

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Ely District Office

HC 33 Box 33500 Ely, Nevada 89301-9408



4700 (NV-043)

AUG 5 0 1996

Dear Reader:

This letter is to inform you that the Ely District plans to remove wild horses from five herd management areas (HMAs) that are being severely impacted by drought conditions in Lincoln and Nye Counties. From field observations of available forage and water, as well as a review of monitoring data, it has been determined that the wild horses and their habitat are already being adversely impacted in these five HMAs. Forage production is extremely limited, as is available water, annual precipitation is less than 50% of normal, and forage utilization is already moderate to severe. Winter feed is already overutilized. Livestock closures are occurring in conjunction with the wild horse removals. The removals are scheduled to commence immediately and will continue through September until completed.

The five HMAs scheduled for emergency removals are Highland Peak, Miller Flat, White River, Seaman, and Dry Lake. It is proposed to remove approximately 175 wild horses from within and adjacent to the Highland Peak HMA. Approximately 70 wild horses will remain in the HMA upon completion of the removal. The Highland Peak HMA Emergency Gather Plan and Notice of Final Full Force and Effect Decision are enclosed (Enclosure 1).

There are approximately 100 wild horses proposed for the scheduled removal from the Miller Flat HMA, and approximately 60 wild horses will remain in the HMA after the removal is completed. The Miller Flat HMA Emergency Gather Plan and Notice of Final Full Force and Effect Decision are enclosed (Enclosure 2).

There are approximately 275 wild horses scheduled to be removed from the White River HMA during the emergency removal, and approximately 250 wild horses are proposed for removal from the Seaman HMA. Upon completion, the number of wild horses remaining in these two HMAs will be at the lower limits of their respective appropriate management levels (AMLs) as established through the allotment monitoring/evaluation process. The White River HMA will have 77 wild horses remaining and 136 will remain in the Seaman HMA. Enclosed you will find the DR/FONSI, Environmental Assessment (EA No. NV-040-96-05), and the Wild Horse Capture/Removal Plan for the Seaman and White River HMAs (Enclosure 3).

Approximately 200 wild horses are proposed for removal from the Dry Lake HMA, to reach the lower limits of the AML established for the HMA. There will be 80 horses remaining in the HMA after the removal. This removal is a continuation of the action addressed in the Wild Horse Removal Plan for Dry Lake/Wilson Creek HMA and the Patterson Seedings and

the associated EA No. NV-040-02-22, which were approved on May 28, 1993. This removal does not constitute a new decision, since current monitoring data show the established AML is still valid and the capture methods remain the same as stated in the Removal Plan/EA, even though the removal is driven by emergency drought conditions. Therefore, as stated in the Removal Plan and EA, a new DR/FONSI is not required to achieve or maintain the established AML through removal of excess animals.

If you have any questions regarding these emergency drought removals, contact Bob Brown, Ely District Wild Horse Specialist, at the above address or phone him at (702) 289-1843.

Sincerely,

Gene A. Kolkman District Manager

4 Enclosures

- 1. Highland Peak HMA Emergency Gather Plan and Notice of Decision (8pp)
- 2. Miller Flat HMA Emergency Gather Plan and Notice of Decision (7pp)
- 3. Wild Horse Capture/Removal Plan for the Seaman and White River HMAs, EA No. NV-040-96-05 and DR/FONSI (47pp)
- 4. Dry Lake maps (2pp)



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Ely District Office

HC 33 Box 33500 Ely, NV 89301-9408

> In Reply Refer To: 4700 (NV-043)

CERTIFIED MAIL# RETURN RECEIPT REOUESTED

DR/FONSI SEAMAN AND WHITE RIVER HMAS WILD HORSE REMOVAL PLAN EA NO. NV-040-96-05

DECISION: I have reviewed the 1996 environmental assessment (EA # NV-040-96-05) for the Seaman and White River Herd Management Areas (HMAs) Wild Horse Removal and I concur with the analysis for this decision. No mitigation is required beyond the Standard Operating Procedures which are considered part of the proposed action. The allotment evaluations and final multiple use decisions (FMUDs) for the allotments within both HMAs also suggest the proposed removal takes place. I concur with the recommendation to conduct a selective removal as described in the Wild Horse Capture/Removal Plan for Seaman HMA and White River HMA.

The non-selected alternatives analyzed in EA # NV-040-96-05 consist of water trapping wild horses, trapping wild horses by herding them on horseback, and no action.

This final decision is issued Full Force and Effect to allow for the immediate removal of excess wild horses from the Seaman and White River HMAs.

Severe drought conditions currently exist within and adjacent to the White River and Seaman HMAs. Forage production is extremely limited. Forage utilization is currently in moderate to severe use categories. From field observations of available forage and water, as well as a review of monitoring data, it has been determined that the wild horses (which are in poor to fair body condition) and their habitats are being adversely impacted.

Approximately 275 excess wild horses must be removed from the White River HMA and approximately 250 excess wild horses must be removed from the Seaman HMA. All wild horses that are removed will be placed into the adoption program regardless of age, during this initial drought related removal. The gather operation will be conducted by helicopter trapping and/or roping. The removal will reduce both HMAs to the lower limits of their respective AMLs, due to extreme drought conditions, which are 77 wild horses remaining in the White River HMA and 136 animals in the Seaman HMA.

Livestock closures will occur on those areas within both HMAs, in conjunction with the removal of wild horses, that are severely impacted by the drought.

Due to the emergency nature of these conditions, it is necessary to implement this action immediately, through a Full Force and Effect Decision. This decision will be implemented on or about September 2, 1996 and will continue until the action is completed.

Rationale: The proposed action will result in wild horses being managed at appropriate management levels (AMLs) within the allotments of the Seaman and White River HMAs, establishing a thriving natural ecological balance among all multiple users. The proposal is in conformance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (P. L. 92-195), as amended. It also conforms with the Schell MFP and ROD, as well as the Egan RMP and ROD. In addition, it complies with the provisions of 43 CFR 4710.4 which states, "Management of wild horses and burros shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting the animals' distribution to herd areas."

Direct and indirect environmental benefits are anticipated for livestock and wildlife, as well as the remaining wild horses, with the adoption of the proposed action. The removal will result in improvement of the rangeland resources through decreased utilization of the forage and water resources within the HMAs, thus restoring the range to a thriving natural ecological balance.

The immediate removal of excess wild horses from the HMAs is necessary to avert the imminent degradation of the rangeland resources caused by overgrazing of wild horses and to restore the range to a thriving natural ecological balance. It is also necessary to comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4710.4.

