REVIEW OF CLAN ALPINE
WILD HORSE GATHERING OPERATION

December 1981

Les Sweeney

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REVIEW OF CLAN ALPINE
WILD HORSE GATHERING OPERATION

On December 21, 1981, we received a letter here in the State Office, that had been sent to several newspaper media throughout the country, that was written by Dr. Molde (see attached). This letter has made several allegations and expressed disapproval of the Bureau's horse gathering operations in the Clan Alpine area.

In response to this letter, Les Sweeney, Len Sims, Dave Goicoechea, and Milt Frei made a visit to the Carson City District to discuss with the District people the various points in the letter. On the following day, Les Sweeney and Len Sims visited the trap site. After discussions with the District people and a visit to the trap site, the following is a report on each of the allegations of Mr. Molde's letter.

1. He was concerned that we were gathering as few as one horse per trip with a helicopter. The capture crew was bringing in five horses into the trap at the time of the incident. Dr. Molde had preceded the horses into the trap by a few minutes, and since the trap was constructed right in the road in Cow Canyon, he found himself right in the trap before he realized where it was. At that point, the capture crew made an attempt to get the pick up hidden behind a large rock near the mouth of the trap. Since they did not have time to move Molde's pick up either through the trap or back out of it before the horses arrived, they were unable to get it completely hidden. When the horses saw it, they all broke back out of the trap. One old mare, which was in a weakened condition, turned back against the trap wing and followed it down to where it ended in a small wash. This was the lone mare that Dr. Molde speaks of, and we are not sure why he didn't mention the other four horses or see them. Regardless of how many they may capture per trip, the contract is based on so many dollars per horse caught and so the numbers do not affect the cost. The price per horse on this contract is $56.07 and was not an inflated number perceived by Dr. Molde as he discussed in a later paragraph on page two of his letter.

2. His second concern was for the treatment of the lone mare that he mentioned above. As the mare turned down the wing of the trap to escape, she fell down as she attempted to climb over a pile of dirt that had been pushed up in the bottom of the wash. At this point, they roped her and attempted to get her back into the trap. She fell down at least once and probably was choked some. The capture crew did cuff her about the ears, kick her in the ribs, and twisted her tail. Although this type of treatment is not looked upon as being a very humane treatment of horses, there is little chance that she was being hurt or cruelly treated.

3. Allowing a mare to suffer at the holding corral and possibly be trampled by additional horses unloaded at the corral. This mare had been down that morning; however, before leaving for the capture site, the capture crew had gotten her up. She stayed up part of the day and had gone down three to four hours prior to Molde's

arrival that evening. She was destroyed prior to unloading additional horses into the corral. The mare did have some bleeding around her mouth, and it was not sure what she was ailing from. This was not the same mare that had been roped and taken into the trap the previous day, as Dr. Molde suggested. There is no explanation as to why observers waiting in the darkness did not hear the gunshot when the horse was disposed of.

4. Concern for the number of horses killed and their treatment during the operation. Those that had to be put down due to their age and sickness or were crippled. There were 13 horses that died or were killed on this capture, which is somewhat excessive. This is about 2%. We should be able to keep this down to around 1%.

5. The Bureau underestimated the total number of horses in the area by 90%. 1,250 horses were counted in the area and 663 were removed. There is no indication that the Bureau underestimated the total number of horses in the area. Although the contractor may have problems in performance, there is no indication that the COAR has jeopardized the treatment of the horses because of any of these problems.

6. Political pressure to construct population estimates. We are unable to substantiate this allegation. Other groups such as NCA, have some inflated estimates. Our own Statewide estimates are down considerably from FY 80, i.e., 32,000 to 26,000.

On December 23, Len Sims and myself made an unannounced trip to the capture site in the Clan Alpines. We visited the capture site in Cow Canyon and the holding corrals near the Dixie Valley Highway (State Route 121). This site is located just east of the highway, approximately 15 miles from Highway 50.

At the holding corrals, we talked with the wives of the contractors (the Crawfords), and most of the allegations and activities and the confrontations that took place between them, Dr. Molde, and Dawn Lappin were later substantiated by Dr. Molde (also see attached statements written by the Crawford women). There is not a vet or anyone that stays all day at the holding corral that could attend to or dispatch a sick or injured animal. The horse that was down, which both Dr. Molde and Dawn Lappin were concerned about the evening of their visit to the holding corral, was dispatched by Doug Survant sometime between 5:00 and 5:30, per our discussion with Doug.

The contractors camp is located at the holding corral, and the Crawford women are there all the time. I think it is unreasonable to expect either someone from the capture crew, the BLM, or a vet to be on the site during those periods of time that the capture crew is gone. There is no indication that the horses are starved or left without water for any extended periods of time or any indication of inhumane treatment of the horses that were there.

Sometimes there can be 40 to 60 head of horses being held in the holding corral over night. This corral is about 50 feet in diameter and actually is too small for this number of horses and may have contributed to the

injury of two yearlings that had to be destroyed (see picture #1). Any time there is fighting or other disturbances in the corral with this many horses, it is difficult for the smaller colts to get out of the way. This observation was expressed to the contractor.

