

ELKO

ROCK  
CREEK

WF 9-18-01

**Subject:**

**Date:** Tue, 18 Sep 2001 15:10:51 -0700

**From:** Kathy\_McKinstry@nv.blm.gov

**To:** <mustangs@govmail.state.nv.us>

Hi Cathy,

I wanted to let you know that the Elko Office had a major wildland fire within the Rock Creek HMA on August 12-19, 2001. The fire burned 21,158 acres and it is being proposed to seed the burn and fence it to protect the seeding from grazing by livestock and wild horses. It is also being proposed to gather approximately 250 wild horses that were counted in the area of the burn during a June 2001 census.

The HMA is scheduled to be gathered in the summer of 2002. There were 1675 horses counted and AML is anticipated to be 250. The fence probably won't be constructed until late winter 2002 (Feb-March), so it may be possible to wait on the horse gather until then and not have to do a "fire emergency" gather. I have brought forward wild horse concerns with fencing in an HMA. I realize that the burn needs to be protected but in the long term, the fence and conflicts with wild horses must be analyzed. At this point it appears that the fence will be temporary. Once resource objectives are met, the fence would be taken out and grazing would be allowed to resume.

We have a new range con for the Spanish Ranch/Squaw Valley allotments. His name is Chris Robbins, and he will be completing the MASR/PMUD/FMUD for the allotments this winter. I'm sure information concerning the recent fire will be included and you will be receiving those documents.

I don't believe the EA for the rehabilitation of the fire is going out to the public, however it will be available for review. Please let me know if you would like to see this EA.

Hope all is going well and that you haven't been visited by any more rattlesnakes!

Kathy