



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Region 4

Wheeler Pass

10/29/92

Toiyabe National Forest
Las Vegas Ranger District
2881 So. Valley View - Suite 16
Las Vegas, NV 89102



Reply To: 2260

Date: October 29, 1992

State of Nevada
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
ATTN: Cathy Barcomb
Stewart Facility
Capial Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are developing a management plan for the Spring Mountain Wild Horse and Burro Territory/Herd Management Area. We are directed to develop such a plan to better manage the wild free-roaming horses and to insure they are in a thriving ecological balance with the ecosystem and all other uses.

The scoping process provides the public with an opportunity to review and respond to management activities proposed on National Forest System and Public Lands. Your response is appreciated and will allow the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to adequately analyze this proposal. Written comments on the proposed plan are preferred, however, we will accept comments over the phone.

Questions regarding this proposal should be referred to George Perkins of my staff at the above address or at (702) 873-8800.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]
for JUAN M. PALMA
Acting District Ranger

FAY 202 1599

Enclosure



Caring for the Land and Serving People

SCOPING DOCUMENT

PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SPRING MOUNTAIN WILD HORSE TERRITORY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Las Vegas Ranger District
Toiyabe National Forest
Clark County, Nevada

I. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

A. Location and General Size of Area Involved

A large portion of the Spring Mountains was congressionally designated as a wild horse territory in 1971. Public Law 92-195, commonly known as the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act resulted in approximately 200,000 acres of the Spring Mountains receiving this designation. The original Las Vegas Ranger District (58,000 acres) did not have any wild horses occupying lands at the time of the Act and therefore, these National Forest System Lands are not part of the Spring Mountain Territory.

The Spring Mountain Territory became part of the National Forest System as a result of the Nevada Enhancement Act. The purpose of this proposal is to develop objectives and a management plan to determine the amount of suitable range in satisfactory condition, to coordinate wild horse use with other resources, and to maintain a thriving ecological balance.

B. Relationship to Other Plans and Documents

The land involved with this proposal is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Las Vegas Ranger District, Toiyabe National Forest and the Stateline Resource Area, Las Vegas District, of the Bureau of Land Management.

The Spring Mountain wild horse territory is managed under standards and guidelines contained in the Toiyabe Land Management Plan (LMP) and the Bureau of Land Management's Management Framework Plan (MFP) and the BLM's draft Resource Management Plan (RMP).

The Toiyabe LMP requires:

1. Develop ... plans for all active ... wild free-roaming horse and burro territories.
2. Describe ecological sites, develop SCORE cards to rate ecological status and resource values, and define management strategies for rangeland management.
3. Strive to achieve or maintain a minimum of 60 percent ground cover on upland rangelands with the exceptions of ... crested wheatgrass seedings, pinyon/juniper types....
4. Achieve or maintain rangeland in satisfactory condition which is defined as: (1) having a resource value rating (RVR) of 50 or above for vegetation or other features: or (2) being in a mid-succession or higher class of ecological status; and (3) having a stable or upward trend in soil and vegetation.
5. Develop ... plans in consultation with all parties involved, ..., state, or other federal agencies, and any other organizations or individuals.

The BLM's MFP requires:

1. Manage wild horse ... populations in Clark County within the boundaries of the ... Spring Mountain Range.
2. Determine population levels of wild horses ... through a range monitoring system, and the Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP) process. Manage for existing numbers in 1983.
3. Develop ... plans in the following priority and as scheduled ... Spring Mountains (FY 85).
4. Insure water remains available for wild horses ... at those water sources ... where wild horse ... use has been identified.
5. Improve habitat for wild, free-roaming horses ... in the designated ... areas.
6. Initiate controlled burns on Lovell Canyon, Trout Canyon, Lovell Wash, Wallace Canyon, and Wheeler Canyon areas for habitat improvement. Use modified suppression on fires from natural causes, such as lightning, in the Spring Mountains, Seed burned areas with suitable forage species. Identify specific areas and acreages through territory management plans.

C. Nature of Decision to be Made

Which management practices will best meet the basic resources of soil, water, and vegetation?

