



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>

RECEIVED
D. C. N. R.
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

1999 OCT -4 PM 2:20

SEP 30 1999

In Reply Refer To:
4400(NV-4120)

Dear Reader:

The Lower Cove Fire burned on August 24th 1999 and was determined controlled late August 25th 1999. The incident burned 458 acres of public land within Nye County, Nevada. The Lower Cove Fire affects one livestock grazing permittee Mr. Bruce Jensen on the Hardy Springs Allotment and the White River Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA).

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing to rehabilitate 400 acres of public land to maintain site stability, re-establish vegetation and prevent cheatgrass invasion. The rehabilitation effort will also include establishment of a temporary fence. Rehabilitation is expected to begin this fall or next spring. The burned area on public land will be closed to all livestock grazing for two growing seasons. An emergency removal of wild horses is not necessary with the establishment of a fence. However, the burn will be monitored, and an emergency removal will be proposed if wild horses are adversely impacting the rehabilitated areas. A closure agreement was negotiated between the BLM and Mr. Bruce Jensen. A copy of the "Notice Of Closure Agreement" for the Hardy Springs allotment is enclosed. You are invited to review the agreement and submit comments to the BLM at the address above. Comments should be received by the BLM before October 15, 1998.

If you would prefer to discuss this matter with us, please contact Jared Bybee, Rangeland Management Specialist at (775) 289-1800.

Sincerely,

James Perkins
Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources

Enclosure:

Lower Cove Fire Closure Agreement, Hardy Springs Allotments.

cc: Mr. Bruce Jensen-Permittee
Nevada State Clearinghouse
Ms. Catherine Barcomb-Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Mr. Duane Erickson-Nevada Division of Wildlife
Mr. Mike Podborny-Nevada Division of Wildlife
Nevada Cattlemen's Association

Mr. John Mclain-Resource Concepts

Mr. Don Holloway-UNR COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

USDI-Fish and Wildlife Service

Mr. Glen H. Terry

Ms. Laurel Etchegaray-Nevada Woolgrowers Association

Nye County Commissioners

NOTICE OF CLOSURE
AGREEMENT

For the protection of soil and vegetation, due to fire, I hereby close to all livestock grazing use during the growing season, the public lands located within the Lower Cove Fire. This area is located within Nye County Nevada. The area is within the Hardy Springs Allotment, Ely Field Office.

All sectionalized subdivisions refer to Mt. Diablo BM, MDM (see attached map).

This Notice of Closure is effective immediately and will remain in effect for a minimum of two growing seasons and/or until the following rehabilitation objectives have been met.

1. Vegetative cover, other than cheatgrass achieves a minimum of 25% of the potential ground cover for the ecological site.

The Bureau of Land Management will monitor the recovery of the burn area to see if the objectives of the closure are being achieved. The area will be monitored during or after the second growing season to determine that sufficient cover of perennial vegetation has been reestablished before authorized grazing use may resume. In addition, portions of the burned area which are reseeded, will be fenced. The purpose will be to prevent livestock access into the seeded area, and to allow for better management following resumption of grazing.

Cattle may use this area at the first green-up of the cheatgrass if seeding of the burned area is delayed. Cattle will come off when the residual perennial grasses begin first green-up. Once the Lower Cove Fire is seeded livestock will stay off of the burn for two growing seasons.

This agreement is in accordance with Title 43 CFR 4110.3-3(b) for the protection of the soil and vegetation due to fire.

SIGNATURES:

X *Bruce Jensen*

Bruce Jensen
Permittee

9-28-99

Date

James M. Perkins,
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

Date