

3/8/00



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In Reply Refer To:
4100
7J Ranch Case File
(NV-045.05)

Dear Interested Public:

I am considering two Temporary Nonrenewable Use (TNR) requests by 7J Ranch (Hank and Joi Brackenbury) for the Boulder Spring and Pennsylvania Allotments. The Brackenburys have made application for TNR grazing use for 70 head of cattle on the Boulder Spring Allotment for the period 04/01/00 to 05/31/00 (140 AUMs) and 30 head of cattle on the Pennsylvania Allotment for the period 04/01/00 to 04/31/00 (30 AUMs). Authorization of these requests is under Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 4130.6-2 (Nonrenewable grazing permits and leases). The grazing permits held by 7J Ranch authorizes only cattle use within the Boulder Spring and Pennsylvania allotments. Hank and Joi Brackenbury own and control the base property and are the only permittee on the allotments.

The Pennsylvania Allotment is within the Clover Mountain Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA). Approximately 20-30 wild horses reside within this portion of the HMA. The Boulder Spring Allotment is not located within an identified HMA.

On February 29, 2000, an inspection of the Boulder Spring allotment was completed to determine if sufficient forage was still available to support the authorization of the request and to document the current utilization levels at the identified key areas within the allotment. Utilization levels were checked in all portions of the allotment and were identified within the light use category (approximately 30-35%) on the key forage species (Big galleta grass). The key forage species is a warm season perennial grass which generally initiates growth for the year during the months of May to August. Short term utilization objectives for this allotment are being met based on the documented use levels. All key forage species on the allotment are in fair to good condition and all the species present set seed last year. Results of the field observations indicate that sufficient forage is available within the allotment to authorize the TNR applied for in the grazing application.

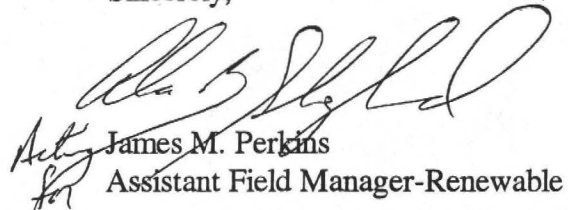
On March 3, 2000, an inspection of the Pennsylvania allotment was completed to determine if sufficient forage is available to support the authorization of the request and to document the current utilization levels within the allotment. The 7J Ranch applied for non-use in 1999. Utilization levels were checked within the allotment and were identified within the slight use category (approximately 10-20%) on the native grass species. The annual grasses (Cheatgrass and Red Brome) are currently initiating their growth for the year. The perennial grasses have not

initiated any new growth. Short term utilization objectives for this allotment are being met based on the documented use levels. All key forage species on the allotment are in fair to good condition and all the species present set seed last year. Results of the field observations indicate that sufficient forage is available within the allotment to authorize the TNR applied for in the grazing application.

Based on the information provided above, I am considering approval of the TNR request. If approved, the allotment will be continued to be monitored to document rising utilization levels. Should utilization objectives be met, the permittee will be required to remove the cattle from the allotment. If approved, authorization will begin following review of all Public response to this letter.

If you have any comments, please send them in writing within 14 days of the date of this letter, to the Assistant Field Manager- Renewable Resources at the following address: Bureau of Land Management, HC 33 BOX 33500 Ely, NV 89301-9402.

Sincerely,


Acty James M. Perkins
for Assistant Field Manager-Renewable

CC: Ely DO (NV-040)
Nevada State Clearinghouse
Jack Clifton, NDOW
Lincoln County Commissioners
John McClain, Resource Concepts Inc.
Don Holloway, UNR Coop Extension
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno, NV
Laurel Etchelgaray, Nevada Woolgrower's Association