

3/3/77

IN REPLY REFER TO

4700  
(N-043)



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Ely District Office  
Star Route 5, Box 1  
Ely, NV 89301

March 3, 1977

WFOA, Inc.  
P. O. Box 555  
Reno, NV 89504  
Attention: Mrs. Dawn Y. Lappin - Adoption Director

Dear Mrs. Lappin:

In answer to your letter of February 7, 1977, enclosed is the information you requested:

1. Number of livestock permittees, districtwide - 117.
2. Number of AUM's of authorized use for domestic livestock, districtwide - 497,657 AUM's.
3. Number of suspended non-use permits (voluntary or decision) districtwide (permittees having suspended non-use) - 58.
4. Number of free-use permits, districtwide - 0.
5. Number of estimated wild horse population, districtwide - 2137 (1975 inventory).
6. Number of claimed horses, districtwide - 358 within the Ely District and another 810 between the Ely and Elko Districts.
7. Estimated population increases of wild horses - 22.5 percent average districtwide (based on ratio of total yearlings to total adults recorded in 1975 inventory - represents 1974 increase).
8. Grazing capacity
  - a. Total number of AUM's available for livestock - 490,949.
  - b. Total number of AUM's available for wildlife - 39,067.
  - c. Total number of AUM's available for wild horses -



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Ben  
Friday

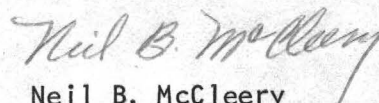
- (1) Proposed Decision  
2028 AUM's - Wilson Creek Planning Unit
- (2) Interim Agreement  
4680 AUM's - Duckwater Planning Unit
- (3) MFP Recommendation  
2580 AUM's - Steptoe, Butte, and Newark Planning Units

The proposed decision (1) has been issued by the District Manager and is in the process of being implemented. Interim agreements (2) are worked out on a voluntary basis with ranchers in an area upon completion of our Management Framework Plans. Under this agreement, the ranchers agree not to activate any of the regular non-use on their active licenses in order to provide forage for the present wild horses in the area. This agreement is in effect until such time as the manageable number of horses in an area is determined through studies. Forage is then reserved for the manageable numbers by a decision. The MFP recommendation is made by the District pending the final review and approval of the document by the State Director. As of this date, we are still in the process of completing our Unit Resource Analyses and Management Framework Plans on the Moriah, Preston-Lund, Horse and Cattle Camp, and White River Planning Units so have not fully evaluated wild horse forage reservations in these areas. Forage reservations in the Lake Valley Planning Unit will be evaluated this year. Once all of the planning is complete, forage reservations made for wild horses will be subtracted from that available for livestock in the District. The AUM's listed above under the proposed decision and interim agreement have been subtracted from that available for livestock although they are not final as of this date. A District map showing the planning units is enclosed for your reference.

The figures listed above are from range surveys made from 1941-1967. As part of the Environmental Statement effort required under our present range management program, we are in the process of evaluating these surveys to determine if they are adequate or if revisions are necessary due to vegetation changes or to bring them up to current standards. These evaluations will result in updated forage allocations for wildlife, wild horses, and livestock.

We hope this information will be of help to you in compiling your worksheet. If you should need additional information, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

  
Neil B. McCleery  
District Manager

Enclosure