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STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

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WILLIAM A. MOLINI
Director

BOB MILLER
Governor

March 24, 1992

Ms. Catherine Barcomb, Exec. Dire.
Commission for Wild Horses
5500 Snyder Avenue
Building 6, Room 137
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Re: Paiute Meadows Allotment Full Force Decision - November 22,
1991

Dear Cathy:

Due to the many appeals of this decision, ^{the} the BLM State? Director chose to vacate the decision with this exception of the wild horse section. * It was agreed that after this decision was vacated the District would seek further consultation with the appellants to settle the matter.

The District notified us that on March 10 and 11, 1992 the Resource Area Manager would meet with affected parties to discuss and negotiate settlement of this matter. Unfortunately, the Bureau ^{HAD NOT} made no effort to vacate the decision prior to the notification for this meeting. ^a As a result, none of the affected interests attended except the Department of Wildlife.

The Department wishes to facilitate the settlement of the issues raised in all appeals. It would be appropriate for the District to reissue a full force decision prior to this year's grazing season; however, the "to be vacated decision" agreed to increase the season of use for livestock to April 15 - February 28. We can assume that in absence of a new decision, the manager will authorize use requested by the permittee at levels known to cause damage to riparian systems.

In a final effort to gain relief and protect the natural resources of the Paiute Allotment, we propose the following conditions to be included in a new full force decision to be issued prior to April 15:

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CAMP THE
ENTIRE DECISION
WAS VACATED.

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Paiute Meadows Multiple Use Final Decision

Pursuant to the Director's agreement to vacate the decision, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Sierra Club, Natural Resource Defense Council and Nevada Wild Horse Commission seek the following measures to satisfy our points of appeal:

Add WHPA

Specific Multiple Use Objectives

The District must reinstate the short term objectives found in the allotment evaluation. These objectives will become terms and conditions of any grazing permit.

Monitoring

The District must continue all monitoring studies and include these additional studies:

- * New use pattern mapping of key management areas within the winter use areas (See attached map) to commence in 1992. Studies must be read annually and differentiate use between big game, livestock and wild horses.

- * Trend studies for winter use areas based upon key species of mountain browse vegetation will be established and read in 1992.

- * Wild horse population surveys must be performed each year on the winter use area. Data must include total numbers, recruitment and animal condition parameters to assess the welfare of this herd.

Changes in Livestock Use

Livestock carrying capacities shall be established by use of desired utilization objectives for streambank and wetland riparian habitats. Monitoring data collected in 1989, 1990 and 1991 will be used. Adjustment in livestock use will be undertaken depending on the degree of key use within key management areas.

or

Livestock carrying capacities can be achieved by prescribing livestock utilization of use areas where key management areas are established and short term objectives are not exceeded.

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or

Defer livestock use of the allotment until protective fences are constructed that would exclude livestock use from key management areas.

If for any reason utilization limits are exceeded, livestock season use and/or stocking rates will be adjusted according to the Bureau Handbook TR4400-7 for the next scheduled period of use.

Additional Planning

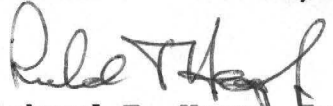
Prepare a wild horse herd management area plan for the Black Rock Range. This plan must include (herd delineation studies, annual monitoring, population modeling and habitat improvement projects. This plan must be completed by ~~1993~~. *? where are found boundary*

Prepare the Black Rock Habitat Management Plan. This plan must include monitoring studies and habitat improvement projects for this area. The plan will be completed in 1994.

Please review the proposals and feel free to call Mr. Roy Leach, Supervising Biologist, at (702) 423-3171.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM A. MOLINI, DIRECTOR


Richard T. Heap, Jr.
Region I Manager
Region I

REL:rl/

CC: Habitat, Reno