



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEVADA STATE OFFICE

850 Harvard Way
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520

4700
(NV-914)

AUG 5 1992

NOTICE OF FINAL DECISION
FULL FORCE AND EFFECT

HORSE MOUNTAIN WILD HORSE EMERGENCY REMOVAL

The water situation for the wild horse herd, with about 150 horses, occupying the Horse Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA) has become critical. Since the water to the Newlands Project (on which the wild horses are completely dependent) has been shut off due to the current drought conditions, it is estimated that there is sufficient water for the horses for only several more days. From field observations of the available water and physical condition of the animals along with other information available to us, we have determined that the horses will not survive if allowed to remain in this area. Therefore, approximately 120 wild horses will be removed from the HMA with the use of a helicopter and/or water trapping. The remaining horses will be closely monitored and may be later removed or relocated should conditions warrant.

Due to the emergency nature of these conditions, it necessary to implement this decision immediately for the protection of wild horses in the Horse Mountain HMA.

Pursuant to the provision of 43 CFR 4770.3(c), this decision is placed in full force and effect on the date signed and will remain in full force and effect until modified or revoked by the Interior Board of Land Appeals upon an appeal taken from this decision. This decision placed in full force and effect on this date may be considered as the final decision of the Department of the Interior pursuant to the provisions of 5 USC 704 and subject to judicial review in accordance therewith.

Adversely affected parties may appeal from this decision for the purpose of a hearing before the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with 43 CFR 4.770.3(a). Appellants are allowed thirty (30) days from receipt of this decision to file such an appeal with the Nevada State Director at the above address. The appeal shall be in writing and shall state clearly why the appellant believes the decision to be in error.



Billy R. Templeton
State Director, Nevada

- 2 Enclosures:
1. Capture Plan
2. Environmental Assessment

HORSE MOUNTAIN EMERGENCY WILD HORSE REMOVAL PLAN

I. Purpose and Authority

The proposed action is to remove approximately 120 wild horses which are threatened because their sole source of water will be depleted within several days (estimated 3 to 10; appendix 1). In order to prevent the death of the entire herd the majority of animals will be removed as soon as possible. Authority for this action is contained the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-195) and regulations contained in 43 CFR 4720.1 and 4770.3(c).

II. Area of Concern

The area of concern is the Horse Mountain HMA and Horse Mountain Allotment. The location of the area is shown on the attached map 1.

III. Numbers of Wild Horses

Based on the latest census ^{taken} there are approximately 150 wild horses dependent upon the failing water source. This number includes wild horses both inside and adjacent to the Horse Mountain HMA.

IV. Methods for Removal and Safety

The methods employed during this capture operation will be either herding horses with a helicopter to a trap built with portable panels or capturing the horses using portable panels around water troughs. The Bureau of Land Management may contract with a private party for part or all of this operation. If a private party is used for this operation two or more Bureau employees will be supervising the contractor at all times during the gathering operation. The following stipulations and procedures will be followed during the contract to ensure the welfare, safety and humane treatment of wild horses and that wild horses are removed from proper areas. If capture operations are preformed by Bureau personnel, the Bureau will follow the same stipulations that we require of a private contractor.

A. Roundup Procedures within Contract Area:

The Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) or Project Inspectors (PI) will determine specific roundup areas and numbers of animals within general contract areas as animal concentration, terrain, physical barriers and weather conditions dictate. Upon determination of the specific roundup areas, the COR/PI will select the general location of trap sites in which to herd the animals. Animal concentration, terrain, physical barriers and weather conditions will all be considered when selecting trap sites.

B. Motorized Equipment

1. 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.

2. Vehicles shall be in good repair, of adequate rated capacity, and operated so as to insure that captured animals are transported without undue risk of injury.

3. Only stock trailers shall be allowed for transporting animals from traps to temporary holding facilities. Only Bobtail trucks, stock trailers, or single deck trucks shall be used to transport animals from temporary holding facilities to final destination. Sides of stock racks of transporting vehicles shall be a minimum height of 6 feet 6 inches from vehicle floor. Single deck trucks with trailers 40 feet or longer shall have two partition gates to separate animals. Trailers less than 40 feet shall have at least one partition gate to separate the animals. Each partition shall be a minimum of six feet high and shall have a minimum 5 foot wide swinging gate. The use of double deck trailers is unacceptable and shall not be allowed.

