

2/10/82
DISTRICT FILE

W H O A !

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In Memoriam

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
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February 10, 1982

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

Mr. Edward F. Spang, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior
Post Office Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520

Dear Mr. Spang:

We are aware of the favorable ruling by the Administrative Law Judge in the case of Art Cook vs Ely District proposal to fence the District boundary. We are also aware of the exception noted by the judge on the wild horses. I wish we had the faith in the Bureau planning system the judge has, we don't.

We assume the BLM recommendations was based on an assumption the fence would elevate trespass. We do not concur with the judge nor the Bureau. Cook's entire operation has existed primarily to the fact that he must trespass on others, the fence will not eliminate that problem; it is an administrative problem. It appears to us that instead of reducing the problems it will only concentrate more use on a smaller area, cause range problems and over grazing.

What is the Ely District specifically going to do about the wild horses? Will that fence not concentrate them also? How will they be able to migrate out in times of heavy snows? How many horses will be inside the fence and how many outside? The real problems are the inventory of AUMs available out there, it is easy to see on the map that there is some question as to how some acres side-by-side have such differing productions of forage.

If that were not enough, the cost-effectiveness of exhausting limited BLM funding (\$240,000) to concentrate wild horses and livestock, is not justified. We are hopeful the Bureau will instead approach the real problem and re survey the resource and production and manage cows and horses based on that data.

Most sincerely,

Dawn Y. Lappin (Mrs.)
Director

