November 20, 1997

Mr. Russell T. Dailey
Elko Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

Subject: Rock Creek Wild Horse Gather Plan

Dear Mr. Dailey,

The Nevada Commission of the Preservation of Wild Horses appreciates your consultation for the Mahogany Springs Wild Fire Rehabilitation Plan and Rock Creek Wild Horse Gather Plan. We recognize the emergency nature and need to exclude livestock and wild horse use from this wild fire. We appreciate the decision to not establish an appropriate management level for this herd prior to multiple use decisions for Squaw Valley and Spanish Ranch allotments.

Realizing that the removal of 145 horses from a population of 725 horses does not propose a great threat to the herd structure and viability, we are concerned with future removals under the broad policies of the Strategic Plan. The author recognizes studies of Jenkins to support the decision to remove mares five years and younger from the population. We would like the literature references that determined that six to 20 year old mares reach maximum foaling rates between 78 and 80 percent.

On page 4 and 5 addressing branded and claimed animals, category 2, discusses the inclusion of yearlings following a mare that is contrary to the MOU between the Nevada Department of Agriculture as well as in violation of Agricultural laws under the Nevada Revised Statutes.

It is also important to provide us the wild fire rehabilitation objectives and monitoring plan. Full rehabilitation

of the sites potential should be achieved prior to livestock and wild horse use of the area. We hope that the vegetation objectives will be met, rather than the broad policy of two years rest. The emergency fence that excludes wild horses should be removed when wild fire objectives have been met.

Thank you for consulting the Commission. We look forward to receiving the requested information.

Sincerely,

Catherine Barcomb
Executive Director