



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office  
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445  
702-623-1500

In Reply Refer To:

(NV-026.12)  
4400.3

April 30, 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. P 383 115 271  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Robert Rebholtz  
Agri Beef Co.  
Box 6640  
Boise, ID 83707

Dear Mr. Rebholtz:

**FINAL MULTIPLE USE DECISION  
PUMPERNICKEL ALLOTMENT**

A working group was established in February of 1994, for the Pumpernickel Allotment Evaluation process. The goal of this group was to involve all the affected interest at the beginning of the process in order to have a true consensus on the management decision for the allotment. The Pumpernickel Working Group includes an interdisciplinary BLM team, the permittees, a consultant, a NDOW wildlife biologist, and other interested publics. The working group first developed and agreed to the following goal/vision statement for the Pumpernickel Allotment:

*Cooperative management on the Pumpernickel Allotment, which results in a sustainable, stable, rural community - including profitable resource based operations, sustainable wildlife populations, recreational opportunities, and diverse healthy watershed and range conditions.*

On March 14, 1996, the Pumpernickel Allotment Final Evaluation and Proposed Multiple Use Decision was mailed to all interested

parties. We received protests from Agri Beef Co. and the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses. Protest points are summarized below along with responses to each point:

Agri Beef

1. Tables on pages 7 and 8 of the document (Proposed Multiple Use Decision) incorrectly lists Agri Beef Active Preference and Suspended Preference...

Response:

Based on the comments these tables will be modified for clarification to reflect the wording in the 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 4000; which was modified August of 1995.

2. Page 9, item 2 (b) prescribes a pre turn-out tour "prior to authorizing grazing use". We cannot live with this conditions as a pre-condition to authorization, because we have no control over the BLM's manpower and work prioritization, and no other permittees are so conditioned in their permits. It is our understanding that this condition was to apply only to our summer use with 500 sheep, and only as to which areas of the allotment on which to conduct this summer operation, not as a precondition to the authorization per se.

Response:

This condition was taken from the Grazing Permit signed by Agri Beef in April of 1995, and incorporated into the PMUD. The understanding was if the BLM could not make the tour, then Agri Beef could turn out as authorized by the Permit and Grazing Bill. This language will be incorporated into the Final Decision.

Commission For The Preservation of Wild Horses

1. Your determination of 17 wild horses for the appropriate management level (AML) of the Tobin Herd is not disclosed in the allotment evaluation. This oversight has caused serious misunderstandings in the past and requires better cooperation with the affected publics.

Response:

Pages 27, 28, and 34 of the evaluation, go into details of the various alternatives considered and the rationale why the 17 head AML was selected.

To summarize, wild horse monitoring documented that horses were usually using areas outside the Tobin Range HMA, mostly the Dixie Fire Area. Though the existing 47 wild horses were not causing resource problems, the authorized officer felt with the horse numbers at that level will not stay

within the HMA and it was not appropriate to establish an AML based on use of habitat outside the HMA. Furthermore, an AML of 17 is consistent with the livestock portion of the decision keeping numbers at the LUP level. The local land owners were emphatic about not expanding the HMA boundary and entering into cooperative agreements to expand the boundary. It was felt the issue of expanding the HMA would be better addressed in a Resource Management Plan or Management Framework Plan up-date.

The working group analyzed monitoring data to determine if resource objectives have been achieved or progress is being made toward the long term objectives. The limited use pattern mapping data, riparian utilization, trend, ecological condition, wildlife habitat conditions, and field observations indicate that the current number of livestock and wild horses are not causing resource damage within the allotment and are meeting allotment objectives except for in the Dixie Fire area, which consists mainly of annuals. Based on data analysis, the working group developed, through consensus, technical recommendations designed to attain resource objectives throughout the allotment.