4. All vehicles used to transport animals to final destination shall be equipped with at least one door at the rear end of the vehicle which is capable of sliding either horizontally or vertically.

5. Floors of vehicles and loading chute shall be covered and maintained with a non-skid surface such as sand, mineral soil or wood shavings, to prevent the animals from slipping. This will be confirmed by a BLM employee prior to loading (every load).

6. Animals to be loaded and transported in any vehicle shall be as directed by the COR/PI and may include limitations on numbers according to age, size, sex, temperament and animal condition. A minimum of 1.4 linear foot per adult animal and .75 linear foot per foal shall be allowed per standard eight foot wide stock trailer/truck.

The BLM employee supervising the loading of the wild horses to be transported from the trap to the temporary holding corral will require separation of small foals and weak horses from the rest, if they could be injured during the trip. Distance and condition of the road and animals will be considered in making this determination. Horses shipped from the temporary holding corral to the BLM facility will normally be separated by studs, mares and foals (including small yearlings). However, if the numbers of these classes of animals are too few in one compartment and too many in another, animals may be shifted between compartments to properly distribute the animals in the trailer. This may include placing a younger, lighter stud with the mares or a weak mare with the foals. Further separation may be required should condition of the animals warrant.

The BLM employee supervising the loading will exercise authority to off-load animals should there be too many horses on the trailer or truck.

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

It is currently planned to ship all horses to the Palomino Valley facility. Communication lines have been established with the Palomino Valley personnel involved in off-loading the horses, to receive feedback on the condition of shipped horses. Should problems arise, shipping methods or separation of the horses will be changed in an attempt to alleviate the problems.

8. If the COR/PI determines that dust conditions are such that the animals could be endangered during transportation, the contractor will be instructed to adjust speed. The maximum distance over which animals may have to be transported on dirt road is approximately 5 miles.

Periodic checks by BLM employees will be made as the horses are transported along dirt roads. If speed restrictions are placed in effect, then BLM employees will, at times, follow or time trips to ensure compliance.

C. Trapping and Care

1. The helicopter shall be used in such a manner that bands of horses will remain together. Foals shall not be left behind.

The Carson City District may use an observation helicopter to supervise the use of the project helicopter. In the absence of an observation helicopter a saddle horses may be used to place a BLM observer on a point overlooking the area of the helicopter herding operations.

2. 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.

BLM will not allow horses to be herded more than 10 miles nor faster than 20 miles per hour. The COR/PI may decrease the rate of travel or distance moved should the route to the trap site be steep or rocky enough to pose a danger or cause avoidable stress. Animal condition will also be considered in making distance and speed restrictions.

Special attention will be given to avoiding physical hazards such as fences. Map 1 shows locations of fences and any other potential hazards.

3. It is estimated that two trap locations will be required to accomplish the work. All trap locations and holding facilities must be approved by the COR/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.

If tentative trap sites (Map 1) are not located near enough to the concentrations of horses, then the trap site will not be approved. The COR/PI will move the general location of the trap closer to the horses. Trap sites will not be approved where barbed-wire fences are used as wings, wing extensions, or to turn the horses, during herding, toward the trap.

4. 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:

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

b. The loading chute shall also be a minimum of 6 feet high.

c. All runways shall be a minimum of 20 feet long and a minimum of 6 feet high.

d. Wings shall not be constructed out of barbed-wire or other materials injurious to animals and must be approved by the COR/PI.

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

5. 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.

If the route the contractor wishes to herd horses passes through a fence, the contractor will be required to roll up the fencing material and pull up the posts to provide at least one-eighth mile gap. The standing fence on each side of the gap will be well-flagged for a distance of 300 yards from the gap on each side.

6. 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.

7. Alternate pens, within the holding facility shall be furnished by the contractor to separate mares with small foals, sick and injured animals, and estray animals from the other horses. Animals shall be sorted as to age, number, size, temperament, sex, and condition when in the holding facility so as to minimize injury due to fighting and trampling.

As a minimum, studs will be separated from the mares and foals when the animals are held overnight.

