

L 8-21-98

08-28-98P03-03 RCVD



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Caliente Resource Area Office**

P.O. Box 237
Caliente, Nevada 89008

In Reply Refer To:

4100
Uvada Case File
(NV-045.02)

AUG 21 1998

Dear Interested Public:

I am considering a Temporary Nonrenewable Use (TNR) request by Mr. Kenneth Lee for the Uvada Allotment. Mr. Lee has made application for TNR grazing use for 90 cows, from 8 September to 18 October 1998. Authorization of this request is under Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 4130.6-2 (Nonrenewable grazing permits and leases). The grazing use authorized to date and the grazing use applied for in the grazing application are as follows:

Uvada Allotment

	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
Authorized Use	30	03/01 to 02/28	360
1998 Grazing Use	90	05/08 to 09/07	364
TNR Application	90	09/08 to 10/18	121

The northern half of the Uvada allotment is contained within the Miller Flat Herd Management Area (HMA). This portion of the HMA gets very limited use by wild horses because of the lack of reliable water sources within the area. Currently there is water within the HMA at two reservoirs but there was no recent horse sign observed within the area. Wild horses do not appear to be using the area and are not dependent on the forage. Forage is available to support the wild horse herd if TNR is authorized. Wild horses are not dependent upon the forage during specific or different times of the year. Wild horses are not concentrated in the area nor have they been recently removed from the area. Based on discussions with the operator, there has only been 1-5 horses within the area since 1996. Zero wild horses were censused on the Uvada Allotment during the latest wild horse census of Miller Flat HMA in June of 1997.

The allotment was inspected on 18 August 1998, to determine if sufficient forage was still available to support authorization of this request and to document the current utilization levels at the identified key areas within the allotment. The inspection team was composed of BLM Wild Horse Specialist and Rangeland Management Specialists, and Mr. Lee.

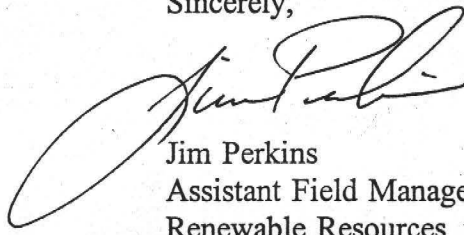
Mr. Lee proposes to use the North pasture for the TNR period requested. Utilization on the

crested wheatgrass and native grasses in the north pasture (key areas 1 and 2) was slight. The grasses immediately surrounding the Old Highway and Uvada Reservoirs have received slight to light use. Water is available in both of these reservoirs, and at the Sumpson well, which is located within the south pasture but is accessible to the livestock. The operator's livestock are distributed in small bunches and are using all three waters, thus reducing the grazing pressure on the area. Mr. Lee used the south pasture at the beginning of the grazing season (May-June). Utilization was heavy in the immediate vicinity of the Sumpson well, but decreased significantly within 1000 feet. The native grasses (needleandthread grass, Indian ricegrass, gramma grasses, bottlebrush squirreltail, and galleta), on the south pasture slopes, received only slight use.

Rainfall has been abundant throughout the 1998 growing season. The herbaceous vegetation displays exceptional growth, vigor, species diversity, and production. Short term utilization objectives for this allotment are being met based on the documented use levels. Results of the field observations indicate that sufficient temporary forage is available within the allotment to authorize the nonrenewable grazing use (TNR) applied for in the grazing application. This use is consistent with multiple-use objectives and does not interfere with existing livestock operations on the public lands. The operator is in good standing and previous grazing use has been in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit and grazing billings.

Based on the information provided above, I am considering approval of the TNR request. If you have any questions on this action, please contact Ann Dernburg, of my staff, at (702) 726-8100. Comments may be sent in writing within 15 days of receipt of this letter, to the following address: Bureau of Land Management, Attn. Jim Perkins, Renewable Resources Assistant Field Manager, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9408.

Sincerely,



Jim Perkins
Assistant Field Manager,
Renewable Resources

CC: Ms. Cathy Barcomb, Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Mr. Kraig Beckstrand, Nevada Division of Wildlife
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Laurel Etchegaray, Eureka Producers Cooperative
Mr. Paul Iverson, Nevada Department of Agriculture
Mr. Kenneth Lee
Mr. John McLain, Resource Concepts, Inc.
Nevada State Clearinghouse
Reno Fish and Wildlife Office
Ms. Shelley Wadsworth, Lincoln County Public Lands Commission
Mr. Bob Wilson, UNR Coop Extension
Mr. Ed Wright, Lincoln County Commissioners