



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Carson City District Office  
5665 Morgan Mill Rd.  
Carson City, NV 89701  
(702) 885-6000

In Reply Refer To:  
4700  
(NV-032)

DATE?

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is the Proposed Multiple Use Decision for the Marietta Herd Management Area (HMA). This proposed decision sets the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for wild burros and also sets livestock grazing limits in a portion of the HMA. This proposed decision conforms to the objectives in the Marietta Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) dated July 16, 1987. The HMAP established a population level of 85 wild burros, plus or minus 15%, and further stated that the population would be monitored in the future to determine the AML.

This proposed decision is based on current monitoring studies using the same methodology as used in the HMAP. This methodology is the weighted average formula as described in BLM Technical Reference TR 4400-7. Using this method, the AML for wild burros is determined to be 104 head or 1249 AUMs within the HMA and 416 AUMs of allowable use for livestock within a portion of the HMA.

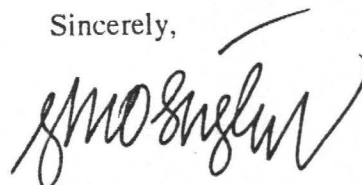
In accordance with 43 CFR §4160.2, if you wish to protest this proposed decision, you are allowed 15 days from the receipt of this decision to file such protest with the Assistant District Manager, Renewable Resources, 5665 Morgan Hill Road, Carson City, NV 89701. The protest should state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why you think the decision is in error.

Although 43 CFR §4770.3 does not mention a protest, for the purpose of consistency, the wild burro elements of the Proposed Multiple Use Decision are being treated as protestable.

Received  
May 6<sup>th</sup>  
Catal Gianola  
over concern w/no  
9A AZ st  
5/12/98  
no return  
call

The documents referenced in the enclosed proposed decision, including the data to determine the AML for wild burros and livestock grazing limits, are available at this office for review. If you have any questions regarding this proposed decision, please contact Richard Jacobsen or Jim Gianola at this office (702/885-6100). Note that after the 15-day protest period, a Final Multiple Use Decision will be issued.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John O. Singlaub". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

John O. Singlaub  
District Manager

2 Enclosures:

- 1-Proposed Multiple Use Decision
- 2-Map

PROPOSED

MARIETTA HERD MANAGEMENT AREA  
MULTIPLE USE DECISION

The Record of Decision for the Walker Environmental Impact Statement and the Resource Management Plan (RMP) was issued on June 6, 1986. These documents, developed through consultation and coordination with the public, established the multiple-use goals and objectives which guide management of public land in the Marietta Herd Management Area (HMA). The RMP also recommended the HMA be designated as a National Wild Burro Range, which was approved by the Director, Bureau of Land Management on October 31, 1989. This designation allows the HMA to be managed principally, but not necessarily exclusively, for wild burros. Accordingly, livestock grazing was excluded from the majority (63%) of the HMA by the Carson City District Final Decision effective February 26, 1992. Livestock grazing is permitted only in the designated dual use area (see map) of the HMA.

The Marietta Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP), approved by the State Director on July 16, 1987, established an initial population level of 85 wild burros, plus or minus 15%, in the Marietta HMA. The HMAP also stated that the population will be monitored in the future to determine the Appropriate Management Level (AML). Monitoring has been conducted within the HMA using the methodologies established in the HMAP.

Based on the use of the weighted average formula as prescribed in the HMAP and as described in BLM Technical Reference (TR) 4400-7, 1250 AUMs of forage is available for use by wild burros and 416 AUMs of forage is available for livestock in the Marietta HMA.

Therefore, in accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part §4700, my decision is:

- A. The Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the Marietta HMA is 104 head of wild burros. The population will be managed between 78 and 104 animals. The AML will only be modified if monitoring indicates that a change is necessary.
- B. The management of wild burros within the Marietta HMA will be in accordance with the Strategic Plan for Management of Wild Horses and Burros on Public Lands (June 1992) and the Marietta Herd Management Area Plan (July 1987).
- C. Wild burros in excess of the AML of 104 animals in the Marietta HMA will be removed. Priority will be given to selectively removing wild burros from areas where over utilization of forage is occurring.
- D. Allow 416 AUMs of livestock use in the designated dual use area of the HMA.

## Rationale

Livestock grazing is not permitted in 40,900 acres (63%) of the HMA in accordance with a Carson City District Final Decision effective February 26, 1992. That decision allowed livestock use from November 1 to April 15 within the 24,600 acres of the designated dual use area of the HMA. When determining the AUMs of available forage, the burro only area and the area of cattle and burro use, or dual use, were calculated separately.

