Delamor



## United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management Caliente Resource Area P.O. Box 267 Caliente, Nevada 89008

In Reply Refer To:

4130 7J Ranch Grazing Case File Lower Riggs Allotment File (NV-055.09)

11-22-95

NOV 2 2 1995

Dear Interested Public:

I am considering a Temporary Nonrenewable Use (TNR) request by the 7J Ranch, permittee of the Lower Riggs Allotment. The permittee has made application for TNR grazing use for 150 domestic cows. Authorization of this request is under Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Section 4130.6-2 (nonrenewable grazing permits and leases).

The permittee owns and controls the base property for the allotment and meets all mandatory qualifications for the permit. The 7J Ranch operates on the allotment in conjunction with one other permittee. The period of use applied for, December 4 to December 31, 1995, is during the winter dormant period for the vegetative community. The permittee is requesting to graze 153 AUMs over and above their permitted use. The permittee is currently grazing livestock on the allotment in accordance with their Federal grazing permit.

On November 21, 1995, the allotment was inspected to determine if sufficient forage is available to authorize the nonrenewable grazing use requested. The following was determined:

Use levels on perennial grasses were in the low-slight range over much of the allotment. No use was detected on browse species such as <u>Ceanothus</u> spp., Desert Bitterbrush, and Nevada Ephedra.

Based on the amount of available forage and plant vigor, sufficient forage is available to approve the Temporary Non-renewable use.

This use is consistent with multiple-use objectives and will not interfere with existing livestock operations on the public lands.

## Page 2

The allotment is managed in the Delamar Wild Horse Herd Management Area. Wild horses travel between the Oak Springs, Delamar and Lower Riggs Allotments. Cattle are distributed over the entire allotment. Wild horses were observed grazing among the livestock on the upper end of the allotment.

The allotment provides year-round habitat for mule deer. The authorization of Temporary AUMs would not cause an impact to a deer population. Utilization limits will be to 50% of current year's growth on any forage species (as recommended by the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Task Group.)

Based on the information provided above, I am considering approval of the TNR request. If you have any questions on this action, please contact Shirley Christman of my staff, at (702) 726-8100.

If you have any comments, please call or send them in writing no later than December 2, 1995 to the Caliente Area Manager at the following address: Bureau of Land Management, Caliente Resource Area, Attn. Area Manager, P.O. Box 237, Caliente, NV 89008.

Sincerely,

Curtis H. Luckn

Curtis G. Tucker Area Manager

CC: L.V.D.O. (NV-053) Ely D.O. (NV-043) BOB MILLER Governor

CATHERINE BARCOMB Executive Director



## COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

255 W. Moana Lane Suite 207A Reno, Nevada 89509 (702) 688-2626

December 8, 1995

Mr. Curtis G. Tucker Caliente Resource Area Bureau of Land Management P.O. Box 267 Caliente, Nevada 89008

Subject: Lower Riggs - TNR

Dear Mr. Tucker:

Thank you for consulting the Commission concerning the issuance of temporary non-renewable permits for this allotment. According to our files, the Delamar Wild Horse Herd does not have an established appropriate management level. The limiting factor that will determine the proper herd size has not been determined.

Based upon the limited information provided in your notification, we have feel that additional winter use may be available under the proposed condition that use will not exceed 50 percent of annual growth of key species on the allotment.

It would be appropriate to schedule allotment evaluations within the Delamar Wild Horse Herd.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments concerning this action.

Sincerely,

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CATHERINE BARCOMB Executive Director

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**BOB MILLER** Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

CATHERINE BARCOMB Executive Director

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## COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

255 W. Moana Lane Suite 207A Reno, Nevada 89509 (702) 688-2626

December 13, 1995

Mr. Curtis G. Tucker Caliente Resource Area Bureau of Land Management P.O. Box 267 Caliente, Nevada 89008

Subject: Lower Riggs - TNR

Dear Mr. Tucker:

Thank you for consulting the Commission concerning the issuance of temporary non-renewable permits for this allotment. According to our files, the Delamar Wild Horse Herd does not have an established appropriate management level. The limiting factor that will determine the proper herd size has not been determined.

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We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments concerning this action.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE BARCOMB Executive Director