

12-15-97



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445
702-623-1500

In Reply Refer To:
(NV-0221.1)

December 15, 1997

appeals settled STP
term of permit should be announced w scheduled AE
print folder

John Estill
P. O. Box 67
Likely, Ca. 96116

Dear Mr. Estill:

We have received your application to transfer grazing privileges from R. C. Roberts to you on the Soldier Meadows Allotment. Based on your application, we propose to offer you a term grazing permit for the period 03/01/1997 to 02/28/2006.

The new grazing regulations require the authorized officer to consult, cooperate, and coordinate (CCC) with affected permittees, the State Agencies responsible for managing resources within the area, and the interested public prior to the issuance of grazing permits (43 CFR 4130.2(b)). Therefore, a copy of this letter and a copy of the acceptance form will be sent to anyone who has expressed an interest in the Soldier Meadows Allotment. **The interested public is being asked to provide comment by January 12, 1997.**

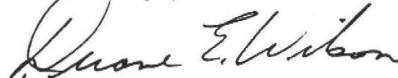
The terms and conditions outlined in the attached acceptance form are those which have historically appeared on previous annual licenses and permits authorizing grazing use in the Soldier Meadows Allotment.

The terms and conditions outlined are also consistent with the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Management Plan. The impacts of livestock grazing under these terms and conditions have been analyzed in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement.

If we propose to change the terms and conditions of your grazing permit, following the comment period, we will keep you and other interested parties informed. If we determine that it is necessary to offer you this permit via proposed decision, it will be sent to the interested public and will include a 15-day period for protest and a 30-day period for appeal.

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Pearson at (702) 623-1500. If you wish to discuss this matter in person, please call to set up an appointment with us so we may respond to any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,


Acting for Colin Christensen

Assistant District Manager
Division of Renewable Resources

Enclosure: Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

CC:

Natural Resources Defense Council
Sierra Club-Toiyabe Chapter
Craig Downer
The Wilderness Society
USFWS Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge
Desert Bighorn Council
NDOW-Fallon
NDOW-Winnemucca
Mr. John Marvel
Nevada Cattleman's Association
Nevada Bighorns Unlimited
USFWS
Sagebrush Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Wild Horse Organ. Assist.
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Humbolt County Commissioners
Animal Protection Institute
Nevada Conservation District
UNR-Desert Research Institute
Deputy Attorney General
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
International Society Protection of Mustangs/Burros
Dr. Gary Vinyard-UNR
Mr. Charles Watson-NORA

Dept. of Agriculture-State of Nevada
Honorable John Ensign
Nev. State Multiple Use Advisory Comm. for Fed. Lands
Public Resources Assoc.
Tom Meyers
Paiute Meadows Ranch
The Nature Conservancy
Nevada Woolgrowers
Nevada Land Action Assoc.
Nevada Div. of Conservation Districts
Dept of Interior - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
BIA - Western Nevada Agency
Humane Society of the U.S.
Martin Larraneta - NDOA
National Wildlife Federation
Honorable Harry Reid
Nevada Division of State Lands
Sierra Nevada PCA
Mike Hornbarger
American Horse Protection Assoc.
Honorable Richard Bryan
Craig Plummer - District Conservationist
Scott Bell - U.S. Forest Service
Comm. for Preservation of Wild Horses & Burros
Fresno - Madera Farm Credit

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS & CONDITIONS BLM
 and BBA
 REQUEST FOR GRAZING PERMIT
 1997 DEC -8 PM 12:48

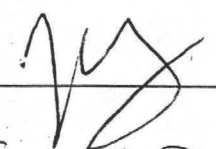
I, John Es agree to accept the Terms & Conditions listed below and request that I be offered a Grazing Permit to graze the allotments in which I have a grazing preference.

Proposed Terms & Conditions

1. The livestock numbers, season of use, and other conditions are from the Final Full Force and Effect Multiple Use Decision dated January 24, 1994.
2. Accurate actual use will be submitted within 15 days of livestock being removed.
3. The permittee is required to perform normal maintenance on the range improvement projects which have been assigned.
4. Livestock numbers, seasons of use, permitted use, and area of use as specified in the permit.

Allotment	Livestock #	Begin	End	% Public Land	Type Use	AUMs
Soldier Meadows	500 Cows	1/1	3/31	100	Active	1,480
Soldier Meadows	1117 Cows	4/1	4/30	100	Active	1,102
Soldier Meadow	1117 Cows	7/15	10/14	100	Active	3,379
Soldier Meadows	1117 Cows	11/16	12/31	100	Active	1,726

6. No salt and/or mineral blocks shall be placed within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, meadows, streams, riparian habitats of aspen stands. In the event that topography and/or available water sources do not allow for the 1/4 mile requirement, coordination will be necessary with BLM personnel prior to placement of salt and/or mineral blocks.

Signed: _____ Date _____

 for Estill Ranches LLC

January 9, 1998

Colin Christensen, ADM
BLM-Winnemucca Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Blvd
Winnemucca, NV 89445

RE: Soldier Meadows Allotment Transfer

Dear Pete,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the transfer of grazing privileges on the Soldier Meadows Allotment.

We have noted that the term of the new grazing permit is for 9 years. When is the next scheduled allotment evaluation for this allotment? We would suggest that the term of the permit be commensurate with the scheduled evaluation period.

Another concern is that a stipulated agreement from an appeal filed by the Commission among 5 others was negotiated years ago with the BLM Winnemucca District Office. The terms of that agreement linked Soldier Meadows and Paiute Allotments regarding management of the herd area. Have the terms and conditions of that stipulated agreement been considered and honored during this transfer as it applies to the horses?

We look forward to your response and assurances as it pertains to the management of the wild horse herds affected.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE BARCOMB
Administrator