

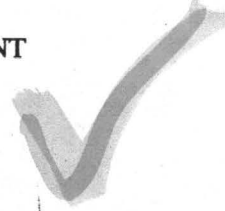
um 8/15/97



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, NV 89301-9408
Telephone (702) 289-1800



AUG 18 1997
DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

In Reply Refer To:
(9210) NV-043

AUG 15 1997

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management, Ely District, Nevada intends to modify its current Fire Management Plan in response to the direction of the White Pine and Lincoln County Coordinated Resource Management Steering Committee. The modified plan would provide a framework for the reintroduction of fire into the ecosystem while maintaining first priority on protection of human life, and secondary priority on protection of property and natural and cultural resources. Appropriate environmental analysis will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for adoption of the plan. If necessary existing land use plans, including a Resource Management Plan and two Management Framework Plans, may be amended to incorporate actions prescribed by the Fire Management Plan.

In order to develop a comprehensive, realistic, and manageable approach to fire management, the scope of this effort has been expanded to include all lands within the boundaries of the BLM Ely District, regardless of ownership or administration. Therefore, all effected land management agencies and property owners have been invited to participate in the planning process.

Public comment is sought on identification of issues, alternatives that should be considered, and the level of analysis which would be appropriate under NEPA. Written comments should be sent to the attention of Bill Dunn, Fire Management Officer, at the above address. Verbal comments will be invited at public meetings scheduled for;

Ely, Nevada August 27, 1997 from 6 -9:00 p.m. at Mt. Wheeler Power

Caliente, Nevada August 28, 1997 from 6 - 9:00 p.m. at City Hall

Comment forms will be provided at the meeting locations and may be used in place of, or in addition to, verbal comments to ensure accurate recording of pertinent points.

This letter has been widely distributed to provide us with a complete understanding of any issues or concerns related to fire management. However, to improve efficiency and reduce costs, you must reply in writing to the above address if you would like to continue to receive information and be involved in this planning effort. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

William E. Dunn
Fire Management Officer



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Sincerely,

William E. Dunn
Fire Management Officer



COMMISSION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

1105 Terminal Way
Suite 209

Reno, Nevada 89502
(702) 688-2626

August 28, 1997

Ms. Julie Butler
Clearinghouse Advocate
Nevada State Clearinghouse
Blasdel Bldg., Rm. 200
Carson City, Nevada

Subject: Ely Fire Plan - SAI NV# E1998-031

Dear Ms. Butler:

The Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses has reviewed the scope for the Fire Management Plan in the Ely District. We encourage the District to present the fire history and fire ecology of the Ely District to better describe fire's role in the Great Basin.

Wild fire in late serial pinyon forests will increase forage and habitat for wild horses, elk and livestock in the Ely District. We request that wild horse habitat parameters be considered in the fire management plan.

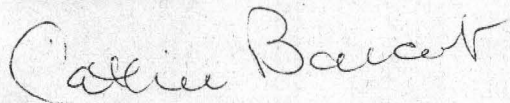
Wild fire rehabilitation often requires two years of rest from livestock and protection from wild horses to achieve fire specific objectives. Wild fire plans are presently developed under emergency provisions without public input or review. An entire wild horse herd was abolished as a result of an Ely District emergency wild fire decision. We feel it would be appropriate to present a set of criteria and procedures in this plan to allow some measure of protection for the integrity of a wild horse herds impacted by wild fires.

Wild and prescribed fires will produce forage. Elk are immigrating into most of the Ely District. Livestock grazing permits stipulate an historic allocation of forage. This plan should establish the allocation of forage to comply with Ely District procedures or policies affecting multiple use decisions.

Ms. Julie Butler
August 28, 1997
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We hope these issues will assist the Coordinated Resource Management Steering Committee planning effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Barcomb". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

CATHERINE BARCOMB
Administrator