



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Eagle Lake Resource Area

705 Hall Street

Susanville, California 96130-3730



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4130 (CA-026)

APR 09 1993

Dear Affected Interest:

As promised at the coordination meeting held March 9, 1993, for the Twin Peaks Allotment, the following information is offered in response to comments presented at the meeting. The comments were recorded on a flip chart during the meeting and are noted by underlining below.

Also included is an update on what is being done this grazing season (1993) to meet our commitments under the Grazing Decision issued in March of last year and a fact sheet that includes a chronology of actions over the past few years.

During our meeting of March 9, a proposal for change in the grazing system was reviewed with the group. This was done in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4110.3-3, 4120.2, 4130.1-1 and 4130.6. As was discussed at that time, no final determination had been made to either approve or disapprove the application. Based on our discussions, it was strongly suggested that we adhere to the Grazing Decision issued March 6, 1992.

We have considered the input and have decided that the Grazing Permit as modified by the Grazing Decision signed and implemented in March 1992 will be followed for the 1993 grazing season. Therefore, a formal denial of the application for change will be issued to the permittee. The terms and conditions included in the Grazing Decision will also be enforced for 1993. This includes provisions for protecting specific, sensitive wildlife habitat areas from the impacts of livestock grazing.

We will be determining when resource conditions are appropriate for livestock turnout, monitoring utilization and compliance with the agreement's terms and conditions, and making adjustments as necessary. We are also identifying specific areas where we believe resource conditions cannot support livestock use this grazing season. As these areas are identified, we will notify the permittees and take appropriate actions as needed to ensure that livestock use is deferred from these areas.

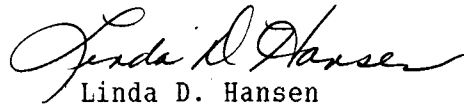
We believe that the above mentioned actions will address the strong concern expressed for the condition of vegetation, the need for data to support turn out in over utilized areas, and concern that over utilized areas in 1992 have not recovered. Under the "Policy for Authorizing Livestock Use for the 1993 Grazing Season" issued by the Susanville BLM District in January of this year, provisions are made for assessment of residual perennial forage and plant vigor prior to authorization of turn out for livestock. We are continuing to monitor the conditions on the allotment to determine if adequate forage and vigor are sufficient for livestock use. Although precipitation has surpassed average for

this winter, we are still concerned about the effects that 6 years of drought have had on the long-term health of the range and believe that in most cases, special management considerations will still need to be implemented.

It was commented that moderate utilization does not provide for improvement of over utilized areas, i.e., riparian. The terms and conditions under the Grazing Decision of March 6, 1992, call for the removal of livestock from an area that is approaching or has reached the maximum utilization objective. This has been defined as 40-60 percent, depending on the area. Specific riparian objectives were established for three critical management areas. The utilization limit is 40 percent on these specific critical riparian areas. We will continue to monitor these areas to ensure compliance with objectives. A plan to specify how livestock will be moved from these areas is required from the permittee prior to turnout for this grazing season.

Cooperation and participation by all affected parties are necessary if we are to be successful at achieving sound management of all the resources in the East Lassen region. I would like to invite any Affected Interests to accompany us in the field to evaluate conditions at any time. If you would be interested in doing so, please contact Steve Surian or myself at (916) 257-0456. Thank you for your interest in these issues. We look forward to continuing to work with you on future management in the East Lassen Project Area.

Sincerely,


Linda D. Hansen
Area Manager

Enclosure
Fact Sheet

**FACT SHEET
CAL NEVA PLANNING UNIT**

April 9, 1993

- 1967 - Carrying Capacity for livestock first established for the Cal Neva Planning Unit based on 1959-60 inventory. This resulted in a 37% reduction in active use.

- 1979 - Soil Vegetation Inventory Method completed for the Cal Neva Planning Unit.
 - Decision to remove John Casey permit from Cal Neva Unit - Reduction of 9,232 AUMs of active use and 4,569 AUMs of suspended non-use (Not re-allocated).

- 1982 - Cal Neva Environmental Impact Statement completed. Record of Decision issues August 19, 1982.
 - Wild Horse and Burro numbers set at 600 to 850 horses, and 75-110 burros based on evaluation in Grazing EIS.

- 1983 - Final Decision for Cal Neva Planning Unit issued. 1967 carrying capacity of 37% reduction continued.

- 1985 - Dodge Ranch grazing privileges revoked. 4,078 AUMs of active preference and 2,849 AUMs of suspended non-use removed. (Not re-allocated)

Reductions in grazing use for cattle and sheep in the Cal Neva Planning Unit resulting from BLM decisions are as follows:

Cattle and Sheep Active Use (AUMs)

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Prior to 1967 | 66,543 |
| 1967 reduction | - 23,392 |
| 1979 Casey reduction | -9,232 |
| 1985 Dodge Ranch reduction | -4,078 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total reductions | 36,702 |
| Remaining AUMs | 29,841 |

Reductions amount to approximately 55% of original active use for the Cal Neva Planning Unit.

In addition, wild horses and burros have been reduced over the years from maximum herd sizes in 1977-79 of approximately 3,000 to the levels set in the Cal Neva Grazing EIS by 1985.

TWIN PEAKS ALLOTMENT GRAZING MANAGEMENT

The AUM allocation for Twin Peaks Allotment was set at 20,531 after the Cal Neva Grazing EIS. This is split between cattle and sheep, with two operators running cattle.

- 1985 - Allotment Management Plan completed for the Twin Peaks Allotment. Grazing preference to be re-evaluated after 5 years of monitoring.
- 1989 - Agreement signed by the BLM, Permittees, CDFG and NDOW to establish guidelines for reviewing and managing the Twin Peaks Allotment.
- 1990 - On May 24, Summary of Results of the Objective Setting Process (Allotment Management Plan Review Committee). New ten-year grazing permit issued, Active AUMs were set at 13,430, Suspended AUMs amounted to 7,101.
- 1991 -
 - July 18 - Joint Tour of East Lassen Herd Area, including BLM, NDOW, and CDFG. (Suggested actions by CDFG included changing grazing permit to annual, immediate actions to prevent further deterioration of riparian areas/ important wildlife habitat, issue formal decisions prior to next grazing season 3/1992).
 - August 22, field tour of Twin Peaks with BLM and permittees in preparation for AMP revisions.
- 1992 -
 - Draft Environmental Assessment completed for changes in grazing use for 1992. Released to public on 2/14.
 - March 6, Grazing Agreement, Record of Decision and Full force & Effect Grazing Decision signed.
 - April 14, copies of all documents sent to Affected Interests. Thirty-day appeal period opens for Record of Decision/EA.
 - Six appeals filed (NDOW, CDFG, NRDC, CMDA, SC, Audubon)
 - June 1, Two Year Monitoring Action Plan put into effect for terms of Grazing Decision.
 - September 11, Full Force and Effect Grazing Decision issued to remove all livestock from Twin Peaks Allotment for remainder of grazing season.
- 1993 - January, Policy for Authorizing Grazing Use for 1993 Grazing Season issued to all permittees.