The rationale for placing this decision in Full Force and Effect are as follows:

- 1. Drought conditions have critically limited forage production and water availability for wild horses. Portions of both HMAs have already been severely overutilized, precipitation is less than 50% of normal, and current forage production is not enough to sustain the animals currently occupying the area.
- 2. Water availability for the wild horses' consumption is limited throughout both HMAs. Reservoirs are dry and spring flows are below normal, supplying only marginal amounts of water for the wild horses.
- 3. The animals are already below normal in body condition and will become more stressed as the drought continues, possibly to the point of death from lack of forage and water.

The authority for this decision is contained in Sec. 3 (a) and (b) and Sec. 4 of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (P. L. 92-195), as amended, and Title 43 of the

Code of Federal Regulations. The authority for the Full Force and Effect Decision is contained in the regulations at 43 CFR 4770.3 (c), which states:

"Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of 4.21 of this title, the authorized officer may provide that decisions to remove wild horses or burros from public or private lands in situations where removal is required by applicable law or is necessary to preserve or maintain a thriving ecological balance and multiple use relationship shall be effective upon issuance or on a date established in the decision."

<u>FONSI</u>: There will not be a significant impact to the quality of the human environment resulting from the implementation of the proposed action. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required for this action.

<u>Rationale:</u> Analysis of impacts did not identify any unique or unknown risks, impacts to public health or safety, high levels of public controversy, or impacts to threatened or endangered species. The standard operating procedures will minimize negative impacts and ensure humane treatment of the captured wild horses.

APPEALS: Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right of appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR, Part 4, Subpart E and 43 CFR 4770.3 (a) and (c). Within 30 days after filing a Notice of Appeal, you are required to provide a complete statement of the reasons why you are appealing. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error. If you wish to file an appeal and petition for a stay, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal and be in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 4, Subpart E and 43 CFR 4770.3 (c). Copies of the Notice of Appeal and Petition for a Stay must be submitted to (1) the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203, (2) the Regional Solicitor's Office, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E-2753, Sacramento, CA 95825-1890, and (3) the Ely District Office, HC33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9408. The original files should be filed with this office.

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted. A petition for a stay of decision pending appeals shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- 1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- 2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- 3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- 4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Robert E. Brown of my staff at (702) 289-1843, or write him at the above address.

Concurrence:

Hal M. Bybee

ADM, Renewable Resources

Ely District

Approval:

Gene A. Kolkman

District Manager Ely District

\$ /26/96 Date 8/26/96

2 Enclosures

1. EA # NV-040-96-05 (18 pp)

2. Capture/Removal Plan (17 pp)



United States Department of the Interior AMERICA

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office: HC 33 Box 33500) Ely, Nevada 89301-9408



NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPOUND

This notice is to inform owners of unauthorized domestic horses on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management of our intent to impound said animals in conjunction with the Seaman/White River HMAs Wild Horse Removal and the Lincoln County emergency wild horse removals due to extreme drought conditions. Specifically, these areas may include the following herd management areas (HMAs) and adjacent horse free areas within the Ely District in Lincoln and Nye Counties, Nevada:

HMA Name (No.)
White River (409)
Dry Lake (410)
Mormon Mountains (512)
Blue Nose Peak (514)
Clover Mountains (516)
Applewhite (518)
Miller Flat (520)
Highland Peak (522)

HMA Name (No.)
Seaman (411)
Wilson Creek (404)
Meadow Valley Mountains (513)
Delamar Mountains (515)
Clover Creek (517)
Little Mountain (519)
Deer Lodge Canyon (521)
Rattlesnake (523)

The HMAs and adjacent horse-free areas are located within the BLM Ely District in Lincoln and Nye Counties, Nevada. Maps of the area may be obtained at the BLM Ely District Office, Ely, Nevada and the BLM Caliente Field Station Office, Caliente, Nevada.

Unauthorized domestic horses may be impounded any time after five (5) days from publication and posting of this notice, and may be impounded without further notice within a 12 month period.

Since the impoundment area is located within an area occupied by wild free-roaming horses, as defined in 43 CFR 4700.0-5, persons who own branded or unbranded horses within the area should file a claim of ownership containing the following information with the Ely District Manager in accordance with 43 CFR 4710.6:

- 1. A complete description of the animals claimed including age, sex, brands, coloration, and other identifying characteristics.
- 2. A description of circumstances under which the animals entered onto public lands including dates, specific reasons why the animals were allowed to enter public lands, and what attempts, if any, have been made to remove the animals from public lands.

- 3. A complete listing of the notification you have provided to the BLM concerning the circumstances identified in #2 above.
- 4. A complete record of your sightings of the animals including dates, numbers, and locations beginning from the date the animals entered public lands to the present.
- 5. A specific gathering proposal detailing the methods of capture, capture locations, and the dates you would propose to recapture the horses.
- 6. Based on the above supplied information, a specific written agreement as to the settlement of any unauthorized grazing fees incurred will be signed between yourself and the BLM prior to authorizing a roundup of the animals.

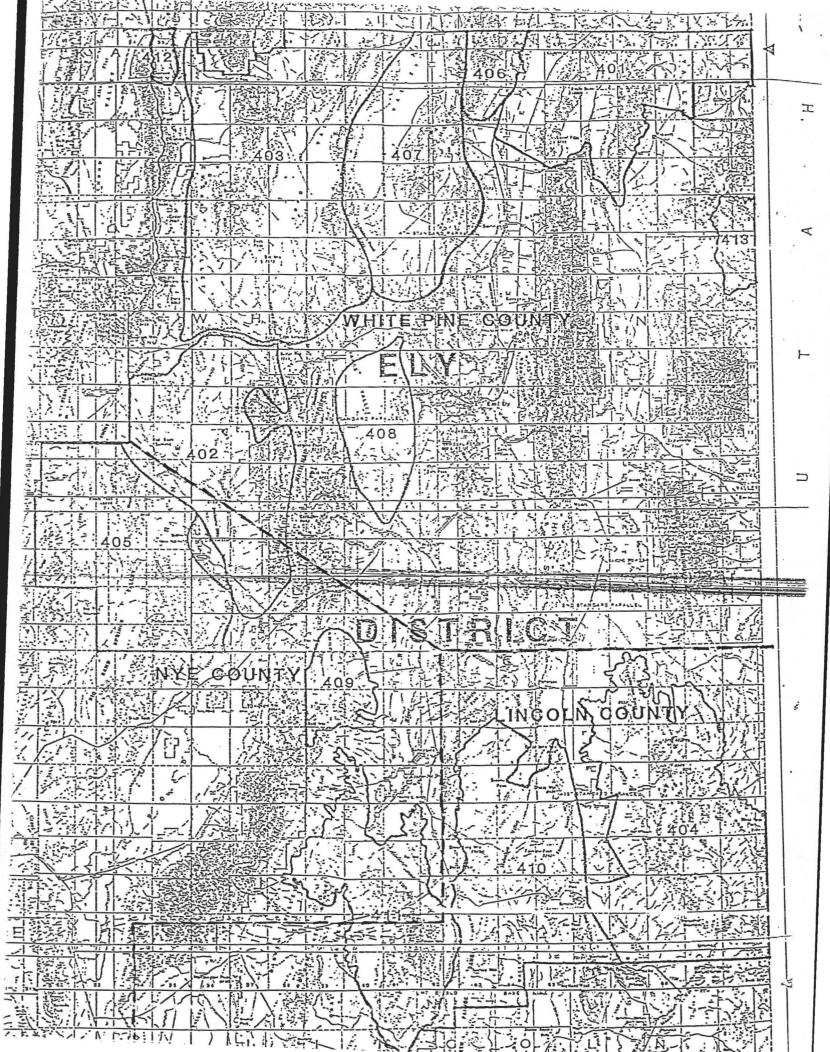
In accordance with 43 CFR 4710.6, no horses may be removed from lands within the impoundment area without written authorization from the Ely District Manager.