Upon visiting the capture site, and although we did not observe any horses actually coming into the corral, there was no indication that the operation was not being properly conducted. In fact, the trap site was located in a very good location as far as use of the terrain and rock bluffs for wings and obscuring the trap to the horses until they were into the wings. There were a few large rocks in a portion of the trap that could have been tossed out but really were not large enough or numerous enough that they should have contributed to any injuries (see picture #2).

In conversation with the contractor and Doug Survant, they felt that they are doing everything within reason to deter unnecessary injury to the horses during the operation. I did question, however, the fact that there was no covering over the back panel directly in front of the horses as they entered the trap to allow them to see part of the corral and not crash into it. Mr. Crawford stated that when they put the burlap up there and they see it, they turn back and don't go into the corral (see picture #3). Also, it is suggested that plywood panels or other materials should be installed in the loading shoots and squeeze corrals to keep animals from getting their legs through the panels, which can also lead to injuries (see picture #6 and #7).

We looked at the situation at the holding corrals involving the disposal of downed animals. Two of the four horses, that were there at the time, were lying in a small drainage. However, there was no trash of any kind including beer cans in, around, or about the horses as had previously been mentioned (someone could have picked them up in the meantime).

In summary, it was a good operation and comparable to others that we have conducted. However, the following is recommended:

1. When a horse does go down and is roped, that the animal be allowed more time to get up and move into the trap by itself; therefore, less chance that it be choked or will fall down.

2. Where a situation exists, as in this trap site, that the crew take a few minutes and toss out any rocks or locate corralls on rock-free sites.

3. That all efforts should be made to hang some kind of material on the corrals or panels to allow horses to see them and cut down on broken necks.

4. The COAR should not participate in the gathering operations. He is there to supervise and oversee the operation and should not be an active part of the actual operation, i.e. roping horses, herding them into traps, etc. However, it may be an advantage in many cases for the COAR to be on horseback while supervising a contract. It gives him more mobility in overseeing the operation.

5. A sign should be placed on the road entering a horse trap informing casual passers-by, or whomever, of the ongoing operation.

6. Holding corrals should be larger to allow for colts and other horses, especially weaker ones, to get away from fighting stallions, or whatever.

7. Dead animals should not be placed in any kind of water course and should be scattered over a large area.

In addition, there were a couple of good recommendations made by the contractor.

a. Inventory the horses just prior to the bid invitations, which should be expanded to include a count prior to the completion of the operation and insure that the number of horses that were identified to remain actually exist.

b. Develop a check list (fact sheet) for the potential contractors.

We should solicit this type of feedback from all of our contractors (see attached report to Tim Reusaat from the contractors).

Enclosures
As Stated

ADDENDUM TO REPORT OF 12/12/81

1. There was some criticism of the BLM in not checking on character of contractors before awarding the contract. The District did check shortly after an anonomous phone call concerning the contractor (Crawfords). Andy Anderson called the Craig District where the Crawfords last gathered horses. The Craig District was unaware of any abuse to horses by the Crawfords as alledged.

2. There was reference by both Dawn Lappin and Don Molde to a reoccurrance of horses being run through a fence that is a part of the capture area boundary (see photo #9 and attached report from one year ago). In discussion with the District, this fence was never repaired, since last January 1981. Pictures confirm this.

3. After considerable disucssions and review, it is evident that better documentation is needed in all of our horse gathering operations, including pictures.

4. A high percentage of the injuries to horses during capture operations occur during loading and unloading. Where holding facilities are separate from capture site, the loading and unloading necessary is doubled.

5. We were unable to substantiate Dr. Molde's allegation that part of the capture crew were out on their own running horses during Thanksgiving holiday without BLM knowledge.

6. A picture taken by Dr. Molde has answered part of the mystery on beer cans and dead horses being dumped into a wash together (see photo #11). From information we have, this occurred at the Shoshone Pass capture site; however, we were unable to determine the source of the trash or how long it had been there.

7. Milt Frei and myself met with the District on January 13 as post contract critique, and all points in these reports were discussed with the group and/or the District Manager.

Recommendations:

1. It is recommended more effort be made to better document all of our horse gatherings, i.e., maintain day-to-day logs, pictures.

2. It is recommended that an extra effort be made to locate holding facilities adjacent to capture sites.

J. McCoy
1/25/82

Meeting with Dr. Donald Molde
Clan Alpine Wild Horse
Gathering

On January 12, 1982, a meeting was held at the Nevada State Office with Dr. Donald Molde, concerning his concerns with the Clan Alpine wild horse gathering. Those present were Dr. Molde, Les Sweeney, Milt Frei, and Dave Goicoechea.

Basically, the meeting content involved a restatement and further description of the points raised in his letter dated December 18, 1981, to editors of various newspapers throughout the country. The following is a summary of the individual points which Dr. Molde raised in this meeting:

1. He still is not convinced that BLM has a wild horse problem. He feels that political pressure is the primary reason for removing wild horses.

2. He described the treatment he observed of a mare at the trap site, which he considers to be rope choking. He believes the treatment of this horse was unnecessary and that the wranglers should have given her more time to get up before pulling her into the trap.

