



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SURPRISE RESOURCE AREA
P.O. BOX 460
CEDARVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96104-0460



IN REPLY REFER TO:

6700/1791 (CA028)

December 14, 1989

Terri Jay
Commission for Preservation of Wild Horses
Stewart Facility
Capital Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

Coppersmith

Dear Terri:

We have completed the ~~Surprise Resource Area~~ Camp Land Use Plan amendment process. The attached State Director decision contains the amendment to the plan and the rationale for the decision. If there are no written protests to the BLM Director, this amendment will become effective on January 15, 1990.

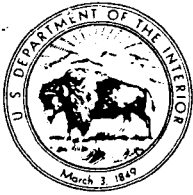
During the process, we received one written and several oral comments. Only one comment was non-supportive of the proposed amendment. In lieu of a complete grazing cancellation, cattle grazing will be allowed on the western portion of the Bicondoa Allotment.

If you have any questions regarding the amendment, please call either myself or Roger Farschon in Cedarville at 916-279-6101.

Sincerely,

J. Anthony Danna
Surprise Resource Area Manager

Enclosure (1)
Proposed Amendment



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Tuledad/Home Camp Land Use Plan Change of Livestock class in lieu of Cancellation

Proposed Amendment:

The original decision (WL 10.2) reads:

Cancel the domestic sheep permit in the Bicondoa Allotment.
Do not convert to cattle.

The proposed new decision reads:

Convert domestic sheep grazing in the Bicondoa Allotment to cattle grazing. The western portion of the allotment below 5200 foot elevation will be the use area by cattle. The remainder of the allotment will be reserved for use by bighorn sheep and other wildlife species. Cattle use will be authorized at a utilization level consistent with maintenance of the existing forage. The remaining AUMs will be placed into Suspended Non-Use.

Other Alternatives Considered:

No Action (Environmentally preferable alternative)

Decision:

Accept Proposed Amendment

Rationale:

This plan amendment was developed as part of a package of recommendations by a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency Task Force of the Modoc/Washoe Stewardship charged with working out the details and problems associated with the Hays Canyon Bighorn release. Their proposals were reviewed by the entire Stewardship Steering Committee before being forwarded to the Bureau. The amendment is an attempt to implement the Tuledad/Home Camp Management Framework Plan allocation of the Bicondoa Allotment for use by Bighorn Sheep, while at the same time reducing the economic impact to the affected permittee.

The Environmental Assessment considered the direct and indirect impacts on bighorn sheep from allowing adjacent cattle grazing and the impacts on the Bicondoa Allotment permittee and concluded that the impacts would be relatively minor with some slight additional risks to bighorn sheep being traded for reducing the economic impacts to the permittee.

Implementation Needs:

Issue livestock grazing decisions to permittee in the Bicondoa Allotment on class of livestock, season of use, utilization levels and active AUMs.

Ed Humber
State Director

11/21/87
Date