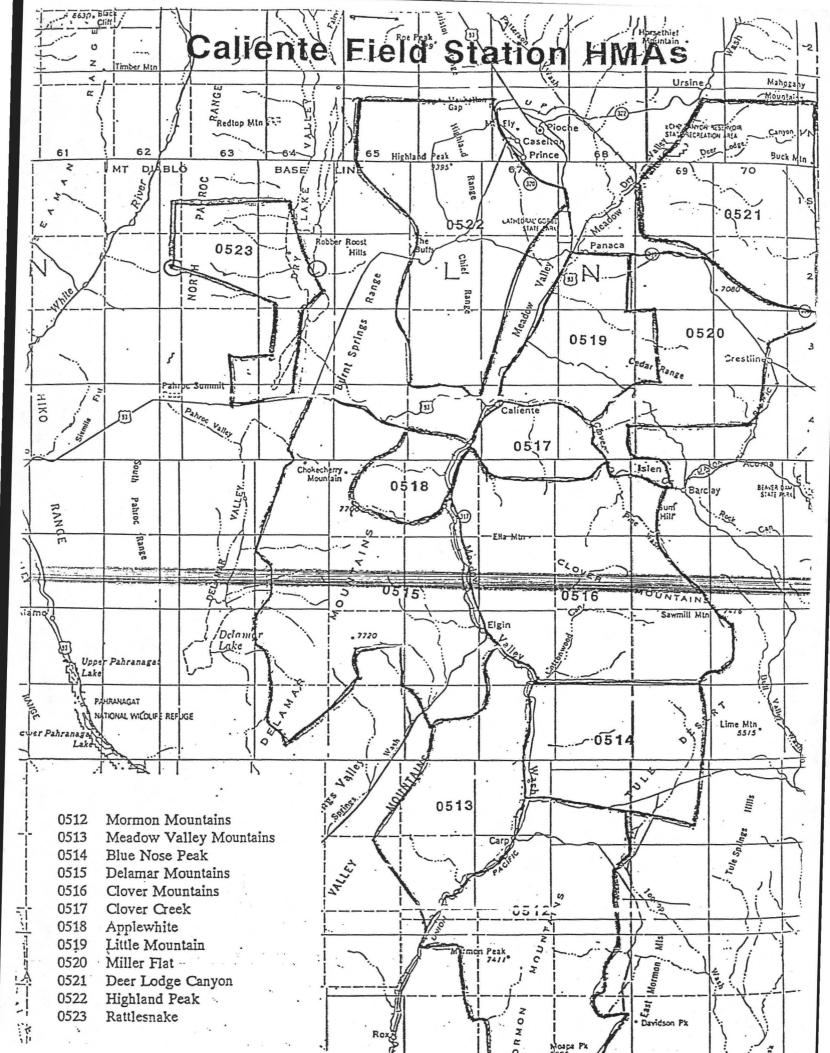
This notice is issued in accordance with 43 CFR 4150.4. Any impounded unauthorized domestic horses will be deemed to be in trespass. Fees/proportionate share of the impoundment costs and the disposal of the unauthorized animals will be in accordance with 43 CFR 4710.6 and 4150.

Gene A. Kolkman

Ely District Manager

Date





Wild horse and Burro Emergency Review Team Request For Information Ely District Response:

A. What is your best estimate of the probability of additional closures to livestock grazing and potential for emergency wild horses gathers?

Based on forage and water availability and field conditions observed to date as a result of drought monitoring and documentation, if drought continues, the probability is very good that the Ely District will continue to close allotments or portions of allotments to livestock grazing. In addition based on forage and water availability and the poor nutritional value of the forage particularly where last years forage is the only forage available, emergency wild horse gathers will also continue. We will continue to field check allotments and herd management areas throughout the remainder of the 1996 grazing year. As of August 23, 1996, approximately 30 allotments and 14 herd management areas have been visited and monitored for drought conditions. Field inspections of herd management areas and allotments will be conducted for the purposes of continually monitoring the condition of wild horses for signs of stress related to drought conditions, in addition to forage and water availability.

The emphasis for field inspections for the remainder of the grazing year will include the following:

- 1. Herd Management Areas
- 2. Fall tourout areas
- 3. Areas previously checked where it is anticipated that forage and water availability will dictate the need for further closures and/or emergency wild horse gathers.
- 4. Grazing year 1997 turnout.

Following are the Ely District additional herd management areaspotentially needing to be gathered under the Drought Emergency Removal effort:

Mormon Mountains

Wilson Creek

Blue Nose Peak

Sand Springs East

Clover Creek

Monte Cristo

Applewhite

Jakes Wash

Litte Mountain

Deer Lodge Canyon

Rattlesnake

This is not necessarily a priority listing. Priorities for gathers may be dictated by the extent of drought conditions. Priorities and schedules may or may not change based on the extent of drought conditions.