3. He described what he considered to be excessive costs to capture horses in view of the fact that only one animal was caught while he was there. We explained that contracts included a fixed cost per animal and, therefore, the daily capture was not important as long as all animals were captured within the specified performance time.

4. He indicated that he found it somewhat confusing to identify who the BLM people were at the trap site, since he could not tell the COAR from the contractor by visual appearance.

5. He wanted to know why it was necessary to capture horses this time of year, because he had heard that many mares abort at the Palomino Facility. He also said he had heard that aborted fetuses had been thrown into an old mine shaft near PVC. We told him that due to foaling shutdown, we only had eight months to gather and that any shorter gathering period would result in an inability to remove excess animals in the numbers required. We also pointed out that we had no information that indicated mares were more prone to abort at this time of year than any other time.

6. He said that one of the trap sites on the east side of the Clan Alpine Range had too many rocks in it.

7. He said that he had heard a rumor that during the Thanksgiving holiday, the crew left at the holding corrals went out and captured wild horses.

8. He said that in the future, he will be making additional unannounced visits to wild horse gatherings. We advised him that if he does, it would be beneficial to discuss any concerns he has with BLM rather than the contractor.

9. He said that he is writing a column for a paper published by the Nevada section of the Humane Society and that his December 18 letter will be published in it. He also said he would welcome and print any BLM rebuttals to allegations printed in the publication.

10. He asked about excessive number of wild horse injuries at the corrals or during transportation to PVC. We told him that Don Pomi had identified head injuries in one truckload of horses, but that the problem had not occurred since advising the Carson City District to watch for a protrusion which may be causing injuries.

11. He again mentioned the rocks in the trap site and indicated he had a hard time seeing why a less rocky site couldn't be located. He later brought a photograph of this rocky trap site (see photo #10) to verify his position.

Susan 1/22/82

Milton A. Fox 1/22/82

HORSES KILLED DURING THE
CLAN ALPINE GATHERING OPERATION

Information Received from
Tim Reuwsaat by Telephone

11/27	1 ? 1 old O+	Trap; ran into gate holding pen; down and couldn't get up	Shoshone Pass trap Edwards Creek
11/28	1 ?	Trap; ran into gate	Shoshone Pass trap
11/29	1 ?	Trap; ran into gate	Shoshone Pass trap
12/3	1 old O+	Died at wing; heart attack	Hole-in-Wall trap
12/8	1 old O+	Couldn't stand up	Holding pen, Edwards Cr.
12/13	1 old O+	Couldn't stand (Molde, Lappin)	Holding pen, Dixie Vly.
12/19	1 ?	Ran into trap; broken neck	Cow Canyon trap
12/21	1 O+	Caught leg in trailer; leg broken	Holding pen, Dixie Vly.
12/22	1 foal	Broken leg	Holding pen, Dixie Vly.
12/23	1 yrlng.	Kicked - internal injuries	Holding pen, Dixie Vly.
1/7	1 old O+	Just plain died	Holding pen, Dixie Vly.
1/8	1 old O+	Unloading & knocked down and couldn't get up - died by herself.	Holding pen, Dixie Vly.

Reuwsaat
1/27/82

1.

2.

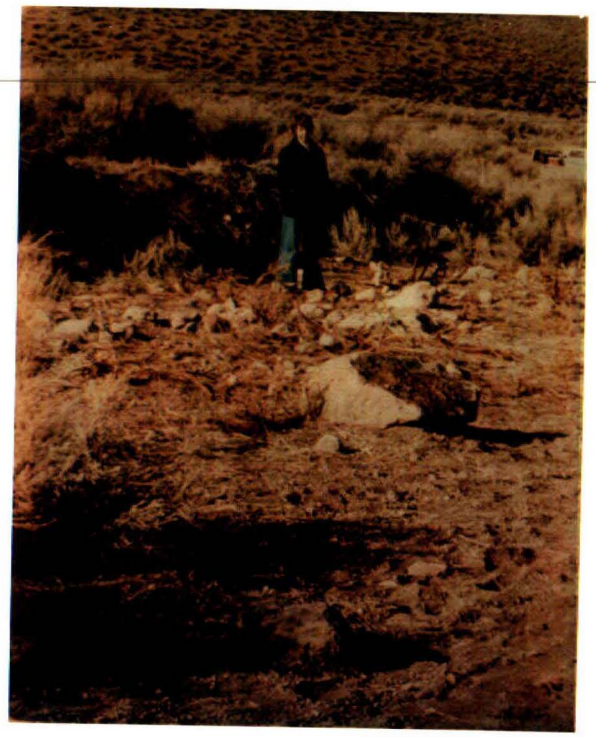
3.

6.

7.

9.

