

12/11/79

IN REPLY REFER TO

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(N-026.5)



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
705 East 4th Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

#228

December 11, 1979

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

Dear Ms. Lappin:

The Fox and Lake Range Herd Use Area (including the San Emidio Desert) has had marked increase in wild horse numbers. In response to this increase we must take action to bring the demand on the forages and resource within its capacity. At the present time there is an estimated 695 wild horses using 8,340 AUMs of forage yearly, in addition to the 6,557 AUMs of licensed livestock use. The capacity of this range, which consists of two allotments, Pole Canyon and Rodeo Creek, was set at 7,556 AUMs in the 1966 adjudication. With the present demand by livestock and wild horses there is an overobligation of 7,341 AUMs on the forage resource.

Listed below are five alternatives we are considering to protect this resource. Before any action could be taken on the wild horses, an updated and intensive inventory would be conducted to determine the exact number of horses.

Alternatives

1. Proportionate reduction of livestock and wild horses to meet the carrying capacity.
2. Total removal of livestock and reduction of wild horses to an interim management level of 100 horses.
3. Total removal of wild horses.
4. Total removal of livestock.
5. Reduction of wild horses to an interim management level of 100 horses and reduction of livestock to meet the carrying capacity.



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The magnitude of wild horse numbers and livestock use have caused a significant decrease in the percentage of ground cover and are contributing to increased soil erosion problems, plus increased competition for available forage.

Should a roundup be determined necessary, it would begin in the middle of January 1980, depending on the availability of funds, and will continue until the proposed number of horses have been captured.

In accordance with Section 14 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-514), we invite your comments concerning the alternatives.

If you require any further information, please contact Brad Hines or Rodger Bryan at this office.

If you care to comment on any or all of these alternatives, please do so by January 12, 1980.

Sincerely yours,

Vaden G. Stickley
Vaden G. Stickley
Acting District Manager