

# WHOA!

Newark Valley  
Allot.

7/9/80

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WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE  
INC.

A Foundation for the Welfare of  
Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros

P. O. Box 555  
Reno, Nevada 89504  
Telephone 323-5908  
Area Code 702

In Memoriam

LOUISE C. HARRISON  
VELMA B. JOHNSTON, "Wild Horse Annie"

July 9, 1980

Mr. Neil McKleery, District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
P.O. Box 831  
Ely, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. McKleery:

This letter is to clarify our position and to perhaps in some way explain our distress with the Ely District. I am hopeful this fairly blunt letter will clear the air and allow us to resume some type of working relationship towards the mutual resolution of the issues at hand.

First we are told that a wild horse population is causing extensive damage to the resource in the Buck-Bald area and that gathering of the excess is mandatory. It was explained that a great number of the horses were suspected to be trespass horses. We agreed that such action should be taken. Then we received a proposal that proposes to double the number of horses to be removed, above and beyond the trespass number with little resource data to substantiate the need. Upon my arrival at the public meeting on June 4th, a meeting which I arrived late; I walked in on a conversation with a group of livestock operators and the comment "don't worry we will have these wild horse problems cleaned up within a couple of years."

It occurs to us the Ely District does indeed have substantial problems with horses and cattle; both once removed from the wild horse issue. We toured the Long Valley and Newark Valley area and were shocked by the over-grazing. Waist high sage nearly denuded of foliage and yet cattle continued to graze! We came upon a spring that we thought was Willow Springs, it was fenced with only the gate removed. I called several days later to inquire as to the public land/private land status of that water and was advised that further investigation would be required to determine that status. I never received a reply to my question.

Today I am advised by your wild horse specialist that barriers to Willow Springs and Twin Springs have been removed. We are delighted; but wonder why we had to force this removal of barriers of waters on public lands. We are not so naive to believe the stories that horses, too small in stature to be bothered with, are not being taken from that trap. Although the individuals would prefer larger horses, anyone short on funds would be thankful for even a small horse in light that detection is nearly impossible.



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Given the fact that we are aware that little vegetative data has been collected, an attempt made to increase the wild horse reduction, waters on public lands blocked (permission given by BLM to Cook in 1977 to collect his horses!!!), and continued over grazing; is it any wonder the credibility of the Ely District is at question? The rapid turnover of positions reflect some unhappiness or inequities in the District.

We have designed a surveillance program for Nevada in all Districts