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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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GOVERNOR: DON'T DELAY WILD HORSE ROUNDUPS

CHEYENNE, Wyo. - Governor Dave Freudenthal today expressed his strong opposition to a U.S. Bureau of Land Management plan to delay wild horse roundups in Wyoming by shifting funding to Nevada.

With much of the western United States suffering from drought, Wyoming should not be forced to bear the burdens caused by budget constraints and indecision at the federal level, the Governor wrote in a letter to BLM Wyoming State Director Bob Bennett and the state's congressional delegation. Further, the move runs counter to a settlement and judicial decree filed in 2003.

"Nevada's experience with forage loss is the latest in a series of drought-related management concerns facing not only the BLM, but also states like Wyoming," Freudenthal wrote. "And while the situation in Nevada may warrant additional resource allocations for horse gathers there, I am hard pressed to see how Wyoming's funding for horse gathers must be sacrificed to address conditions in Nevada."

The Governor directed Attorney General Bruce Salzburg to advise him on the language of the 2003 Consent Decree and also urged Wyoming's congressional delegation to press the case with BLM officials in Washington, D.C.

Freudenthal suggested that rather than shuffle dollars from and make problems worse in Wyoming, federal officials should augment the BLM's existing budget. Should the BLM continue with an apparently already-chosen course, Freudenthal said he hopes the agency would allow flexibility for livestock permittees operating within the White Mountain and Little Colorado Herd Management Area boundaries of southwest Wyoming.

"Clearly, they should not be made to shoulder the burdens caused by federal budgetary constraints, indecision, and, in my view, inappropriate reallocation," he wrote.

A copy of the letter follows:

EXHIBIT Q1 - LANDS
Document consists of 1 page.
Entire Exhibit Provided
Meeting Date: 10-24-07