

~~N2. 93 15~~
N2. 93 17

Memorandum

To: Area Manager, Sonoma/Gerlach Resource Area

From: Rich Adams, Supv. Range Con.

Subject: Consultation, Coordination, and Cooperation With Affected Parties on the Buffalo Hills Re-evaluation.

Below I have listed chronologically letters and meetings in which the Buffalo Hills re-evaluation has been discussed.

1. 3/1/91 A letter was sent to the general public informing them of the upcoming re-evaluation, requesting any information that might be important for BLM's analysis, and to respond if they would like to be considered an affected interest.
2. 10/5&6/92 A tour of the Buffalo Hills Allotment was held with affected interests to discuss issues and resource problems. The following people (and their affiliation) attended either one of both days:

Dawn Lappin	WHOA	Greg Tanner	NDOW
Grover Jackson	Operator	Bud Cribley	BLM
Andrea Jackson	Operator	Tom Seley	BLM
Roy Leach	NDOW	Leigh Redick	BLM
Mike Dobel	NDOW	Arn Berglund	BLM
	Rich Adams	BLM	

While on the tour the group looked at riparian areas, mountain browse sites, wild horses, a variety of upland sites, and a two riparian exclosures. The general consensus was that there were too many wild horses, livestock needed more aggressive herding, projects should be developed to protect upland water sources on public lands, and BLM should work closer with the operators. The only disagreement was on the condition of the bitterbrush near Potato Patch Spring. Personnel from NDOW felt the season of use for this pasture would be detrimental for the bitterbrush. They claimed livestock are attracted to bitterbrush because it is suppose to be extremely palatable. But based on the general growth form of the plants, NDOW felt most of the use occurring was from mule deer. Overall, NDOW admitted the stands appeared to be in satisfactory condition.

3. 11/13 Andrea and Grover Jackson stopped by the office to go over the draft re-evaluation. They met with Leigh Redick, Rich Adams, Arn Berglund, and Bud Cribley. They had specific questions that the group answered.

~~N2 93 15~~
N2 93 17

4. 11/23 A meeting was held in Reno with the following affected interests:

Rose Strickland	Sierra Club	Bud Cribley	BLM
Dawn Lappin	WHOA	Arn Berglund	BLM
Cathy Barcomb	NV Commission	Rich Adams	BLM
Roy Leach	NDOW	Rick Rieber	BLM
Clarence Covert	BLM	Tom Seley	BLM
	Leigh Redick	BLM	

Mr. Leach and Mrs. Strickland had the most questions and comments. The questions were mostly related to carrying capacities computations, livestock and wild horses impacts on upland and wet meadows sites, and livestock impacts on riparian areas. The comments made in this meeting and subsequent letters were incorporated into the Final Re-evaluation.

5. 1/13/93 Draft Proposed Decision mailed to permittees and affected interest.

6. 1/26 Leigh Redick and Rich Adams met with the Jacksons at their ranch to discuss the Proposed Decision. They had some additional questions on how the document will be used and what should be expected from them. Leigh and Rich stressed that they are responsible to keep livestock out of riparian areas once utilization levels are reached. An additional point is that now a carrying capacity is documented for the allotment and if wild horses can not be brought down to expected levels then adjustments in livestock numbers or seasons will have to be initiated. The Jackson's requested us to watch the allotment closer to minimize or eliminate the amount of trespass within the allotment.

7. 2/9 Final Full Force and Effect Decision mailed to permittees and affected interests.

8. 2/18 Leigh Redick and Rich Adams met with Andrea and Grover Jackson to look at part of the Buffalo Hills Pasture. Snow prevented us from reaching to get to the areas we wanted to see. We did talk about where they should put cows and how to work them in individual pastures. We also talked about the utilization levels and how best to measure them and where they should keep an eye out.

9. 3/17 Arn Berglund and Rich Adams met with Andrea and Grover Jackson to determine if livestock should be turned out in early April. Most of the area had a lot of snow and rain, thereby potentially delaying spring green up. In the southern part of the pasture the grasses were already two inches tall, but, further north there was still snow on the ground. With turn-out still two weeks away we felt there should be adequate new growth to turn the cows out. Arn stressed that the Jacksons need to intensify their herding efforts to keep cows from concentrating in the riparian and wet meadows areas. We also talked about fencing riparian areas and the group decided maybe the best place to start would be Granite Creek near Granite Ranch. The Jackson's requested information on the number of wild horses caught, the number shipped, and the number of horses turned back out and how many more will be turned back out (horses shipped to PVC that

~~N2 93 15~~
N2 93 17

were too weak to be turned back out)

10. 3/22 Tom Seley called Roy Leach, NDOW, to arrange a meeting to discuss their appeal points. Roy declined a meeting and felt their comments would stand on their own merits.
11. 3/23 Tom Seley called Rose Strickland, Sierra Club, to arrange a meeting to discuss their appeal points. Rose would only meet if NDOW and the other groups were there too. Tom said BLM wanted to meet individually, each appeal was different enough that it warranted meeting with the individuals. Rose declined to meet in that type of setting.