8. 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 shall not be held in traps 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 6:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

9. The contractor shall provide animals held for 5 hours or more in the traps or holding facilities with a continuous supply of fresh clean water at a minimum 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.

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

11. The contractor shall restrain sick or injured animals if treatment by the government 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.

12. When refueling, the helicopter shall remain a distance of at least 1,000 feet or more from animals, vehicles (other than fuel truck), and personnel not involved in refueling.

V. Disposition of Removed Animals

The wild horses and burros will be sent to Palomino Valley Wild Horse and Burro Placement Center to be prepared for adoption.

Impounded, privately-owned animals will be handled in accordance with the Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office Instruction Memoranda NV-84-116 and NV-85-416.

VII. Responsibility

The District Manager is responsible for maintaining and protecting the health and welfare of the wild horses. To ensure the contractor's compliance with the contract stipulations, the COR and PIs all from the Carson City District, will be on site. Also, the Lahontan Area Manager and the Carson City District Manager are very

involved with guidance and input into this removal plan and with contract monitoring. The health and welfare of the animals is the overriding concern of the District Manager, Area Manager, COR and PIs.

The COR and/or PI will constantly, through observation, evaluate the contractor's ability to perform the required work in accordance with the contract stipulations. Compliance with the contract stipulations will be through issuance of written instructions to the contractor, stop work orders and default procedures should the contractor not perform work according to the stipulations.

Prior to issuance of the "Notice to Proceed" to the contractor, the COR and PIs will inspect the equipment to be used during the contract, to insure the equipment meets or exceeds the standards contained in the contract stipulations. Prior (less than 20 days) to the start of the contract and constantly during the course of the contract the COR and/or PIs will evaluate the conditions which may cause undue stress to the animals. The factors considered will include animal condition, prevailing temperatures, drought conditions, soil conditions, topography, animal distribution, distance animals travel to water, quantity of available water and condition of roads that animals are to be transported over. These factors will be evaluated to determine if additional constraints other than those already discussed above, need to be initiated in order to safely capture and transport the animals (i.e. veterinarian present, or delay of capture operations). This is of special concern during this year of drought which may intensify the impact of removal operations on the animals and the roads.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Horse Mountain Emergency Wild Horse Removal

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The proposed action is to remove approximately 120 wild horses which are threatened from a lack of water because their sole source of water will be depleted within several days (estimated 3 to 10; appendix 1). In order to prevent their death majority of animals will be removed as soon as possible.

It is not feasible to provide dependable water to the entire herd until the canal and ditches are recharged next spring. However, it is also not practical to try to remove all the animals without causing undue stress. Therefore, the Bureau will attempt to maintain the remaining animals in the HMA. Should it become impossible or it becomes evident that these horse will not survive they will also be removed. Once water becomes available horses will be relocated back into the HMA.

This proposal is in conformance with the Lahontan Resource Management Plan (RMP). The proposed action involves removals in order to prevent the death and suffering of a large number of wild horses. We are initially going to remove approximately 120 horses and continue monitoring the condition of the remaining animals. If water conditions dictate we may remove and relocate additional animals.

Relationship to Other Environmental Documents

This EA is tiered to the Lahontan Resource Management Plan (RMP)/EIS which analyzed the general ecological impacts of managing rangelands in the Reno area under a program of monitoring and adjustment of wild horses and livestock. This EA is a project specific refinement of the RMP/EIS focused on the emergency removal of wild horses in the Horse Mountain HMA. The decisions regarding overall rangeland management analyzed in the Lahontan RMP/EIS will not be changed by the Horse Mountain Emergency Removal Plan. Both documents are available for public review at the Carson City District Office.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

- A. The proposed action is to remove wild horses from the Horse Mountain HMA with the use of a helicopter and/or water trapping. Other motorized equipment will also be used. The wild horses would be herded by a helicopter into traps constructed of portable steel panels. The Bureau of Land Management may contract with a private party for the removal operation. If a contractor is used he/she would be supervised at all times by at least two Bureau employees. Approximately 120 wild horses are proposed for removal, the remaining animals will be closely monitored and may be later removed or relocated should conditions warrant.
- B. Alternative No. 1 is to conduct the removal by water trapping where portable traps would be constructed around water.
- C. Alternative No. 2 is to conduct the removal by herding the wild horses from horseback. Riders would herd horses into traps built of portable steel panels.
- D. The no action alternative is to not conduct the wild horse removals.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Wild Horses

The Horse Mountain HMA is located approximately 15 miles south of Fallon, Nevada. The Horse Mountain HMA lies within the Carson City District of the Bureau of Land Management.