11



10

10

Donald A. Molde, M.D.
Psychiatrist
Appointments: 882-0718
Messages: 825-1221

Jack F. Clarke, Ph.D.
Certified Psychologist
Certified Marriage & Family Counselor
Phone: 323-1027

December 18, 1981

TO: Editor
Washington Post
1150 - 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20071

Editor
Las Vegas Review Journal
P.O. Box 70
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Editor
San Francisco Chroni
901 Mission Street
San Franciso, Califo
94103

Editor
New York Times
229 West 43rd
New York, N.Y. 10036

Editor
Nevada State Journal
401 West 2nd
Reno, Nevada 89520

Editor
Las Vegas Sun
121 S. Highland Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89016

Editor
Sacramento Bee
P.O. Box 15779
Sacramento, California 95813

Dear Sir:

1) We recently paid an unannounced visit to a wild horse gathering operation in the mountains of Northern Nevada. Our arrival at the wild horse trap occurred just as the helicopter was completing a sweep. Expecting to see a large herd of wild horses being driven in by the helicopter, we were surprised to view a lone mare running towards the trap.

2) Upon her arrival, the ground crew threw a noose around her neck and attempted to lead her to the corral. She was exhausted and fell to a sitting position, refusing to get up. One crew member twisted and pulled her tail, kicked her in the ribs, and cuffed her about the head. She was then dragged to her feet by a rider who pulled the noose tight about her neck ("rope-choked" her). She skidded a few feet, collapsed, and the noose had to be loosened to allow her to breathe. Finally, she was forced into the corral.

3) While we watched, the helicopter completed another sweep, producing two more horses, which were captured without difficulty. The "take" for the entire day was less than a dozen horses. The overhead obviously included several hours of helicopter time (At $200.00 or more per hour), two men in the helicopter, three men in the ground crew, two Bureau of Land Management employees, several pickups and trucks, and a base camp operation, which included vehicles, saddle horses, feed for the horses, and other expenses.

4) The next evening we stopped at base camp and found a mare lying on the ground in the holding corral. Camp personnel said the mare had been "down" all day, and had been having seizures. Its mouth was bloody, its breathing labored. No veterinarian

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had been called to attend the horse. (Whether the mare was the same one which was "rope-choked" and abused the previous day won't be determined until photographs are developed).

5 Later that night, other observers waiting in the darkness above the base camp heard the private contractor unload perhaps a dozen additional horses (the day's "catch") into the small holding corral without any auditory evidence that the downed mare had been moved or destroyed. It is likely that she was trampled by the new arrivals.

6 Further investigation turned up two dead horses which had been shot by the contractor, and dumped into a shallow ravine. Four additional horses may have been killed during this "gathering" thus far, as well as the "downed" mare.

7 The private contractor who is gathering the wild horses is not without his own complaints. He bid the contract to remove 700 horses from the mountain range in a specified time frame on the basis that the Bureau of Land Management told him there were 2100 horses in the area. With a daily "take" of only a few horses, it is likely that the wild horse population is perhaps a tenth of the estimate of the Bureau of Land Management.

8 In short, for a daily overhead cost of perhaps $2,000.00 an average of about a dozen horses a day are being removed. Added to that are the costs of transportation of the horses to the base camp, and on to Palamino Valley, feeding and watering the horses, base camp operations, and other expenses. It is likely that the cost to remove a single horse could approach $300.00 or more.

9 On the basis of this experience, we remain doubtful that Nevada's wild horse "problem" is anything other than a political windmill being tilted by tax payer's dollars because of the dislike of wild horses by the ranchers, and by Senator Laxalt.

10 The Bureau of Land Management seems to be a pawn, being forced by Laxalt's political pressure to construct exaggerated population estimates of wild horses, and stating reproduction rates that are biologically impossible. (We have personal correspondence from Senator Laxalt earlier this year in which he states that he has directed Bureau of Land Management Director Burford to remove wild horses by any necessary means).

11 Concerned citizens should contact the Bureau of Land Management or Senator Laxalt's office to voice their opinions. An unannounced visit to a wild horse trap can also be revealing. (Ask the Bureau of Land Management for the locations).

Sincerely,

Donald A. Molde, MD

DONALD A. MOLDE, M.D.

Jean Molde

JEAN MOLDE

DAM/jr

cc: Dawn Lappin
Rose Strickland
Lura Tularski
Dart Anthony
Tom Little
Ed Spang
Robin Jenkins
Cory Farley
John Grandy, Ph.D.
Toby Cooper
Senator Paul Laxalt

Statement for federal investigator

Shirley Stanford

Ma of Stanford

the last Sat Dec 12
about noon a man
came to our camp, would
not state his name but
later we found out he
was Mr. Malder, he first
demanded to know if we
were the horse contractors
then wanted to know how
many horses had been
killed, over at the last
trap. + where they took
them. he still wouldn't
say who he was but I
thought he was very
rude + called Shirley +
he demanded the same
thing + wanted to know
where the trap was there
they later on Sun. we
came back + was very
rude to Shirley as you
will read in his statement.
On the same Dec 12

about 2:00 he went
to the trap + caused
problems there.
I have never met with
a more belligerent man
in my life + don't care
to meet up with him
again.

