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United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Elko Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801-4611
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

In Reply Refer To:
4130 (NV-012)

CURRIE ALLOTMENT TEMPORARY CHANGE IN PERIOD OF USE GRAZING APPLICATION

Dear Interested Public:

JUN -8 2001

On May 30, 2001, Kay and Mary Lear applied to turnout 12 days early into the Cottonwood Canyon, Dry Canyon and Calf/Lower McDermid Canyon pastures due to drought conditions in the Currie area. The Currie Allotment Management Plan (AMP) describes the livestock grazing period of use for the summer range from July 1 to September 30 for the Cottonwood, and Calf/McDermid Canyon pastures. The season of use for the Dry Canyon pasture is from July 1 to September 15. Use from June 19 to June 30 would be a temporary change in period of use for the 2001 grazing season. The Maverick/Medicine Complex Evaluation outlined the season of use for the summer range as June 15 to July 15 annually. The Maverick/Medicine Complex Final Multiple Use Decision is expected to be mailed to the public in early June 2001.

The Currie Allotment is a large sized cattle grazing allotment located in Steptoe Valley and the northern portion of the Cherry Creek Mountains, approximately 50 miles south of Wells, Nevada. The Cottonwood, Dry, and Calf/Lower McDermid Canyon Pastures are located in the western portion of the allotment (see attached map). There are numerous springs within the Cottonwood, and Calf/Lower McDermid Canyon pastures. There is one seep within the Dry Canyon pasture. McDermid Creek is located in Lower McDermid Canyon. Cottonwood Creek is located in Cottonwood Canyon. Approval of the grazing application is consistent with multiple use objectives.

A portion of the Antelope Valley Herd Management Area (HMA) occurs within this allotment. This allotment receives moderate use by wild horses.

Kay and Mary Lear share the Currie Allotment with Carol Sherman. (Mr. Sherman's use is restricted to winter use). Total active grazing privileges on this allotment are 5,369 AUMs with a period of use from March 1 - February 28.

In addition to Elko Field Office standard grazing stipulations, the following stipulations would be part of the approval of this application. Utilization criteria will be outlined below: Upon meeting any one of the criterion, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

- Utilization of the key forage herbaceous species will not exceed 50 percent.

- Utilization of bitterbrush in Calf/Lower McDermid Canyon pasture will not exceed 25 percent.
- Utilization on aspen and willows will not exceed 20 percent of current years growth.
- Utilization on riparian areas will not exceed a 4 inch stubble height on herbaceous riparian species.

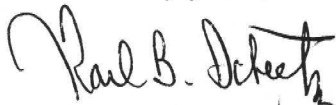
The change in period of use (June 19 through June 30) is authorized as a temporary deviation from the term permit and will not result in a permanent change to the grazing permit.

Total AUMs will not exceed permitted use within the Cottonwood, Dry, and Calf/Lower McDermid Canyon pastures.

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 non-renewable grazing permits and leases". If you have any comments regarding the approval or denial of this application, please provide them to this office by June 18, 2001.

If you have any questions, please call Bruce Thompson, the assigned rangeland management Specialist at (775) 753-0200.

Sincerely yours,


for CLINTON R. OKE
Assistant Field Manager
for Renewable Resources

enclosure: Allotment Map

cc: Nevada Cattlemen's Assoc.
Nevada Division of Wildlife - Elko
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Wild Horse Organized Assistance (WHOA)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Elko Board of County Commissioners
Resource Concepts Inc.
Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office

HTT Resource Advisors
Carol Sherman
Committee for Idaho's High Desert
Western Watersheds Project