The HMA location is shown on the attached map as well as the capture area boundaries (Map 1).

The sole source of water for the entire population of wild horses in this HMA is a extension drain operated by the Truckee Carson Irrigation District. The source of irrigation water is the Lahontan Reservoir which is essentially dry. Therefore, no additional water will flow through the irrigation system. Water is not expected to remain in the extension drain for more than a few days (appendix 1).

Older horses are probably most able to survive a drought situation because of their dominance and greater knowledge of the HMA and surrounding areas. Therefore, we will remove the younger more adoptable animals and leave the

animals which are ten years of age or older. If the drought continues these experienced mares would be more likely to successfully wean a foal with the minimum adverse physiological stresses occurring to either the foal or the mare. Thus initially only younger animals will be removed.

B. Livestock Use

Livestock use only occurs in this HMA during the late fall and winter when the permittee pumps private wells and hauls water for his cattle.

C. Water and Riparian

There are no riparian areas located on land administered by the BLM, however, the wild horses are using an extension drain operated by Truckee Carson Irrigation District which is rapidly drying up.

D. Cultural Resources

Cultural resources in the form of arrowheads and fragments may exist within the gather area.

E. Wildlife Use

Due to the lack of water within this HMA large mammalian wildlife does not occur. Due to the lack of trees bird diversity is limited to species utilizing rock outcrops and sage brush habitat types.

F. Threatened and Endangered Species

There are no known threatened or endangered species within this HMA.

G. Key Species

The key species (indian ricegrass, needlegrass & squirrel tail) are currently receiving use in excess of 55%.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS/MITIGATION MEASURES

A. Proposed Action

Removing approximately 120 head may allow for a population of wild horses to be maintained in this HMA through the current drought situation. Plant species (indian ricegrass, needlegrass & squirrel tail) will increase in

quantity and vigor helping to meet the management objectives of the Land Use Plans (improve vegetative condition).

Unavoidable impacts in the form of injuries to the horses may occur as a result of the removal process. Because we are not going to attempt to remove all the horses we expect that the death loss is will not exceed 2% of the horses captured at the trap site. Potential injuries and fatalities can be limited through strict enforcement of contract specifications for safety and humane treatment of animals. BLM representatives would be monitoring the contractor's activities at all times during removal to ensure compliance with specifications and humane treatment of animals. If the Bureau conducts this gather the Bureau will follow the same stipulations that a private contractor would be required to follow.

Some stress to the horses would be associated with the helicopter herding operations, however, after adoption, the horses would become accustomed to captivity and most would receive proper care.

Small localized areas within the vicinity of trap sites and holding facilities would receive trampling and the subsequent loss of vegetation. However, overall the vegetative resource would improve due to the reduction in grazing pressure. Forage availability should increase and utilization levels decrease.

No impacts would occur to cultural resources, as the trap sites would be cleared prior to construction.

Removal of wild horses will prevent the death of a substantial number of horses and further deterioration of the range due to the wild horse overpopulation. By removing the wild horses the remaining population (within the HMA) may allow for a thriving ecological balance between wild horses, wildlife, livestock and vegetation.

B. Water Trapping

General impacts from a reduction in wild horse numbers would be identical to those outlined for the proposed action. Once captured, the handling and transportation of the animals would be the same as the proposed action. As most injuries to wild horses occur during handling and transportation, the injury and fatality rate would remain approximately the same. Once prepared for adoption, the animals become accustomed to captivity and most would receive proper care.

Small localized areas within the vicinity of trap sites and holding facilities would receive trampling and subsequent loss of vegetation. Overall, the vegetation resource would improve due to the reduction in grazing pressure. Forage availability should increase and utilization levels decrease. This would occur in both the short and long term.

