

New regulations

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sidered comparably with other resource values in the development of resource management plans, and the animals will be allocated as appropriate portion of the available forage. The presence of one or more animals qualifies wild horses or burros for consideration in the multiple use planning for a particular area.

Inventory and planning are among other management areas addressed in the final regulations. As a basis for making its management decisions, the Bureau will maintain a current inventory for each area where a herd exists. A herd is one or more stallions and their mares or jacks and their jennies.

The inventory will estimate animal numbers, productivity, sex ratio, and age structure. Using BLM's multiple use planning system and information developed from the inventory, appropriate actions needed to achieve proper population levels will be determined. Where rangelands are seriously deteriorated from overpopulation, excess wild horses or burros may be removed without this inventory and planning process.

In determining overpopulation, appropriate management levels, and animal population control methods, BLM must consult with a wide range of individuals and government agencies.

These include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State wildlife agencies, individuals recommended by the National Academy of Sciences, and other BLM-selected persons with scientific expertise or special knowledge of wild horse and burro protection, wildlife management and animal husbandry.

The order and manner in

which excess and problem animals will be removed from the public lands are established in the final regulation.

Old, sick, or lame excess animals will be humanely destroyed; additional excess animals for which a demand exists will be humanely captured, removed, and placed in adoption; additional excess animals for which there is no adoption demand, and for which relocation to other public lands is not practical, will be destroyed in the most humane manner possible.

Where a BLM officer finds it is not practical to capture and remove excess animals for adoption, he or his authorized agent may humanely destroy the animals.

Problem animals will be removed and disposed of in the same manner as excess animals, including the relocation or return to the public lands. Problem animals are wild horses and burros that threaten the safety or welfare of persons, wildlife, livestock, or property; or those that have an infectious disease or are seriously ill.

Before wild horses and burros are relocated to a different area of the public lands, a written determination must be made by the Bureau that the action meets the requirements of the Bureau's resource management plans and adequate forage exists for the relocated animals.

Reflecting the upcoming transfer of ownership to adopters, the regulations permit disposal in any customary manner of animals that have lost their wild, free-roaming status. Until title to an animal has been transferred, however, no consideration can be received for the carcass.

Standards for transporting wild horses and burros over long distances are set in the rulemaking. A section has been added stating that

unless otherwise approved by an authorized BLM officer, transportation shall be under humane conditions and limited to 24 hours in transit, followed by a minimum of five hours of rest with adequate feed and water.

The new regulations finalize rulemaking proposed by BLM in the Federal Register on April 6, 1979, with a 60-day comment period. Comments were received from 34 sources, including individuals, State Governments, businesses, environmentalists, Federal agencies, humane societies, and recreationists

BLM launched its Adopt-A-Horse program nationwide in Spring 1976 after successfully adopting out excess wild horses and burros for several years in the Western States. Animals have since been placed in foster homes in 47 States. Adopters train the animals for working or for showing, riding, packing and other recreational uses.

Persons interested in adopting a wild horse or burro may obtain information on the program by writing Adopt-A-Horse, Dept. 694G, Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

Protect shrubs from snow damage

MEDIA — The heavy snows of winter can do a lot of damage to evergreen trees and shrubs. James J. McKeehen, Delaware County Extension Agricultural Agent, suggests you sweep piles of snow from the branches after a heavy snowfall.

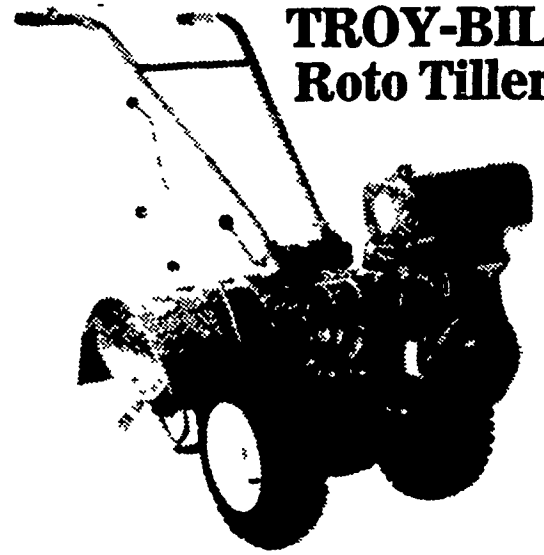
Never pound snow loose with a broom handle or other hard object. This may damage the needles or fine twigs, and sometimes plant parts are frozen and will snap off if you get too rough with them. Instead, use a broom or large snow brush from your car and sweep the snow away.

