United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE
3900 E. IDAHO STREET
ELKO, NEVADA 89803

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4710 (NV-010)

SEP 20 1996

Dear Reader:

This letter is to inform you that the Elko District plans to remove excess wild horses from the Goshute Herd Management Area (HMA), in an attempt to achieve the established initial herd size as outlined in the approved Wells Resource Management Plan Wild Horse Amendment and Environmental Assessment. The removal will take place during the month of October, 1996. The removal is a continuation of the action addressed in the Goshute Wild Horse Gather Plan (BLM October 15, 1993), the associated environmental assessment (EA BLM/EK/PL-93/054, November 8, 1993) and the Full Force and Effect Decision for the Goshute Wild Horse Gather (BLM October 15, 1993). This removal does not constitute a new decision, since current monitoring data show the established initial herd size is still valid and the capture methods remain the same as stated in the Gather Plan/EA. Therefore, as stated in the Gather Plan, a new decision record/finding of no significant impact (DR/FONSI) is not required to achieve or maintain the established initial herd size through removal of excess animals.

The Elko District plans to remove approximately 203 wild horses starting on or about October 15, 1996. Approximately 160 horses will remain in the Goshute HMA after the removal is complete. This is the initial herd size as stated in the Wild Horse Amendment. It should be noted that the Full Force and Effect Decision for the 1993 gather was appealed by two parties. The appeals were consolidated (NV-010-94-05) and forwarded to IBLA and have yet to be decided, however, the conditions which warranted a Full Force and Effect Decision in 1993 are again present.

As this is not a new decision, it is not open to appeal. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy McKinstry, Wild Horse Specialist, at (702) 753-0200.

Sincerely yours,

CLINTON R. OKE, Manager
Renewable Resources