No impacts would occur to cultural resources, as the trap sites would be cleared prior to construction.

Due to the time necessary for construction of complex water traps and the prolonged period it would take for the animals to become accustomed to using the traps, the horses would likely undergo more stress than with a helicopter capture. In addition it would take more manpower to implement this alternative, therefore, it would be significantly more expensive to the taxpayer than the proposed action.

C. Horseback Trapping

General impacts from a reduction in wild horse numbers would be identical to those outlined for the proposed action. Once captured, the handling and transportation of the animals would be the same as the proposed action. As most injuries to wild horses occur during handling and transportation, the injury and fatality rate would remain approximately the same. Once prepared for adoption, the animals become accustomed to captivity and most would receive proper care.

Some localized areas within the vicinity of trap sites and holding facilities would receive trampling and subsequent loss of vegetation. Overall, the vegetation resource would improve due to the reduction in grazing pressure. Forage availability should increase and utilization levels decrease. This impact would have both short and long term effects.

No impacts would occur to cultural resources as the trap sites would be cleared prior to construction.

Bands of horses are not controlled effectively with horseback herding, therefore, many bands are spilled or individual horses separated from the band. This results in increased social structure disruption and/or orphaned foals, which requires attempts to capture these separated animals. The number of animals captured per day versus the proposed actions is significantly fewer, therefore, it is very time consuming resulting in very high capture costs.

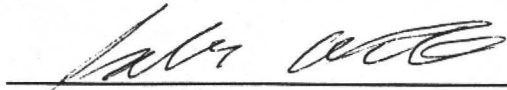
This method of capture is very tiring for the saddle horses which results in injuries to both the saddle horses and personnel involved.

D. No Action

The no action alternative would result in no wild horses being removed. The animals would not undergo stress, injuries, nor fatalities related to capture, handling and transportation. However, the stresses involved with the absence of water would result in the death of most if not all of the animals in this HMA. Attainment of Land-Use-Planning objectives would not be met.

VIII. Signatures

Prepared by:



John Axtell
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
Lahontan Resource Area

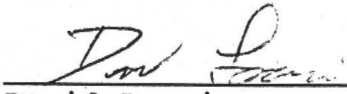
4 Aug 92
Date

Concurred by:



Jim Gianola
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
Carson City District

8-4-92
Date



David Loomis
Environmental Coordinator
Carson City District

8-4-92
Date

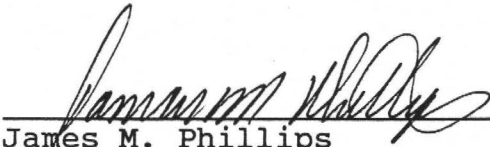
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION OF RECORD
Horse Mountain Emergency Wild Horse Removal

Impacts associated with implementation of the proposed action are not of a significant nature, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

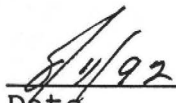
This plan is in the public interest because the proposed action will prevent the death of a substantial number of wild horses and restore the range to a thriving natural ecological balance and prevent further deterioration of the range threatened by an over population of wild horses in the Horse Mountain Herd Management Area.

The proposed plan is in accordance with the Lahontan Resource Management Plan and is in the public interest.

Recommend Approval:

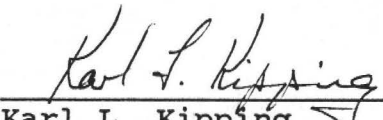


James M. Phillips
Area Manager
Lahontan Resource Area

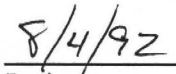


Date

Approved:



Karl L. Kipping
Associate District Manager



Date

V. Public Involvement

Because of the urgency required to prevent the loss of a substantial number of wild horses public comment prior to implementing the proposed action is not possible. However, this environmental assessment and capture plan has been sent to the following persons, groups and government agencies.