Ely District Wild Horse Herd Management Areas

erd rea	Herd Area <u>Name</u>	Appropriate Management Level*	Censused Populat: Numbers	ion	Total E	1996 Currer Stima Populat
01	Antelope (HMAP)	233 (78)	250	12/94	400,335	348
02	Monte Cristo (HMAP)	236 (0)	197***	8/95	228,940	232
03	Buck and Bald	346 (80)	676	9/95	627,030	798
04	Wilson Creek	150 (21)	123	7/94	689,185	171
05	Sand Springs East	257	262***	8/95	386,776	309
06	Cherry Creek	0 (11)	0	9/94	44,269	0
07	Butte (HMAP)	76 (40)	91**	9/94	436,500	127
08	Jakes Wash	6 (29)	42	9/94	67,045	58
09	White River	90	300	9/95	98,534	356
10	Dry Lake	94 (0)	241 .	5/95	494,335	284
11	Seaman	359	1327	17/95	361718	386
12	Diamond Hills South	22	93***	2/96	10,500	110
13	Moriah	0 (61)	109	8/94	83,673	152
	District Total	1.442 (474)	2,711	•	3,928,440	3,32

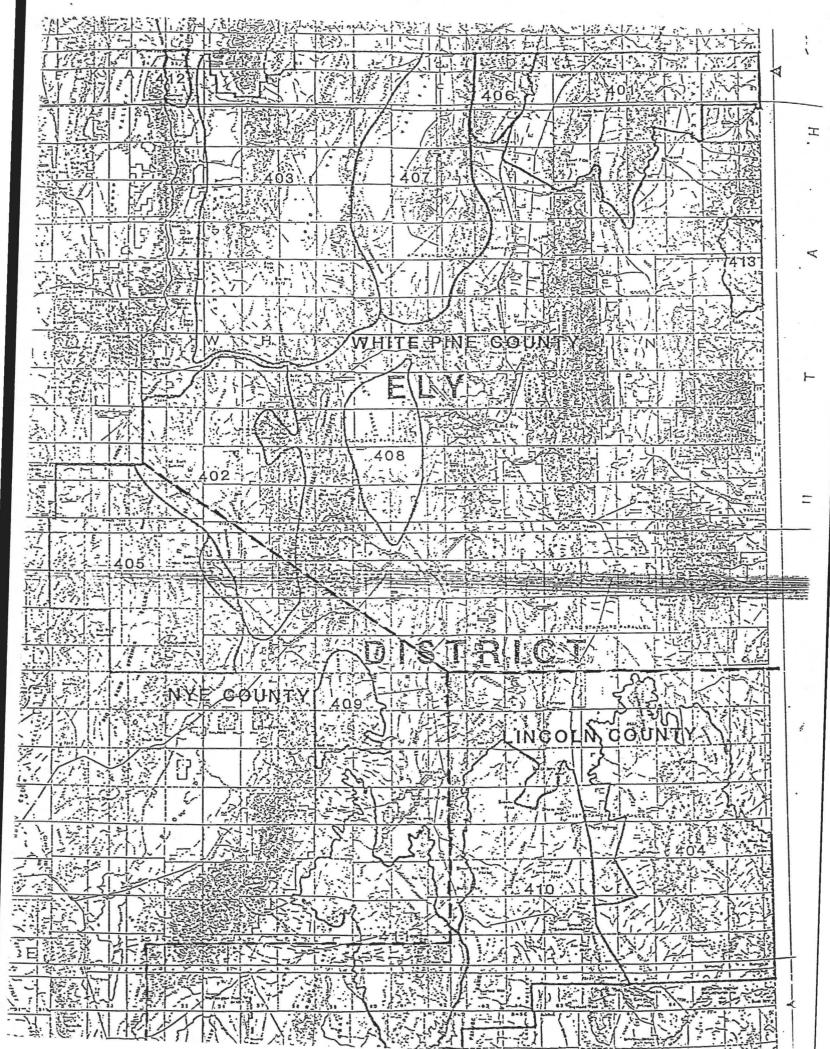
AMLs that are not in parentheses are actual AMLs established in FMUDs as ssued for allotments within the HMA. If no number follows in parentheses, he AML is fully established for that HMA. If a number follows in arentheses, it is an additional estimate to the established AML for those llotments that do not yet have an FMUD issued. All established AMLs have \pm 15% range for management of the herd.

*These population numbers are based on actual census data, reduced by the umber of animals removed during a subsequent removal.

**These population numbers are not based on census, but are the actual umber of animals released back into the HMA after the 1995/1996 apture/removal. These population numbers assume all animals were captured uring the removal operation. HMA No. 412 population numbers include 12 nimals outside the HMA that were not captured.

odated April 29, 1996

wient estimated population is based on 1870 increase per



Ely District
Wild Horse Herd Management Areas

	Herd Area Number	Herd Area <u>Name</u>	Appropriate Management Level*	Censused Populati Numbers		Total Acres	
	401	Antelope (HMAP)	233 (78)	250	12/94	400,335	
	402	Monte Cristo (HMAP)	236 (0)	197***	8/95	228,940	
	403	Buck and Bald	346 (80)	6 76	9/95	627,030	
	404	Wilson Creek	150 (21)	123	7/94	689,185	
	405	Sand Springs East	-257	262***	8/95	386,776	
	406	Cherry Creek	0 (11)	0	9/94	44,269	
	407	Butte (HMAP)	76 (40)	91**	9/94	436,500	
	408	Jakes Wash	6 (29)	42	9/94	67,045	
	409	White River	10 (82)	300	9/95	98,534	,
	410	Dry Lake	94 (0)	241	5/95	494,335	
7.72	411	-Seaman	-12-(-72-)	32.7	9/95	361,318	
	412	Diamond Hills South	22	93***	2/96	10,500	
	413	Moriah	0 (61)	109	8/94	83,673	
	Dis	trict Total	1,442 (474) 2	,711		3,928,440	

^{*}AMLs that are not in parentheses are actual AMLs established in FMUDs as issued for allotments within the HMA. If no number follows in parentheses, the AML is fully established for that HMA. If a mumber follows in parentheses, it is an additional estimate to the established AML for those allotments that do not yet have an FMUD issued. All established AMLs have a \pm 15% range for management of the herd.

^{**}These population numbers are based on actual census data, reduced by the number of animals removed during a subsequent removal.

^{***}These population numbers are not based on census, but are the actual number of animals released back into the HMA after the 1995/1996 capture/removal. These population numbers assume all animals were captured during the removal operation. HMA No. 412 population numbers include 12 animals outside the HMA that were not captured.

