

Cathy Barcomb

From: Susie_Stokke@nv.blm.gov
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2007 10:30 AM
To: Cathy Barcomb
Subject: Re: Antelope Emergency – State Director Decision/Current Status 2008 Nevada Gathers

Importance: High

Per yesterday, 1187 animals were counted on the Antelope/AV area (rounded to 1200 animals) which was impacted by construction of the fence along Hwy 93.

The AML for the Antelope HMA is 194/324. The AML for the Antelope Valley HMA is 155/259. According to the Ely FO, about 1/3 of the Antelope Valley HMA is now fenced separately from the remainder, therefore, I am making the assumption that the AML for this portion of Antelope is about 51-85 head (or 1/3 of the total).

That means the total AML for the affected area is 245/409. In order to reach the low end of AML we need to remove about 950 head this winter (955 head or so). In order to move forward with this gather on an emergency basis, Mike Holbert, our DSD will be talking to the FO staffs to assure the necessary decisions/agreements are in place to address livestock grazing of these areas in an appropriate manner.

As of this morning, the State Director has made the decision to move forward with a request to the WO/Department for approval to do an emergency gather for Antelope/AV in December in lieu of the planned gather for the Nevada Wild Horse Range. The NWHR has food and water (at least at the present time), and arrangements can be made to continue water hauling through the hot summer months, if needed.

The WO is planning to go to the Hill next week to ask for funding to allow us to move forward with gathers where we have drought emergencies. They are going to be asking for funding to complete Antelope/Antelope Valley in December and Roberts/Whistler in January. They are also planning on asking for the funding needed to do Owyhee and the NWHR next summer if at all possible.

The ES funding for New Pass/Ravenswood, the Augusta Mountains and South Shoshone gathers has been received and has already been obligated. The gathers for these areas are moving forward as planned. NP/R starts on Saturday, with Augustas tentatively starting on November 19th. The South Shoshone gather is on the schedule for January currently. We plan to remove about 1,050 from these fire areas through the 3 gathers.

To allow for adequate space, the current plan is to ship the NP/R horses to Ridgecrest (502) head, the Augusta Mountains horses (229) head will probably go to Fallon or may go to PVC provided that this next set of cultures comes back clean (we should be able to reopen PVC to the public on November 13 if that happens) but will move slowly in moving horses in/out of the facility with continued close monitoring. Provided we receive the necessary funding/approval to proceed with Antelope/AV, 300 of these animals would go to Delta, Utah, with the remainder shipped to Fallon for preparation. That would leave space for Roberts/Whistler and South Shoshone to go to PVC for preparation in January.

That is the latest information as best I know it. Please let me know if you have any additional questions/concerns.

"Cathy Barcomb"
 <mustangs@wildhor
 se.nv.gov>

11/02/2007 09:18
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<Susie_Stokke@nv.blm.gov>

To

cc

Subject