Ida Campbell

Dec 16th 1981

Last Saturday I heard my sister-in-law talking outside so opened my door and saw a man in a red nylon coat approaching. He demanded to know where the trap was - I asked him why - he said because I went to watch them. I said I hadn't been to the trap and didn't know where it was. He hurled the question ~~How~~ How many horses did they kill on the antelope side? - I said I didn't know - you don't know? - No. I said I had heard them say the trap was about 25 miles down the road at Cowlan-yon. He said he would check on his maps and went back to his rig and eventually left without further conversation:

Sunday evening just at dusk a pick-up drove up to the holding corral and a woman came to the door. She said she was down staying with the WHOA organization and could she look at the horses? I said yes and walked to the corral with her. On approaching the

corral I realize that the red-coated man who was here the day before was there again. An old mare was down and had been for about 3 hours. Mr Lapin went in the corral & checked the horse. Red coat demanded that he look for rope burns on the mare's neck - there were none. Red coat raved that this was a mare we had roped & hocked the day before and that he had pictures of the incident. He excited we "choked" the animal. It was not the same horse and she had not been choked or hurt in any manner by our people. She was old, underfed & having some seizures of some kind. Her mouth had some blood on it from the seizures

Red coat asked what I was doing about it - I said nothing I could do - the men would take care of it as soon as they got there - Red Coat screamed at me "Call it: your job. I said no but if he wanted the mare up he could get in there and get her up.

Dawn said the BLM ~~and~~ should be watching and were supposed to have a

not in call". I said they did but they had to be at the trap site during the day. I said the nude man in the red coat had been there the day before, never stating his name, business or organization and that before the day was over we owned all have gladly thanked him. She said "I know but we've had so much trouble etc etc." I said, not with us you haven't! Red coat yelled - have these horses been fed or watered at all today? I asked him what he thought that was that was on the ground in front of him in the corral. He said what, where, what is that & demanded one of the other people look at it & see if it was fit feed. They all ignored him. He screamed at the woman in his pick-up to bring him a flash light. She did.

Dave said BLM had never shown her anything & that Jim Reasoch was the COAR & it took a week to get anything done through here. I said Jim was

not here but that Doug was. She said Doug was O.K. Then she looked me right in the eye and said "you tell Doug that Dawn said to have that horse out of its misery right away or he would be hearing from the state Devil". I said O.K. She thanked me for letting them look & they left.

Shirley Crawford.

P.S. I was so sure that the red-coated man was a small man on an ego trip that I was stunned to find he was a veterinarian. Never had I dealt with a professional person who conducted themselves in such a deplorable manner. In his addled brain it is perfectly all right for a woman to get into a corral full of wild horses and single handedly lift a horse onto its feet and never can connect the fact that the horses are inbred, ill or half starved and we are there to bring them in for ~~a better chance~~ that very reason.

Shirley Crawford

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
District Office
1050 E. William St., Ste. 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

IN REPLY REFER TO:
4700
(N-033)

TO : State Director, Nevada (N-910)

Date: DEC 3 1 1981

FROM : District Manager, Carson City District Office

SUBJECT : Response to Letter Filed by Donald A. Molde M.D.

As per your request, a meeting was held in the District Office on the morning of December 22, 1981. The purpose, to discuss allegations made by Donald A. Molde, M.D. in his letter to you dated December 18, 1981. The following people were in attendance at the meeting:

Dave Goicechea - Wildlife Biologist
Les Sweeney - Chief, Branch of Biological Resources
Andy Anderson - District Range Specialist
Doug Survant - Range Technician
Milt Frei - Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
Susie O'Brien - Supervisory Range Conservationist
Lynn Sims - Special Agent
Roy Jackson - Chief, Division of Resources

The content of the letter was discussed paragraph by paragraph, covering each point in detail. In the course of the meeting, it was suggested that Doug Survant follow up with his own detailed response.

Doug Survant's unedited response to Dr. Molde's letter is attached. Immediately following are facts provided by Tim Reuwsaat, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist and COAR for this gathering operation:

In August of last year, 1911 head of horses were counted in this area. At the initiation of this contract, 1258 horses were counted in the area.

There have been three (3) horses destroyed. The first on 11/27, a mare in poor condition which was down and could not get up. Tim Reuwsaat destroyed this one. The second, on 12/8, a mare in poor condition. It had been down twice earlier. The contractor put this one down at Tim Reuwsaat's command and with Tim at his side.

The third, on 12/13/81 also a mare. It had been down earlier the same day. This is the mare that Ms. Dawn Lappin suggested be destroyed. Doug Survant put this animal down.

Four (4) other horses have died, three (3) as a result of broken necks and one (1) from unknown causes.

In reference to the contractor's humane treatment of the horses, Tim Reuwsaat reports the following:

1. The helicopter may work several small bands of horses simultaneously, moving one band a short distance then backing off that band to pick up another and so on. If horses are brought long distances (8-10 miles), the helicopter pilot moves the horses perhaps one mile and then backs off and sets down to let the horses rest before resuming.

2. Roping does occur. However, the contractor is quick to make sure the horse's airway is free. If a particular horse has to be led into the trap, the contractor makes a "quick halter" from the rope or ropes the horse around the rump. No instances of rope-choking have been observed by any BLM representative at the capture site.

