ATTACAMENTE G 4/6/95



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Nevada State Office 850 Harvard Way, P.O. Box 12000 Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

> In Reply Refer To: 1060 (NV-961)

Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses 225 West Moana Suite 207A Reno, Nevada 89509

Dear Cathy Barcomb:

This is in response to your request concerning the death of foals at the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley (PVC).

Enclosed you will find the information that you requested on the number of mares brought to PVC during the Winnemucca District Office's gather, and their ages as well as the number of foals that have died at PVC.

The number of mares (426) that were brought to PVC from the Winnemucca District made up the largest concentration of mares at the facility. Due to that fact, the largest number of foals that have died were from those mares. However, the total of recorded foal deaths are from the entire inventory of mares at the facility, not just those from the Winnemucca District gather.

From the necropsies that were performed on the foals that died, only one showed signs of Rhinopneumonitis, and the majority of the foals died of Pneumonia. The largest concentration of foal deaths correspond to when the facility was experiencing wet, cold weather.

PVC at this time has approximately 120 healthy mares with foals. These are mares and foals from all of the recent gathers as well as the Winnemucca District gathers. The death rate of foals has decreased due to the improvement of the weather, but foals that may die in the future will be monitored and reviewed.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (702) 475-2222.

Show J Kippin

4/6/95



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office 705 East 4th Street Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4720 (NV-026.8) April 6, 1995

Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses 255 West Moana, Suite 207A Reno, NV 89509

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

The following table lists the age specific information for mares that you requested. The table outlines the number of mares by age class that were processed at each facility.

Age Class	Burns	Litchfield	Palomino Valley	Total by Age Class	
< 1	0	0	1	1	
1	46	40	109	195	
2	32	33	66	131	
3	56	37	56	149	
4	38	26	45	109	
5	15	10	33	58	
6	27	15	57	99	
7	39	20	49	108	
8	22	13	6	41	
9	5	2	4	11	
11	2	0	0	2	
15	1	0	0	1	
Totals	283	196	426	905	

If you have any additional questions concerning the removal, please contact Tom Seley at (702) 623-1500.

Sincerely yours,

District Manager



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Shoron J Kipping

## MARES RECEIVED AT PALOMINO VALLEY FACILITY FROM WINNEMUCCA

AGE	NUMBER OF MARES		
foal	1		
1 yr.	109		
2 yr.	66		
3 yr.	56		
4 yr.	45		
5 yr.	33		
6 yr.	57		
7 yr.	49		
8 yr.	6		
9 yr.	4		

TOTAL MARES

426

## FOAL DEATHS FROM ALL MARES AT THE PALOMINO VALLEY FACILITY

DATE	NUMBER
1/23/91	1
2/13/95	1
2/28/95	1
3/13/95	7
3/14/95	3
3/17/95	1
3/21/95	8
3/22/95	1
3/23/95	9
3/24/95	4
3/28/95	4
3/31/95	1
4/3/95	3
4/5/95	2
4/11/95	2
4/26/95	2
5/1/95	1
	<b>51</b>
TOTAL	51

CATTOOR LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP P.O. BOX 289 NEPHI, UTAH 84648

June 8, 1995

Dear Dawn and Kathy,

We understand that you have some concerns about the January and February Blue Wing Wild Horse and Burro Gather. Understand you are especially concerned about the number of horses and burros we ended up roping.

We felt this gather had gone quite smoothly in spite of the short time allowed for the gather, the weather, the roads, the condition of the animals, and the very pregnant mares/jennies. We were pleasantly surprised but we did not have even the normal problem of premature or aborted foals in the holding facility.

I visited with Sharon at PVC. She says she did lose more foals from the Lava Bed horses than other areas. But she received the majority of horses from this area. She said according to the autopsies done on some foals they were born pretty much full term. She felt like the wet, cold, rainy weather we had forever immediately after the horses were delivered to PVC caused most of the problems.

Remember this was a Court Ordered Total Removal Roundup. Total removal means we catch every animal we find in each area. This gather ended up having to be done at the very worst time of year for this area and for these animals. Because this a huge area with only dirt (mud) back roads and these animals always foal earlier than most others in Nevada.

Yes we did rope quite a few animals. We roped animals so they wouldn't have to be driven extra miles thru deep mud to where we could put the trap. We roped animals that wouldn't go in the trap because this was a total removal. And in some of these areas these animals had, as you know, been harassed by motorcycles and etc. We also had to trap in isolated areas where we couldn't set up a holding facility and haul over very muddy roads to process and hold the animals. From one holding facility we even had to trailer the animals out to the highway to load them on the semi trucks for shipping. We couldn't get the semi into the area until the roads dried up and were graded. All of this extra loading and unloading is stressful for the animals.

I know everyone says Cattoor and his cowboys like to rope wild horses and burros. And I won't deny that but you and I both know that these cowboys that "like" to rope are also experts and know how to rope, handle, and transport these animals as humanly as possible. And Dave always hires extra cowboys when we are roping. This means Jim will not have to move the animals unnecessarily and that they will be roped quickly. Plus once roped there is plenty of help to get then tied down and quickly loaded and delivered to the holding facility.

We do not rope just for fun. First of all it takes more helicopter time so Jim would certainly object to unnecessary roping. Second we, as I said, always have extra cowboys when roping so any time we rope animals it costs us extra money. But the main reason we do not rope just for fun in because every time we send a cowboy out to rope an animal he's exposed to serious injury and so is his saddle horse. Roping animals is very dangerous and we don't do it unless necessary.

As they always do Dave and Jim have gone over this gather to see what maybe could have been done different. One of the things they should have done was set up one more trap at Rabbit Hole for the last few days of the gather. But the word was we could only capture to a certain number to fill PVC. This meant we only needed a small number of animals to fill PVC and complete the gather. So we captured them by roping rather than setting up a trap. Then we were told we could deliver animals to PVC thru the rest of the week. So we were just going to "clean up" a couple of areas. We found more animals than we expected.

As you both know, when doing wild horse and burro gathers each day is a new day and what was working yesterday or even that morning may have to be changed. Dave and Jim and the BLM have to make decisions every day and these decisions are always based on what seems best for the animals at that time.

I just wish your organizations had the resources so you or a representative could spend more time out on the actual gathers. This past year you Dawn were out a couple of times for a couple of days last summer and Kathy wasn't able to get out at all. As we've always said we would prefer to have one of you on site everyday to help make all of these important decisions. I know that's not possible but we hope you can get out more this next gather season. We do try to communicate with you when we foresee problems and always hope you will do the same.

Sincerely,

Sue Calloon

Sue Cattoor

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