

Winnemucca
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February 22, 1978

Mr. Chet Connard, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management-Winnemucca
705 E. 4th Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

Dear Mr. Connard:

As I remember last year, your District took me on a tour of the Buffalo Hills and Lava Bed area near Gerlach. At the time you identified it as an area that would warrant reductions in the near future. I would like to know, if possible, when this action is contemplated.

I have located many animals on or near the highway (81), outside of Gerlach about 10-15 miles that are in extremely poor condition. They appear to be groggy or weak, as they allow you to approach quite close before they slowly move off. Forage is recognized as absolutely nil in this particular area. Within a 3 mile radius, I would guess we visually spotted around 100 animals, with approximately 45 of that very close to the highway. Several were standing right on the soft shoulder and could become victims of traffic, not only causing their destruction, but possibly serious injury to the public traversing the highway. Since this area seems to be a fairly common "incident" area, and due to the condition of the animals, I am wondering if any of these animals would qualify under an emergency reduction program.

Of course we understand that funding is a problem with so many areas needing concentration. Along with the Bureau, WHOA! has taken a great deal of criticism over the reductions in Owyhee; but we will continue to back those areas where it is necessary, no matter the flack received. It is tragic to see the wild horses in this condition as we have seen them the last year or so; and even doubly so when other factions quote that they "have never seen the forage in Nevada look better". Certainly these horses are not reflecting this at the present time.

Most sincerely,

Dawn Y. Lappin (Mrs.)
Secretary

cc. E. J. Rowland, State Director