



**COMMISSION FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES**

1105 Terminal Way

Suite 209

Reno, Nevada 89502

(702) 688-2626

September 26, 1997

*Buckhorn  
Tulcedad*

Ms. Susan T. Stokke, Area Manager  
Surprise Resource Area  
PO Box 460  
Cedarville, CA 96104

Dear Susan,

I've attached our letter dated November 2, 1995. As stated in that letter we were not opposed to the gather at that time, however, we had provided comments to the draft EA and gather plan to be considered prior to any subsequent gather. To our knowledge, it has never been done nor have we received any documentation to evaluate the data that has been collected and analyzed to show the assumptions of the EA are correct. That letter expressed our original concerns, they remain to be our concerns and we are requesting to see the data collected to determine, under the law, if this gather is necessary.

Prior to scheduling for a gather would you please provide:

- 1) wild horse use pattern mapping,
- 2) wild horse census data,
- 3) actual numbers released at the last gather and the composition by age and sex of those released, this is critical for population modeling to protect the viability of the herd,
- 4) actual use by livestock, and
- 5) actual use by wild horses.

All the above data is necessary to determine, under the 1989 IBLA ruling, if in fact wild horses are causing the damage and if they in fact need to be removed to meet resource objectives. In short, identification of the offending animal. If we had been sent this notice with more time to evaluate the information we may not be up against the gather you originally were planning, however, you have given us very short notice of your intent. We would hope in the future that you could provide the public with more time to evaluate your proposed intentions to avoid these unnecessary problems. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Barcomb*  
CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Administrator