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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Winnemucca District Office 705 East 4th Street Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

In Reply Refer To: 4710.2 (NV-248)

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11-30-45

November 30, 1995

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to inform you that the Winnemucca District plans to remove excess wild horses from the Little Owyhee and Snowstorm Mountains Herd Management Areas (HMAs) from on or about February 1, 1996 to February 29, 1996, contingent upon available funding. Should the gather not take place at this time, it will be rescheduled as soon as possible, based upon available funding and statewide gather priorities. The removal is a continuation of the implementation of the Notice of Final Full Force and Effect Multiple Use Decision for the Little Owyhee and Bullhead Allotments, dated March 26, 1993 and August 25, 1994 respectively, which established the Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs) for the HMAs. This removal constitutes no new decision, since current monitoring data indicates that the established AMLs are valid and that the capture methods remain the same as stated in the Little Owyhee and Snowstorm Wild Horse Capture Plans and Environmental Assessments dated September 1, 1993 and August 30, 1994 respectively. The removal is in conformance with the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-195 section 3(b)(1) and (2), as amended.

The intent of the removal is to achieve AML, and to initiate management of the wild horse population within the ranges established in the Notice of Final Full Force and Effect Multiple Use Decision, Little Owyhee and Bullhead Allotments. As stated in the Little Owyhee and Snowstorm Wild Horse Capture Plans, the primary emphasis will be on removing animals that are five years old or younger.

The following table lists the management range and the estimated current wild horse population for the Little Owyhee and Snowstorm Mountains HMAs. The estimated population is based upon a September 1995 census.

<u>HMA</u> Little Owyhee Snowstorm Mtns Management Range 65% of AML to AML 194 to 298 91 to 140 Population Estimate 651 176

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Stockdale at (702) 623-1500.

Sincerely yours,

Ron Wenker District Manager