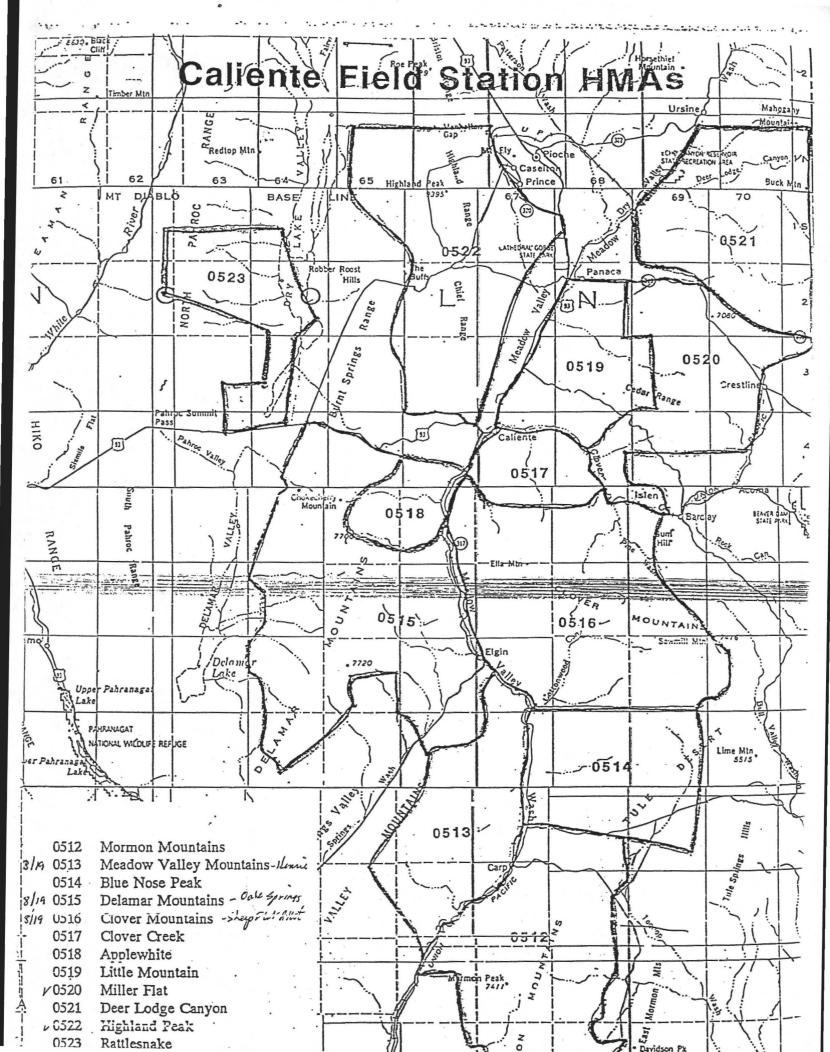
ELY DISTRICT WILD HORSE REMOVAL SUMMARY

Pre-FMUD Removals Since 1985

Date	AMH	Animals Removed
7/85 2/86 9/86 2/87 7/87 2/88 7/88 8/89 11/89	Monte Cristo Buck and Bald Antelope Antelope Sand Springs East Antelope Jakes Wash (emergency) Buck and Bald Diamond Horse Free Area	185 347 107 58 408 526 60 (includes 19 dead) 338 66

Post-FMUD Removals .

Date	<u>HMA</u>	Animals Removed
9/90	Antelope	412
2/91	Antelope	225
12/92	Antelope (fertility mgmt. project)	270
7/93	Butte	195
8/93	Dry Lake	232
8/93	Wilson Creek	16
8/93	Patterson Horse Free Are	2a70
8/94 8/94	Buck and Bald Diamond Horse Free Area	248
9/94	Monte Cristo	. 118
	Butte	70
11/94	Antelope	85
11/94	Sand Springs East	701
7/95	Manta Cristo	749
8/95 2/96	Monte Cristo Diamond Hills South	89



HMA Name (HMA #)	Last Census Count (year)	Reprod Rate,	Pop. Est for 1995,	19962
Applewhite (0518)	21 (94)	0.0%	. 30	35
Blue Nose Peak (0514)	11 (94)	10%	15	. 18
Clover Creek (0517)	27 (94)	12.5%	41	59
Clover Mountains (0516)	49 (94)	9%	74	87
Deer Lodge Canyon (0521)	85 (94)	. 5%	125	148
Delamar Mountains (0515)	147 (94)	6.6%	217	256
Highland Peak (0522)	124 (94)	27.8%	183 .	216
Little Mountain (0519)	124 (94)	26.5%	183	216
Meadow Valley Mountains (0513)	25 (94)	19%	41	48
Miller Flat (0520)	72 (94)	28.6%	106	125
Mormon Hountains (0512)	0** (94)		15	18
NWHR-Nellis	5219 (91)		1500,	
Rattlesnake (0523)	8 (89)		15	18
NOTES:	were not censu	sed in 1994 d	ive to time	1,244

Rattlesnake & NWHR were not censused in 1994 due to time limits Entire Mormon Mtn HMA was not censused due to time

limits.

limits.

NWHR population estimate based on winter horse gather results.

Based on actual census count multiplied by yearly estimated increase of 18t;

Dasid on number of feats divided by total number of adult horses.

Aug 09,1996 10:36AM

page 1 of 2

Form 1510-5 (July 1987)

UNITED STATES. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Solicitation number	
1422-N660-C96-3004	7
State/County NV Lincoln	
District Else NVOAO	

	PROCUREMENT RE	QUEST			Distric		NV Linco	ln	-
To:			Solicitation t	itle and				-	
LaVon	na L. Hughes, SC651B		Lincoln	Co E	mergency	Gathe	ers, Line	oln Co.	NV
Recommended COR	and PI				Award basis	☐ Sc	hedule A	ll or none	Item '
	B Shepherd, Robert Brown		T	FU	INDING				
PROCUREMENT PLAN NUMBER	PROJECT NAMI:		ESTIM/ COS	ATED	ACTIVITY/C		REQUESTED START DATE	PERFORM- ANCE TIME*	DAMAGES
A1 A3 A4	Sheep Flat - Clover Mtr 50 head X \$303 250 days X 7 35 head X 2	ns HMA	\$15,1 1,7	70	NV960/106	6004	8/15/9	3 day	s
A1 A3 A4	Oak Springs - Delamar N 75 head X \$303 400 days X 7 55 head X 2	itns HMA	22,7 2,8 1 25,6	10	NV960/106	0-04	8/18/96	3 day	
A1 A3 A4	Meadow Valley Mtns HMA 50 head X \$303 400 days X 7 25 head X 2	_	15,1 2,8 18,0	50 50	NV960/106	60 – 04	8/21/96	5 day	
	If contributed funds (collected and di	eposited) are i	nvolved	, complete the fo	llowing			
*	NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR			^	MOUNT		RM 1370-41 ' NUMBER	CONTR	E OF
The second secon				Service Servic					Section 20
Hour and meeting p	lace for inspection tour			_	umber of solicita				
				N	umber of days at	ter "Not	tice to Proceed	to start wor	k
				5	same day				
Attachments Maps of emer List of peri	rgency gather areas tinent gather information	to be s	upplied	to th	ne contrac	tor			
Remarks									
						•			
Alan B. Shep	technical purposes during solicitation pharoherd, WH&B Specialist eld Station, Caliente, NV	se (include offic	re, phone, and	(title)					
District Office Appr		Date	State Of	lice Apr	otoval (include ti	isle)		Date	
							hari Wa		

