

1-31-02

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ely Field Office
HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/Ely>

In Reply Refer To:
4120 (NV-042)

JAN 31 2002

Dear Interested Public:

On January 15, 2002, the Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact for a range improvement project, the Monte Cristo Allotment Boundary Fence (EA No. NV-040-5-27-S1-2001) was signed. Under normal procedure, this decision to implement a range improvement would be posted on our internet web page. At this time the public is unable to access the BLM internet because of a court-ordered injunction. This letter serves to notify you of this decision.

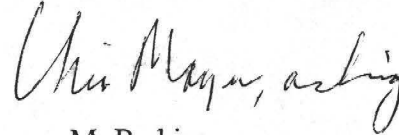
The Monte Cristo Allotment Boundary Fence project was initially posted on the Ely BLM web page, Environmental Review Project List, in June 2001 with a thirty-day comment period that ended July 8, 2001. No comments were received concerning the proposal. The initial posting was in error. The initial posting stated that the fence would be approximately 11 miles and should have stated only a two mile fence. This two mile fence on BLM public lands does not occur within a wilderness study area. The fence would be located in south Newark Valley west of Mount Hamilton, in White Pine County.

The purpose of the fence is to control cattle use in order to improve the ecological condition of the plant communities in the Monte Cristo and Duckwater Allotments. With better control of livestock movements, progress would be made toward achievement of standards and guidelines for grazing administration, and long-term management objectives for the allotments for both livestock and wildlife. This project stems from a Stipulation For Dismissal Of Appeals grazing agreement between BLM and Duckwater Cattle Company, the permittee on the Monte Cristo Allotment. The agreement, signed in August 1999, specifically mentions the Monte Cristo Boundary Fence.

You have the right to appeal this decision if; you believe this decision is adverse to you and you believe it is incorrect. See enclosed form entitled Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals for appeal procedures. A Notice of Appeal must be filed within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact Mark Lowrie, Rangeland Management Specialist, of my staff at (775) 289-1888.

Thank you for your involvement and comments regarding the management of public lands within the Ely Field Office area.

Sincerely,



James M. Perkins
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

Mlowrie:ml

Enclosures (2):

- 1) Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals
- 2) Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact

cc:

Certified Mail/Return Receipt

Mr. Alan Forsgren, Permittee	7001 1140 0000 8583 7173
Mr. Bill Wilson (WP County Public Land Users Advisory Committee)	7001 1140 0000 8583 7180
Mr. David Provost (White Pine County Commission)	7001 1140 0000 8583 7197
Mr. Steve Foree (Nevada Division of Wildlife)	7001 1140 0000 8583 7203
Mr. Lee Tilman	7001 1140 0000 8583 7210
Mrs. June Sewing (National Mustang Association)	7001 1140 0000 8583 7227
Mr. Jerry Millet (Duckwater Shoshone Tribe)	7001 1140 0000 8583 6961
Mr. Paul Clifford	7001 1140 0000 8583 6978
Nevada Cattlemen's Association	7001 1140 0000 8583 6985
Mr. John McLain (Resource Concepts, Inc.)	7001 1140 0000 8583 6992
Dr. Tom Sanders, DVM (WP Conservation District)	7001 1140 0000 8583 7005
Nevada State Clearinghouse (Wild Horse Commission)	7001 1140 0000 8583 7012
Ms. Catherine Barcomb (Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses)	7001 1140 0000 8583 7029
Committee for Idaho's High Desert	7001 1140 0000 8583 6848
Western Watersheds Project	7001 1140 0000 8583 6855

**DECISION RECORD
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(DR/FONSI)**

**MONTE CRISTO ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY FENCE
EA NO. NV-040-5-27-S1-2001**

Decision: I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Monte Cristo Allotment Boundary Fence and concur with the analysis. I select the proposed action, as described, as my decision. This EA is tiered to and incorporates by reference the Districtwide Fenceline Programmatic EA, and provides site-specific NEPA analysis. Appropriate mitigation and monitoring are identified in the proposed action, and no additional measures are deemed necessary as a result of the impact analysis.

Rationale: The proposed action will improve the plant communities and livestock management of the Monte Cristo and Duckwater Allotments. Through better control of livestock movements, progression will be made towards achievement of standards and guidelines for grazing administration, and towards long-term management objectives for the allotments for both livestock and wildlife. Soil stability and watershed protection will be enhanced. Better utilization of the forage resource will be achieved. The standard operating procedures and mitigating measures will minimize impacts of the fence and construction activities.

Fonsi: Based on the analysis it is determined there will not be significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) level of analysis is not required.

Rationale: The determining factors weighed by the Bureau of Land Management in reaching a finding of no significant impact are:

The proposal is in conformance with all Federal, State, and local planning and laws imposed for the protection of the environment.

The potential impacts from implementation of this proposal do not involve unique or unknown risks.

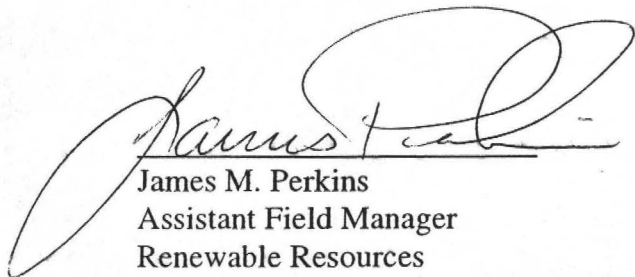
The cumulative impacts of the action would not be significant.

The action would not adversely affect any Special Status Species (Federally listed, proposed or candidate Threatened or Endangered Species, and State sensitive species) or their habitat.

The action would not adversely affect sites eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places nor cause destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical

resources.

The action would not adversely impact migratory birds and their habitat.



James M. Perkins
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

1/5/02
Date