#### Allotment Wide Multiple Use Objectives

The specific multiple use objectives for the Pumpernickel Allotment are:

1. Short Term
  - a) Utilization of key plant species in upland habitats shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan.
  - b) Total utilization of key plant species in riparian habitat shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan. The following riparian habitats have been identified as riparian habitat to monitor:
    - (1) Wilson Creek
    - (2) Spanish Basin
    - (3) Kent Spring
    - (4) Garden Creek
    - (5) China Creek
    - (6) Brooks Spring
    - (7) Sulphur Spring
    - (8) Granite Wash Spring

2. Long Term

- a. Manage, maintain, and improve public rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis with a stocking level of 9,437 AUMs.
- b. Manage, maintain, and improve public rangeland habitat condition to provide forage on a sustained yield basis, with an initial forage demand for big game of 222 AUMs for mule deer and 38 AUMs for bighorn sheep.
- c. Protect sage grouse strutting and nesting habitats and improve brooding habitat by writing vegetative objectives (desired plant community objectives) to meet the habitat requirements for strutting, nesting, and brooding habitats by 1998.
- d. Develop a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for the Tobin Range in cooperation with the Battle Mountain District.
- e. Manage, maintain and improve public rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis for an appropriate management level of 17 wild horses (204 AUMs) in that part of the Tobin Range HMA contained within the Pumpnickel Allotment. (WH&B 1.1)
- f. Remove wild horses from checkerboard land HA's unless a cooperative agreement providing for the retention and protection of wild horses is consummated with the affected land owner(s). (WH&B 1.3)
- g. Maintain and improve the free-roaming behavior of wild horses by:
  1. protecting their home range
  2. assuring free access to water

3. Desired Plant Community Objectives

The following Desired Plant Community Objectives will be quantified during 1996. At that time specific time frames would also be determined based on the site potential.

a. Golconda

Maintain the ecological condition in the loamy 5-8" (024XY002) and Loamy 8-10" (024XY005) ecological sites, in mid seral or better condition.

b. Edna Mountains

Maintain the ecological condition in the Shallow Calcareous Loam 8-10" (024XY032) range site, in mid seral condition or better.

c. North Pumpernickel Valley

- (1) Maintain the ecological condition in the loamy 5-8" (024XY002) ecological site, in mid seral or better condition.
- (2) Improve the trend in the Loamy 5-8" (024XY002) ecological site from static to downward to static or upward.
- (3) Determine current condition of Brooks Spring Meadow using ecological site 024XY009 and then write a desired plant community objective to reflect the desired condition of the meadow.

d. Buffalo Mountains

Maintain the ecological condition in the loamy 5-8" (024XY002) ecological site, in mid seral or better condition.

e. Mid Pumpernickel

- (1) Maintain the ecological condition in the loamy 5-8" (024XY002) and Loamy 8-10" (024XY005) ecological sites, in mid seral or better condition.
- (2) Improve the productivity of the bug-infested area by seeding of desirable grass and shrub species adapted to the ecological site.
- (3) Maintain or improve the size of the area dominated by winterfat, in approximately section 11, T33N., R.40E., and maintain the frequency of occurrence of winterfat, within statistical levels of confidence, as determined by frequency monitoring to be established in 1995.

f. Spanish Basin

- (1) Maintain the late seral ecological condition in Claypan 12-16" (024XY027) ecological site.
- (2) Maintain or improve the mid seral ecological condition of South Slope 8-

12" (024XY028) and Loamy Slope 12-14" (024XY021) ecological sites.

- (3) Improve the productivity of the burned south facing slope adjacent to Wilson Creek in Gregg Canyon by seeding of desirable grass and shrub species adapted to the ecological site.

g. Dixie Fire

Decrease the percent composition by weight of annuals, and increase the percent species composition by weight of perennial species, by seeding of the burn area with desirable species adapted to the ecological site.

h. South Pumpernickel

- (1) Maintain the late seral ecological condition in the Droughty Loam 8-10" (024XY020) ecological site.
- (2) Maintain the ecological condition in the Loamy 8-10" (024XY005) ecological site in mid seral condition or better.
- (3) Improve the productivity of grasses and forbs in dense brush areas (south of powerline) in the Loamy 8-10" ecological site, through controlled burning.

