

## United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ELY DISTRICT OFFICE

Star Route 5, Box I Ely, Nevada; 89301



IN REPLY REFER TO

4700 (NV-043)

SEP 2 1 1989

Dear Reader:

This letter is to inform you of our intention to gather approximately 100 wild horses from a horse free area along the cast slope of the Diamond Mountains in the Ely District. The Diamond Horse Free Area Wild Horse Removal Contract is scheduled to start November 1, 1989. We are conducting this gather as a total removal of horses from the area to comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4710.4 which states, "Management of wild horses and burros shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting the animals' distribution to herd areas." The removal area is outside the boundaries of our established herd management areas.

This gather was originally proposed for completion last year, as part of the Ely/Elko District Wild Horse Gather. You were given the opportunity to review the Removal Plan for the Ely/Elko District Wild Horse Gather and the associated Environmental Assessment No. NV-040-8-15 at that time. The proposal for a complete removal of horses from the Diamond Horse Free Area and impacts to the environment from the proposed action remain the same as in these documents. Only the gather date and proposed number for removal, based on an updated August 1989 census (109 horses censused), have changed. The 1988 removal plan and environmental assessment remain valid documents and new ones will not be prepared.

The 1988 Ely/Elko District Wild Horse Gather did not occur; it was stopped by an appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). IBLA handed down a decision regarding this removal on June 7, 1989, which affirmed the removal action for the Diamond Horse Free Area. We are, therefore, proceeding with the action for a total removal of approximately 100 wild horses from the Diamond Horse Free Area, since the area is not designated for management as a herd area.

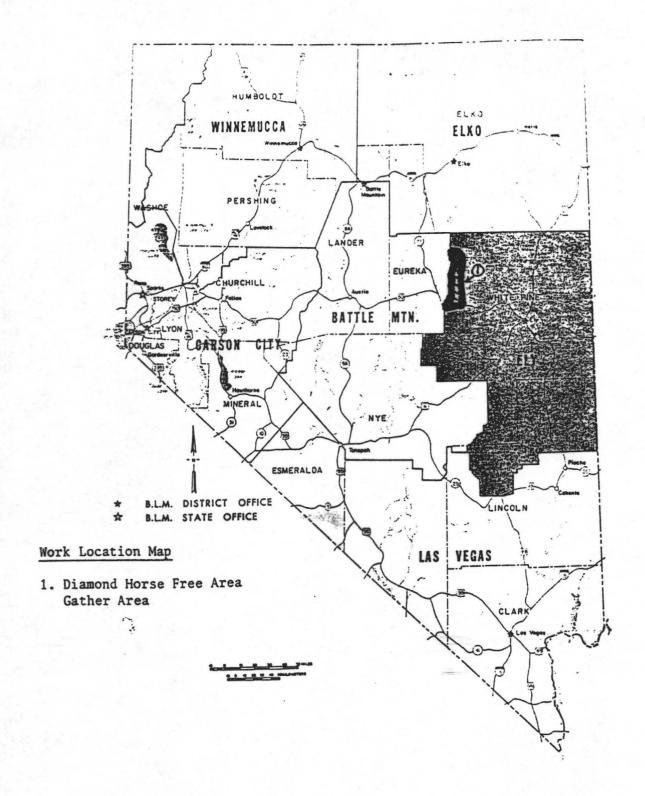
If you have any questions, please direct them to Bob Brown, Ely District Wild Horse Specialist. We appreciate your interest and involvement in the Ely District's wild horse program.

Sincerely,

acting for Kenneth G. Walker District Manager

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1 Enclosure
1. Maps of Removal Area (2 pp)



## NEVADA DISTRICTS

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

