

10/11/88

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mono Lake
Ranger District

P. O. Box 429
Lee Vining, CA 93541

Reply to: 2260

Date: October 11, 1988

Subject: Montgomery Pass Wildhorse Plan Update

To: Steering Committee Members

It has been approximately four months since the Steering Committee for the Montgomery Pass Wildhorse Territory Plan last met. I would like to update the Steering Committee as to what has been accomplished this summer.

A categorical exclusion in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act was prepared and sent to the four jurisdictional agencies for approval. The categorical exclusion is necessary in order to implement the Plan.

During the summer Dr. John Turner spent six weeks in the territory and developed a very reliable map of actual horse population and distribution. During the summer he and his crew identified 191 individual horses. Dr. Turner is continuing his study of the relationship between Wild Horses and Mountain Lions. He successfully radio collared a lion for study purposes during September.

Also during of September a crew of 14 people from all four agencies conducted utilization studies of the areas used exclusively by the wildhorses. From these studies we will begin to measure the actual impacts from horse use. We also conducted a horse census from helicopter and were able to locate 104 adult horses, 3 yearlings and 6 foals.

Efforts towards initiating a land exchange for the private property within the territory have been started. Dink Getty and I plan to commit considerable time to this project over the winter.

A recreation users guide for the "Pizona Country" that Craig London initiated has been finalized and will be made available to visitors this fall.

I would like to hold a Steering Committee meeting in the spring of 1989 to review work progress in more detail. Please let me know if you have any preference with regard to meeting date, time or place.

Bill
BILL BRAMLETTE
Steering Committee Chairperson