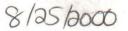
For with





United States Department of the Interior BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Ely Field Station HC 33 Box 33500 Ely, Nevada 89301-9408 http://www.nv.blm.gov

> In Reply Refer To: 4110 Permittee Case File (NV-045.09)

AUG. 25 2000

Certified Return Receipt No. 7099 3400 0004 9705

Kevin Olson P.O. Box 97 Panaca, Nevada 89042

Dear Mr. Olson:

The Ely Field Office has conducted a drought assessment on the Cottonwood Allotment. Monitoring on the allotment has been ongoing since the beginning of the grazing season. The allotment has been impacted by drought resulting in severely limited forage quantity and quality and reduced water availability. As a result, it is necessary to remove all livestock from the allotment. In addition, the Ely BLM is planning a gather of the wild horses in the area to further alleviate the grazing pressure to drought stressed plants.

Enclosed, please find the Notice of Closure Agreement. Please review it, sign, date and return it to Shirley Christman-Johnson within 5 days of receipt. I will sign and return your copy to you. The closure is by agreement. The alternative to a signed agreement is a full force and effect decision. This is an alternative method of achieving the same objectives. If you dispute the need to close the allotment, please contact either Alan Shepherd or Shirley Christman-Johnson at (775) 726-8100. Without a signed agreement, a full force and effect decision will be issued.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

James M. Perkins Assistant Field Manager Renewable Resources

Enclosures: Notice of Closure Agreement Actual Use Statement



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Ely District Office HC 33 Box 33500 Ely, NV 89301-9408

AUG. 25 2000

In Reply Refer To: 4110 Lewis, Olson Grazing Case Files Cottonwood File (NV-045.09)

Notice of Closure Agreement

Severe drought conditions exist within the **Cottonwood Allotment**. The allotment was recently visited to evaluate drought conditions. Field observations indicate that available forage and water availability are extremely limited and that severe drought conditions exist. Precipitation for the normal growing season of April, May, and June is 50% of normal. The below normal precipitation has resulted in decreased soil moisture and water availability, decreased plant vigor and growth while some locations have little or no current year's growth. The allotment is managed within the Clover Mountains Wild Horse Herd Management Area.

Therefore, for the protection of the vegetation and watershed due to severe drought conditions, the **Cottonwood Allotment** is hereby temporarily closed to livestock grazing. This Notice of Closure is effective immediately.

The closure will be in effect until the following criteria have been met:

- 1. Vegetative growth occurs and can sufficiently support livestock grazing; and
- 2. The key forage species all show good vigor; and
- 3. Soils are sufficiently protected from potential erosion.

Upon determination that the perennial vegetation has been re-established, authorized grazing use will resume. We will ask for the permittees' participation when evaluating forage conditions associated with lifting this closure. A map of the closure area is attached. This closure is issued as an agreement pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 4110.3-3 (b).

This Notice is to inform you that any unauthorized livestock grazing upon public lands within the **Cottonwood Allotment** (Legal description T. 5, 6, 7 S., R. 67, 68 E. under Bureau of Land Management's control will be in violation of 43 CFR 4140.1 (b) (1) and may be impounded. The unauthorized livestock may be impounded at any time after five (5) days from delivery of this notice or after five (5) days from the publishing and posting of this notice. This notice is issued in accordance with 43 CFR 4150.4; any impoundment of unauthorized livestock in connection with this notice will be done in accordance with 43 CFR 4150.4-2.

Robert Lewis, Permittee

Date

Kevin Olson, Permittee

Date

Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources Date



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Ely Field Station HC 33 Box 33500 Ely, Nevada 89301-9408 http://www.nv.blm.gov

> In Reply Refer To: 4110 Permittee Case File (NV-045.09)

> > AUG. 24 2000

Certified Return Receipt No. 7099 3400 0004 7938 9798

Robert Lewis P.O. Box 520 Moapa, Nevada 89025

Dear Mr. Lewis

The Ely Field Office has conducted a drought assessment on the Cottonwood Allotment. Monitoring on the allotment has been ongoing since the beginning of the grazing season. The allotment has been impacted by drought resulting in severely limited forage quantity and quality and reduced water availability. As a result, it is necessary to remove all livestock from the allotment. In addition, the Ely BLM is planning a gather of the wild horses in the area to further alleviate the grazing pressure to drought stressed plants.

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Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

James M. Perkins Assistant Field Manager Renewable Resources

Enclosures: Notice of Closure Agreement



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Ely District Office HC 33 Box 33500 Ely, NV 89301-9408

In Reply Refer To: 4110 Lewis, Olson Grazing Case Files Cottonwood File (NV-045.09)

AUG. 24 2000

Notice of Closure Agreement

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Robert Lewis, Permittee

Date

Kevin Olson, Permittee

Date

Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources Date