

m 5/10/77

May 10, 1977

Mr. Neil B. McCleery, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management-Ely District
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301

Dear Mr. McCleery:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the requested information you had sent me on March 3, 1977, I do appreciate the time involved in preparing that material. I am happy to note that you are evaluating the survey data as it pertains to the present time.

My reason for inquiry today, is to find out the status of Mr. Cook's claim for horses. I have had and continue to have many inquiries on the Buck Mountain situation and have just recently received a referral from The Humane Society of Utah on this matter. I would like to know how much longer Mr. Cook has to gather his horses and the number remaining to be captured. I have been advised that Mr. Cook was trespassed and that he did repair the springs. Reports that more horses are being captured than what BLM is aware of, continue to come in. Although these reports are not substantiated by evidence, the many inquiries and many people concerned enough to contact me; surely where there is smoke there is fire. These people must have some justification for this concern. I would appreciate any clarification on this matter, and the above requested information.

We are more than aware that horses are still being removed by those other than the proper agencies, and feel it our responsibility to continue to monitor these areas.

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Our concern is not only for the horses, but for the Bureaus' credibility as well. Reports of illegal capture, sanctioned by BLM continue to come in. If indeed wild horses are being removed then the only way to stop the implications is to identify that removal. In order to justify to our public the real needs of BLM that are ahead, we need to convince the public that BLM has recognized the legitimate use of the range by wild horses. They do not believe this when situations such as Buck Mountain arises. We are very much aware of the "renegades" that reside in Nevada and know the ~~head~~ ~~most~~ ~~impossible~~ task of identifying actual incidents that will provide enough 'meat' for prosecution. We only want you know and understand our concentration on this area at this time.

Most sincerely,

Dawn Y. Lappin (Mrs.)
Adoption Director
Trustee

5/18/77

IN REPLY REFER TO

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(N-047)



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ely District Office
SR 5 Box 1, Ely, Nevada
89301

May 18, 1977

Mrs. Dawn Lappin
Wild Horse Organized Assistance
P. O. Box 555
Reno, Nevada 89504

Dear Mrs. Lappin:

I greatly appreciate the correspondence we have had with your organization in the recent past. Your letters voice many of the same concerns we have in the Buck and Bald area. The problems that you have identified have been foremost in our minds for some time. However, as you have stated it is difficult, if not impossible, to identify actual incidents that will provide enough "meat for prosecution of the individuals involved."

We continue to hear rumors of illegal horse activity in the Buck and Bald area. These rumors concern us greatly and we continue to investigate any and all leads we have concerning illegal horse gathering operations. It has come to our attention that much of the illegal activity takes place on weekends. We are considering changing the work week of certain BLM employees so that they can patrol the Buck and Bald area, and with luck be present if illegal gatherings are taking place.

In your letter of May 10, 1977 you state, "reports of illegal capture sanctioned by BLM continue to come in." If these reports concern the Ely District, we would appreciate knowing this. We have taken great care to authorize only the gathering of claimed animals and we feel that we have fully complied with the Wild Horse and Burro Act.

At the present time, Mr. Cook does not have a horse gathering permit. The decision has not been made to renew his current permit; however, prior to June 1, 1977, we will make a decision on this issue. If it is decided to renew Mr. Cook's permit, it will be renewed only for the period from June 1 to September 30, 1977, per our Washington Office directives.



Save Energy and You Serve America!

Mrs. Dawn Lappin

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May 18, 1977

Mr. Cook and Mr. Held, of the Quarter Circle Ranch, both have indicated a desire to have their horse gathering permits renewed. When and if the decision is made to renew these permits, we will inform your organization.

We would appreciate being kept posted on any illegal activities that you are aware of in the Buck and Bald area. Hopefully by working together we can solve this problem.

Sincerely yours,

Neil B. McCleery
Neil B. McCleery
District Manager