

4/23/03



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445
(775) 623-1500
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/winnemucca>



APR 23 2003

In Reply Refer To:
4100
(NV-022.15)

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.7003 0500 0000 9632 3763
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Estill Ranches LLC
c/o John Estill
P.O. Box 655
Eagleville, Ca. 96110

Dear Mr. Estill:

This letter is a follow up to our conversation on April 1, 2003, related to authorizing livestock grazing within the Calico use area for this year.


As you are aware, Donnelly and Cherry Creeks are not meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health, which was indicated in the Soldier Meadows Allotment Environmental Assessment (No. NV-020-03-09), Final Allotment Evaluation, and Management Action Selection Report. Donnelly Creek is also identified in the 1995 Recovery Plan as a Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) recovery stream, which requires the BLM to implement more intensive management to insure fisheries habitats are improved in a manner to sustain viable populations of LCT in the future. The channel type, instability of this system, and riparian condition combined with its status as a recovery stream warrant increased protection from adverse impacts that would potentially result from livestock grazing in the area.

Your willingness to reduce your number of livestock from 1117 head as allowed under your existing grazing permit to 720 head will lessen the potential to adversely impact all associated habitats. As was discussed with you and Mr. Schroeder it is essential that you employ herding to insure that your livestock do not impact the riparian areas of Donnelly and Cherry Creeks. As stated on your grazing application for livestock use in the Calico use area along with the grazing authorization for the Calico use area "herding will be used to keep cattle off of Donnelly and Cherry Creeks." Less livestock numbers, along with active herding, should allow for progress to be made toward attainment of allotment specific objectives and standards for rangeland health.

Your attention to properly managing your livestock and protecting the resources is appreciated. We look forward to working with you as we analyze and select a compatible grazing alternative resulting in sustaining rangeland resources and providing adequate livestock forage.

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Pearson or Gene Seidlitz at (775) 623-1500.

Sincerely,


for Les W. Boni
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

cc: Interested Publics