i. Tobins

- (1) Maintain or improve the mid seral ecological condition in the Shallow Calcareous Loam 8-10" (024XY030) and the Shallow Calcareous Loam 10-14" (024XY031) ecological sites.
- (2) Improve the productivity of grasses and forbs in dense brush areas (south of powerline) in the Loamy 8-10" ecological site, through controlled burning.

j. Riparian Habitat

To have 75% of the stream reaches within the Pumpernickel Allotment in proper functioning condition by 1997. Once ecological site inventory information is available, then use the site guide to write desired plant community objectives.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

Based on the interpretation and analysis of the monitoring data, consultation with the interested public, and staff technical recommendations, no adjustment in wildlife use or numbers is necessary to meet multiple use objectives. Wildlife habitat will be managed as outlined in the Land Use Plan and in accordance with the short and long term objectives in this decision.

As a result of this process, comments, and protests received from my proposed decision, my final decisions are:

### *Carrying Capacity*

It has been determined through the analysis of the monitoring data (the limited use pattern mapping data, riparian utilization, trend, ecologic condition, and wildlife habitat conditions) and field observations that the current number of livestock and wild horses are not causing resource damage within the allotment. Based on the above statement, the technical recommendation for carrying capacity is to continue with the number, kind and class of livestock, that currently exists on the Pumpnickel Allotment.

### **Livestock**

**FROM:**

Permittee	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Permitted Active Use	Historical Suspended Use	Total permitted Use
	Number	Kind	Begin	End				
Aqri Beef CO.	4555	S	03/01	06/30	83	6801	1017	7818
	4555	S	10/01	02/28				
Rock Creek RA.	212	C	03/01	05/08	97	1209	113	1322
	212	C	11/11	02/28				
Roger Johnson	120	C	03/01	05/08	100	825	125	950
	120	C	10/12	02/28				
Arnold Ginsberg	57	C	03/01	09/30	100	582	90	672
	57	C	12/01	02/28				



TO:

Permittee	Livestock		Grazing Period		% PL	Permit. Active Use	Histor. Suspend.	Total Permi Use
	#	Kind	Begin	End				
Agri Beef	4050*	s	03/01	06/30	83	6801	1017	7818
	500**	s	07/01	09/30				
	3275*	s	10/01	02/28				
Rock Creek	212	c	03/01	05/08	97	1209	113	1322
	212	c	11/11	02/28				
Roger Johnson	120*	c	03/01***	05/08***	100	825	125	950
	120*	c	10/12***	02/28***				
Arnold Ginsberg	57	c	03/01	09/30	100	582	90	672
	57	c	12/01	02/28				

\* Numbers and dates may vary based on field observations as long as they stay within their permitted amount of use.

\*\* From 7/1 through 9/30 up to 500 rams may use the allotment rotating their use on a yearly basis between Spanish Basin and the Tobins use areas under herder supervision.

\*\*\* Roger Johnson will have flexibility to use Spanish Basin, South Pumpnickel, or the Tobins use areas during the summer after seed ripe based on field observations and staying within his permitted use.

### *Grazing System*

1. Common to All Operators

A. Planning on a yearly basis.

A meeting will be held with all interested publics to discuss previous years monitoring to determine if changes need to be made.

B. No specific use areas assigned for individual operators.

C. Rotation of season/timing of use by use area.

D. Continue winter/early spring season of use with flexibility to use based on field observations during the summer.

- E. Golconda, Edna Mountains, and North Pumpernickel use areas to be used during the fall/winter/spring seasons attempting to keep livestock off of the budsage sites after April 15.
- F. Use Dixie Fire area as appropriate for all users early in the spring to make use of cheatgrass in order to reduce competition with perennial grasses. The grazing period will vary year to year depending on climatic conditions.
- G. No grazing on the winterfat area from May 8 to September 30 to allow for the area to grow.
- H. In the North Buffalo and South Pumpernickel use areas, livestock water availability is limiting use except for sheep when snow is available. Until permanent water is developed, hauling water in the interim would be an alternative. Then these two areas could be rotated with other use areas.

