



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office
705 East 4th Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

TAKE
PRIDE IN
AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
4700
(NV-020)

Ms. Catherine Barcomb
Executive Director
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Stewart Facility
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

JUN 25 1993

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

I have reviewed your letter received by fax in my office on June 24, 1993, regarding the relocation of the older horses from the Eugene Mountain Herd Use Area (HUA). After giving your suggestions consideration I am not changing my decision to relocate the older horses to the Deer Creek and Happy Creek Allotments. My rationale and reasons are as follows:

1. The Paradise-Denio Management Framework Plan (MFP) decision regarding management of wild horses and burros in the checkerboard states that we will remove wild horses and burros from the checkerboard HUA's, unless a cooperative agreement providing for the retention and protection of wild horses and burros is consummated with the affected private landowners. The Eugene Mountain HUA is one of the specific areas referenced in the MFP. Since I have received written requests from the landowners in the Eugene Mountain area to remove the horses from their private land I do not feel I have the option you recommended to maintain a small population of non-reproductive horses.
2. The selected locations for relocating the horses in Happy Creek and Deer Creek allotments (within the Jackson Mountain HMA) show ample forage and water to support the estimated numbers of horses to be relocated (5-10).
3. The selected location for relocating the horses is approximately 35+ miles north of the Eugene Mountain area which should minimize the risk of the animals attempting to return.

I share your concern that relocated horses often do not stay within the area where they are released. However, since the relocation site is 35+ miles north and there is ample forage and water, I feel we have taken the necessary precautions to minimize the risk of the animals returning. In addition we do intend to monitor the movements of the released horses.

Thank you for your comments regarding this action. If you would like to discuss this further please give me or Scott Billing a call.

Sincerely yours,

Lon Wenker

District Manager

