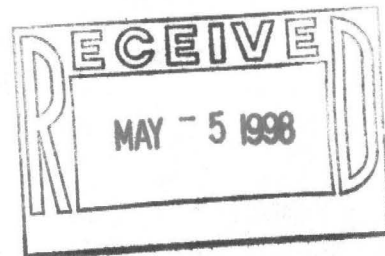


5-5-98



Facsimile

Date: 05/05 #Pages: 3 File Code: 4000

To: Cathy Barcomb

Office: Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses

Fax Number: (702) 687 6122

Message

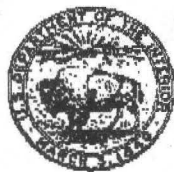
Edy
RAINBOW ALLOTMENT

CALIENTE

Ms Barcomb,
 I'm very sorry this is arriving at the last minute.
 I would very much appreciate your comments on this
 TN& request. They need to be in by tomorrow (wednes)
 otherwise the operators must come off the allotment.
 Please call or fax me. My phone number is 702.726
 (and at home 702 726 3701.)
 My apologies once again,

Edy

From: Ann Dernburg



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
Rainbow Case File
(NV-045.02)

Dear Interested Public:

I am considering a Temporary Nonrenewable Use (TNR) request by 7J Ranch for the Rainbow allotment. The 7J Ranch made application for TNR grazing use for 250 cattle, for the period May 5 to May 15, 1998. Livestock grazing is currently authorized on the allotment for the period March 1, 1997 to April 30, 1998, for 150 cows. Authorization of this request is under Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 4130.6-2 (Nonrenewable grazing permits and leases).

In addition to the uplands, cow calf pairs had been grazing along Kane Springs road and Meadow Valley Wash during the first 6 weeks of authorized use. All the animals have been moved either to private ground or to the uplands of Rainbow allotment. They are being maintained here with water, mineral blocks and protein supplements. Rainfall has been above average this spring, and annual grasses (*Bromus tectorum*) are plentiful.

The allotment was inspected 23 April 1998 by a Rangeland Management Specialist and a Wild Horse Specialist to determine if sufficient forage was still available to support authorization of this request and to document the current utilization levels within the allotment. The following information was collected during the monitoring tour:

The troughs on the upland benches at T. 7 S., R. 66 E., Sections 10 and 14, MDBM provide water. The troughs are located on a bench in a large old burn. Livestock distribution is excellent with new vegetation in the surrounding hills. Livestock are using annual grasses and some browse (*Purshia* spp., *Ephedra* spp.) Perennial grasses include purple threeawn (*Aristida purpurea*) and ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*). Threeawn plants in this area are senescent; current year's growth is minimal (1"). Ricegrass plants are few, and protected by shrubs.

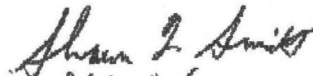
A water trough and reservoir is also functioning in section 23. Galletta (*Hilaria jamesii*) is present in addition to threeawn and ricegrass. Current year's growth on galletta does not exceed 2". It has not been grazed. Again, livestock distribution is excellent, and the animals are utilizing essentially annual grasses.

The water trough within the corral (section 26) also contains water. Only three cows were grazing in the vicinity of the corral.

Results of the field observations indicate that sufficient temporary forage is available on the upland benches to authorize temporary nonrenewable grazing use in accordance with the grazing application. Field observations also indicate that multiple use objectives are also currently being met.

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. If you have any comments, information, data, etc. that you would like to provide please send them in writing by May 4, 1998 to the following address: Bureau of Land Management, Ely District, Attn. Jim Perkins, Assistant District Manager for Renewable Resources, H.C. 33 Box 33500, Ely, NV 89301-9408. If approved, grazing use will be authorized following a review of all public response to this letter.

Sincerely,



Sharon L. Smith
"Acting" for
Jim Perkins

Assistant District Manager for Renewable
Resources

CC: 7J Ranch
Ms. Cathy Barcomb, Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Mr. Kraig Beckstrand, Nevada Division of Wildlife
Mr. John McLain, Resource Concepts, Inc.
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Woolgrowers Association
Ms. Shelley Wadsworth, Lincoln County Public Lands Commission
Mr. Bob Wilson, UNR Coop Extension
Wild Horse Spirit

June 17, 1998

Jim Perkins, ADM
BLM-Caliente Resource Area
PO Box 237
Caliente, NV 89008

Dear Mr. Perkins,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the TNR for the 7J Ranch. Attached is the fax I received from your District requesting and overnight response. There were apologies for the lateness of the notification, but, I was out of the office for a few days conducting a forum on the Nevada Wild Horse Plan. Days later, when I finally did receive this notification it was too late to respond. Additionally, Ms. Dernburg did call the office numerous times during those two days to inform me and obtain input, but again, if I am out of the office I cannot respond since there is no other person here except myself. As late as it is, I will still submit my comments now for the record.

The proposed TNR does not inform us if this is in a HMA. We agree that above average precipitation may produce sufficient vegetation to sustain this use, however, Southern Nevada was in a state of emergency and horses were removed to prevent long term damage to the perennial vegetation. We would appreciate more information regarding this matter and in the future more time to review the action.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE BARCOMB
Administrator