## 2. Agri Beef

- (a) Agri Beef's numbers of sheep and dates may vary from 10/01 through 6/30 while the ewes are on the allotment, as long as they stay within their permitted amount of use. From 7/1 through 9/30 up to 500 rams may use the allotment rotating their use on a yearly basis between Spanish Basin and the Tobins under herder supervision.
- (b) A pre-turnout tour will be conducted with a representative of Agri Beef and the BLM prior to authorizing grazing use. If BLM is unable to go on a pre-turnout tour, then Agri Beef will be able to turnout as authorized by the grazing permit and yearly grazing bill.

## 3. Rock Creek Ranch

Turnout on the Edna Mountains first beginning in early November. Move cows in groups of 10 to 15 from the Ednas to Sulphur and Brooks Springs. If it snows, then move the cows to Golconda Summit and Smelser Seeding. In the late spring utilize Garden Creek and China Creek Areas. Mid Pumpernickel Valley may be used any time until May 8. Movement of livestock is dependent on winter weather conditions.

## 4. Roger Johnson

Continue with winter/spring grazing (October through first week of May) with the flexibility to use Spanish Basin, South Pumpernickel, or the Tobins during the summer months based on field observations staying within permitted use. Rotate cows between Gregg/Wilson Canyon, Mid Pumpernickel Valley, and other areas throughout the allotment depending

on where or how everyone else is operating through planning on a yearly basis.

5.) Arnold Ginsberg

Rotate cows between the Dixie Fire Area, China Creek, and Kent Springs (South Pumpnickel) from 3/1 through 9/30 and 12/1 through 2/28.

**Terms and Conditions**

In accordance with 43 CFR 4130.2(a), 4130.2(b), 4130.3, 4130.3-1(a), and 4130.3-2 new 10 year permits will be issued to reflect the terms and conditions of this decision. The following terms and conditions will be incorporated into each permittee's term permit and their annual authorizations via the grazing bill:

1. Grazing use will be in accordance with this grazing decision.
2. Salt and/or mineral blocks shall not be placed within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, or aspen stands.
3. The permittee is required to perform normal maintenance on the range improvement projects which have been assigned to the permittee for maintenance responsibility.
4. Actual Use grazing reports are due within 15 days after completing your annual grazing use.

The following are the terms and conditions that will be incorporated into the individual permittee's term permit and their annual authorizations via the grazing bill:

1. Agri Beef Co.
  - a. Prior to authorizing grazing, the areas will be scheduled to be toured with a representative from Agri Beef and the BLM two weeks prior to turnout. If BLM is unable to go on pre-turnout tour, then Agri Beef will be able to turnout as authorized by the grazing permit and yearly grazing bill.
  - b. Numbers of sheep and dates may vary within the permitted season of use per annual application as long as they stay within their permitted amount of use.
2. Rock Creek Ranch

All livestock will be ear-tagged with the color specified in your yearly authorizations.

3. Roger Johnson

- a. All livestock will be ear-tagged with the color specified in your yearly authorizations.
- b. Will have flexibility to use Spanish Basin, South Pumpnickel, or the Tobins use areas during the summer determined by field observations.

4. Arnold Ginsberg

All livestock will be ear-tagged with the color specified in your yearly authorizations.

**Rationale**

Agri Beef - The rams will be rotated between the Spanish Basin and Tobins which will provide a growing season rest for one of the areas.

The plant phenology in the areas of Spanish Basin and Tobins is not ready for grazing until about 7/1.

Remaining Operators - The other permittees will remain the same because resource objectives are being met.