^{*}If multiple awards are to be allowed, show completion time for each project or group which may be awarded separately. If only one award is contemplated, make only one entry showing completion time and liquidated damages for the entire job. THE GUYERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1785 - 371-017-41578

page 2 of 2

Form 1510-5 (July 1987)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Solicitation number	
1422-N660-C96-	3004
State/County NV/Lin	coln
District Elw NV-O	

	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEM	ENT			State/County	,		
	PROCUREMENT REQUEST					NV/Linc		
TO:		Iso	olicitation title an	d location	13/3CITCL P	ly NV-04)	
	*						•	
Recommended COR	and PI		Lincoln Co					
Recommended CON			• •	Awar	d basis S	chedule	All or none	Item
PROCUREMENT				FUNDING		REQUESTED	PERFORM-	
PLAN NUMBER	PROJECT NAME		ESTIMATED COST	PRO	VITY/CJC/ DJECT NO.	REQUESTED START DATE	PERFORM- ANCE TIME*	DAMAGES
Al A3 A4	Non-HMA Areas - Lincoln Co. N 80 head X \$303 400 days X 7 55 head X 2	1V	\$24,240 2,800 110 27,150	NV 960	0/1060-04	8/1 5/96	10 đa	ys ,
	If contributed funds (collected ar	nd depe	asited) are involv	ed, complet				
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Hour and meeting pl	ace for inspection tour					r local distribu		
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Remarks			, ,					-
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name of contact for	technical purposes during solicitation phase finclude	office.	phone, and title)			•		
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District Office Appr	oval (include title) Date		State Office A	pproval (in	clude title)	to a n otto	Date	
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^{*}If multiple awards are to be allowed, show completion time for each project or group which may be awarded separately. If only one award is contemplated, make only one entry showing completion time and liquidated damages for the entire job.

**CUS. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: PMR - 571-01-11718

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Solicitation number	
1422-N660-C96-	-3004

State/County Nevada/Nye & Lincoln

	PROCUREMENT	REQUEST				7				
To:						District E	ly (NV-	040)	
State Dir	ector, Nevada (NPO-960	/NV-951)	Solicitation t	itle an	d location					
LaVonna H	Hughes (BC-660A)		Nye/Lin	colr	n Co. E	mergenc	y Gathe	rs		
Recommended COR		_			Awar	l basis 🔲	Schedule I	X1 A	ll or none I	7 Itam
Robert E.	Brown, Alan B. Shephe	rd				1 04313	Schedule [^	n or none [
PROCUREMENT					FUNDING		REQUEST		PERFORM-	
PLAN NUMBER	PROJECT NAME		ESTIM.			VITY/CJC/ JECT NO.	STAR DATE		ANCE TIME*	DAMAGES
			-		-		-	-		
	White River HMA		000 7	F0	777 06	0 7000	0 /0 /0	_	0 3	
A.1	350 head X \$189		\$66,1			0-1060-	9/2/9	6	9 days	
A.3	1050 days X 7		7,3		04-25	19		- 1		
A.4	275 head X 2		1	50				- 1		
A.5	5 hour X 350		$\frac{1,7}{$75,8}$					- 1		
			\$15,0	00						
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A.1	350 head X \$189		\$66,1	50	NV-96	0-1060-	9/11/	96	9 days	
A.3	1050 days X 7		7,3		04-25				-	
A.4	250 head X 2		1	00						
A.5	5 hour X 350		1,7							
			\$75,7							
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Fly Dis	trict Manager	8/22/96					¥			

If multiple awards are to be allowed, show completion time for each project or group which may be awarded separately. If only one award is contemplated, make only

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BURGALLOGIAND MANAGEMENT

Solicitation number

1422-N660-C96-3004

State/County Nevada/Nye & Lincoln

	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEME	.141		Stat	e/Çounty	Nevada/N	lye & Li	ncoln
	PROCUREMENT REQUEST			Dist	rict El	y (NV-040))	
TO: State Dir	ector, Nevada (NPO-960/NV-951)	Solicitation	on title an	d location				
LaVonna H	ughes (BC-660A)	Nye/L	incoln	Co. Emer	gency	Gathers		
Recommended COR	and PI			Award basi	sПs	chedule 😡 /	All or none	Item
Robert E.	Brown, Alan B. Shepherd	· ·				·	01 110110	
PROCUREMENT PLAN NUMBER	PROJECT NAME		IMATED COST	ACTIVITY PROJECT		REQUESTED START 'DATE	PERFORM- ANCE TIME*	DAMAGI
	Dry Lake HMA							
A.1	250 head X \$197	\$49	,250	NV-960-1	060-	9/20/96	7 days	
A.3	750 days X 7	5	,250	04-2519				
A.4	200 head X 312		400					
A.5	5 hour X 350	1	,750					
			,650					
		1	,000					
	Highland Peak HMA							
A.1	200 head X \$202	\$40	,400	NV-960-1	060-	9/27/96	5 days	
A.3	1000 days X 7		,000	04-2519	000	3,2.,50	J days	
A.4				04-2319				i
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A.5	2 hour X 350		700					
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Solicitation number 1422-N660-C96-3004

State/Çounty	
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PROCUREMENT REQUEST			District Ely (NV-040)					
TO: State Dir	ector, Nevada (NPO-960/NV-951)	So	licitation title and	location	· ·			
	ughes (BC-660A)	N	ye/Lincoln	Co. E	Emergency	Gathers		
Recommended COR Robert E.	and PI Brown, Alan B. Shepherd			Awar	d basis S	chedule X	All or none	☐ Item
PROCUREMENT PLAN NUMBER	PROJECT NAME		ESTIMATED COST		IVITY/CJC/ DJECT NO.	REQUESTED START DATE	PERFORM- ANCE TIME*	DAMAGI
A.1 A.3 A.4 A.5	Miller Flat HMA 155 head X \$202 1000 days X 7 100 head X 2 2 hour X 350		\$31,310 7,000 200 700 \$39,210	NV-96 04-25	60-1060- 519	10/ 2/96	5 days	
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Any Ely District Manager

Date

Phone: (702) 289-1843

District Office Approval (include title)

State Office Approval (include title)

Date

^{*}If multiple awards are to be allowed, show completion time for each project or group which may be awarded separately. If only one award is contemplated, make only

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Solicitation			
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State/County Nevada/Nye & Lincoln