It was reported that our BLM Contract Inspectors were assisting the contractor in such things as roping and herding horses. This allegation is true. We have corrected this by directing our personnel not to assist the contractor except in matters pertaining to direct administration of the contract.

Since the meeting of December 22, 5 additional horses have died. Two were humanely destroyed and three died as a result of running into the back of the trap.

I talked with both Dawn Lappin and Dr. Molde over the phone on December 28, and I assured them that we were doing our best to treat the horses humanely. I told them that we would supply a radio at the contractor's base camp where the holding pen is so that there will communications between there and the gathering sites. We will do this as soon as the radio technicians finish their task of changing radio frequencies.

I also plan to hold a "post-mortem" conference on this project, and this was told to Dr. Molde and Dawn Lappin. At this conference, we will discuss the Clan Alpine gathering and seek out areas where improvements can be made. The contractor will be invited. It is important to evaluate this project while it is still fresh in everyone's mind. Les Sweeney, Milt Frei, and Len Simms will be notified of this conference, and I hope they will attend along with others from your staff as you may direct.

Tom Owen

Doug Survant's resonse to Donald Molde's letter dated December 18, 1981:

On December 12, 1981, Saturday afternoon, five head of horses were being brought in on the run when Molde came. The appearance of Dr. Molde and his vehicles when the horses were being brought to the wings caused the contractor to lose 4 head. The contractor should be paid for those lost head as they were as good as trapped when Dr. Molde spooked the horses.

When I asked Dr. Molde who he was, he said he was a tax payer who wanted to see how his tax dollars were being spent. He refused to give his name or who he was with.

When I told him he would have to get out of the way where he couldn't be seen by the horses, he said he didn't care about that, he was going to stay where he could take pictures. The one mare that was captured that he said was rope chocked was not. When this mare had reached the wings and was spooked by Dr. Molde, she ran up a soft dirt bank which had been pushed behind up a blind when the road was bladed. Being weak and tired, she floundered in the soft dirt and went down. Jean MacBeth roped her and pulled her off the bank. She lay there for a few minutes. We got her up and took her to the trap - approximately 150 feet distance. She was never choked.

The mare would have been easier to put in the trap after being roped if he (Dr. Molde) hadn't kept getting in front of her snapping his camera. Dispite our requests, Dr. Molde wouldn't stay back.

Dale Crawford decided to stop gathering as Dr. Molde was causing such a disturbance, it was hard to gather. Dr. Molde cost the contractor 3 hours of gathering time that day.

The mare which was found down in the corral Sunday night when we returned from the trap had been down approximately 3 hours according to Mrs. Crawford. This mare had been down in the morning. She was weak and old, but we got her up before we left for the trap. She drank water and was mingling with the other horses before we left. This was not the mare which he accused us of rope choking the previous day. Both were bay mares, but they were not the same horse. This mare was put down by me with a 30-06 before the other horses were unloaded from the trailers into the holding corral. She was not trappled by newly arrived horses. Dawn Lappin had left word with the Crawford women for me to put the horse down as soon I came in, which was done.

The two dead horses had been put down on the Edward's Creek side. Both had been destroyed by Tim Reuwsaat or at his request. I was only aware of one when I told Dr. Molde I only knew of one, he called me a liar. Gibb Crawford heard this conversation and told me of the gray horse which had also been shot on the Edwards Creek side. I then went to Dr. Molde and told him I wasn't lying, I hadn't known of the other horse until Gibb Crawford told me. Dr. Molde said, "See, I knew you were lying".

Four other horses died in the course of this round up. 3 with broken necks from hitting the end of the trap. This problem was taken care of by remodeling the trap. No further incidents have occured. One horse died coming into the trap, presumably from a heart attack. In general, all the horses are in poor shape, due to the lack of vegetation.

The census conducted by Tim Reuwsaat prior to the gather showed 1258 horses in the gather area. The contractor had a higher figure in mind from the pre contract tour from talking to Andy Anderson.

The daily take of horses is sometimes small because the horses are in small groups and poor condition. The number of horses caught in one day has been as low as 9 and as high as 40. They seem to be averaging about 18 or 19 a day. The day following Dr. Molde's visit, the contractor caught 31 head of horses.

I have personally not seen any abuse of the horses. Anyone familiar with handling wild horses realizes they are dangerous and must be handled as such. The contractor has been feeding the animals in the holding pen twice a day and to my knowledge they have always had water in front of them 24 hours a day. The contractor has been doing a good job, and treating the horses humanely.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
District Office
1050 E. William Street, Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

IN REPLY REFER TO:
4740
(N-033)

Blake 50.
4/1-26

TO : State Director, Nevada (N-910)

Date: JAN 21 1982

FROM : District Manager, Carson City District Office

SUBJECT : Post-Review of Clan Alpine Wild Horse Removal

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the memorandum which outlines the review of the Clan Alpine Wild Horse Removal Contract.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any items further, just let me know.

