



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office  
HC 33 Box 33500  
Ely, NV 89301-9408

In Reply Refer To:  
4100 (NV-042)

Dear Reader:

JUL 14 1998

On July 9, 1997 the Table Fire was ignited by lightning and burned 8,416 acres, west of Camp Valley and north of Pine Creek, within the Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The Table Fire area is also within the ~~Wilson Creek Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA)~~. Later in July, August, and September the burned area received several heavy precipitation events, which resulted in severe flooding and sediment movement into Camp Valley Creek and Pine Creek. The flooding caused damage to public and private lands. The combination of these thunderstorms removed up to twelve inches of topsoil from the burn area and did extensive downstream damage to public and private property. As a result of the thunderstorms, rehabilitation of the burn area was required to maintain site stability and vegetation establishment.

As part of the rehabilitation effort the Bureau of Land Management is proposing to close the burn area to all livestock grazing. Several years of Wild horse census data shows this area is used by only a small number of wild horses. Due to the limited wild horse use, an emergency removal of wild horses is not necessary at this time. The burn will be monitored, and if wild horses are noted to impact the rehabilitation effort, an emergency removal will be proposed at that time. Enclosed you will find a copy of the "Notice Of Closure Agreement", please review and submit comments by **8-7-98** to the BLM at the address above.

If you have any questions and would prefer to discuss this matter with us, please contact Shawn Smith at 702 726-8100.

Sincerely,

Shawn T. Smith  
Lead - Rangeland Management Specialist

Enclosure

1 - Draft Closure Notice

# DRAFT

## NOTICE OF CLOSURE AGREEMENT

For the protection of soil and vegetation due to fire, I hereby close the public lands located within the Table Fire Closure Area to all livestock grazing. This area is located within the Wilson Creek Allotment. A description of the public land closure area is as follows.

Commencing at the junction of Camp Valley Road and the Pine Creek drainage at T. 5 N., R. 69 E., Sec. 29, thence north following the Camp Valley Road to the top of Miller Canyon Summit at T. 5 N., R. 69 E., Sec. 4, thence northwest following the Summer Native Use Area Boundary to the top of the Wilson Creek Range at T. 6 N., R. 68 E., Sec. 4, thence south following the Wilson Creek Range to the Wilson Creek Back Country Byway Road at T. 5 N., R. 68 E., Sec. 10, thence south following the Back Country Byway Road to the south section line of T. 5 N., R. 68 E., Sec. 27, thence northeast to the head of the Pine Creek drainage at T. 5 N., R. 68 E., Sec. 26, thence east following Pine Creek to the point of beginning. All sectionalized subdivisions refer to Mt. Diablo baseline and meridian (see attached map).

This Notice of Closure is effective immediately and will remain in effect for a minimum of two years and/or until the rehabilitation objectives have been met. During the fall of 1997 the burn area was aerial seeded with a mixture of perennial species. The primary goals to be accomplished through the fire closure agreement are:

1. Watershed stabilization
2. Soil erosion control
3. Rest and establishment period for seeded species
4. Provide forage and cover for wildlife species and wild horses
5. Provide sustained forage for livestock
6. Establishment of a sustainable plant community

The Bureau of Land Management will monitor the recovery of the burn area to see if the goals of the closure are being achieved. The area will be monitored to determine that sufficient cover of perennial vegetation has been reestablished before authorized grazing use may resume. An assessment will be made to determine if the following objectives have been met:

- 1) A minimum of 25% perennial vegetative cover has established on at least half (50%) of all upland and woodland suitability groups.
- 2) A minimum of 50% perennial vegetative cover has established on all loamy bottoms and riparian range sites.

The minimum criteria of 25% perennial vegetative cover for uplands and woodlands suitability groups and 50% perennial vegetative cover for loamy bottoms and riparian range sites was determined by evaluating adjacent and/or unburned islands and with comparison to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) range site descriptions and woodland suitability groups for Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 28A.

Due to the size of the Summer Native Use Area which includes alternate grazing locations that are capable of supporting the grazing use that would have taken place on the burn area, no AUMs will be placed into non-use.

This agreement is issued in accordance with Title 43 CFR 4110.3-3(b) for the protection of the soil and vegetation due to fire.

**SIGNATURES:**

**DRAFT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Delmue

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Lytle

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Lytle

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Bulloch

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Lytle

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pearson Brothers

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Perkins,  
Assistant District Manager  
Renewable Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE