condition of the animals and other factors.

c. All traps, wings, and holding facilities shall be constructed, maintained and operated to handle the animals in a safe and humane manner and be in accordance with the following:

(1) Traps and holding facilities shall be constructed of portable panels, the top of which shall not be less than 72 inches high for horses and 60 inches for burros, and the bottom rail of which shall not be more than 12 inches from ground level. All traps and holding facilities shall be oval or round in design.

(2) All loading chute sides shall be a minimum of 6 feet high and shall be fully covered with plywood (without holes) or like material.

(3) All runways shall be a minimum of 30 feet long and a minimum of 6 feet high for horses, and 5 feet high for burros, and shall be covered with plywood, burlap, plastic snow fence or like material a minimum of 1 foot to 5 feet above ground level for burros and 1 foot to 6 feet for horses. The location of the government furnished portable fly chute to restrain, age, or provide additional care for the animals shall be placed in the runway in a manner as instructed by or in concurrence with the COR/PI.

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(4) All crowding pens including the gates leading to the runways shall be covered with a material which prevents the animals from seeing out (plywood, burlap, plastic snow fence, etc.) and shall be covered a minimum of 1 foot to 5 feet above ground level for burros and 2 feet to 6 feet for horses. Eight linear feet of this material shall be capable of being removed or let down to provide a viewing window.

(5) All pens and runways used for the movement and handling of animals shall be connected with hinged self-locking gates.

d. No fence modification will be made without authorization from the COR/PI. The Contractor shall be responsible for restoration of any fence modification which he has made.

e. When dust conditions occur within or adjacent to the trap or holding facility, the Contractor shall be required to wet down the ground with water.

f. Alternate pens, within the holding facility shall be furnished by the Contractor to separate mares or jennies with small foals, sick and injured animals, and estrays from the other animals. Animals shall be sorted as to age, number, size, temperament, sex, and condition when in the holding facility so as to minimize, to the extent possible, injury due to fighting and trampling. Under normal conditions, the government will require that animals be restrained for the purpose of determining an animals age, sex, or other necessary procedures. In these instances, a portable restraining chute may be necessary and will be provided by the government. Alternate pens shall be furnished by the Contractor to hold animals if the specific gathering requires that animals be released back into the capture area(s). In areas requiring one or more satellite traps, and where a centralized holding facility is utilized, the contractor may be required to provide additional holding pens to segregate animals transported from remote locations so they may be returned to their traditional ranges. Either segregation or temporary marking and later segregation will be at the discretion of the COR.

g. The Contractor shall provide animals held in the traps and/or holding facilities with a continuous supply of fresh clean water at a minimum rate of 10 gallons per animal per day. Animals held for 10 hours or more in the traps or holding facilities shall be provided good quality hay at the rate of not less than two pounds of hay per 100 pounds of estimated body weight per day. An animal that is held at a temporary holding facility after 5:00 p.m. and on through the night, is defined as a horse/burro feed day. An animal that is held for only a portion of a day does not constitute a feed day.

h. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to provide security to prevent loss, injury or death of captured animals until delivery to final destination.

i. The Contractor shall restrain sick or injured animals if treatment is necessary. The COR/PI will determine if injured animals must be destroyed and provide for destruction of such animals. The Contractor may be required to dispose of the carcasses as directed by the COR/PI.

j. Animals shall be transported to final destination from temporary holding facilities within 24 hours after capture unless prior approval is granted by the COR/PI for unusual circumstances. Animals to be released back into the HMA following gather operations may be held up to 21 days or as directed by the COR/PI. Animals shall not be held in traps and/or temporary holding facilities on days when there is no work being conducted except as specified by the COR/PI. The Contractor shall schedule shipments of animals to arrive at final destination between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. No shipments shall be scheduled to arrive at final destination on Sunday and Federal holidays, unless prior approval has been obtained by the COR. Animals shall not be allowed to remain standing on trucks while not in transport for a combined period of greater than three (3) hours. Animals that are to be released back into the capture area may need to be transported back to the original trap site. This determination will be at the discretion of the COR.

C.5 CAPTURE METHODS THAT MAY BE USED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF A GATHER

a. Capture attempts may be accomplished by utilizing bait (feed or water) to lure animals into a temporary trap. If the contractor selects this method the following applies:

(1) Finger gates shall not be constructed of materials such as "T" posts, sharpened willows, etc., that may be injurious to animals.

(2) All trigger and/or trip gate devices must be approved by the COR/PI prior to capture of animals.

(3) Traps shall be checked a minimum of once every 10 hours.

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b. Capture attempts may be accomplished by utilizing a helicopter to drive animals into a temporary trap. If the contractor selects this method the following applies:

- (1) A minimum of two saddle-horses shall be immediately available at the trapsite to accomplish roping if necessary. Roping shall be done as determined by the COR/PI. Under no circumstances shall animals be tied down for more than one hour.
- (2) The contractor shall assure that bands remain together, and that foals shall not be left behind.

c. Capture attempts may be accomplished by utilizing a helicopter to drive animals to ropers. If the contractor selects this method the following applies:

- (1) Under not circumstances shall animals be tied down for more than one hour.
- (2) The contractor shall assure that bands remain together, and that foals shall not be left behind.