How will wild horses be managed to provide for the protection and maintenance of these resources?

What management practices will be developed and implemented to provide for both wild horses and wildlife habitat and forage?

What is an appropriate management level for wild horses and what range conditions or population levels will trigger the need for action to reduce the wild horse population?

time maintaining w/ winter on or off

II. IDENTIFIED LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

key areas for spring area

The following issues and concerns have been identified by the Forest Service:

winter use

1. Some areas of the Spring Mountain territory contain plants which have been heavily grazed causing these plants to lose vigor and to be replaced by less palatable and less desirable plants.
2. Impacts to rare and endemic plant species caused by wild horse activities.
3. Cumulative impacts to rare and endemic plant species created by wild horse use.
4. Potential impacts to rare and endemic plant species from wild horse use.
5. Potential introduction of non-desirable plant species carried into the area by the seasonal movement of wild horses.
6. Impacts of wild horses on wildlife and springs.
7. Maintaining the free-roaming nature of wild horses while protecting critical and unique plant and animal habitats.

critical habitat

These identified preliminary issues and concerns are not all-inclusive, but are provided as a starting point for public input and to assist in identifying additional interdisciplinary team or resource specialist input needed for completion of the environmental analysis.

III. TIMING NEEDS OR REQUIREMENTS

The public is encouraged to participate throughout the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) environmental analysis process, which is expected to be completed by January 15, 1993. Individuals and organizations on the Las Vegas Ranger District mailing list will receive a copy of the scoping document. Comments should be addressed to: District Ranger, 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public comments received during the scoping process will be used in developing the necessary NEPA document. The level of NEPA documentation will depend on the comments received and significance of the identified impacts. Comments received will assist the Forest Service in determining the scope of the issues and to identify those significant issues related to this proposal early in the analysis process.

BOB MILLER
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

CATHERINE BARCOMB
Executive Director



**COMMISSION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES**

Stewart Facility
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 687-5589

COMMISSIONERS

Dan Keiserman,
Las Vegas, Nevada

Michael Kirk, D.V.M.,
Reno, Nevada *Chairman*

Paula S. Askew
Carson City, Nevada

Steven Fulstone
Smith Valley, Nevada

Dawn Lappin
Reno, Nevada

December 4, 1992

George Perkins
Toiyabe National Forest
Las Vegas Ranger District
2881 So. Valley View - Suite 16
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Dear Mr. Perkins,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the development of a management plan for the Spring Mountain Wild Horse and Burro Territory/Herd Management Area.

We would first like to commend you for identifying the need to develop such a plan to better manage the wild free-roaming horses and to insure they are in a thriving ecological balance with the ecosystem.

Our only recommendation would be that you time your monitoring with livestock coming on or going off of an area. Also, you need to identify your key areas, critical spring use, and key habitat such as critical winter use areas for monitoring and assuring protection of those areas.

If you have any questions, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Barcomb".

CATHERINE BARCOMB
Executive Director



August 10, 1992

District Ranger
Toiyabe National Forest
2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Dear District Ranger:

We are pleased to give comments during your scoping period for your proposal to gather and remove wild horses from Lee Canyon and Mt. Charleston Wilderness Area.

The following are our comments we would like incorporated into your scoping period:

That alternative mitigating measures besides removal be investigated to prevent expansion of wild horse herds into territories they did not occupy prior to the Act. (ie: fencing, water development, etc.)

That determinations are made as to why horses are migrating outside their areas. (ie: excess numbers, grazing pressures from other herbivores, encroachment of their territories by mining or development, etc.)

That special consideration be given to wild horses in a multiple use area because wild horses are limited to areas they were found in 1971. Other users have essentially no limits.

That monitoring and inventorying recommendations by the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board be used as guidelines for monitoring and inventorying wild horses and burros. (Copy enclosed)

We would like to again notify you that our Reno office of ISPMB has closed. We look forward to participating with you in the management of these wild horses.

