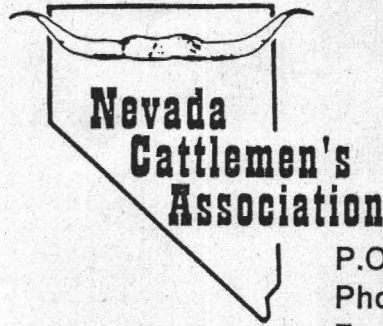


4/1/97



April 1, 1997

P.O. Box 310 Elko, NV 89803-0310
Phone: (702) 738-9214
Fax: (702) 738-5208

Cathie Barcomb
Wild Horse Commission
1105 Terminal Way, Ste. 209
Reno NV 89502

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Dear Cathie:

I recently received a copy of correspondence from you to the Elko BLM office dated March 17, 1997.

The letter concerns the name change on the permit of the Big Springs Allotment from Larry Schutte to Parasol Ranching Limited Liability Company. First I would like to know why you are protesting a name change when the allotment is not changing hands or management, all Larry did was set up his ranch as a corporation? He did not sell the permit or the ranch or do anything else which would impact the management of the permit. Therefore, I do not understand why you are protesting this.

This type of petty protest appears to simply be another of your tactics to drag out the paperwork and thereby slow down any moves the BLM might make to manage the horses. The last thing Nevada's resources and the horses need to have happen is for the process to get any slower. At this rate AMLs will never be achieved, and we will never see the type of improvement of the resources that we all want.

I urge you to either join with the management teams which are working very hard to improve Nevada's resources or to stop harassing them. While we were in Washington you spoke several times about how we needed to get the horse numbers under control so that the resource could improve, yet when I come home I find you are sending out this type of junk. Do you even listen to what you are telling the public?

In regards to the lengthy letter you wrote to Silvia Bacca in January I have learned from several different sources that a large part of your letter was false and secondly that the BLM never told you the letter would be confidential, but rather they told you it would be public information.

I look forward to receiving copies of all of your future correspondence with the BLM, from you not from the BLM!

Sincerely,

Harvey Barnes, President

cc: Larry Schutte
Chris Collis



COMMISSION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

1105 Terminal Way
Suite 209
Reno, Nevada 89502
(702) 688-2626

May 2, 1997

Mr. Harvey Barnes, President
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
P.O. Box 310
Elko, Nevada 89803-0310

Subject: Commission Correspondence

Dear Harvey:

I am surprised at your recent letter expressing the Bureau of Land Management's frustration with its consultation processes on actions affecting our Nevada rangelands. The Commission's letter concerning a permit transfer on the Big Springs Allotment was in response to Elko District's request for comments. Issues important to the Commission do not include ownership, but the Elko District's implementation of its land use plans, specifically the Wild Horse Amendment to the Wells Resource Management Plan, are important factors to the immediate future of Maverik-Medicine Herd. As you can see by our previous attached correspondence on this allotment we have continually requested the Bureau to complete the evaluation process to set carrying capacity...thus finally setting an appropriate management level (AML), for wild horses. As I had explained to you in Washington, to continually condone permits in their third decade of issuance without an allotment evaluation (AE), or transfers without evaluations only permits the non-attainment of AML which you had expressed the Cattlemen were committed to attaining.

Ten year permits are continually issued without an AE, allotment management plan, or any planning process. However when actions are implemented on wild horses the law requires evaluation of monitoring data to establish actions necessary to the management of the herds. By the affected rancher, along with us, not insisting that the AE and subsequent multiple use decision be issued there will never be any actions on wild horses except for the emergency gathers. As we all are aware, by the time we are in "emergency status" it is already too late. Wildlife and wild horses are dying, the cattle must all be removed, and the land has

Harvey Barnes, President
May 2, 1997
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suffered, in some cases, irreparable damage. This is not management by planning, it is only management by reaction adversely affecting us all.

After approximately one month absence, Mr. Clint Oke informed the Commission the status of public notifications for permit transfers, temporary non-renewable use and other grazing authorizations. Documents concerning the Big Springs Allotment were simply notifications and not subject to appeal or stay. Comments of the Commission could not hold or delay any action. Pertinent information was provided to the Commission satisfying specific concerns that directly affect the welfare of the Maverik/Medicine Wild Horse Herd on the Big Springs Allotment.

According to the Elko District, seven years of wild horse use data has been collected on key management areas. The Wells Resource Management Plan Amendment established a 10 percent use criteria for these key areas. We are pleased to find that the recent data indicates wild horse use of key areas is significantly below 10 percent. Therefore, wild horses must be below the appropriate management level. The wild horse specialist further informed the Commission that an allotment evaluation is near completion. It would appear that Mr. Schutte's allotment is not suffering from wild horse competition or damage, thus allowing for permitted livestock use.

Issues related to these notifications are far reaching. No single Bureau of Land Management District approaches the issuance of short and long term grazing authorizations consistently. In recent work in Eureka concerning the Diamond Mountains and a document review of the Callaghan Wild Horse Gather, Battle Mountain District contends that major adjustments have occurred in permit transfer notices. Though required by 43 CFR 4120, the District was to provide the permittees and affected public some environmental documents to support their actions; however, the District chose simple notifications. Ranchers that suffered adjustments in use were equally confused. County resource directors, Bureau of Land Management employees and consultants provided little explanation to these common issues raised by the Commission and ranchers.

Harvey, we share your concerns for unnecessary paperwork or delays in the Bureau of Land Managements ability to manage our lands. Unfortunately, Range Reform has added new responsibilities and duties to an eroding work force of the Bureau of Land Management. Changes and accountability are difficult to accept under the present situation. To make matters worse, employees

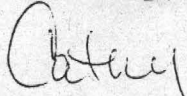
Harvey Barnes, President
May 2, 1997
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abandon all efforts to find real answers, and thus encourage arguments between affected parties. Pitting Nevadans against Nevadans, during their short employment tenures in Nevada, has not resulted in meaningful management and often dissolves all trust.

I concur with your statement in behalf of the Bureau of Land Management that apparently nothing is confidential given political opportunities, such as this matter before us. However, we were told that this report was to be confidential and trusted that it would remain as such. The confidentiality issue was important to us in that it was our intent to supply the requested information to allow the Bureau to internally investigate "grey" areas and violations of regulations, laws and policy. All of the issues presented can be fully documented for validity. As I previously invited you, I would welcome a meeting with you to discuss all issues of the report or any land use planning document we have responded to so we may avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings.

I would like to invite you visit the Commission office on your next trip to Reno so we may peruse our files for any information you may want. Also, I will be in Eureka next week at the Resource Advisory Council Meeting if you have time and would like to discuss any of these issues.

Sincerely,



CATHERINE BARCOMB
Executive Director