

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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DUCKWATER SHOSHONE TRIBE RESOLVES GRAZING TRESPASS

Reno, Nev.—The Duckwater Shoshone Tribe and the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada have settled a 16-year trespass issue and will be working together to ensure healthy rangelands and a successful cattle operation in an 800,000-acre allotment in Nye and White Pine Counties.

With settlement of the long-standing non-payment of grazing fees, the Tribe will run about 350 to 400 cattle on the Duckwater allotment, a community allotment of nine grazing permittees about 50 miles southwest of Ely, Nevada.

The Tribe entered into a Stipulation and Compromise Agreement with the BLM on March 24 which states the two parties plan to work cooperatively, forgetting differences in the past. The agreement included a payment to the BLM to resolve past debts incurred by the now defunct Duckwater Stockman's Association.

Nevada's Senator Harry Reid commended the plan to work together in the future.

"This landmark agreement bodes well for future relations between the Bureau of Land Management and the Shoshone Tribe," said Reid. "Consensus can be a difficult point to reach, but it is often the best way to resolve conflict. Reaching consensus on this long-standing issue required responsible compromise all around. It took real leadership to make this happen."

Duckwater Shoshone Tribe Resolves Grazing Trespass - 2222

"This is a momentous occasion as we look to the future and jointly direct our energies into making improvements on the land," said Ann Morgan, BLM Nevada State Director. "We look forward to working with the Tribe so they can have a successful cattle operation and the rangelands are revitalized.

"This agreement is an example of how the BLM wants to do business with public land resource users," Morgan added. "We want to meet and cooperatively work out solutions to problems, not spend time reciting differences in meeting rooms and courthouses."

Morgan attributed much of the success of the negotiations to BLM Associate State Director Jean Rivers-Council.

"Jean Rivers-Council established a receptive relationship with the Tribe and provided the leadership that made this agreement work," said Morgan. "The BLM is thrilled to resolve this long-standing issue and go forward in a manner that will be positive for the Tribe, the rangelands and the other permittees using the grazing allotment."

Tribal Chairman Rodney Mike, Tribal Manager Jerry Millett and the Duckwater Tribal Council were instrumental in bringing the agreement to closure.

"Once each side was willing to talk, we were able to settle on an agreement," said Mike.

"The Tribe believes it is much better to negotiate where both sides can be satisfied rather than refusing to consider the entire issue. Everyone, including the land, loses."

The Tribe and BLM will concentrate on grazing practices that can be put into effect next year. They will jointly assess the range condition each year.

In addition to cattle and sheep grazing on the allotment, the area is home to wild horses and wildlife such as deer and antelope.