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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office
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In Reply Refer To:

4130 (NV-012)

AUG 3 1999

Commission for the Preservation
of Wild Horses
c/o Catherine Barcomb, Administrator
123 W. Nye Lane, Room 230
Carson City, NV 89706-0818

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

I recently read a copy of the letter dated July 12, 1999, that you sent to Jeff Weeks, Assistant Field Manager for Renewable Resources, Battle Mountain Field Office, BLM. In light of your correspondence with Mr. Weeks, I wanted to take this opportunity to present to you the Elko Field Office plan of action and monitoring efforts, and to reaffirm our commitment to collaborative ecosystem management of the Diamonds Complex through the established efforts of the Diamond Mountains Working Group.

As you know, it has been two years now since the gathering of wild horses from the Diamonds and this office has been collecting and will continue to collect resource monitoring data (in accordance with the Elko Field Office monitoring plan for the Red Rock and Browne Allotments) in the Diamond Hills North Herd Management Area (HMA) for the balance of this field season.

Since the Diamond Mountains Complex Evaluation was already issued to the public in May 1997, the additional monitoring data collected since that time will be included in a Management Action Selection Report (MASR), which will make recommendations for resource enhancement, final livestock stocking levels and wild horse AML. The MASR will be followed by a Proposed Multiple Use Decision (PMUD) and Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) in fiscal year 2000 that will outline the long term management direction for the Red Rock and Browne Allotments.

I would also like to mention that there has been a lack of funding in the last two years to conduct census flights for the Diamond Hills North HMA and other HMA's within the Elko District. We are currently trying to obtain funding to conduct one census flight of the area prior to the issuance of the MASR, in order to gain an understanding of the wild horse population dynamics within the Red Rock and Browne Allotments since the gather in 1997. We also recognize that in order to get the complete perspective on how the Diamonds population is progressing, census flights of the Diamond (Battle Mountain Field Office) and

Diamond Hills South (Ely Field Office) HMA's need to be conducted concurrently to evaluate the animal numbers and resource conditions for the ecosystem.

In closing, I would like to reassure you that it has always been the intent of the Elko Field Office to remain part of the ecosystem (3-district) approach for management of the Diamond Mountain Complex and I am committed to that end with the goal of creating an atmosphere of further collaboration, and sound natural resource management.

If you have any questions or would like to express any concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at (775) 753-0320.

Sincerely,



CLINTON R. OKE
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

cc: Wild Horse Organized Assistance
Gerald Smith, Battle Mountain Field Office