If the lower branches are bent under the burden of snow or buried beneath drifts, lift them gently and shake the snow off. Branches that stay buried for some time may become bent out of shape. And snow resting too long on evergreen leaves or needles may melt and turn to ice. If the leaves are covered with ice too long in sunny weather, they can be damaged and appear to be brown and dead in the spring. This is often true of yew, boxwood, and holly.

Pyramidal evergreens such as arborvitae, juniper, and yew are sometimes damaged seriously by just a single heavy snowfall or ice

storm. The extreme weight can break or bend the entire plant completely out of shape. To prevent this, tie a rope loosely in a coil or spiral fashion around the evergreen, starting at the bottom. Chicken wire can also be used, and the same treatment works on larger spreading trees, too. It's not too late to wrap these trees if you haven't done it already because we may still have some heavy, wet snow. Keep the plants wrapped until all danger of heavy snow has passed.

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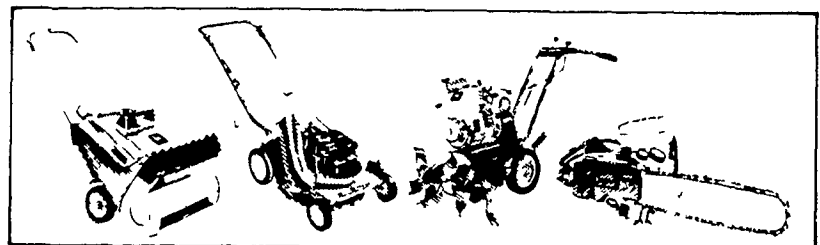
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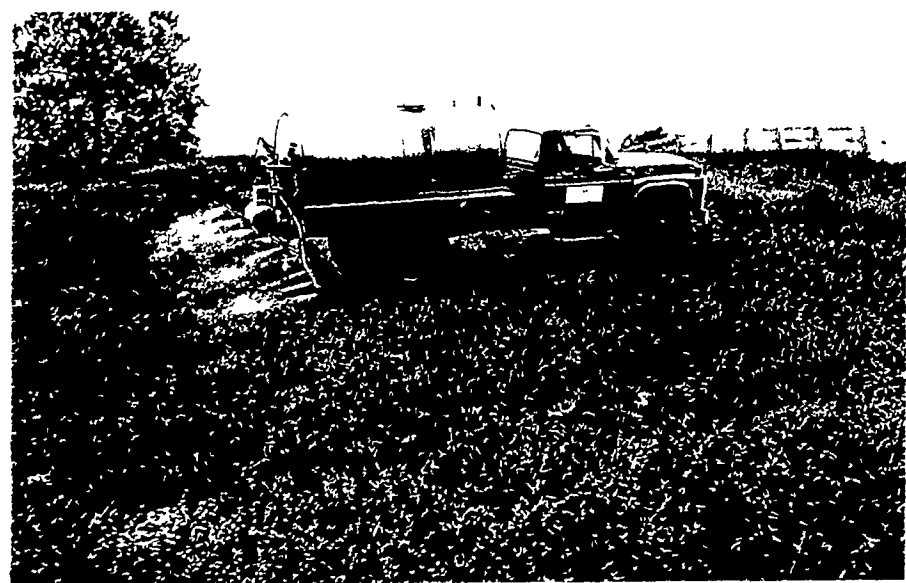
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