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September 20, 1994

Mrs. Linda Hansen
Bureau of Land Management
705 Hall Street
Susanville, California 96130-3730

Dear Mrs. Hansen:

After reviewing the proposals on the Susanville/Winnemucca division fence on Frog Creek and the North Fork of Buffalo Creek I would like to offer the following comments.

I find the first proposal to repair the present gate and fences totally unacceptable. There has been nothing but problems with this fence in the past with livestock and wild horses becoming trapped in this area.

I wish to offer the following comments. As you can see by map #2 not all the fence must be removed in the North Fork of Buffalo Creek. It is a good idea to follow the new flags set by the BLM to put the fence closer to the road on the ~~east~~ side of the canyon. The fence where gate #2 is located could be left in place to help us continue to have no more than 40% utilization in the North Fork of Buffalo Creek.

I am still not convinced gate #3 or this short drift fence is needed in Wrangler Canyon, as this is a very steep and rocky canyon. If the permittees in the Buffalo Hills allotment feel it is needed, then perhaps it is. The access to gates #1 and #2 would be fairly easy. The responsibility to close gate #1 would be to he Jacksons or myself, every spring, who ever would be there first. I would take responsibility to have gate #2 open in he fall and winter and closed when deemed necessary in the spring and/or summer.

If gate #3 is needed it should be the Jacksons responsibility to keep it closed when they are in the area and open when they leave. I do not feel I will have problems with cattle entering this area. When Jacksons are not in the Buffalo Hills allotment this gate could be left open year around.

As you can see by map #3, with the new fence, livestock on both sides of the fence will have the opportunity to enter and exit the canyon more freely as there is no cross fence to stop them as before. The new fence alignment is more in tune with the natural movement of animals.

With this change in the fence there should not be any problems with the trapping of animals in the North Fork of Buffalo Canyon as before. I urge you to use common sense and choose this alternative in your decision.

If you have any questions or comments please let me know. Thank you for considering this idea to alleviate this problem.

Sincerely,


Brent Espil