Tom Green

1 Enclosure
Encl. 1 - Copy of Memorandum

DSC-1541-2
Mar. 1974

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
District Office
1050 E. William Street, Suite 335
Carson City, Nevada 89701

IN REPLY REFER TO
4740
(N-033)

TO : District Manager

Date: JAN 2 0 1982

FROM : Wild Horse and Burro Specialist

SUBJECT : Post-Review of Clan Alpine Wild Horse Removal

On January 13, 1982, a review of the Clan Alpine Wild Horse Removal Contract wsas held in the Carson City District Office. The following persons were in attendance:

Tom Owen
Les Sweeney
Milt Frei
Tim Reuwsaat
Pat Etcheverry
John Lukasko
Susan O'Brien
Andy Anderson
Roy Jackson

The meeting began with a review of the time frame as follows:

Nov. 12 - Contract Award
Nov. 19 - Prework Conference
Nov. 20 - Contractor Began Setting Up
Nov. 24 - Census Finished - Counted 1258 in Clan Alpine Horse Use Area within the District. 1138 were in the Capture Area.

Trap Site	No. Captured	No. per Hour	No. Died
Shoshone	92	3.2	3
Hole-in-the-Wall	96	4.5	1
War Canyon	53	3.9	0
Cow Canyon	302	4.4	4
Bench Creek	120	4.7	0
	663	4.2	

No. Died at Holding Pen - 5

Jan. 9, 1982 - Contractor Shipped Last Horses to PVC.

After this review, fifteen items were discussed. These are listed with discussion below.

1. Include in the Invitation for Bid (IFB), a fact sheet which describes the area of capture, the topography,

cover and access. The latest census should be discussed, as well as any gatherings which have taken place in the past. The areas of capture should be noted on a map. By having this sheet, BLM might alleviate having claims from the contractor. (See Attached Claim)

2. Have a pre-census and post-census. Having a census just prior to the issuance of the IFB, would give an up-to-date figure for both the BLM and the contractor to work from. This census would be included in the fact sheet described in Item 1.

   Having a post-census would aid in determining the effectiveness of the gather. Also, the Eberhart model for adjusting censuses could then be used.

3. Place warning signs on roads where traps are located. This would warn people in vehicles to approach cautiously. The signs should state the distance to the trap and to listen for the helicopter bringing horses to the trap. If the road was a BLM road, possibly a daily closure with hours could be put into effect, but would require notice in the Federal Register. This may alleviate claims by the contractor (see attached claim).

4. After the contractor is chosen, check with other Districts where he may have worked to determine if there are any aspects of the contractor's work which are weak and require special attention by the BLM.

5. Take extra special care in approving trap sites as to keep hazards to the wild horses to the minimum. Also, removing brush and rocks from the trap site may improve the condition of the trap.

6. BLM personnel should not aid the contractor in any of his work. The contractor bid on the job, where he provides all the labor. Aiding him would allow other bidders on the job to claim that the contractor is being partially supported by BLM. The only exception to a BLM project inspector helping is in the event of an emergency where the safety to persons or horses is involved.

7. Communication between the District personnel on the job and PVC is necessary both in shipping horses to PVC and to correct any problems where horses may be injured when they arrive at PVC.

8. To reduce the separation of mares and colts, there are three alternatives:

   (a) Paint mark mares and colts as they are captured, as a method of shipping all marked animals together.

(b) Have two holding corrals - place pairs into one corral as they arrive from the trap.

(c) Have the extra holding corral - place any horses over a truckload into this corral to keep the pairs together when being shipped.

Drop the requirement in the contract specifications - to have the contractor provide a narrative plan of action. BLM knows what the action is and the capture plan and other contract specifications dictate the plan of action.

On future contracts, be more specific as to the requirements for the helicopter. Specifications should state altitude and temperatures at which the helicopter will be required to fly.

Allow double-decker trailers in hauling horses to PVC. Before allowing this though, check thoroughly with PVC as to minimum heights and other trailer specifications to be included in the contract.

Consider the possibility of having two project inspectors in the area - one to monitor the humaness of the trapping and loading procedures and the other to better monitor the helicopter, i.e., the area and distance from which the horses are coming to the trap.

Require a plywood lined loading chute.

In correspondence to wild horse interest groups or other interested persons, ask them to contact the District Office to make arrangements to visit the capture area with District personnel. This may alleviate claims by the contractor (see attached claim).

Recommend that other Districts have a similar review of their gathers to further iron out problems and improve the program.

attached are the recommendations from the contractor, most of which have been in the above items.

Tim Reinhart

es

ranch of Biological Resources, NSO (N-931)

Jim Renwosat COAR

I am presenting a claim as follows:

He drove over 1100 miles to attend the site inspection on the Clan-Alpine Wild Horse Removal. Part of the prospective bidders rode with Andy Anderson and Dave Cattoor rode with Jim Renwosat. Andy told us on the inspection tour that there were at least 2100 head of horses in the gather area. Jim told Dave Cattoor there were approximately 1500 head of horses.

On this particular bid there was $15000.00 difference between Cattoors' bid and our bid. Cattoor based his bid on having to gather approximately 50% of the horses. He based our bid on having to gather only 33⅓% of the horses in the area.

When we arrived on the job it was immediately apparent that there were not as many horses as had been represented to us. After a very thorough count by BLM it was decided that there were 1100 horses or so in the gather area. Instead of 33⅓% of the total horses in the area we now had to gather 63⅓%!