**Authority**

The authority for this decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations; pertinent citations are below:

- 4100.0-8 Land use plans - The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principle of multiple use and sustained yield, and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use, and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plans also set forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5(b).
- 4110.3 Changes in permitted use- The authorized officer shall periodically review the permitted use specified in a grazing permit or grazing lease and shall make changes in the permitted use as needed to manage, maintain, or improve rangeland productivity, to assist in restoring ecosystems to properly functioning condition, to conform with land use plans or activity plans, or to comply with the provisions of subpart 4180. These changes must be supported by monitoring, field observations, ecological site inventory or other data acceptable to the authorized officer.
- 4120.3-1(a) Conditions for range improvements - Range improvements shall be installed, used, maintained, and/or modified on the public lands, or removed from these lands, in a manner consistent with multiple-use management.
- 4130.3-1(a) Mandatory terms and conditions - The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotment(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. The authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity of the allotment.

4130.3-2

Other terms and conditions - The authorized officer may specify in grazing permits or leases other terms and conditions which will assist in achieving management objectives, provide for proper range management or assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands.

4130.3-3

Modifications of permits or leases - Following consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the affected lessees or permittees, the State having lands or responsible for managing resources within the area, and the interested public, the authorized officer may modify terms and conditions of the permit or lease when the active grazing use or related management practices are not meeting the land use plan, allotment management objectives, or is not in conformance with the provisions of subpart 4180. To the extent practical, the authorized officer shall provide to affected permittees or lessees, States having lands or responsibility for managing resources within the affected area, and the interested public an opportunity to review, comment and give input during the preparation of reports that evaluate monitoring and other data that are used as a basis for making decisions to increase or decrease grazing use, or to change the terms and conditions of a permit or lease.

### **WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT**

Establish an appropriate management level for the Tobin Range HMA within the Pumpernickel Allotment of 17 wild horses.

<u>Herd Management Area</u>	<u>75% of AML to AML</u>	<u>AUMS</u>
Tobin Range*	13 to 17	156 to 204

\* 4% of the Tobin Range HMA is within the Pumpernickel Allotment.

**RATIONALE:** Monitoring data and field observations show that 47 wild horses are not causing resource damage within the allotment. However, this is based on wild horses utilizing substantial yearlong habitat outside of the HMA. It is therefore not appropriate to base the Appropriate Management Level (AML) on habitat required outside of the HMA. An AML of 17 is appropriate as the boundary is currently defined within the Pumpernickel Allotment. Monitoring data indicates yearlong habitat is adjacent to the HMA. Selection of an AML greater than 17 wild horses would require substantial use outside/adjacent to the HMA to support the animals on a yearlong basis. During the evaluation period the Bureau was not able to obtain a cooperative agreement with land owners to provide for the retention and protection of wild horses within the Sonoma Range HA in the south end of the Pumpernickel Allotment (see map 4).

### **AUTHORITY**

The authority for this decision is contained in Sec. 3(a), 3(b)(1), and 3(b)(2) of the Wild-Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act

(P.L. 92-195) as amended and in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations:

- 4700.0-6(a) Policy - Wild horses and burros shall be managed as self-sustaining populations of healthy animals in balance with other uses and the productive capacity of their habitat.
- 4710.3-1 Herd Management Areas - ...In delineating each herd management area, the authorized officer shall consider the appropriate management level for the herd, the habitat requirements of the animals, the relationships with other uses of the public and adjacent private lands, and the constraints contained in 4710.4.
- 4710.4 Constraints on Management - Management of wild horses and burros shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting the animals' distribution to herd areas. Management shall be at the minimum level necessary to attain the objectives identified in approved land use plans and herd management areas plans.
- 4720.1 Removal of Excess Animals from Public Lands - Upon examination of current information and a determination by the authorized officer that an excess of wild horses or burros exists, the authorized officer shall remove the excess animals immediately...

