

G 1982 7/21/81



# United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

4700/1791  
(N-027.8)

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

705 E. 4th Street  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

September 21, 1981

Wild Horse Organized Assistance  
Dawn Lappin  
P.O. Box 555  
Reno, NV 89504

Dear Ms. Lappin:

In December, 1980, C-Punch Corporation (a Nevada based corporation) filed a Summons and Complaint (CV-R-80-266-BRT) in the United States District Court for the State of Nevada asking the Secretary of the Interior to remove wild horses and/or burros that are located on private lands owned by their corporation.

A hearing was held May 7, 1981, in which Judge Bruce Thompson instructed the C-Punch counsel to prepare and submit a formal order that would require BLM to reduce the herd of wild horses on private lands described in the complaint. On July 29, 1981, Judge Thompson ordered the Secretary of the Interior to "reduce the herds of wild horses and burros consuming forage on the private and leased lands" as follows:

1. By September 1, 1981 the BLM shall remove between 500-700 wild horses and/or burros from those lands identified as lying within the Selenite Range Herd Use Area (HUA) and Lava Beds HUA with the objective of reducing the populations to no more than 175 wild horses and 25 burros.
2. By November 30, 1981 the BLM shall remove between 550-650 wild horses and/or burros from those lands identified as lying within the Shawave HUA and Nightingale HUA, with the objective of reducing the population to no more than 200 wild horses and or burros; and
3. By February 1, 1982 the BLM shall remove 225 wild horses and/or burros from the vicinity of the private and leased lands identified as lying within the Seven Troughs HUA.

In July and August 1981, the Palomino Valley gathering crew removed 593 wild horses/burros from the Lava Beds HUA. This area has been established as the number one gathering priority for the district due to the resource damage that was occurring and was scheduled to be gathered before the complaint was filed.



Due to the non-discretionary nature of the order and the deadlines imposed by Judge Thompson we must remove the wild horses from the Shawave, Nightingale and Seven Troughs HUAs as soon as possible.

An environmental analysis will not be prepared regarding whether wild horses are to be gathered or not, but the manner of gathering, holding, transportation of the animals, etc., will be fully analyzed.

If you have any questions or want additional information, please contact Brad Hines or Rodger Bryan of my staff by October 1, 1981.

Sincerely yours,

*for Vaden H. Stickley*  
Frank C. Shields  
District Manager