For ISPMB,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Karen A. Sussman', is written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Karen A. Sussman, President



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
Fax (702) 687-3983
(702) 687-4065

August 5, 1992

George Perkins
Toiyabe National Forest
Las Vegas Ranger District
2881 So. Valley View - Suite 16
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Re: SAI NV # 92300192 Project: Scoping, Wild Horse Round
Up in Lee Canyon & Mount Charleston
Wilderness Area

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Attached are the comments from the Nevada Division of Forestry, and the Division of State Lands concerning the above referenced project. These comments constitute the State Clearinghouse review of this proposal as per Executive Order 12372. Please address these comments or concerns in your final decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Sparks II".

Ron Sparks II
State Clearinghouse Coordinator

Enclosures

DIVISION OF
STATE PLANNING

Nevada State Clearinghouse

	ADMIN.	
	PL III	
	PL II	
	RW II	
	RW I	
	TECH	
	MA	
	WP	
	CD	
	TAHOE	
	FILE	

Department of Administration
Budget Division
Blasdel Bldg, Rm. 204
Carson City, Nv. 89710
687-4065

'92 JUL -7 A10:51

DATE: July 6, 1992

TO:

- Governor's Office
- Agriculture
- Colorado River Cmsn.
- Communications Bd.
- Community Services
- Economic Development
- Fire Marshal
- Human Resources
- Aging Services
- Health Division
- Health Protection

- Legislative Counsel Bureau
- Minerals
- Nuclear Projects Ofc.
- PSC
- Tourism
- Transportation
- UNR Mines Bureau
- UNR Library
- Wild Horse Commission
- Wildlife
- Natural Heritage

- Conservation-Natural Resources:
- Director's Office
- State Lands
- Environmental Protection
- Forestry
- Historic Preservation
- Conservation Districts
- State Parks
- Water Resources
- Water Planning

Nevada SAI # 92300192

Project: Scoping, Wild Horse Round-UP in Lee Canyon & Mount Charleston Wilderness Area

CLEARINGHOUSE NOTES:

Attached, for your review and comment, is a copy of the above mentioned project. Please evaluate it with respect to its effect on your plans and programs; the importance of its contribution to state and/or local areawide goals and objectives; and its accord with any applicable laws, orders or regulations with which you are familiar.

Please submit your comments no later than August 7, 1992. Use the box below for short comments. If significant comments are provided, please use agency letterhead and include the Nevada SAI number and comment due date for our reference.


THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY REVIEWING AGENCY:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No comment on this project <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal supported as written <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional information below | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Conference desired (See below) <input type="checkbox"/> Conditional support (See below) <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproval (Explain below) |
|---|---|

AGENCY COMMENTS:

If the federal code of regulations requires that wild horses be managed in the areas where they existed at the time of enactment then there should not be any question on whether the wild horses in Lee Canyon and other areas outside their territory should be removed or not. The only questions should be on how they will be removed and when.

The issues and concerns identified by the Forest Service have no bearing since those impacts won't occur if all the wild horses are removed as they are required to be.

Signature  Date 8-6-92

RECEIVED

AUG 06 1992

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Nevada State Clearinghouse

Department of Administration
 Budget Division
 Blasdel Bldg, Rm. 204
 Carson City, Nv. 89710
 687-4065

DATE: July 6, 1992

TO:

- Governor's Office
- Agriculture
- Colorado River Cmsn.
- Communications Bd.
- Community Services
- Economic Development
- Fire Marshal
- Human Resources
- Aging Services
- Health Division
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Nevada SAI # 92300192

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RECEIVED

JUL 08 1992

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- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No comment on this project | <input type="checkbox"/> Conference desired (See below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proposal supported as written | <input type="checkbox"/> Conditional support (See below) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional information below | <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproval (Explain below) |

AGENCY COMMENTS:

THE DIVISION OF FORESTRY IS IN SUPPORT OF REMOVING THE WILD HORSES FROM LEE & KYLE CANYON WILDLANDS. THE DIVISION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING "EMERGENCY SERVICES" IN THE MT. CHARLESTON FIRE DISTRICT AND HAS RESPONDED TO NUMEROUS HORSE VS. VEHICLE ACCIDENTS; MANY OF THESE ACCIDENTS CAUSING LOSS OF LIFE. IN 1973 WILDHORSES CAUSE AN ACCIDENT ON KYLE CANYON HIGHWAY KILLING 4 OUT OF A FAMILY OF 5. HORSES ARE EXTREME HAZARDS ALONG THE ROAD ESPECIALLY DURING EARLY SPRING AND EARLY FALL, AS ROADSIDE VEGETATION APPEARS TO ATTRACT THE HORSES.