Needless to say this makes a job far more expensive, difficult and time consuming.

We feel that this job was misrepresented to us and we are asking for renegotiation.

Dale Crawford 1/9/8.

(over)

In addition to the above -

Horses had been run just one year ago in a much larger area than had been described to us on the inspection tour. This made it much more difficult as many of the horses had been run at the traps and spelled before.

Dale Crawford 1/9/57

Jim Renwsah COAR,

I am presenting a claim as follows:

Mr Molde was allowed on our trap site and then would not stay out of sight as he was told to. He deliberately showed himself as horses were aproaching the trap and turned back from ahead.

Molde then would not leave or stay out of the way so our operation had to be shut down for the rest of the day.

The claim that we feel we are entitled to is for 4 horses and 3 hours operating time. Mr Molde is directly responsible for this.

Dale Crawford 1/9/81

Tim Renwosat COAR

This letter is to inform you of our thoughts on how to improve conditions for BLM contractors.

#1 count the horses just prior to bid invitations so all bidders know exactly what they are bidding on.

#2 enforce road closures in the gather area so contractor can work unhampered by harassing public.

#3 all BLM personnel should have a check list to go by so the same information goes to everyone concerned.

#4 Our contract would have gone more smoothly if John had not been sent out to the job. Doug and Tim were qualified for the job + easy to work with. John did not understand any part of the job. Our recommendation for future jobs would be to always ~~field~~ supervisors that fit the job.

Gal Compford

IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office
300 Booth Street
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520

4740
(N-033/
N-931)

MEMORANDUM

To: State Director, Nevada (N-910)

Through: District Manager, Carson City (N-030)

From: Initial Investigation Team

Subject: Clan Alpine Investigation

During the capture of horses from the Clan Alpines, two allegations surfaced.

The first allegation was gathering horses from outside the capture areas designated on the map in the capture plan (Map I). The boundaries of the capture area have been transferred to a larger scale map (Map II) and are as accurate as possible but are still approximate. Two traps were set up in areas outside the designated capture areas (A and B on Map II).

These two traps were allowed under the amendment to the capture plan. Bill Stewart set up these two traps under the assumption that the amendment was in effect. He also assumed that the Shoshone Meadows subunit boundary was the same as the fenceline shown on Map II, which is common with a portion of the District boundary. The subunit boundary should have been drawn along the fenceline, since it is the logical boundary (actual horse area boundary).

On January 15, the capture crew gathered 11 horses from the area just south of trap A and captured them in trap A. The following day they attempted to capture 21 animals, but many turned back resulting in three being captured. As a result, they stopped using trap A and moved to trap B. Ten head of horses came from near the top of the New Pass Range, as shown on Map II. These were from outside the capture area but within the subunit boundary. The remaining 39 head came from the New Pass capture area, which accounts for the approximate 50 head to be removed from the New Pass subunit. Trap B was also used for gathering horses from the Shoshone Meadows subunit around McCoy Mountain and also from the area between the subunit boundary and the fenceline. An estimated 20 to 30 animals came from these areas. Bill denies he attempted to gather animals from outside the fence, which brings up the second allegation.

This allegation is that horses were run through the fence at point C (Map II). As stated above, Bill denies gathering horses from east of the fence. First, he thought the subunit boundary was the fence, and he had no intention of gathering outside the subunit boundaries.

Secondly, he says that the natural trail for the horses goes around the fence and not through the gate. If he would have needed to run horses through that area, he would have used the natural trails.

The fence, just south of the gate, has been knocked down, and it appears by horses. Some small amounts of horse hair were seen on the fence. It is difficult to say when the fence was knocked down, but portions appear not to have been done recently. Also, due to the snowfall, no horse tracks could be seen.

As a summary, the allegations may not have arisen if the boundaries would have been drawn differently. For example, the Shoshone Meadows subunit should have matched the fenceline. Also, the capture areas should have been expanded to include all the areas where horses might be gathered. The small capture areas create a problem for the capture crew. When they start gathering in an area, the horses tend to move out. This makes it difficult to gather unauthorized numbers from each capture area. This is especially true for the Clan Alpine East capture area, where the crew may not be able to gather the entire 50 head.

Resulting from this initial investigation, this team recommends the following:

1. No intensive investigation be undertaken on this matter. It is felt there is not enough on-the-ground evidence to provide any further facts.

2. Future capture plan maps should be drawn more accurately and complete. The boundaries of subunits and capture areas should correspond with fences or natural barriers so as to include all areas where horses are to be gathered and captured, and provide a much more definable boundary for capture crews.

3. The capture plan should specify under what conditions, if any, the capture crew can place traps or use a helicopter outside the designated capture areas.

4. Since there appears to be evidence that horses have been run through the fence, whenever an Investigator or the District Wild Horse and Burro Specialist is in the area, he should check for illegal activity.

5. Negotiations with wild horse protection associations which streamline, reduce and/or eliminate the 28 day notice required for minor capture plan amendments should be initiated. This would only be in an extreme situation and an exception to current procedures.

Tim Reinhard

Conrad Lowe