

WOTTA

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3/4/93

Journal

3/4 Arrived Gerlach 2:40pm. Checked in at Bruno's far room and headed out to corrals. Pens are really full of horses, surprisingly no apparent snots. Appears to be over 100 horses. Spotted Row Hall, District Wild Horse Specialist for Winnemucca, whom was getting ready to shoot two aged horses. One, a mare over 15, severe starvation, lice, ticks, and green snot pouring from nostrils. Cannot let this sickness disperse thru pens and the other an aged black stallion, a rarity here, whose left front leg was broke from an old injury, healed and was impeding his ability to forage. I sense a very real hatred of having to destroy any more animals, but the decision is best for the animals and they died instantly.

Went through three pens, horses brought in from Coyote were not too bad, but still then; horses from Frog Creek were terrible to an animal. As had occurred in Lake/Box, few mares survived and those that did are bad. They brought in 79 in trailers while I was at corrals. None of which were in any condition to be turned out. Everyone is silently wondering with the relayed PVC age restriction, how many horses will remain and what will their final determination be.

Left curral to return to Marcel, was followed by local Sheriff obviously trying to ascertain who I was as I had no license plates and rig was not familiar. Understand NBC news was here yesterday filming about the Gerlach/Sheriff controversy.

Had dinner alone, all phones occupied. Waitress said Sheriff's officers were following & citing people leaving Brunas.

Capture Crew & BLM came in as I finished dinner so sat with them while they ate. Jim Hicks was distressed because he was not furnished maps depicting fences. Ron Hall stated that Tom Sully had told him that he had given all necessary maps to the crew. Hicks and Catoe both stated that horses were trapped on the mountain with no winter range ~~and~~ by the BLM District boundary fence. The same fence that caused nearly 500 wild horses to die in 1977. The same fence that permits John Espil & myself have been battling for the last 7-8 years to no avail.

3/5 Left Gerlach at 8:00 AM; went to corral.
Still sorting horses on condition, very poor, thin,
survivable, good, etc. Most of the Buffalo Hill horses
were very bad. Snow drifts and hard pack made slow
going for bringing them out. Cripple horses were
little. Out of 146 in pens, 63 are healthy, but too
thin to be put back on the range. 15 stallions and 8
mares healthy enough to return to HMA now.
The decision to hold 63 at Gerlach, PVC, or SV will
be made at 4pm. Will take 77 back to other
ranges in the A.M. All animals get 35cc penicillin
and warmed.

Conclusion. Buffalo Hill has little winter
range, what there is on Duck Flats. Even with
fences removed there is little winter range. Should
manage population for worse case (winter) scenario.
Perhaps 100-150 range? Adjust fences. Don't increase
cows.