

12/17/01

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:
4400 (NV-042)

DEC 17 2001

Dear Interested Public:

I am considering granting a temporary non-renewable grazing permit (TNR) request by Bertrand Paris and Sons for 250 AUMs in the Hunter Point Use Area and 250 AUMs in the Butte Valley Use Area of the Medicine Butte Allotment. Authorization for this request is under Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 4130.6-2 (non-renewable grazing permits and lease). Wendy Paris, permittee, owns the base property for the Medicine Butte Allotment and is the sole permittee on the allotment. The Medicine Butte Allotment has been utilized by the Paris family since the early 1900's. Bertrand Paris and Sons meet all mandatory qualifications to qualify for grazing use on the public lands. Bertrand Paris and Sons graze both cattle and sheep on the Medicine Butte Allotment. The total permitted use on the Medicine Butte Allotment is 7,232 AUMs (3,557 AUMs for cattle and 3,675 AUMs for sheep). Permitted use in the Hunter Point Use Area of the allotment is 473 AUMs (cattle) with a season of use from November 1 to February 28. Permitted use in the Butte Valley Use Area of the allotment is 820 AUMs (cattle) with a season of use from March 1 to February 28.

Currently to date, Bertrand Paris and Sons has used their entire allotted 820 AUMs (cattle) in the Butte Valley Use Area on the Medicine Butte Allotment for the 2001 grazing year. Also, Bertrand Paris and Sons will have used their entire allotted 473 AUMs (cattle) in the Hunter Point Use Area of the Medicine Butte Allotment by January 7, 2002.

The temporary non-renewable grazing use applied for by Bertrand Paris and Sons is as follows:

Medicine Butte Allotment (0501):

Hunter Point Use Area	242 Cows	1/8/02 to 2/7/02	250 AUMs
Butte Valley Use Area	242 Cows	1/8/02 to 2/7/02	250 AUMs

On December 7 and 10, 2001 key forage plant utilization studies were conducted at five key sites located in the Hunter Point Use Area and five key sites located in the Butte Valley Use Area. Over-all forage use on the key species (winterfat) was in the light use category (21% to 40%). Also, livestock were well distributed within both use areas. Cattle were observed grazing far up on the benches as well as scattered throughout the valley bottoms. Cattle utilize the Hunter Point Use Area and the Butte Valley Use Area primarily during the fall and winter months when the key forage species are dormant.

Results of the field studies and observations indicate that sufficient forage is available within both use areas. This use is consistent with multiple-use objectives established for the allotment. The Hunter Point Use Area and the Butte Valley Use Area of the Medicine Butte Allotment are located within the Butte Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA). Approximately 45 to 50 wild horses are currently using this area (estimates based on field observations on December 6, 7 and 10, 2001).

Based on the above information, I am considering approval of the non-renewable grazing use request. If you have any questions concerning this action, please contact John Longinetti, Range Conservationist, at (775) 289-1887.

If you have any comments, please send them in writing within 15 days of receipt of this letter, to the Renewable Resources Assistant Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Field Office, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9401.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James M. Perkins, acting".

James M. Perkins
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources