



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-042)

SEP 12 1997

Dear Reader:

This letter is to inform you that the Ely District plans to remove excess wild horses from the Buck and Bald, Butte, and Antelope Herd Management Areas (HMAs), in an attempt to achieve the established appropriate management levels (AMLs), this fall and winter. All three removals are a continuation of the action addressed in the respective capture/removal plan or herd management area plan (HMAP) and associated environmental assessment (EA). None of the removals constitute a new decision, since current monitoring data show the established AMLs are still valid and the capture methods remain the same as stated in the capture/removal plans and HMAPs/EAs. Therefore, as stated in the capture/removal plans and HMAPs, a new decision record/finding of no significant impact (DR/FONSI) is not required to achieve or maintain the established AML through removal of excess animals.

The Capture/Removal Plan for the Buck and Bald Herd Management Area and associated EAs (No. NV-040-8-15 and No. S3-93-NV-040-8-15) were approved in April 1994. The DR/FONSI was signed April 22, 1994. These documents were approved for the initial and subsequent removals to achieve and maintain the established AML. The Ely District plans to remove approximately 1,100 excess wild horses from the Buck and Bald HMA starting on or about October 30, 1997. At least 362 wild horses will remain in the Buck and Bald HMA after the removal is completed. This is within the established range for the current AML for the Buck and Bald HMA.

The Butte HMAP and associated EA No. NV-040-2-20 were approved in June 1993. The DR/FONSI was signed on June 3, 1993. A capture/removal plan for the initial and subsequent removals to achieve and maintain the established AML was included as an appendix to the HMAP. The Ely District plans to remove approximately 115 excess wild horses starting on or about December 1, 1997. A minimum of 99 animals will remain in the Butte HMA after the removal is completed. This is within the established range for the current AML as stated in the HMAP.

The Antelope HMAP and associated EA No. NV-040-2-19 were approved in October 1992. The DR/FONSI was signed on October 21, 1992. A capture/removal plan for the initial and subsequent removals to achieve and maintain the established AML was included as an

appendix to the HMAP. The Ely District plans to remove approximately 535 excess wild horses starting on or about February 8, 1998. A minimum of 264 animals will remain in the Antelope HMA after the removal is completed. This is within the established range for the current AML as stated in the HMAP.

If you have any questions regarding the Buck and Bald, Butte, and/or Antelope HMA 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