

9-25-97

FILE COPY

September 25, 1997

Ms. Susan Stokke, Area Manager  
Surprise Resource Area  
Bureau of Land Management  
P>O> Box 460  
Cedarville, CA 96104-0460

Re: Removal Buckhorn and Coppersmith Herds

Dear Ms. Stokke:

Thank you for the notification of an impending capture of excess wild horses in the Buckskin and Coppersmith herds.

Perhaps I am missing some critical papers on these particular herds, and please correct me if I am in error. Currently WHOA was under the impression that AML's were determined through rangeland monitoring which established degradation that was attributable to wild horses, then only those wild horses would be removed that would restore a thriving natural ecological balance. But we find no data, no decision establishing an AML through that process. We don't know whether to protest or appeal because we haven't been able to determine how you protest or appeal an EA, when the law provides only for decision documents. What we do show in our records is that BLM entered into a Stipulated Agreement with Appellant groups in 1993, based on our withdrawal of our appeals. We do not believe BLM has yet to comply with the Stipulated Agreement of 1993.

In a conversation with NDOW and the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses I was informed that a capture on these area

occurred in 1994. Still we have no decision document in 1997. Please provide WHOA with the authority that allows the resource area to set AML's based on Environmental Assessments as required by law. There is no past or current policy that allows BLM to determine AML's based on the number of wild horses that survived in 1993.

BLM has had ample opportunity since 1989 to collect the data, analyze them, and issue a decision document, from which one could either support or challenge that decision. Failure to follow through on promises promote distrust. We want to support BLM's wild horses and burro management programs; we want managed herds. But we can't build trust on broken promises.

Most sincerely,

Dawn Y. Lappin (Mrs.)  
Director

cc: Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses

NDOW

AHPA

*Martland Sharp*