Signature: [Signature] Date: 7/8/92



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road
P.O. Box 10678
Reno, Nevada 89520-0022
(702) 688-1500

BOB MILLER
Governor

Fax (702) 688-1595

WILLIAM A. MOLINI
Director

Region III III-93-024
State Mailroom Complex
Las Vegas, Nevada 89158
July 22, 1992

Juan Palma, Acting District Ranger
Las Vegas Ranger District
Toiyabe National Forest
2881 So. Valley View, Suite 16
Las Vegas, NV 89102

RE: 2260

Dear Mr. Palma:

The proposal to gather wild horses which are occupying and using lands located in Lee Canyon and the Mount Charleston wilderness area has been reviewed by Habitat personnel in Las Vegas.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife is charged with the management of wildlife within the State of Nevada, and, as such, has exhibited concern relative to horses and burros, which are considered to be wild, on numerous occasions. The condition of the range resources in the Spring Mountain Range have been identified as being in less than desirable condition. These conditions have affected wildlife resources to the point that planned Rocky Mountain elk augmentations have had to be precluded until such time that range resources are in acceptable condition. It is recognized that drought conditions in Nevada have contributed significantly to this situation; but, use by wild horses and burros and continued grazing by domestic livestock has caused this situation to intensify.

The Department is supportive of this action which would remove horses from Lee Canyon, Macks Canyon, McFarland Canyon, Trough Spring and Wallace Canyon. A plan, in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, should be devised which would allow for the removal of any of these animals which leave a recognized Horse Management Area (HMA) and allow methods which would discourage the movement back into these areas as much as possible.

Juan Palma

2

July 22, 1992

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this proposed action on the National Forest lands of Southern Nevada. If you have any questions or require additional input, please feel free to contact the Region III office of the Department at (702) 486-5127.

Sincerely,



Cornelio O. Padilla
Supervising Biologist-Habitat

COP:

cc: Habitat Division Chief
Game - Las Vegas, Pahrump
Law Enforcement - Las Vegas



July 4, 1992

George Perkins, Ranger
Las Vegas Ranger District
Toiyabe National Forest
2881 S. Valley View - Suite 16
Las Vegas, NV 89102

Re: 2260 - Scoping Statement - Wild Horse Removal from Lee Canyon and the Mt. Charleston Wilderness area.

We are in complete agreement with all the identified concerns outlined in your scoping statement.

Additionally, we and other horse owners adjacent to the target areas are troubled by the potential for the spread of disease from these small bands of feral horses and outcast herd members to the privately owned horses. Since it is the practice of the wild horses to run off their less healthy herd members, the possibility of disease in the outcast animal increases.

As studies published by the Bureau of Land Management demonstrate very high costs for the roundup and maintenance of feral, free-roaming horses, and that horses available for adoption exceed the individual demand for such animals, it is our recommendation that a contract for the roundup, removal and disposition of the wild and free-roaming horses be put out for bid to private contractors and, further, that restrictions on means of capture and disposition be as minimal as may be consistent with the interests of all concerned citizens and agencies.

Barbara C. Orcutt

Barbara C Orcutt

BCO/mf

7/22/92
[Signature]



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road
P.O. Box 10678
Reno, Nevada 89520-0022
(702) 688-1500

BOB MILLER
Governor

Fax (702) 688-1595

WILLIAM A. MOLINI
Director

Region III III-93-024
State Mailroom Complex
Las Vegas, Nevada 89158
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Las Vegas Ranger District
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Juan Palma

2

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Cornelio O. Padilla
Supervising Biologist-Habitat

COP:

cc: Habitat Division Chief
Game - Las Vegas, Pahrump
Law Enforcement - Las Vegas