



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE
P.O. BOX 831
Elko, Nevada 89801

G 11/21/80
IN REPLY REFER TO

4700 (N-016)

NOV 21 1980

WHOA
Wild Horse Organized Assistance Inc.
P.O. Box 555
Reno, Nevada 89504

Dear Ms. Lappin:

I appreciate your letter concerning the public meeting on the use of helicopters in gathering wild horses and burros on the Owyhee - Snowstorm area.

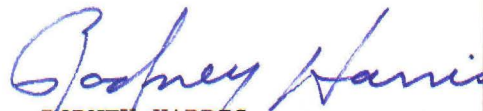
I am sorry you will be unable to attend; however, I will respond to your concerns as follows:

First the Environmental Assessment which concerned the removal of 1183 horses is still valid; however, money is not available to remove this many horses. Four hundred (400) horses is 34% of 1183 horses, therefore we will be removing 34% of that proposed in the Environmental Assessment.

The gathering will be done by contract; however, we do not have a contractor at this point. When the contract is awarded we will notify you of the successful bidder. I am enclosing a copy of specifications used in the contract. You will note that they are quite specific in requiring feed, water, and humane treatment.

I hope I have responded to your concerns regarding the Owyhee - Snowstorm horse gather. If you have further questions please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,


RODNEY HARRIS
District Manager

Enclosure:
As stated above

SECTION F

Specifications

The work to be bid on is the capture of wild horses from a geographical area, mostly north and west of Elko, Nevada and the transport of captured horses to a temporary holding facility; all hay, water, labor and equipment to care for captured horses at the temporary holding facility; and transportation of captured horses to the BLM Distribution Center at Palomino Valley (Reno), Nevada. The work will be done according to the following specifications, stipulations, and attached work location map. All labor, vehicles, helicopters, traps holding facilities, troughs, and other equipment, including, but not limited to the aforementioned shall be furnished by the contractor. Only radio equipment for air to ground communications and contract supervision will be provided by the BLM.

1. The helicopter and pilot furnished by the contractor must be "carded" by the Office of Aircraft Services, Department of the Interior, and shall be under the direct supervision of the authorized officer at all times. Further, under the terms of 43 CFR 4730.7-2, it shall be governed by the following reservations/restrictions:

(a) The Contracting Officer's Authorized Representative (COAR) shall have the means to communicate with the pilot and be able to direct the use of the helicopter, at all times. The BLM will furnish the necessary radio equipment.

(b) The COAR shall be able to observe the effects of the use of the helicopter on the well-being of the animals.

2. Under the provision of 43 CFR 4730.4, the use of the helicopter shall further be regulated to the extent that:

(a) The helicopter shall be used in such a manner that bands or herds will tend to remain together.

(b) The rate of movement shall not exceed limitations set by the COAR who shall consider terrain, weather, distance to be traveled and condition of animals.

3. All motorized equipment employed in the transportation of captured horses shall, under the provisions of 43 CFR 4740.4(b), be subject to the following reservations and/or restrictions:

(a) All such transportation shall be in compliance with appropriate State and Federal laws and regulations applicable to the humane transportation of horses and burros.

(b) Vehicles shall be in good repair, of adequate rated capacity, and carefully operated so as to insure that captured animals are transported without undue risk or injury.

(c) Vehicles shall be inspected and approved by the COAR prior to award of contract.

(d) Where required by the COAR, animals shall be sorted as to age, size, temperament, sex, and condition when transporting them so as to minimize, to the extent possible, injury due to fighting and trampling.

(e) The COAR shall consider the condition of the animals, weather conditions, type of vehicles, and distance to be transported when planning for the movement of captured animals. The COAR shall provide for any brand and/or health services required for the captured animals.

(f) The COAR shall be responsible for determining the need and provide the treatment of sick or injured animals. The COAR shall also determine if an injured animal must be destroyed and provide for destruction of the animals. The contractor shall dispose of carcasses as directed by the COAR.

4. All trapping of horses shall be subject to the following reservations/restrictions.

(a) All capture attempts shall be accomplished by the utilization of helicopters with wing riders.

(b) All materials and labor to construct and remove all traps and holding facilities will be provided by the contractor.

(c) All traps and holding facilities will be located on BLM land and the locations will be approved by the COAR prior to construction.

(d) All traps and holding facilities will be constructed to handle wild horses in a safe and humane manner. Traps and holding facilities will be constructed of portable panels, the top rail of which will be not less than 72 inches high, and the bottom rail of which will be not more than 12 inches from ground level. All traps and holding facilities will be oval or round in design.

(e) All trap and camp sites will be cleaned of all litter and debris when abandoned, to the satisfaction of the COAR.

5. Captured horses shall generally not be held more than 72 hours prior to transporting to Palomino Valley (Reno), Nevada. Exceptions to the 72 hour maximum may be granted by the COAR in the case of unusual circumstances.

6. Horses held for 10 hours or more in the traps or holding facility will be provided good quality grass hay at the rate of not less than 2 (two) pounds of hay per 100 pounds of body weight per day.

7. Horses held for 10 hours or more in the traps and/or the holding facility will be provided, by the contractor, fresh, clean water in an amount sufficient to satisfy the demand as directed by the COAR.

8. It is the responsibility of the contractor to insure that all outside gates to the holding facility are padlocked at all times when not in use.

9. Government Furnished Property

(a) Radio equipment necessary for air to ground communications will be provided to the contractor (by the COAR) as necessary for helicopter operations.

10. Contractor Furnished Property

(a) All hay, water, vehicles, helicopters, traps, holding facilities, troughs and any other necessary equipment.

11. Roundup Procedures within Contract Area.

The COAR will determine specific roundup areas and number of horses within general contract areas as animal concentration and weather conditions dictate.

11/14/80

November 14, 1980

Mr. Rodney Harris, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Post Office Box 831
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Mr. Harris:

Thank you very much for your invitation to attend the public hearing for the use of helicopters in capturing excess wild horses from the Owyhee-Snowstorm areas. We cannot attend this hearing but would appreciate if you would consider our concerns and make them a part of the record.

First of all, I don't remember receiving an amended version of the draft capture plan that proposed the reduction of 1183 horses in the same area. Has this been revised and if so, to what extent? What areas then are the horses to be removed from?

WFOA has no objection to the safe, humane removal of wild horses with the use of helicopter, so long as certain provisions are adhered to. We would prefer an 'in-house' capture over any 'contract' operation. If this is to be contract, we would appreciate being advised as to whom the bid was won and the specific numbers and types the contractor will be capturing. Please pay particular attention to any wording in a contract that would place expediency over humane.

Horses should not be run at fast speeds, nor further than five miles to the capture corral, depending on the temperature at capture time.

All attempts must be made to keep mares/colts together and all wet mares without colts be held aside until their colts are located.

A wild horse specialist on board ^{helicopter} at all times during capture operation.

Air-to-ground control at the capture site by Bureau personnel. We do not want pilots deciding what horses are to be caught and which ones to leave, this is the responsibility of the Bureau.

Water available at all times, if horses are to be left at capture corral.

Water and food available at holding corral awaiting shipment.

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The humane disposal of any severely injured animal.

The treatment of superficial wounds prior to shipment.

We would also appreciate notification of anticipated capture date, and area. Again, we thank you for your consideration and notice.

Most sincerely,

Dawn Y. Lappin (Mrs.)
Director