

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT 2950 Riverside Drive Susanville, California 96130



Laver Ranches c/o Nancy Satica PO Box 395 Standish CA 96128

MAR - 8 1999

IN REFLY REFER TO: (CA-350) 4130 CF 042035 P

Dear: Nancy

Your grazing permit No. 042035, which authorizes your grazing use in the Twin Peaks and Humphrey 3-c allotments expired on February 28, 1999. The Bureau of Land Management must complete certain required actions before it can renew your permit. BLM will complete these actions in consultation with you, state agencies and the interested public. They include:

- 1) Completing an assessment of resource conditions to decide if rangeland health standards are or are not met, and/ or are or are not progressing toward being met in the above-named allotment(s);
- 2) For range health standards that are not being met or not progressing toward being met, if any, determining if livestock grazing as authorized by the terms and conditions of your permit or lease significantly contributes to standards not being met or not progressing toward being met;
- 3) If "2" applies, developing practical and implementable changes to your grazing permit (e.g., numbers of livestock, period of use, and season of use by pasture or allotment) and/or other management practices (e.g., project development, herding, supplements placement) as needed to promote progress toward standards attainment and to ensure conformance with livestock management guidelines;
- 4) Ensuring that environmental analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of the effects of the livestock grazing to be authorized by your newly renewed permit or lease is adequate; and,
- 5) Issuing a formal decision that states the terms and conditions of your newly renewed permit or lease and/or other management actions that may be required.

Because we have not completed these actions, we are issuing you a permit as mandated by Section 124 of Public Law 105-277 (Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act) which will expire on September 30, 1999. This law states:

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, grazing permits which expire during fiscal year 1999 shall be renewed for the balance of fiscal year 1999 on the same terms and conditions as contained in the expiring permits, or until the Bureau of Land Management completes processing of these permits in compliance with all applicable laws, whichever comes first. Upon completion of processing by the Bureau, the terms and conditions of existing permits may be modified, if necessary, and reissued for a term not to exceed ten

years. Nothing in this language shall be deemed to affect the Bureau's authority to otherwise modify or terminate grazing permits."

Your enclosed "P.L. 105-277 permit" contains the same terms and conditions as your expiring permit. It expires September 30, 1999. Because P L. 105-277 mandated us to issue you this permit the BLM will not process any protests or appeals of its terms or conditions or of the fact that we have issued it to you. If we complete the permit renewal process before September 30, the permit issued following the administrative finality of the decision mentioned under step 5, above, would supersede this P. L. 105-277 permit. Please sign, date and return both copies of the enclosed grazing permit soon. BLM must have a valid permit or lease on file before we can issue you a grazing authorization for the upcoming grazing year

Presently, we have scheduled a field examination of the Twin Peaks allotment for assessment of standards attainment and factors determination starting in late May and continuing until the end of the field season. Please accompany us and take part in the examination and discussion of these matters. Your awareness of and contribution to the information we use to make our decision is crucial both to BLM making an informed decision and to the long-term success of any management adjustments that may occur. We have found that the discussion that occurs "onthe-ground" often is the most worthwhile and effective communication to resolve any issues that may arise. We expect to have our staff wildlife biologist, botanist, watershed specialist and rangeland management specialist participate in the field examination.

Please contact Steve Surian or Ralph Mauck at the address above with your questions about these matters. Contact Steve if you would like copies of resource information specific to your allotment(s) that we may have (e.g., field notes, photographs, data, etc.). We have more information on some allotments than others. You may also wish to request a copy of the standards of rangeland health and guidelines for livestock grazing on public lands. Steve also needs to know if you plan to participate in our field examination. Our schedules sometimes change due to unforeseen circumstances and in any event we wish to be coordinated with you.

Sincerely,

Linda D. Hansen, Field Manager Eagle Lake Field Office

Enclosure: P.L. 105-277 Grazing Permit CC: Ron Laver John Espil Sheep Company, Inc. UC Coop Ext. Lassen County, David Lile Commission for Preservation -Wild Horses, Cathy Barcomb California Department of Fish and Game, Wendel Office, Frank Hall California Department of Fish and Game Sacramento Office, Eric Loft California Department of Fish and Game Redding Office, Organized Sportsmen of Lassen County, Wayne Jambois USDA - NRCS, CeCi Dale-Cesmat Sierra Club, Mother Lode Chapter, Matt Bailey Sierra Club, Tolyabe Chapter, Marjorie Sills Lassen County Cattlemen's Association, Jack Hanson Nevada Division of Wildlife, Failon Office Mule Deer Foundation, Jerry Lowery Nevada Woolgrowers Association InterMountain Range Consultants