The analysis of available monitoring data for the HMA indicates that a thriving natural ecological balance will be achieved by allowing no more than 1666 AUMs of grazing use. The current average vegetation utilization, as of October 1997, in the burro only area is moderate and light in the dual use area. The latest aerial census, conducted in August 1997, counted 93 wild burros. Seven years of census indicate that on average 25 burros were in the dual use area. Actual use data for livestock in 1997 was 150 AUMs in the designated dual use area. Using the most recent census of wild burros, livestock actual use and vegetation utilization data in the weighted average formula, there are 1666 AUMs of forage available.

This decision allows for 416 AUMs, 50% of the available AUMs, for livestock use in the designated dual use area only. The other 50% or 416 AUMs are for wild burros in combination with the 833 AUMs from the burro only area for a total of 1249 AUMs available for wild burros. This number of AUMs allows for an AML of 104 wild burros.

Managing the population between a range of 78 and 104 is based on a 10% replacement rate and a three year gather schedule. The 10% replacement rate is the historical rate of population increase in the HMA over the past seven years. Reducing the population to 78 and then allowing it to increase over three years to 104 will reduce the frequency of gathers and thereby reduce stress to the wild burros.

This decision does not pertain to wildlife as there are no major wildlife issues at this time.

## Authority

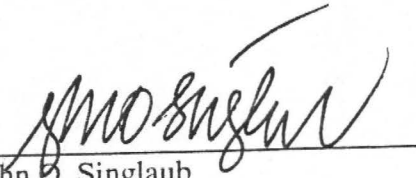
The authority for these decisions is contained in Sec. 3(a) and (b) of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (P.L. 92-195) as amended and in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which states in pertinent parts:

§4110.3 " The authorized officer shall periodically review the permitted use specified in a grazing permit or lease and shall make changes in the permitted use as needed to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity, to assist in restoring ecosystems to properly functioning condition, to conform with land use plans or activity plans, or to comply with the provisions of subpart 4180 of this part. These changes must be supported by monitoring, field observations, ecological site inventory or other data acceptable to the authorized officer.

§4700.0-6 (a) "Wild horses and burros shall be managed as self-sustaining populations of healthy animals in balance with other uses and the productive capacity of their habitat."

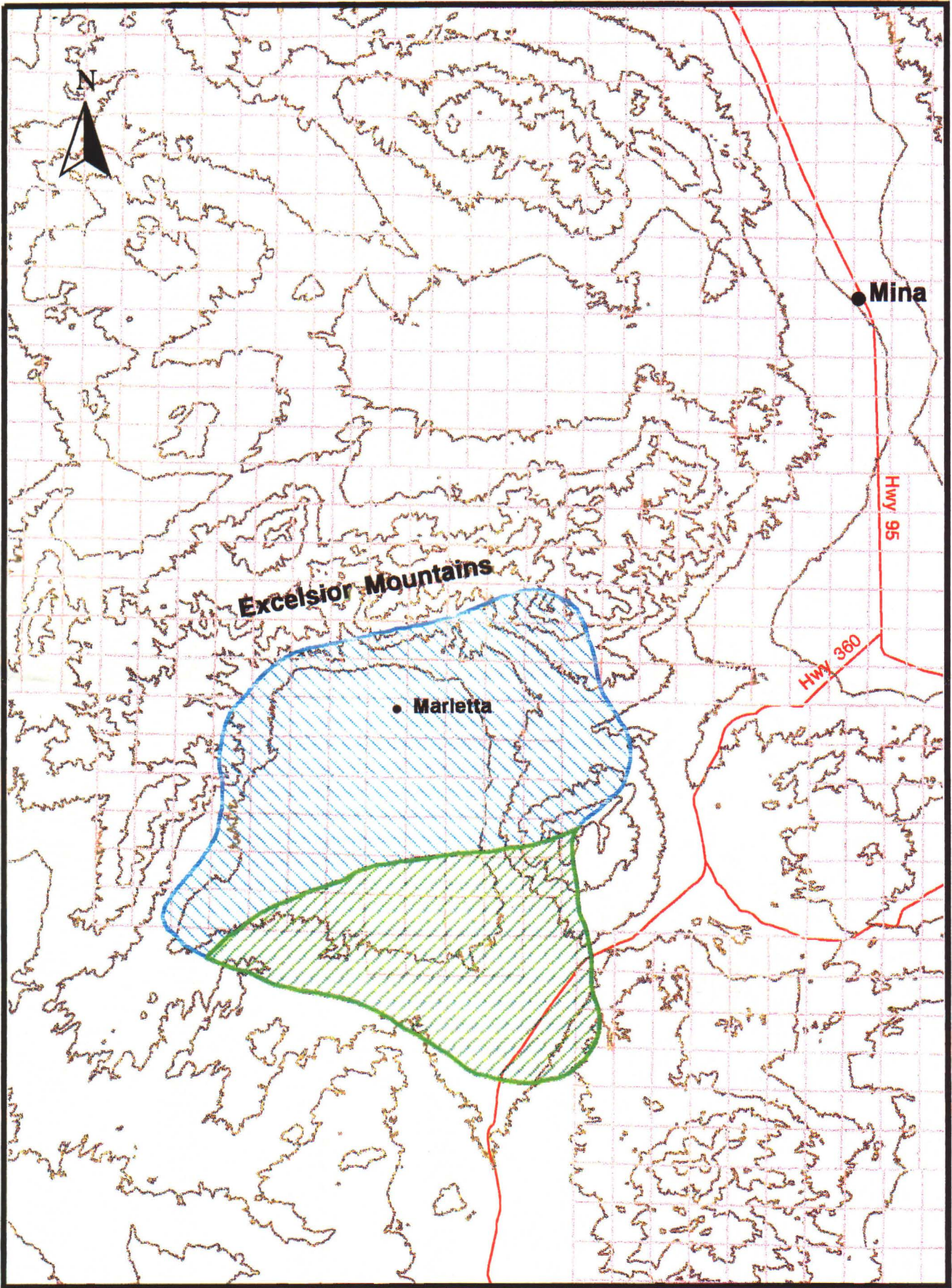
§4710.3-1 "Herd management areas shall be established for the maintenance of wild horse and burro herds. In delineating each herd management area, the authorized officer shall consider the appropriate management level for the herd, the habitat requirements of the animals, the relationship with other uses of the public and adjacent private lands, and the constraints contained in §4710.4..."

