

BOB MILLER
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

CHET

3-19-96

CATHERINE BARCOMB
Executive Director



COMMISSION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

255 W. Moana Lane
Suite 207A

Reno, Nevada 89509
(702) 688-2626

March 19, 1996

Ms. Susan Stokke
Surprise Resource Area
P.O. Box 460
Cedarville, California 96104-0460

Subject: 10 Year Permits

Dear Ms. Stokke:

The Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses has received the Proposed Decisions to issue long term permits for Bunyard Ranches, Jim Cockrell, Schadler Ranches, Sam Parriott, Lazy SJ and Grove Brothers. These allotments may or may not affect wild horses. No information have been provided to support your proposed decisions.

Collection of range land monitoring data is an obligation of the Bureau of Land Management. The specific land use plans for these allotments obligated this duty in the final decisions for each of these allotments. Additional data collected, during the past 16 years, provides for proper NEPA analysis as required by Subpart 4120 of the new Federal Regulations.

In light that most permits are only termed for three to five years, there appears to be an opportunity to conduct allotment evaluations and multiple use decisions, as required by national policy. We were assured by yourself that these processes would be conducted in the Susanville District in Nevada. We support your commitment to applying proper management procedures to establish stocking rates and appropriate management levels for wild horses to achieve a thriving natural ecological balance on our public lands.

We hope that the Surprise Resource Area will make some meaningful progress in implementing of the new regulations and meeting its land use plan objectives.

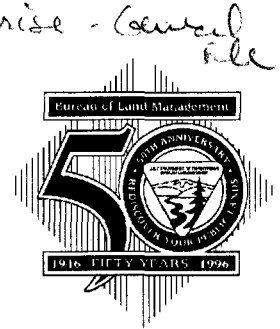
Sincerely,

Catherine Barcomb
CATHERINE BARCOMB
Executive Director



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



Surprise Resource Area
602 Cressler Street
P.O. Box 460
Cedarville, CA 96104

4700 (CA-028)

April 2, 1996

Commission for the Preservation
of Wild Horses
255 W. Moana Lane, Suite 270A
Reno, Nevada 89509

Dear Catherine:

Thank you for your letter of March 19, 1996 regarding my proposed decisions to issue long-term permits for Bunyard Ranches, Jim Cockrell, Schadler Ranches, Sam Parriott, Lazy SJ and Grove Brothers. I thought it might be helpful to clarify that of the permits we addressed in my March 11th letter, only the Jim Cockrell permit on the Sand Creek Allotment has wild horses. That area is home to the Carter Reservoir wild horse herd.

You expressed concern that we must ensure we have rangeland monitoring data to support final decisions for each of these allotments. As I shared with Roy Leach at a meeting in Reno on February 27, we aren't going to be able to complete allotment evaluations for every allotment right away. However, I am working hard to ensure that allotment evaluations are a top priority, beginning with the Selic-Alaska, Red Rock Lake, Bare, and Nevada Cowhead Allotments for FY 96/97. Only the Bare Allotment has wild horses.

The Selic-Alaska and Red Rock Lake Allotments are a part of the Tuledad Planning Unit and we hope to make a long-term decision for the management of this area in 1997. On the Nevada Cowhead Allotment we hope to revise the Allotment Management Plan to provide for management of threatened Warner Sucker habitat. The Bare Allotment is home to the Fox-Hog Herd Management area and we want to complete that allotment evaluation to facilitate a multiple-use decision for this area, hopefully in 1997.

Thank you for your continuing interest. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Susan T. Stokke
Surprise Resource Area Manager