



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

123 W. Nye Lane, Room 248
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0818
Phone (702) 687-1400 • Fax (702) 687-6122

April 21, 1998

Ron Wenker, District Manager
BLM Winnemucca District Office
5100 East Winnemucca Avenue
Winnemucca, NV 89445

Subject: Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Memo

Dear Mr. Wenker,

Thank you for consulting the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horse. As you are aware, the Commission has serious concerns for the past and present management of these herds within this 1.5 million acre allotment in Pershing County. The 1995 gather removed over 2300 wild horses and burros. This action should have resulted in profound differences in rangeland monitoring data the past three years.

During our monitoring of the 1995 gathers, we discovered that the District underestimated wild horses by approximately 1000 head. This oversight in the 1994 allotment evaluation's carrying capacity would make a significant difference in the livestock stocking rates and appropriate management levels. This issue has never been resolved.

We viewed the 1994 Final Multiple Use Decision allotment objectives as a possible safety net for the obvious errors in the determination of the appropriate management levels. Unfortunately, the memorandum does not make the determination of mid-season monitoring in regard to the allowable use levels established for wild horses on pastures rested from cattle.

Range improvement projects have not been completed. Monitoring studies were not completed as scheduled. We do not support any future gathers until a proper allotment evaluation is completed. Data may exist that can support or alter the present appropriate

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management levels for these herds.

We would appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Catherine Barcomb".

CATHERINE BARCOMB
Administrator