

9-5-97



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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



September 5, 1997

In Reply Refer To:
4700 (CA-370)

Wild Horse Organized Assistance
c/o Ms. Dawn Lappin
15640 Sylvester Road
Reno, NV 89511

Dear Dawn:

On November 13, 1995, this office issued Environmental Assessment CA-028-95-08, the Decision Record and a gathering plan for removing wild horses from the Buckhorn and Coppersmith HMAs. These documents established appropriate management level ranges of 59-85 wild horses for the Buckhorn HMA and 50-75 wild horses for the Coppersmith HMA.

A removal was conducted in November, 1995 which brought the populations of these two HMAs within the established population ranges.

An aerial census conducted on September 3, 1997 showed that the populations of these two HMAs are currently exceeding the high range of the established appropriate management level ranges. Populations for the Buckhorn and the Coppersmith HMA were found to be 123 and 101, respectively.

It is planned to conduct removals in these two HMAs beginning October 1, 1997, to maintain wild horse populations within established ranges. It is anticipated that both herd management areas will be gathered completely as possible and animals over the age of 5 years old will be released back to their respective HMA. Animals 5 years or younger will be removed and placed into the BLM's Adopt a Wild Horse or Burro Program. It is estimated that approximately 50 animals will be removed from the Coppersmith HMA and 60 animals will be removed from the Buckhorn HMA.

Your interest in the Surprise Resource Area's Wild Horse and Burro program is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Susan T. Stokke
Surprise Resource Area Manager