American Bashkir Curley Register
American Horse Protection Association
American Humane Association
American Wild Mustang & Burro Foundation
Animal Protection Institute
Bureau of Reclamation
Casino West
Carson City District Grazing Advisory Board
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Compassion for Animals
Craig C. Downer
Craig London
Debra Allard
Fund for Animals
Harriman & Son
Humane Society of So. NV.
International Society for the Protection of Wild Horses and Burros
Kathy McCovey
Kent Bros.
Lahontan State Recreation Area
Life Foundation
Nan Sherwood
National Mustang Association
National Wild Horse Association
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Nevada Federation of Animal Protection Organization
Nevada Humane Society
Nevada Land Action Association
Nevada State Clearinghouse
Nevada State Division of Agriculture
Rebecca Kunow
Resource Concepts
Save the Mustangs
Sierra Club
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Humane Society
United States Wild Horse and Burro Foundation
Wild Horse Organized Assistance

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1874

TRUCKEE—CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NEWLANDS PROJECT
P.O. BOX 1356
FALLON, NEVADA 89407-1356
TELEPHONE (702) 423-2141

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WILLIAM E. (BILL) SHEPARD, Director

July 30, 1992

LYMAN F. McCONNELL
Project Manager

VIA FAX - 885-6147

James M. Phillips,
Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1535 Hot Springs Rd., Suite 300
Carson City, NV. 89706-0638

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CARRISBORO, NEVADA
AUG 3 2 31 PM '92

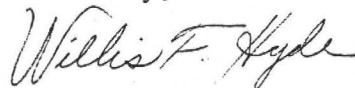
Dear Mr. Phillips:

Please be advised that Lyman McConnell, Project Manager of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, is on vacation and therefore your letter of July 24, 1992, has been referred to me for reply.

After a visual inspection of the area this date, there are no return flows going into the Extension Drain Canal nor will there be any in the near future. I did observe some water in the canal at this time, however, I recommend frequent inspections of the area as water can be depleted at any time.

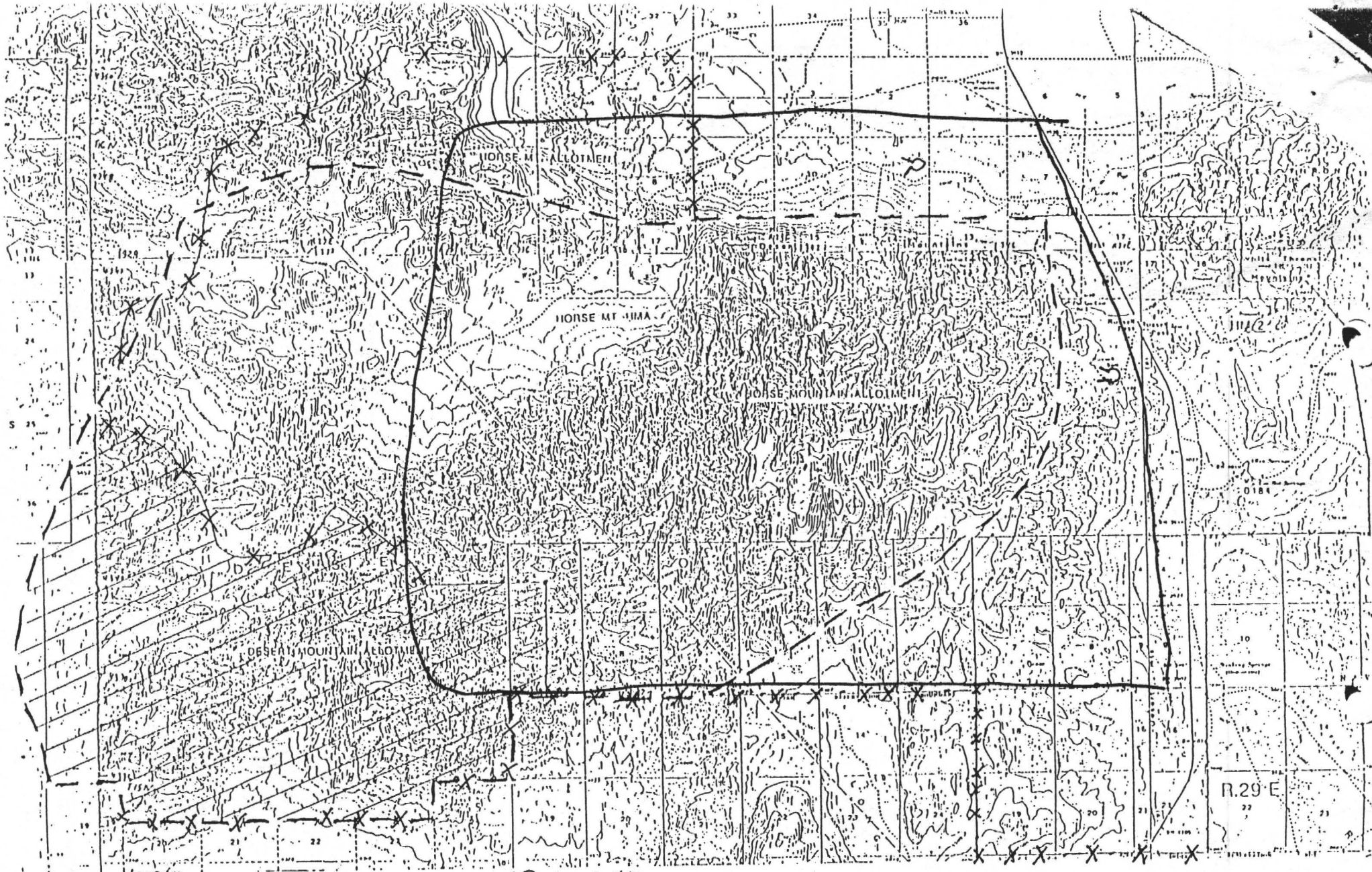
If you have any questions or concerns, please call.

