

9/8/98



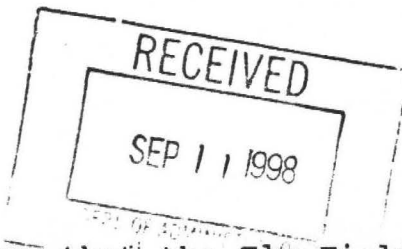
# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely Field Office  
HC 33 Box 33500  
Ely, NV 89301-9408

In Reply Refer To:  
4700 (NV-042)

SEP 8 1998



Dear Reader:

This letter is to inform you that the Ely Field Office plans to remove excess wild horses from the Antelope, Monte Cristo and Sand Springs East Herd Management Areas (HMAs), in an attempt to achieve their established appropriate management levels (AMLs), this fall and winter. The specific removal dates are not known at this time, but the removals are scheduled to occur between October 1, 1998 and February 28, 1999. 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). All three scheduled removals will conform with the current selective removal policy by only removing wild horses up to the age of nine years old.

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.

Any Nevada removals, including the three planned by the Ely District, that occur between November 15, 1998 and February 28, 1999 will include fertility control research. Approximately 100 mares over the age of nine years old will be given a single inoculation treatment for immunocontraception prior to her release back into her respective HMA. Treated mares will need to be freemarked on the hip for future identification while tracking the animals for the fertility research. They will not need to be held any longer than untreated horses prior to being released back into the HMA.

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 Field Office plans to remove approximately 470 excess wild horses from the Antelope HMA. 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. This removal will be conducted in conjunction with the Elko Field Office's Antelope Valley HMA removal.

The Capture/Removal Plan for the Monte Cristo and Sand Springs East Herd Management Areas and associated EAs (No. NV-040-7-6, No. NV-040-8-15, No. S1-93-NV-040-7-6 and No. S2-93-NV-040-8-15) were approved in August 1994. The DR/FONSI was signed August 4, 1994. These documents were approved for the initial and subsequent removals to achieve and maintain the established AMLs. These two removals will be conducted in conjunction with the Tonopah Field Station's Sand Springs West wild horse removal.

The Ely Field Office plans to remove approximately 500 excess wild horses from the Monte Cristo HMA. At least 200 wild horses will remain in the Monte Cristo HMA after the removal is completed. This is within the established range for the current AML for the Monte Cristo HMA.

The Ely Field Office also plans to remove approximately 500 excess wild horses from the Sand Springs East HMA. A minimum of 218 animals will remain in the Sand Springs East HMA after the removal is completed. This is within the established range for the current AML for the Sand Springs East HMA.

If you have any questions regarding the Antelope, Monte Cristo, and/or Sand Springs East HMA removals, contact Bob Brown, Ely Field Office Wild Horse Specialist, at the above address or phone him at (702) 289-1843.

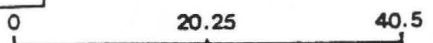
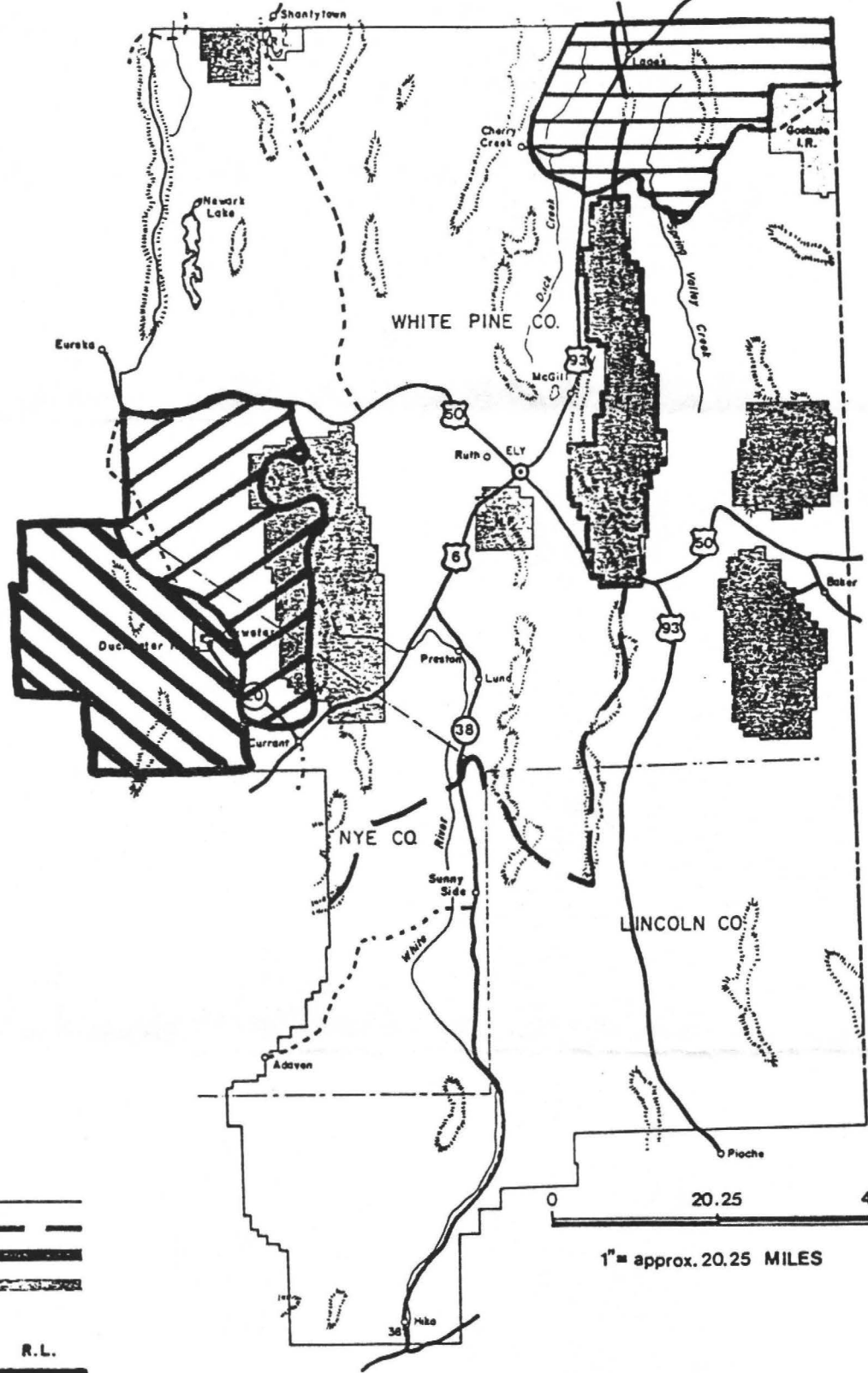
Sincerely,



Gene A. Kolkman  
Field Manager

- 1 Enclosure  
1. General Location Map (1p)

GENERAL LOCATION



1" = approx. 20.25 MILES

- District Boundary
- Resource Area Boundary
- Humboldt National Forest
- Indian Reservation



- Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- Monte Cristo Gather Area
- Sand Springs East Gather Area
- Antelope Gather Area



**ELY DISTRICT**

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