



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko District Office
P.O. Box 831
Elko, Nevada 89803



In Reply Refer To:
4120 (NV-015)

FEB 16 1996

Dear Interested Public:

In accordance with the Grazing Regulations, "... the authorized officer shall consult, cooperate and coordinate with affected permittees or lessees, the State having lands or responsible for managing resources within the area, and the interested public prior to issuance of nonrenewable grazing permits and leases".

Sherie Rae Goring has applied to graze 2,160 sheep on the Boone Springs Allotment from 3/01/96 to 3/31/96. The grazing permit for this allotment shows a period of use from 11/01 to 2/28, therefore the application for an extension of use is considered a temporary deviation from the grazing permit. Applications for extension of use have been approved the past few years. Although the application requests an extension, total AUMs of use would not exceed permitted use and would count towards use in the coming winter.

The Boone Springs Allotment is a medium sized winter sheep grazing area located west of Antelope Valley approximately 45 miles south of Wendover, Nevada. The application for an extension on or about March 1, 1996 is during the dormant season for the key forage plant which is winterfat/white sage. The health of the plants should not be affected when grazing occurs during the dormant season. Current monitoring data indicates that the Boone Springs Allotment receives slight to light use by wild horses prior to livestock turnout. Combined livestock and wild horse use in the Boone Springs Allotment has been in the light to moderate range. There are no streams and only two springs on this allotment. The permittee uses three wells to water his livestock in the allotment.

In addition to the standard terms and conditions regarding actual use reports and the use of salt, mineral or protein supplements, the following term and condition will apply:

The extension in period of use (3/1/96 through 3/31/96) is authorized as temporary nonrenewable use, and will not result in a permanent change to your grazing permit.

If you have any comment regarding the approval or denial of this application, please provide it to this office within 15 days of the date of this letter.

If you have any questions, please call Bruce Thompson or Karl Scheetz at (702) 753-0200.

Sincerely yours,



BILL BAKER, Manager
Wells Resource Area

cc: Sherie Rae Goring
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Nevada Division of Wildlife
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Natural Resources Defense Council
Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter
Wells Res. Area Grazing Assn.
Animal Protection Institute
Gordon Temoak
W. Shoshone Historic Preservation Society
Kathryn Cushman
Federal Land Bank
Edie Wilson
Rutgers School of Law
Von Sorenson
Wild Horse Organized Assistance
American Horse Protection Association, Inc.



**COMMISSION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES**

255 W. Moana Lane
Suite 207A

Reno, Nevada 89509
(702) 688-2626

March 4, 1996

Mr. Bill Baker
Wells Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
3900 East Idaho Street
P.O. Box 831
Elko, Nevada 89801

Subject: TNR - Boone Springs Allotment

Dear Mr. Baker:

Thank you for consulting the Commission concerning the issuance of a temporary non-renewable permit for Boone Springs Allotment. The narrative suggest that the Antelope Wild Horse Herd is at its appropriate management level for this allotment. It would appear that additional domestic sheep use should not over allocate or exceed the allowable use levels for the key species on this allotment.

We appreciate the additional information provided in the public notice.

Sincerely,

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

CATHERINE BARCOMB
Executive Director

21 Boones tm 4/15/97



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Elko Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801-4611

In Reply Refer To:

4130/4710 (NV-015)

APR 15 1997

Commission for the Preservation
of Wild Horses
1105 Terminal Way, Suite 209
Reno, NV 89502

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

This letter is in response to your correspondence of April 7, 1997, concerning the temporary change in period of use in the Boone Springs Allotment.

On March 4, 1997, in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.2 (b), the BLM issued a letter to the interested public soliciting comments regarding a proposed change in period of use on the Boone Springs Allotment. That letter contained a typographical error; the application for the extension of use was for the period of 3/19/97 to 3/31/97, not 3/19/96 to 3/31/96. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused you.

Prior to authorizing the temporary change in period of use, the Rangeland Management Specialist collected data at key area BO-O3 which is located in the Boone Canyon area and represents the area that the permittee wished to use for an additional 12 days. Data indicated light use (21-40%) on the key forage species. Because utilization was within objective levels, the extension was authorized.

The Commission is correct in assuming that an appropriate management level has not been set for the Boone Springs Allotment as the multiple use decision for the allotment has not yet been issued. The Wells Resource Management Plan Wild Horse Amendment set the initial herd size within the Antelope Valley HMA at 240. On average 26% of the horses within the Antelope Valley HMA can be found in the Boone Springs Allotment. Until an allotment evaluation and multiple use decision is issued, 62 wild horses within the Boone Springs Allotment is a reasonable number (26% of 240 = 62). However, the current population of the Antelope Valley HMA is 507, thus there are probably 131 horses in the Boone Springs Allotment.

The Boone Springs Allotment is scheduled to be evaluated together with several winter sheep allotments in 1998. All available data will be analyzed to determine if changes in grazing management, including any adjustments to livestock stocking levels and establishment of

AML for wild horses, are needed to allow for attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health. If you have any further questions or comments on this matter, please contact Bruce Thompson or Kathy McKinstry at (702) 753-02900.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clinton R. Oke", written over a horizontal line.

CLINTON R. OKE, Assistant District Manager
Renewable Resources