#### **FUTURE MONITORING AND GRAZING ADJUSTMENT**

The Winnemucca District will continue to monitor the Pumpnickel Allotment to provide the necessary information to determine if the allotment specific objectives are being met under the new grazing strategy. An annual meeting with NDOW, BLM, the permittees, and other affected interests will be held to analyze the previous year's monitoring data and current conditions in order to make recommendations and/or adjustments for the upcoming grazing year. The monitoring information will be analyzed in five years from issuance of the Final Multiple Use Decision. If the monitoring documents short term objectives are met, a formal re-evaluation would be done five years later. If short term objectives are not being met a re-evaluation would be completed at that time.

#### **Livestock Appeal Rights**

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal and petition for stay of the decision pending final determination on appeal under 43 CFR 4160.4, 4.21 and 4.470. The appeal and petition for stay must be filed in writing to:

Bud Cribley  
Assistant District Manager  
Winnemucca District  
Bureau of Land Management  
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.  
Winnemucca, NV 89445

within 30 days following receipt of the final decision.

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final decision is in error.

Should you wish to file a motion for stay, the appellant shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above, the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer.

#### Wild Horse Appeal Rights

If you wish to appeal this wild horse management decision, it may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the secretary, in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 4. If you appeal, your appeal must be filed with the Bureau of Land Management,

Bud Cribley  
Assistant District Manager  
Winnemucca District  
Bureau of Land Management  
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.  
Winnemucca, NV 89445

within thirty (30) days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay (suspension) of the wild horse decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to the:

Interior Board of Land Appeals  
Office of Hearings and Appeals  
4015 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22203

and to the appropriate office of the Solicitor:

Office of the Regional Solicitor  
Department of the Interior  
2800 Cottage Way, Room 2753  
Sacramento, CA 95825


at the same time the original documents are filed with this office.

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If you have any questions, please contact Rich Adams, Tom Seley, or Peggy Redick at (702) 623-1500.

Sincerely yours,



Bud C. Cribley, Assistant District Manager  
Winnemucca District

CC

Certified:

Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses	P383115259
Wild Horse Organization Assistance	P383115260
Nevada Division of Wildlife, Fallon	P383115261
Rose Strickland, Sierra Club-Toiyabe Chapter	P383115262
Johanna Wald, NRDC	P383115263
Craig Downer	P383115264
Cindy DeWeese, Lone Tree Mine	P383115265
Carrie Hawkins	P383115266
Ann Kersten	P383115267
Rock Creek Ranch	P383115268
Roger Johnson	P383115258
Arnold Ginsberg	P383115269
Tom Filbin	P383115270
Robert Rebholtz, Agribeeff	P383115271
Bob Schweigert, Intermountain Range Consultants	P383115272
George and Edna Penola	P383115273
Roy Hall	P383115257

Non-certified:

Nevada Division of Wildlife, Winnemucca





COMMISSION FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

255 W. Moana Lane

Suite 207A

Reno, Nevada 89509

(702) 688-2626

May 9, 1996

Mr. Pete Christensen  
Paradise-Denio Resource Area  
Bureau of Land Management  
5100 East Winnemucca Blvd.  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89406

Subject: FMUD - Pumpernickel Allotment

Dear Mr. Christensen:

The Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses has received and reviewed the Final Multiple Use Decision - Pumpernickel Allotment. We support the extensive efforts of the working group to attempt to achieve consensus for this Final Decision.

Thank you for the response to our concerns for the Proposed Decision: We agree that wild horses have no adverse impacts within the herd management area and in no need of adjustment. It is apparent that wild horse use outside the herd area is adversely affecting the recovery of the Dixie Fire Area. In the interest of restoring perennial grasses, wild horses should be reduced or eliminated from the Dixie Fire Area. However, it is disturbing that other affected interests could not reach consensus or agreement with your Proposed Decision.

Since the working group promoted annual prescriptions for livestock use of the Pumpernickel Allotment, it would be inappropriate to issue any grazing authorization in excess of one year. Any livestock prescription based upon ephemeral vegetation is subject to new regulation and cannot receive long term unconditional authorization.

We support the working group's approach to annual authorizations based on monitoring data.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Executive Director