	PROCUREMENT RE	QUEST			Distric	1 77	y (NV-040	11	
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	White River HMA								
A.1	350 head X \$189		\$66,150		NV-960-10	60-	9/2/96	9 days	
A.3	1050 days X 7		7,350		04-2519				
A.4	275 head X 2		550						
A.5	5 hour X 350		\$75,800						
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A.1	350 head X \$189		\$66,150		NV-960-10	50-	9/11/96	9 dave	
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A.4	250 head X 2		500		04-2313				
A.5	5 hour X 350		1,750						
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PROCUREMENT REQUEST

Solicitation number	
1422-N660-C96-3004	

State/Çounty Nevada/Nye & Lincoln

District Ely (NV-040) TO: State Director, Nevada (NPO-960/NV-951) Solicitation title and location LaVonna Hughes (BC-660A) Nye/Lincoln Co. Emergency Gathers Recommended COR and PI Award basis Schedule All or none Item Robert E. Brown, Alan B. Shepherd FUNDING PROCUREMENT REQUESTED PERFORM-PROJECT NAME PLAN NUMBER ESTIMATED ACTIVITY/CJC/ START ANCE DAMAGES COST PROJECT NO. DATE TIME* Dry Lake HMA A.1 250 head X \$197 \$49,250 NV-960-1060-9/20/96 7 days A.3 750 days X 5,250 04-2519 A.4 200 head X 2.2 400 A.5 5 hour X 350 1,750 \$56,650 Highland Peak HMA A.l 200 head X \$202 9/27/96 5 days \$40,400 NV-960-1060-A.3 1000 days X 7,000 04-2519 A.4 150 head X 300 A.5 2 hour X 350 700 \$48,400 If contributed funds (collected and deposited) are involved, complete the following FORM 1370-41 DATE OF AMOUNT NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR CONTRIBUTION Hour and meeting place for inspection tour Number of solicitations for local distribution Number of days after "Notice to Proceed" to start work Same day Attachments Maps of gather areas to be supplied to the contractor Pertinent gather information to be supplied to the contractor Remarks Name of contact for technical purposes during solicitation phase (include office, phone, and title) Robert E. Brown, Wild Horse Specialist Ely District Office, Ely, Nevada 89301 Phone: (702) 289-1843 District Office Approval (include title) Date State Office Approval (include title) Date Ely District Manager

*If multiple awards are to be allowed, show completion time for each project or group which may be awarded separately. If only one award is contemplated, make only

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Solicitation number 1422-N660-C96-3004

State/County Nevada/Nye & Lincoln

TO: State Director, Nevada (NPO-960/NV-951) LaVonna Hughes (BC-660A) Recommended COR and PI Robert E. Brown, Alan B. Shepherd PROCUREMENT PLAN NUMBER Miller Flat HMA Solicitation title and location Nye/Lincoln Co. Em Award I FUNDING ESTIMATED COST PROJECT NAME Miller Flat HMA		*
Recommended COR and PI		rs
Robert E. Brown, Alan B. Shepherd		
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Name of contact for technical purposes during solicitation phase (include office, phone, and title) Robert E. Brown, Wild Horse Specialist Ely District Office, Ely, Nevada 89301 Phone: (702) 289-1843		
District Office Approval (include title) Date State Office Approval (include title) 8/22/96	ude title)	Date

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office HC 33 Box 33500 Ely, NV 89301

> In reply refer to: 4100 (NV-043)

July 8, 1996

Instruction Memorandum No. NV-040-96- 04 Expires: 09/30/98

To:

Renewable Resources Staff

From:

District Manager, Ely

Subject:

Ely District Drought Policy and Guidance

This Instruction Memorandum is a supplement to the direction provided in Instruction Memorandum No. NV-91-116, Nevada Drought Policy and Guidance, which still applies.

The purpose of this policy is to provide further guidance and procedures for evaluating and documenting drought conditions and for modifying and authorizing grazing use associated with drought. When range conditions and precipitation amounts indicate drought conditions or it is suspected that drought conditions exist, allotment inspections should be conducted to assess range conditions and suitability. This should be conducted preferably prior to authorizing livestock to graze or enter an allotment or use area. When drought conditions surpass vegetation tolerance thresholds such as soil moisture availability and forage production, livestock grazing may have to be modified or allotments closed to grazing use. Allotment inspections and thorough documentation must be completed before modifying authorized grazing use or closing allotments or portions of allotments to grazing use.

A. Drought Event Record Documentation

The following indicators allow for a rapid assessment of drought conditions. These indicators must be evaluated and the attached Drought Indicator Checklist completed prior to modifying authorized grazing use or closing allotments or portions of allotments to grazing use.

1. Forage Availability and Condition

Determine growing season conditions and forage conditions. Determination criteria should include;

a.) Amount of Current Years Growth

Estimate and document current year's growth and forage availability for grasses and

shrubs based on appearance of the rangeland in the use area or allotment. Estimate plant height supported by actual measurements. Conduct actual plant height measurements (in inches) for calibration purposes and to obtain accurate estimations.

Determine production of grasses and shrubs based on the SCS ecological condition double sampling method. Conduct ocular estimates of current year's forage production and document the results. Support ocular estimates by clipping plots for calibration purposes and to establish accurate estimations. Where Range Site Descriptions are available, compare production to the Vegetation Factors Section for the purposes of determining a favorable, normal or unfavorable production year. This method is optional and should be conducted if needed to support the closure recommendation.

b.) Plant Phenology

Determine the phenological stage of plant development of the key forage species (grasses and shrubs) in the plant community. Are grasses in the "cured or dried" stage? Are the leaves of deciduous shrubs lost, dry or dead?

c.) Plant Stress and Vigor

Are plants productive and alive? Determine by visual observation, the general appearance of the rangeland and plant community. For example, desirable grasses, forbs and shrubs have low vigor if they appear unhealthy with small size and poor color. Portions or clumps of entire plants may be dead or are dying. Seed stalks and seedheads are almost nonexistent.

d.) Utilization of Current and Previous Year's Growth

Determine utilization of previous year's growth if possible. Visually estimate utilization of previous year and current year for grasses and shrubs based on using the Key Forage Plant Method and the use class criteria. Use utilization cages where available to judge current and previous year's growth and to calibrate ocular estimates.

2. Annual Precipitation

- a.) Determine soil moisture availability. Measure and record soil moisture depth.

 Determine depth with a tape measure or ruler. Obtain a representative sample of soil moisture depth data.
- b.) Describe the precipitation for the current growth year; ie, below average, last date of significant precipitation. Reference the Nevada Climate Summary publication and any other NOAA or rain can information to cite and support precipitation conditions.
- c.) Water availability and access. Determine water availability for livestock, wild horses and wildlife in the area; ie, (flow rate, gallons/minute). Identify type and number of water sources. What is forage availability in relation to distance from water?

