

10/6/83

IN REPLY REFER TO



# United States Department of the Interior

4700/1791  
(NV-027.8)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
705 East Fourth Street  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

October 6, 1983

Wildhorse Organized Assistance  
Dawn Lappin  
P.O. Box 555  
Reno, NV 89505

The Winnemucca District of the Bureau of Land Management completed a Management Framework Plan for the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area on July 9, 1982. We are now beginning to implement the decisions made in the Land Use Plan.

In order to do this we have a wild horse gathering for the Trinity Range Herd Use Area tentatively scheduled for the fall of 1984. The capture operation will involve the removal of between 300-350 wild horses.

The Trinity Range Herd Use Area is located in the checkerboard land pattern near Lovelock. The Management Framework Plan called for the removal of all of the wild horses in this checkerboard area unless a cooperative agreement providing for the retention and protection of wild horses is consummated with the affected private landowner(s). We have requests from the private landowners to remove the wild horses. However, we haven't obtained any cooperative agreements to maintain wild horses in the herd use area.

An environmental assessment analyzing the manner of gathering, holding, transportation of the animals, etc., is being prepared and will be available for review very soon.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Paul Jancar or Rodger Bryan of my staff.

Sincerely yours,

Frank C. Shields  
District Manager



W H O A

2

First of all the trend studies were set up in Lava Beds, but none was set up in Troughs, even tho the Dist knew it would be going into Troughs. There is no data to substantiate the need for reduction, and if there were a critical need, one might wonder why they are taking so few. If they were worried about year long use in Lava Beds, one would assume they'd insure the decrease on year round by taking more directly out of the Lava Beds. Of course I would fight any more removal of horses from Lava as BLM has not held to their commitment to change sheep use or reduce livestock — only horses.

Supposedly they inventoried these extra horses in Sept (or Fall) yet the plan to capture horses in Troughs in July when they don't even know if the migrators will be there.

The Dist claims they saw horses go over the mt during capture operations, this I believe is a natural instinct for a wild animal to flee its captors



and most likely they returned to Lava once the threat was gone. No horses were tagged, yet they claim these horses are in 7 troughs. I claim, they do not know where the horses are. If they base their capture on assumptions, why don't they just assume they did not see all the animals in 7 troughs in their 1980 count? I believe the study conducted by the U of Minnesota confirms the percentages of horses not seen in the census under certain conditions.

There are no utilization studies, no trend plots, no tagging, no HMP, yet the dist insists on capture in the 7 troughs, horses have already been reduced significantly in Lava Beds, Nighthawk, Blue Wing to ~~to~~ satisfy livestock industry - we now want to see what kind of livestock management will be put in place.