

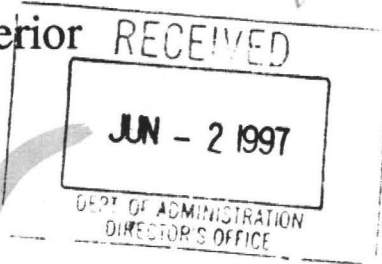


United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Elko Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801-4611

Maverick 5/29/97

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In Reply Refer To:

4710.4 (NV-012)

MAY 29 1997

Dear Reader:

This letter is to inform you that the Elko Field Office plans to remove excess wild horses from the Maverick-Medicine Herd Management Area (HMA) starting no earlier than July 15, 1997. This action will achieve the established initial herd size as outlined in the approved Wells Resource Management Plan Wild Horse Amendment and Environmental Assessment (BLM August 2, 1993). This removal is a continuation of the action addressed in the Maverick-Medicine Wild Horse Gather Plan (BLM July 21, 1994), the associated environmental assessment (EA BLM/EK/PL-94/021, July 21, 1994) and the Full Force and Effect Decision for the Maverick-Medicine Wild Horse Gather (BLM September 20, 1994).

This removal does not constitute a new decision, since current monitoring data show the established initial herd size is still valid and the capture methods remain the same as stated in the Gather Plan/EA. Therefore, as stated in the Gather Plan, a new decision record/finding of no significant impact (DR/FONSI) is not required to achieve or maintain the established herd size through removal of excess animals. Because this removal does not constitute a new decision it is not an appealable action.

The Elko Field Office plans to remove approximately 470 wild horses starting on or about July 20, 1997. Approximately 332 wild horses will remain in the Maverick-Medicine HMA after the removal is complete. This is the initial herd size as stated in the Wild Horse Amendment. Based on current policy, horses up to nine years of age may be removed.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy McKinstry, Wild Horse Specialist, at (702) 753-0200.

Sincerely,

CLINTON R. OKE
Assistant District Manager
Division of Renewable Resources



COMMISSION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

1105 Terminal Way
Suite 209

Reno, Nevada 89502

(702) 688-2626

June 9, 1997

Ms. Helen Hankins
Elko District
Bureau of Land Management
3900 East Idaho Street
P.O. Box 831
Elko, Nevada 89803

Subject: Maverick-Medicine Gather Notice

Dear Ms. Hankins:

Thank you for advising the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses concerning another gather of the Maverick-Medicine Herd Management Area. The Wells Resource Management Plan Wild Horse Amendment reduced this herd and management area proportionably to the amount of private and public checkerboard lands. The previous gather removed all horses from the checkerboard lands and released older unadoptable horses to the remaining herd management area.

According to the land use plan and its amendment, the District is to conduct rangeland monitoring studies and allotment evaluations to determine an appropriate management level. The Wells Resource Management Plan is over 10 years old. Presently, the Odgers, Bald Mountain, Maverick/Ruby and Spruce Allotments have not had allotment evaluations. North Butte Valley and West Cherry Allotments are not scheduled for allotment evaluations until 1998 and 1999. Notices of permit transfer and non-renewable use authorizations for livestock have not indicated problems on these allotments.

Previous gather plans did not address the re-structuring of the herd's age and sex structure. While it may be convenient to accept the initial numbers of the land use plan as an appropriate management level, the amendment was conditional to monitoring over the past four years. We would appreciate some data to support this action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Barcomb".

CATHERINE BARCOMB
Executive Director