



United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

Carson City Field Office

5665 Morgan Mill Road  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Phone: (775) 885-6000



JUN 13 2001

In Reply Refer to:  
1610 (033F)  
NV032

Dear Potential Planning Partner:

The Carson City Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is beginning the process of amending decisions in the Walker Resource Management Plan pertaining to the Pine Nut Mountains. The Pine Nut Mountains planning area includes about 350,000 acres located in the vicinity of Carson City, and Douglas and Lyon counties in western Nevada. Regional population growth, increased use of the planning area, changes in values associated with public lands, and expansion of the urban interface adjacent to public lands have resulted in land use/resource conflicts which require changes in the existing management decisions.

You are invited to participate in this planning process as a planning partner. The planning process will be a collaborative, community-based process in which you may participate as a full partner with BLM and other partners in developing, analyzing, and implementing management strategies for the Pine Nut Mountains planning area. Although the final plan decisions rest with BLM, as a planning partner, you will help; 1) identify issues, 2) identify data needs, 3) acquire data and information, 4) develop management solutions for identified issues, 5) develop proposed and alternate management plans, and 6) implement decisions and management actions once the planning process is complete. The planning process is expected to take about four years to complete.

Preliminary land use and resource management issues in the Pine Nut Mountains have been identified by BLM and are presented in the March 2001 Pre-Plan Analysis and Project Management Plan (copies of the Pre-Plan are available at the Carson City Field Office or from the BLM website, [www.nv.blm.gov/carson](http://www.nv.blm.gov/carson)). These issues include urban interface concerns, land ownership, impacts on recreation, access to the planning area, wild horse management, fire management, vegetation community condition, wildlife, and other resource concerns. Although, these initial issues may not be inclusive, they will help initiate public scoping and guide future direction of the plan. Additional issues, concerns, and perspectives are expected to be identified and included in the plan amendment.

I encourage your participation and if you decide to join in this effort as a planning partner, please contact the Team Leader, Tom Crawford at (775) 885-6169 (eMail: [tom\\_crawford@nv.blm.gov](mailto:tom_crawford@nv.blm.gov)) or Mike McQueen, Planning Coordinator, at (775) 885-6120 (eMail: [mike\\_mcqueen@nv.blm.gov](mailto:mike_mcqueen@nv.blm.gov)). A time and place to discuss your issues and other plan processes will be scheduled with you. Should you prefer to participate, but not as a partner in this planning effort, there will be formal public scoping meetings and workshops; you may provide comments in those forums.

If you know of other individuals or groups with an interest in the planning area, please provide us with a contact name, address, and phone number.

We look forward to discussing your issues.

Sincerely,

John O. Singlaub  
Manager

June 28, 2001

Mr. John Singlaub  
Carson City Field Office  
5665 Morgan Mill Road  
Carson City, NV 89701

Subject: Pine Nut Mountain – Land Use Plan

Dear Mr. Singlaub:

The Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses remains concerned with the management of the Pine Nut Wild Horse Herd. In the past 10 years, our agency has participated in the series of multiple use decisions and emergency gather plans for this herd. We find the Standard Operating Procedures of the Walker Resource Management Plan far too vague and inadequate for the proper management of this herd.

We suggest that wild horses receive specific attention in the pending environmental impact statement and record of decision. With the advent of the Rangeland Standards and Guidelines, we suggest that specific criteria for important habitats be assessed and proposed for the management of wild horses. In the past, proper utilization of key forage species was the dominant factor in determining wild horse numbers. We suggest that "stubble height" guidelines be expressed to inform the public of proper range use. In addition to these guidelines, we suggest that wild horse and livestock use be segregated to determine actual use of key forage species. In light of the mix of federal and private lands, we suggest that the HMA be assessed for suitability and the record of decision should propose any needed adjustments.

Wild horse captures have been limited to age classes less than five years. This action has and will restructure the population genetics and longevity. We suggest that these types of management actions be assessed in the environmental impact statement.

John Singlaub  
June 29, 2001  
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The Record of Decision should include the parameters to be measured and assessed to determine the appropriate management level. Standard Operating Procedures may be the best format to disclose to the public the process and rationale for managing this herd. We do not want to change methodology and criteria that lead to arbitrary decisions in the future.

We thank you for your attention to these issues of concern for us.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Administrator