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BOB MILLER  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Executive Director



COMMISSION FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

1105 Terminal Way  
Suite 209

Reno, Nevada 89502  
(702) 688-2626

February 24, 1997

Ms. Helen Hankins  
Elko District  
Bureau of Land Management  
3900 East Idaho Street  
P.O. Box 891  
Elko, Nevada 89803

Subject: Spanish Ranch Transfer - Rock Creek HMA

Dear Ms. Hankins:

Thank you for consulting the Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses. We have reviewed the proposed transfers of grazing privileges affecting the Rock Creek Wild Horse Herd Area.

The Rock Creek Emergency Gather was based upon depleted range conditions and overuse of the recent wild fire. It is our mutual agreement that multiple use decisions would be imminent. These allotment evaluations would assess data and make the necessary adjustments to achieve a thriving ecological balance within the herd management area.

This proposed decision administers 50,539 AUMs within the herd area. It is a significant management action and should require an environmental assessment.

Terms and conditions do not establish allowable use levels or range limitations necessary to protect habitat within the herd management area.

We would appreciate your prompt attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Catherine Barcomb".

CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Executive Director

3/13/97



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ELKO FIELD OFFICE  
3900 E. IDAHO STREET  
ELKO, NEVADA 89801-4611

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
4130/4400.4/4710 (NV-012)

MAR 13 1997

Catherine Barcomb  
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses  
1105 Terminal Way, Suite 209  
Reno, NV 89502

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

I would like to respond to your letter of February 24, 1997 regarding the transfer of grazing privileges between Ellison Ranching Company and Nelo Mori on the Spanish Ranch and Andrae Allotments and the status of the allotment evaluation for the Spanish Ranch and Squaw Valley Allotments.

As stated in our letter requesting comments about the proposed transfer of grazing privileges and the terms and conditions for those term grazing permits, no changes were being made to the terms and conditions from those outlined in permits issued in December 1995. Those permits were issued via proposed and final decision with protest and appeal opportunities. No protests nor appeals were received. Although the terms and conditions outlined do not specifically state allowable use levels, the Elko Rangeland Program Summary specifies allowable use levels of 50% for native species.

We still intend to issue an allotment evaluation for the Spanish Ranch and Squaw Valley Allotments as soon as possible. Because we are in the process of completing the allotment evaluation and will issue it soon, we did not try to make specific changes to the terms and conditions on the grazing permits involved in these transfers at this time. The allotment evaluation process allows a more comprehensive review of resource conditions and an opportunity to more thoroughly address actions needed to address resource concerns, including development of applicable terms and conditions for grazing permits.

As noted before, the 1996 Rock Creek Emergency Gather was based on (1.) an existing approved emergency fire rehabilitation plan, environmental assessment, and gather plan that were reviewed by the public in 1994 and (2.) the concerns raised by BLM and horse-advocacy groups in 1996, including the Commission, for the potential for severe drought leading to unnecessary death of wild horses and significant resource damage.

Thank you for your review of these transfers and your interest in the allotment evaluation for the Spanish Ranch and Squaw Valley Allotments. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me or Kathy McKinstry, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, or Donna Nyrehn, Rangeland Management Specialist, at (702) 753-0200.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clinton R. Oke", with a horizontal line underneath.

CLINTON R. OKE, Assistant District Manager  
Renewable Resources