C.6 MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT

a. All motorized equipment employed in the transportation of captured animals shall be in compliance with appropriate State and Federal laws and regulations applicable to the humane transportation of animals. The Contractor shall provide the COR/PI with a current safety inspection (less than one year old) for all motorized equipment and tractor-trailers used to transport animals to final destination.

b. All motorized equipment, tractor-trailers, and stock trailers shall be in good repair, of adequate rated capacity, and operated so as to ensure that captured animals are transported without undue risk or injury.

c. Only tractor-trailers or stock trailers with a covered top shall be allowed for transporting animals from trap site(s) to temporary holding facilities, and from temporary holding facilities to final destination(s). Sides or stock racks of all trailers used for transporting animals shall be a minimum height of 6 feet 6 inches from the floor. Single deck tractor-trailers 40 feet or longer shall have two (2) partition gates providing three (3) compartments within the trailer to separate animals. Tractor-trailers less than 40 feet shall have at least one partition gate providing two (2) compartments within the trailer to separate the animals. Compartments in all tractor-trailers shall be of equal size plus or minus 10 percent. Each partition shall be a minimum of 6 feet high and shall have a minimum 5 foot wide swinging gate. The use of double deck tractor-trailers is unacceptable and shall not be allowed.

d. All tractor-trailers used to transport animals to final destination(s) shall be equipped with at least one (1) door at the rear end of the trailer which is capable of sliding either horizontally or vertically. The rear door(s) of tractor-trailers and stock trailers must be capable of opening the full width of the trailer. Panels facing the inside of all trailers must be free of sharp edges or holes that could cause injury to the animals. The material facing the inside of all trailers must be strong enough so that the animals cannot push their hooves through the side. Final approval of tractor-trailers and stock trailers used to transport animals shall be held by the COR/PI.

e. Floors of tractor-trailers, stock trailers and loading chutes shall be covered and maintained with wood shavings to prevent the animals from slipping.

f. Animals to be loaded and transported in any trailer shall be as directed by the COR/PI and may include limitations on numbers according to age, size, sex, temperament and animal condition. The following minimum square feet per animal shall be allowed in all trailers:

- 11 square feet per adult horse (1.4 linear foot in an 8 foot wide trailer);
- 8 square feet per adult burro (1.0 linear foot in an 8 foot wide trailer);
- 6 square feet per horse foal (.75 linear foot in an 8 foot wide trailer);
- 4 square feet per burro foal (.50 linear foot in an 8 foot wide trailer).

g. The COR/PI shall consider the condition and size of the animals, weather conditions, distance to be transported, or other factors when planning for the movement of captured animals. The COR/PI shall provide for any brand and/or inspection services required for the captured animals.

h. If the COR/PI determines that dust conditions are such that the animals could be endangered during transportation, the

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Contractor will be instructed to adjust speed.

C.7 SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS

a. The Contractor shall have the means to communicate with the COR/PI and all contractor personnel engaged in the capture of wild horses and burros utilizing a VHF/FM Transceiver or VHF/FM portable Two-Way radio. If communications are ineffective the government will take steps necessary to protect the welfare of the animals.

1. The proper operation, service and maintenance of all contractor furnished property is the responsibility of the Contractor. The BLM reserves the right to remove from service any contractor personnel or contractor furnished equipment which, in the opinion of the contracting officer or COR/PI violate contract rules, are unsafe or otherwise unsatisfactory. In this event, the Contractor will be notified in writing to furnish replacement personnel or equipment within 48 hours of notification. All such replacements must be approved in advance of operation by the Contracting Officer or his/her representative.

2. The Contractor shall obtain the necessary FCC licenses for the radio system

3. All accidents occurring during the performance of any task order shall be immediately reported to the COR/PI.

b. Should the contractor choose to utilize a helicopter the following will apply:

1. The Contractor must operate in compliance with Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 91. Pilots provided by the Contractor shall comply with the Contractor's Federal Aviation Certificates, applicable regulations of the State in which the gather is located.

2. Fueling operations shall not take place within 1,000 feet of animals.

C.8 CONTRACTOR-FURNISHED PROPERTY

a. As specified herein, it is the contractor's responsibility to provide all necessary support equipment and vehicles, hay and water for the animals and any other needed items, personnel, vehicles, horses, etc. to support the capture, care and transport of horses/burros. Other equipment includes but is not limited to, a minimum 2,500 linear feet of 72-inch high (minimum height) panels for horses or 60-inch high (minimum height) for burros for traps and holding facilities. Separate water troughs shall be provided at each pen where animals are being held. Water troughs shall be constructed of such material (e.g., rubber, galvanized metal with rolled edges, rubber over metal) so as to avoid injury to the animals.

b. The Contractor shall provide a radio transceiver to insure communications are maintained with the BLM project PI when driving or transporting the wild horses/burros. The contractor needs to insure communications can be made with the BLM and be capable of operating in the 150 MHz to 174 MHz frequency band, frequency synthesized, CTCSS 32 sub-audible tone capable, operator programmable, 5kHz channel increment, minimum 5 watts carrier power.

C.9 GOVERNMENT FURNISHED EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES/MATERIALS

The government will provide a portable restraining chute for each contractor to be used for the purpose of restraining animals to determine the age of specific individuals or other similar procedures. The contractor will be responsible for the maintenance of the portable restraining chute during the gather season. The government may also provide VHF/FM portable 2-way radios, if needed. The government will provide all inoculate, syringes, freezemarking equipment, and all related equipment for fertility control treatments. When required a boat will be furnished to transport burros. The Contractor shall be responsible for the security of all Government Furnished Property (GFP).

C.10 SITE CLEARANCES

Prior to setting up a trap or temporary holding facility, BLM will conduct all necessary clearances (archaeological, T&E, etc). All proposed site(s) must be inspected by a government archaeologist. Once archaeological clearance has been obtained, the trap or temporary holding facility may be set up. Said clearance shall be arranged for by the COR, PI, or other BLM employees.

C.11 SPECIAL HANDLING OF ANIMALS

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The Contractor will be required to assist in the special handling of some animals before their release or transport. Such special handling includes, but is not limited to, inoculations, sterilization, freeze branding.