

2/11/80

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United States Department of the Interior

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

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 11,299
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February 11, 1980

Ceresola Estate dba
Ceresola Brothers
c/o W.B. Ceresola
P.O. Box 46
Wadsworth, NV 89442

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the results of several ongoing studies conducted in the Rodeo Creek and Pole Canyon Allotments. The studies were initiated to determine the overall condition of the wild horses and to evaluate the condition of the range.

It has been determined that the condition of the range on both allotments is poor to very poor due to overuse by both livestock and wild horses. Observations show that for last year's growth the key perennial grasses were utilized from 80-90%, while key shrubs species such as bitterbrush, were utilized from 80-100%.

The condition of the vegetation on both allotments has deteriorated to the point that soil loss has become evident. When soil loss occurs the basic potential or capability of the land to support desirable vegetation is reduced. Deterioration is now advanced and reduction of grazing use is necessary to protect the remaining vegetation and soil.

In response to this situation an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared. The EA analyzed five different management options which would resolve or lessen the impacts of the environmental disturbance. The proposed action is to reduce the wild horse herd

to 100 animals, and to suspend all livestock grazing in both Rodeo Creek and Pole Canyon Allotments. The livestock closure would commence May 1, 1980, and would remain in effect until such time as the key perennial forage species have recovered from overutilization. The key species must regain the necessary vigor and reproductive capacity to allow 50% of key plants to produce seed.

A gathering operation began in the area January 30, 1980, and to date 241 animals have been captured. It is planned to remove an additional 70 animals.

Please submit your comments concerning the proposed action by February 29, 1980.

Sincerely yours,



Brad Hines
Area Manager

cc: Frank Cassas
Connecticut General Life
Insurance Company
Robert Irvin
Jiggs Goodwin
Wild Horse Organized Assistance ✓
American Horse Protection Association
Pyramid Indian Reservation
John J. Casey
Joe Selmi
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
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