

6-21-94



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:

4320 (CA-026)
June 21, 1994

Cathy Barcomb
Comm for Preservation of Wild Horses
50 Freeport Blvd, #2
Sparks, NV 89504

Dear Cathy:

You are invited to attend a meeting for the purpose of resolving an ongoing controversy over the Susanville/Winnemucca division fence, which is located near the confluence of Frog Creek and Buffalo Creek. As you know, the controversy is over the current fence and its impacts on wild horses, livestock, and riparian management. Based on previous meetings, BLM is considering short term and long term fence proposals (see enclosed maps).

The meeting will be held in the conference room at Bruno's Cafe in Gerlach, on June 29, at 9:00 AM.

If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to have input into the process, please write to the Eagle Lake Resource Area, or contact Steve Surian or Ken Visser of my staff at (916) 257-0456.

Sincerely,

Linda D. Hansen
Linda D. Hansen
Area Manager

Enclosure
As stated

FROG/BUFFALO CREEK FENCE PROPOSAL

Background: Andrew Jackson is permittee for cattle on the Winnemucca District side of the fence. Espil Sheep Company Inc. is permittee for cattle and sheep on the Eagle Lake Resource Area.

The following proposals were developed by both BLM districts following a July 1993 field meeting.

Comment item

- A. Current Proposal: repair present gates and fences.

When the Jacksons turn out on April 1st in Buffalo Hills, they will close gate 3 at the base of Wrangler Canyon. (This gate prevents Jackson cattle drifting down Buffalo Creek Canyon.) When they leave Buffalo Hills they will be responsible for opening gate 3. The gate must be opened by November 1st each year. Gate 3 will remain open on non-use years unless Espil has a problem with cattle drifting up Buffalo Creek Canyon, in which event he may close the gate. He will then be responsible for reopening it by November 1st.

- B. Current gates 1 and 2 will be closed by Espil on alternate years when he enters the north pasture of Twin Peaks Allotment and reopened when he leaves every year, or no later than November 1st. Espil's season of use alternates yearly between March 1 to December 31 and July 1 to December 31. However, due to weather conditions, he usually turns out after March 31. November 1 will always be the cut-off date for gate openings. On years when the Jacksons precede Espil into the area, they will close gates 1, 2 and 3.

- C. Espil will open the gates when he leaves his north pasture or by November 1, whichever is earliest.

When any and/or all gates are left open for the winter, they will be wired open to prevent their being inadvertently closed during the winter.

Both Susanville District and Winnemucca District will check with permittees to see if fences are open by November 1. Someone from

either district will also physically check to see if the gates are open and wired.

- D. Future Fence Proposal: fence as outlined in blue on the enclosed map. At #5 both a gate and cattle guard will be installed. Gate #1 will be removed. Espil will remove and return the fence removed to its original position.

- E. The enclosed area, as seen on the map, will become a Susanville riparian exclosure. Gate #2 will be moved west up the canyon and placed in the new fence before the fence ties into the canyon wall. The old fence from #1 to #2 will be removed to prevent animals getting trapped. Responsibility for the opening and closing of new gate #2 will be the same as before the new fence was constructed.

FROG/BUFFALO CREEK FENCE PROPOSAL

I. Background.

Andrew Jackson is permitted for cattle on the Buffalo Hills Allotment, Winnemucca District. Espil Sheep Company Inc. is permitted for cattle and sheep on the Twin Peaks Allotment, Susanville District, Eagle Lake Resource Area. Both permittees would be affected by the fence proposals. The fences are also the boundaries for the Buffalo Hills and the Twin Peaks Herd Management Areas.

II. Proposed Action.

The following proposals were drafted from input following a field tour during July 1993.

A. Short Term (Immediate)

Repair present gates and fences, and implement the following stipulations:

1. When the Jacksons turn out on April 1st in Buffalo Hills Allotment, they will close gate 3 (map reference # 3) at the base of Wrangler Canyon. This gate prevents Jackson cattle drifting down Buffalo Creek Canyon. When they leave Buffalo Hills they will be responsible for opening gate 3. The gate must be opened by November 1st each year. Gate 3 will remain open on non-use years unless Espil has a problem with cattle drifting up Buffalo Creek Canyon, in which event he may close the gate. He will then be responsible for reopening it by November 1st.
2. Current gates 1 and 2 (map references 1& 2) will be closed by Espil on alternate years when he enters the north pasture of Twin Peaks Allotment and reopened when he leaves every year, or no later than November 1st. Espil's season of use alternates yearly between March 1 to December 31 and July 1 to December 31. However, due to weather conditions, he usually turns out after March 31. November 1 will always be the cut-off date for gate openings. On years when the Jacksons precede Espil into the area, they will close gates 1, 2 and 3.

Espil will open the gates when he leaves his north pasture or by November 1, whichever is earliest.

3. When any and/or all gates are left open for the winter, they will be wired open to prevent their being inadvertently closed.

4. Both Susanville District and Winnemucca District will check with permittees to see if fences are open by November 1. Someone from either district will also physically check to see if the gates are wired open.

D. Long Term (2-4 years)

1. Construct fence A, as outlined in blue on the attached map. At map reference # 5 both a gate and cattle guard will be installed. Gate #1 would be removed.

2. The enclosed area, as seen on the map, would become a riparian exclosure. The old fence from #1 to #2 will be removed to prevent trapping animals. Responsibility for the opening and closing of new gate #2 would remain the same.

FROG/BUFFALO CREEK PROPOSALS