§4720.1 "Upon examination of current information and a determination by the authorized officer that an excess of wild horses or burros exist, the authorized officer shall remove the excess animals immediately....."



John G. Singlaub  
District Manager  
Carson City District Office

5-1-98  
Date



Burro Use Only   
Dual Use 

# Marietta HMA



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

123 W. Nye Lane, Room 248  
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0818  
Phone (702) 687-1400 • Fax (702) 687-6122

May 11, 1998

Mr. John O. Singlaub  
Bureau of Land Management  
5665 Morgan Mill Road  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Subject: PMUD Marietta Herd Management Area

Dear Mr. Singlaub:

The Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses remains concerned with the procedures used to establish an accurate appropriate management level for Marietta.

Previous attempts for a gather included a programmatic rationale, emergency rationale and presently a proposed multiple use decision in absence of an allotment evaluation or environmental assessment reviewed and commented on by interested and affected parties. By state and national policy, we believe that environmental document should be available to the public prior to the issuance of any decision.

We suggest that this decision be delayed until some time that the public can have an opportunity to review the support documents.

Sincerely,

  
CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Administrator



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Sincerely,

  
CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Administrator



# Marietta Utilization

October 1997

## Dual Use Area

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>WT. Ave</u>
No Use	8,320 Ac. X 2.5% = 208	
Light	2,355 Ac. X 30% = 706	
Moderate	3,005 Ac. X 50% = 1502	
Heavy	2,940 Ac X 70% = 2,058	
	16,620	4,474

WT. Ave -  $\frac{4,474}{16,620} = 27\%$  Ave. Use  
 Total Acres - 16,620

300 cattle X 2 weeks = 150 AUM's  
 25 Burros X 12 months = 300 AUM's  
450 AUM's

$$\frac{X}{50\%} = \frac{450 \text{ AUM's}}{27\%}$$

X = 833 AUM's of desired USE

416 AUM's for CATTLE

416 AUM's for Burros = 35 Head



## Single Use Area

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>WT. Ave</u>
No Use	4030 Ac. X 2.5% = 101	
Light	1504 Ac. X 30% = 451	
Moderate	7,486 Ac. X 50% = 3,743	
Heavy	2,387 Ac. X 70% = 1,671	
Severe	4,133 Ac. X 90% = 3,720	
	19,540	9,686

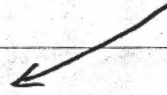
WT. Ave -  $\frac{9,686}{19,540} = 49\%$   
 Total Acres - 19,540

68 Burros X 12 months = 816 AUM's

$$\frac{X}{50\%} = \frac{816 \text{ AUM's}}{49\%}$$

X = 833 AUM's of desired USE

833 AUM's for Burros = 69 head



35 + 69 = 104 Burros

Maricotta Actual Use - 1997

Livestock - 300 cattle for 2 weeks = 150 AUM's

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BURROS - Aerial Census - 93 BURROS

Dual Use Area - 25 BURROS X 12 MONTHS = 300 AUM's

Single Use Area - 68 BURROS X 12 MONTHS = 816 AUM's

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