(NV-043)



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office Star Route 5, Box 1 Ely, Nevada 89301

FEB 24 1986

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Dear Interested Party:

Since you replied to our January 7, 1986, letter concerning the Buck and Bald Coordinated Management Plan (BBCMP) effort, we are writing to inform you of our first public meeting.

We will meet on Thursday, March 13, 1986, at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Ely District BLM Office. We will discuss draft general management objectives for the BBCMP. Also, we will cover the 23 draft management area boundaries identified to date and what resource conflicts we see in each area.

A copy of the draft management objectives are enclosed for your review. If you are unable to attend the March 13, 1986, meeting but wish to comment, please have replies to us by April 1, 1986.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Barber at 702-289-4865.

Sincerely yours,

Howard F Hedrick, Manager Egan Resource Area

Enclosure

General Management Objectives

T&E Plants and Animals

Protect and enhance habitats of listed, proposed, and candidate threatened, endangered or sensitive plant and animal species. Efforts will center on habitat of Newark Valley tui chub (category 2), nesting ferruginous hawk (category 2) as well as endangered bald eagle.

Wild Horses

- 1) Provide sufficient forage and water resources to sustain the management level of horses as determined in the Buck and Bald CMP, or provide for a sustainable level of use as close to this level as possible.
- Maintain the wild free-roaming characteristics of the horses in the Buck and Bald herd management area.
- 3) Manage for the most appropriate seral stages to provide desired quantity, quality, variety and density of forage in order to meet the requirements of the wild horses.
- 4) If additional forage is available after livestock numbers reach preference levels, and reasonable wildlife numbers have been reached, all available forage will be divided proportionately among all foraging animals based on animal numbers and forage preference.
 - If, after all plans are fully implemented and monitoring data shows reductions of animal numbers are necessary, reductions will be made in the following manner:
 - a. Where a foraging animal can be identified as the primary agent causing forage resource damage in a specific area, reductions will be made from the numbers of this particular foraging animal. This foraging animal will be determined from monitoring studies, utilization, actual use, sightings, counts, etc. (See Section E, Summary of Monitoring and Evaluation.)

b. Where a single offending foraging animal cannot be determined in a problem area, reductions will be made proportionately according to forage preference. Whether this action will be a specific number in a specific area or an overall reduction in numbers will be determined by the circumstance involved.

Range

- 1) Manage for the most appropriate seral stages to provide desired quantity, quality, variety and density of forage in order to meet the requirements of the key foraging animals. The priority of uses will be established by the consensus of involved parties and the BLM.
- 2) Provide sufficient forage and water resources to sustain preference levels of livestock, reasonable numbers of wildlife, and the management level of horses as determined by the [Egan RMP,] or provide for a sustainable level of use as close to these levels as possible.
- 3) Foraging animal utilization will not exceed standard proper use amounts as determined for each vegetative type/species and season of use.
- 4) Provide for more efficient management and administration of range allotments and trails.

Cultural Resources

- Protect significant cultural resources as provided under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 1966.
- 2) Address ongoing cumulative impacts to cultural resources within the Buck and Bald top area.
- 3) Protect and enhance cultural values within The Sunshine Locality National Register District (Federal Register, March 7, 1978).
- 4) Protect places of special religions or cultural importance to Native Americans as provided under The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (1978) and The Archaeological Resources Protection Act (1979).

Pony Express

1) Protect the integrity of the historic Pony Express Trail and its associated stations.

Wildlife

- 1) Provide yearlong habitat and forage for reasonable numbers of resident mule deer. Provide for habitat and forage for reasonable numbers of migrate mule deer. Minimize livestock impacts to mule deer winter use areas.
- 2) Provide sufficient forage and water to allow reintroduction of pronghorn antelope as proposed by the
 Nevada Department of Wildlife in Newark and Long
 Valleys. Introduction and eventual reasonable numbers
 will be addressed in a site release description to be
 completed prior to release and will be compatible with
 all other range users.
- 3) Provide nesting, brooding and wintering habitat for upland game species (sage grouse, blue grouse, chukar and Hungarian partridge). Minimize livestock impacts on sage grouse leks, nesting, brooding and winter habitats.

Fire

- Provide fire management guidelines for all identified land improvements and resource values.
- 2) Reduce fire suppression costs with the implementation of the appropriate suppression actions.
- 3) Identify all control and confinement zones and constraints for each.
- 4) Provide a system that will evaluate escaped fire situations.
- 5) Provide for the protection of all private property and all lands outside the management area.

Forests

 Encourage full utilization of the sustained yield allowable cut including reasonable numbers of Christmas trees and quantities of pinyon and juniper fuelwood. 2) Manage for the most appropriate seral stages to provide the maximum quantity of pine nuts, numbers of Christmas trees, and highest mean annual increment of cordwood growth.

Minerals

 Work with mining companies to encourage them to participate in volunteer habitat improvement project(s) during the active mining period.



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Dear Interested Parties:

We are beginning a planning effort for the northwest portion of the Ely District and White Pine County. The plan will cover the Buck and Bald Wild Horse Herd Management Area. It will cover 887,287 acres (see enclosed map). The area includes eleven livestock allotments, critical winter range habitat for the Ruby Mountain mule deer herd, a major mining area, a portion of the Pony Express Trail, valuable archaeological and historical sites as well as riparian and wetland habitats.

The Buck and Bald Coordinated Management Plan (BBCMP) will include allotment management plans, a revised habitat management plan, a wild horse herd management area plan, cultural resource management plan and fire management plan. The plans will have coordinated objectives and planned actions.

We intend to actively involve all interested parties in objective setting, conflict resolution and other phases at various meetings, tour(s) and seek input during review of draft plans. This effort will emphasize on-the-ground management objectives and needed planned actions.

If you wish to take part in the BBCMP planning effort, please reply to the District Manager, BLM Ely District, Star Route 5, Box 1, Ely, Nevada 89301 or call Mark Barber/Kathy Lindsey at 702-289-4865 for more information. We need to hear from you by February 3, 1986, if you wish to be placed on the BBCMP mailing list.

Sincerely yours,

Howard Hedrick

Howard F. Hedrick, Manager Egan Resource Area

Enclosure