Sincerely,



Willis F. Hyde,
Water Master

WFH/mc



○ TRAP SITE
 — Capture Area
 x x x Fence



— — Horse Mountain IMA
 □ Horse Mountain Allotment
 ▨ Desert Mountain Allotment



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Nevada State Office
850 Harvard Way
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4700 (NV-930)

August 7, 1992

MG Drennan A. Clark
The Adjutant General
State of Nevada Military Department
2525 S. Carson Street,
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5502

Dear General Clark:

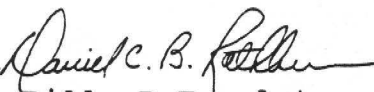
This is to confirm our telephone call to your office requesting assistance in dealing with an emergency situation relative to a herd of wild horses south of Fallon, Nevada. A band of approximately 85 animals is without drinking water and face death from dehydration unless water is hauled to them. Plans for their rescue include removing them from the range; however, this will take at least five or six more days to complete.

Specifically, we are requesting your assistance in hauling water to a site 15 miles south of Fallon, Nevada on US Highway 95. Our need is for 800 gallons each morning and an additional 800 gallons in the late afternoon delivered to drinking troughs which we will place at two sites on the range. We request the first delivery on August 8 and should complete the rescue operations by the morning of August 12. We will provide a guide to the site and work with you to accommodate any planning requirements.

Because of the emergency nature of this situation, time frames do not allow for traditional commercial procurement.

Point of contact for additional information is Karl Kipping, our Associate District Manager in Carson City. His phone number is 885-6000.

Sincerely yours

For 
Billy R Templeton
State Director, Nevada

Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office

MEDIA ADVISORY August 8, 1992
Contact: JoLynn Worley 785-6515

A wild horse rescue operation conducted by the Bureau of Land Management is getting a helping hand from the Nevada Army National Guard. The Guard will be providing military equipment and personnel to haul water to wild horses in the Horse Mountain area, about 15 miles south of Fallon.

The emergency gather began on Thursday, August 6, after efforts to locate additional sources of water were unsuccessful, and to prevent the herd from perishing from dehydration. About 48 horses have been transported to the BLM's Palomino Valley Center where they will be readied for adoption.

Water troughs have been hauled to the site, but hauling water is a very expensive short term measure that will be used only while the rescue operation is in effect. The Guard will haul two loads of 800 gallons of water each day for the next five days.

The prolonged drought has dried up normal water sources, leaving no water available to the approximately 120 wild horses in the area.

"The only water we could find is a puddle about 50 feet long and 4 inches deep," said Lahontan Area Manager Mike Phillips. He estimated that there was only enough water to last the horses one or two days.

About 75 percent of the herd will become available for adoption and others may be temporarily relocated until a permanent source of water can be established.