 Describe conflicts occurring, if any.

3. Animal condition.

a.) What is the physical condition of wild horses, wildlife and livestock in the area? Is physical stress evident and is it caused or influenced by drought conditions? What is the number of animals in the area?

4. Other

- a.) Photographs Color photographs should be taken to demonstrate drought conditions such as forage production and availability and plant vigor, animal stress and water availability.
- b.) Complete the Drought Indicator Checklist.
- c.) Upon completing the Drought Indicator Checklist, if it is determined that drought conditions exist and adjustment(s) in use are necessary, interested publics should be provided an opportunity to attend an allotment tour for the purposes of observing and discussing drought conditions in the field.

B. <u>Criteria Used to Lift Closures</u>

- 1. The closure will be lifted based on meeting all of the following criteria;
 - a.) The key perennial species all show good vigor.
 - b.) Growth starts and can support grazing use; ie, a sufficient amount of precipitation and growing season remains to allow for forage production that can support grazing use.
 - c.) Ground cover is present to protect the watershed. Identify the kind of cover, Basal, Canopy, etc. What is the percent cover in relation to any documented cover data and/or Range Site cover where applicable?
 - d.) A minimum average of 25% of the perennial vegetation demonstrates new growth.

C. Closure Goals

- 1. In the event it is determined that allotment closures are needed, the primary goals to be accomplished through closure are:
 - a.) Provide sufficient rest for surviving perennial grass species, seeded species and deciduous shrubs to regain vigor and recover and to be able to take advantage of precipitation when it continues.
 - b.) Provide sustained grazable forage for livestock, wild horses and wildlife.
 - c.) Provide watershed protection and stabilization.

D. Procedures for Modifying and Authorizing Grazing Use Associated With Drought

The following actions or criteria will apply when determining if grazing use should be authorized or modified when associated with drought:

- Coordinate with livestock permittees to develop alternative management practices.
 Consider alternatives such as:
 - a.) Use of rested or deferred pastures. Consider areas which would benefit from grazing use such as areas of wolf plants in seedings, etc.
 - b.) Opportunities to use areas not affected by drought.
 - c.) Temporary adjustments in period of use or season of use.
 - d.) Reductions in herd size and/or early removal of livestock to prevent longterm damage to the vegetative resource.
 - e.) Water hauling to areas that receive no use or receive slight to light use.
 - f.) Work with the County Emergency Boards.
- 2. Conduct allotment inspections to:
 - a.) Assess range suitability and forage availability.
 - b.) Evaluate range readiness:
 - c.) Consider grazing impacts in relation to wild horse herd management areas, wildlife use, riparian areas, water availability and location of waters, etc.
- 3. Consult with interested publics prior to issuance of a grazing authorization.
- 4. Interested publics should be provided an opportunity to attend a task force where appropriate. A task force should be assembled based on issues or where interested publics have indicated an interest in being involved in an allotment inspection. Topics of discussion should include the alternative management practices identified above, the allotment inspection criteria identified in (2.) above, in addition to actual use which has occurred in the area.
- 5. Stocking levels may have to be determined. Methods could include:
 - a.) Stocking level calculations as done for allotment evaluations.
 - b.) The SCS double sampling method for determining production based calculations could be used as with seedings where stocking levels have not been determined.
 - c.) Range survey information may also be useful in determining a stocking rate particularly in areas that may require water hauling or in areas that are not grazed due to distance from water.

- d.) An evaluation of actual use and use patterns.
- 6. The following criteria will apply when authorizing grazing use associated with drought:
 - a.) Grazing use should be in accordance with the terms and conditions of the term permit.
 - b.) Grazing use should be consistent with multiple-use objectives or land use plan objectives and other decisions.
 - c.) Grazing use should not interfere with the existing livestock operation(s).
 - d.) Grazing use will be considered a part of the total permitted use for the allotment on which the use occurred. Grazing use will also be considered a part of the total permitted use for the grazing year in which the use occurred.
 - e.) Grazing use will be authorized as Temporary Non-Renewable (TNR) at the normal rate of \$1.35/AUM.
 - f.) The grazing authorization should include any appropriate terms and conditions on a case by case basis.
- 7. Where permit holders would allow grazing use to be made by a permittee who holds a term permit in another allotment, stocking levels and grazing use should be agreed to between the livestock operators and must be consistent with (6.) above.

Should you have any questions please refer them to Chris Mayer, District-Rangeland Management Specialist.

Gene A. Kolkman District Manager

2 Attachments

- 1. Drought Indicator Checklist
- 2. Plant Phenology Stages Table

Distribution

Director (WO330) -1 204LS

BC (BC-600)

NS0 (NV-931.1)

DM's (NV) -1 e

DROUGHT INDICATE	OR CHECKLIST
Name of Allotment Use Area/Pasture Name of Observer Date	
INDICATOR	OBSERVATION
Forage Vigor (Does plant height, leaf length and color indicate strong vigor?)	below avg average above avg
Does leader growth of shrubs indicate strong vigor?	below avg average above avg
What is the average height of current year's growth?	inches
Are leaves of deciduous shrubs lost or dead?	below avg average above avg
Phenological stage of key species in plant community? (Refer to attached Plant Phenology Stages Table)	
Utilization of previous year's growth (if possible)	
Soil Moisture Depth	inches
Rainfall for Current Year	below normalnormal
Last Date of Measurable Precipitation	
Physical Condition of Wild horses, Wildlife, Livestock	normalstressed
Water Source Availability	below normalnormal
Recommendation for Allotment Closure or Alternative Management Practices	
Other Comments:	•

PLANT PHENOLOGY STAGES				
Trees & Shrubs	Grasses	Forbs		
Dormant	Dormant	Dormant		
Leaf Growth Starts	Growth Starts	Growth Starts		
Twig Growth	1/2 Vegetative Growth	Flower Stalks Appear		
Flower Buds First Visible	Flower Stalks Appear	First Bloom		
Leaves Full Grown	Heads Out Fully.	Full Bloom (3/4 Blossom)		
First Bloom	Anthesis	Bloom Over (3/4 Blossoms Dry)		
Full Bloom (3/4 Bloom)	Dough Seed Set	Seeds Ripe (3/4 Dry)		
Bloom Over	Hard Seeds	Dissemination		
Seed Ripe	Dissemination	Plants Begin to Dry		
Dissemination	Plants Begin to Dry	Plants Dry, Summer,Fall		
Leaves Turn Yellow or Brown	Plants Dry, Summer, Fall			
Leaves Dry & Begin to Drop				