

BOB MILLER  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

11-4-93  
m  
CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Executive Director



**COMMISSION FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES**

50 Freeport Boulevard, No. 2  
Sparks, Nevada 89431  
(702) 359-8768

**COMMISSIONERS**

Paula S. Askew, *Chairperson*  
Carson City, Nevada  
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Las Vegas, Nevada  
Dan Keiserman  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Dawn Lappin  
Reno, Nevada

November 4, 1993

Curtis Tucker, Area Manager  
Caliente Resource Area  
Box 237  
Caliente, Nevada 89008

Dear Mr. Tucker,

Under the Freedom of Information Act, (FOIA), we hereby request the following information within 10 days. If there is a problem with responding within that time frame, please notify us immediately.

All of these requests relate to the Meadow Valley Mountain Herd Management Area and allotments that are within or touching the HMA.

- 1) Herd Management Plans and when decisions were made.
- 2) Any decisions for livestock.
- 3) Use pattern mapping.
- 4) Carrying capacity.
- 5) A copy of the Section 7 consultation regarding the Desert Tortoise.
- 6) Actual data supplying recruitment rate.
- 7) Budget showing additional funds set aside for surveillance of livestock on the burn areas and where those funds were appropriated from.
- 8) Biological assessment on the affect on the herd "viability" with only the older animals remaining.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Barcomb".

Catherine Barcomb  
Executive Director

# WHO A

WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE  
P.O. BOX 555  
RENO, NEVADA 89504

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11/4/93



a note from

Dawn Y. Lappin

November 4, 1993

Curtis Tucker, Area Manager  
Caliente Resource Area  
Box 237  
Caliente, Nevada 89008

Dear Mr. Tucker,

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Sincerely,

Dawn Y. Lappin  
Director



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
LAS VEGAS DISTRICT OFFICE  
4765 VEGAS DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 26569  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89126



IN REPLY REFER TO:

1270/4720  
93-16  
(NV-055.07)

NOV 17 1993

Catherine Barcomb, Executive Director  
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses  
50 Freeport Boulevard, No. 2  
Sparks, Nevada 89431

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received by the Caliente Resource Area office on November 4, 1993. Some of the information you requested does not fall under the definition of records which are available through the Freedom of Information Act, however the information you requested has been provided. The materials attached with this letter are supplied in the order of their request in your letter.

1. **Herd Management Plans and when decisions were made.**

At the present time, there is no written and approved Herd Management Area (HMA) plan for the Meadow Valley Mountain HMA. The Caliente Resource Area (CRA) initiated the analysis, inventory, and evaluation (AIE) of the grazing allotments contained within the HMA on May 15, 1993. Progress continues towards the completion of these evaluations. Through the completion and approval of the evaluations, an appropriate management level (AML) for wild horses within the HMA will be established. Following the establishment of the AML, a HMA Management Plan will be developed for the HMA.

2. **Any decisions for livestock.**

Attachment 1 is the livestock grazing decisions issued for the allotments contained within and surrounding the HMA. The allotments involved are the Henrie Complex, Breedlove and Rox-Tule allotments. These decisions are as follows:

ALLOTMENT NAME	DECISION SUBJECT	PERMITTEE
Henrie*	Establishment of monitoring studies and key areas	Henry Rice
Henrie*	Establishment of monitoring studies and key areas	Charles Brundy
Henrie Complex	Implementation of the Biological Opinion for the Desert Tortoise	Kevin Olson
Henrie Complex	Implementation of the Biological Opinion for the Desert Tortoise	Henry Rice
Breedlove	Implementation of the Biological Opinion for the Desert Tortoise	Henry Rice
Rox-Tule	Implementation of the Biological Opinion for the Desert Tortoise	Keith Cutler
* The Henrie Complex was previously the Henrie and Morrison-Wengert allotments		

3. **Use pattern mapping.**

Attachment 2 is the use pattern map for the Henrie Complex allotment. This map was developed following intensive vegetative monitoring during July 1993 within the allotment and Meadow Valley Mountain HMA. This map is representative of past and present use within the Henrie Complex allotment and the Meadow Valley Mountain HMA.

4. **Carrying capacity.**

The carrying capacity for the Henrie Complex grazing allotment and the Meadow Valley Mountain HMA is currently being evaluated through the AIE process. Presently the Henrie Complex allotment supports an active preference of 4160 AUMs on a yearlong basis. Two permittees, Kevin Olson and Robert Lewis, are permitted in this allotment with their respective preference being 3185 and 975 AUMs.

The Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the HMA will be established concurrently through the completion of the AIE currently in progress.

5. **A copy of the Section 7 consultation regarding the Desert Tortoise.**

Attachment 3 is a copy of the Threatened and Endangered Species No Affect - May Affect Determination for Desert Tortoise with respect to conducting the Meadow Valley Mountain HMA Emergency Gather. The findings of T&E clearances conducted by the CRA's wildlife biologist was a "**not likely to affect**" determination. Based on the "**not likely to affect**" determination, a Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was not necessary.

6. **Actual data supplying recruitment rate.**

Current Nevada BLM guidelines for the use of average annual recruitment rate is to use an average increase of 18 percent. Based on the September 1992 census within the Meadow Valley Mtn. and Mormon Mtn. HMAs, the annual increase for these areas was 18.75 percent for outside the HMA and 18.86 percent for inside the HMA. The following is a breakdown of the census information used to determine the average increase rates stated above.

HMA Name	# Adults	# Foals	Percent Increase
Meadow Valley Mtn.	53	10	18.86%
Outside HMA	80	15	18.75%

7. **Budget showing additional funds set aside for surveillance of livestock on the burn areas and where those funds were appropriated from.**

During the 1994 fiscal year budgetary process [Pre-Annual Work Plan (PAWP)], no budget dollars were specifically set aside for the surveillance of the burn area for livestock use. Appropriated funds for the Resource Area's range program will be used to conduct use supervision. Use supervision of the Henrie Complex allotment and burn area will come from the 15 workmonths identified for use supervision within the Resource Area's PAWP. Additional monitoring of the area will result from District Wilderness Interim Management Policy (IMP) flights. Vegetative monitoring of the areas has been planned and during these trips livestock observations will be made.

8. **Biological assessment on the affect on the herd "viability" with only the older animals remaining.**

The discussion (assessment) of herd viability with only older animals was overlooked in the Environment Assessment (EA) for the Emergency Gather. The thinking at the time of the development of this document was to remove a portion of the population of wild horses on the HMA in order to protect the burn area from resource damage. It was also an objective to keep some of the existing herd within the HMA to maintain horses with a knowledge of water and preferred foraging areas. The number of animals identified within the EA and Gather Plan was selected to keep a small population of wild horses in the HMA until the AML for the HMA could be determined through the AIE process.

Unless waived, fees for responding to FOIA requests are charged in accordance with Department of the Interior fee schedules. However, your request does not meet the minimum, and is provided free of charge.

Sincerely,



Gary Ryan  
Acting District Manager

3 Enclosures

1. Livestock Grazing Decision for Allotments  
Contained Within and Surrounding the HMA.
2. Use Pattern Map for the Henrie Complex Allotment
3. Section 7 Consultation Regarding Desert Tortoise

cc: Atanda Clinger (NV-950)