



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE
3900 E. IDAHO STREET
ELKO, NEVADA 89801

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4130 (NV-010)

OCT 11 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 non-renewable grazing permits and leases".

On October 9, 1996, Pete Paris (authorized representative for the Paris Livestock Company grazing permit) applied to graze 1,800 sheep in the Belmont Field of the Mitchell Creek Allotment from October 28, 1996 to November 5, 1996 and 2,000 sheep in the Red Rock Native Field of the Red Rock Allotment from October 28, 1996 to November 10, 1996. The application amounts to 107 AUMs on the Mitchell Creek Allotment and 184 AUMs on the Red Rock Allotment which is within the permitted use for AUMs for both allotments. The grazing permit dates for the Mitchell Creek Allotment are June 1 to June 30 and the grazing permit dates for the Red Rock Allotment are May 5 to July 5. Therefore, the above described application requests use outside the permit dates for the allotments.

On April 24, 1996 a grazing license was issued to Paris Livestock Company for grazing sheep in the Mitchell Creek Allotment authorizing grazing for the period May 13, 1996 to May 31, 1996 for 78 AUMs. This part of the license does not exceed permitted use of 220 AUMs for the Mitchell Creek Allotment. The October 9, 1996, application described above would bring the scheduled use for 1996 on the Mitchell Creek Allotment from 78 AUMs to 185 AUMs which is still within permitted AUM use for the allotment. The same grazing license issued to Paris Livestock Company on April 24, 1996, also authorized grazing in the Red Rock Allotment from April 28, 1996 to July 20, 1996, for 1,076 AUMs. This part of the license does not exceed permitted use of 1,385 AUMs for the Red Rock Allotment. The October 9, 1996, application described above would bring the scheduled use for 1996 on the Red Rock Allotment from 1,076 AUMs to 1,260 AUMs which is still within permitted AUM use for the allotment. This application for use in the Mitchell Creek and Red Rock Allotments would be, as previously mentioned, outside the permitted use dates for both allotments. Therefore, the application dated October, 9, 1996, would be authorized as a temporary deviation from the grazing permit dates of the Paris Livestock grazing permit.

The Native Field of the Red Rock Allotment falls within the Diamond Hills Wild Horse Herd

✓ 2: Red Rocks 10/11/96
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Area. The Belmont Field of the Mitchell Creek Allotment is not within a wild horse herd area.

Approval of the grazing application is consistent with multiple use objectives for this allotment and will not interfere with existing livestock operations on public lands.

In addition to Elko District standard grazing stipulations, the following terms and conditions would be part of the approval of this application.

Utilization of the key forage species at the key area will not exceed 50 percent. When 50 percent utilization is achieved, the sheep will be removed within 3 days.

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 Chuck Petersen at (702) 753-0359.

Sincerely yours,



CLINTON R. OKE
Assistant District Manager
Renewable Resources

cc: Paris Livestock Co.
Merkley Ranches
Wilfred Bailey
Pete Goicoechea
USF&WS, Reno
Natural Resources Defense Council
Resource Concepts, Inc.
Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Land Action Association
Nevada Division of Wildlife
Elko Board of County Commissioners
Nevada State Department of Agriculture
Animal Protection Institute
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Anna Charlton
Wild Horse Organized Assistance

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE DETERMINATION OF NEPA COMPLIANCE

Documentation File (where original will be filed): Paris Livestock Co. Case File

Name of Proposed Action: Temporary Non-Renewable Grazing Use on the Red Rock and Mitchell Creek Allotments

Applicant: Paris Livestock Co.

EA/EIS in which the proposed action has been addressed: Final Elko Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement BLM/EK/PT 86/10/1792

Legal Description: T27N, R56E (Mitchell Creek); T26N, T27N, T28N, R53E, R54E, R55E (Red Rock)

This action is in conformance with the Elko RMP; Issue Livestock Grazing Use: Decisions # 1, 5 page 20.

Proposed Action Summary: The Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Elko Resource Management Plan analyzed the impacts of grazing on public lands. The impacts were analyzed through several alternatives which examined various levels of resource use including grazing. The selected management decisions were documented in the Record of Decision for the Elko RMP dated 3/11/87. The Mitchell Creek Allotment is an I category allotment and is number 31 on the priority list for future planning efforts. The Red Rock Allotment is an I category allotment and is number 18 on the priority list for future planning efforts.

The proposed action would authorize a temporary deviation from the grazing permit dates as listed on the Paris Livestock Co. grazing permit for Mitchell Creek (Belmont Field) and Red Rock (Native) Allotments.

(Specific stipulations/mitigating measures from the original EA may be attached on a separate sheet of paper.)

Check-off the following criteria (if not applicable, an EACX must be completed):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1. The proposed action is a feature of, or essentially the same as, the alternative selected and analyzed in the existing documents. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2. A reasonable range of alternatives was analyzed in the existing document. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 3. There has been no significant change in circumstances or significant new information germane to the proposed action. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 4. The methodology/analytical approach previously used is appropriate for the proposed action. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are not significantly different than those identified in the existing document. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 6. The proposed action would not change the previous analysis or cumulative impacts. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 7. Public involvement in the previous analysis provides appropriate coverage for the proposed action. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 8. Cultural inventory completed, and a "Negative Report", or a report with only isolates documented. |

RMP Conformance and NEPA Compliance Review:


Preparer

EC Initials

Division Manager (non-delegated actions only)

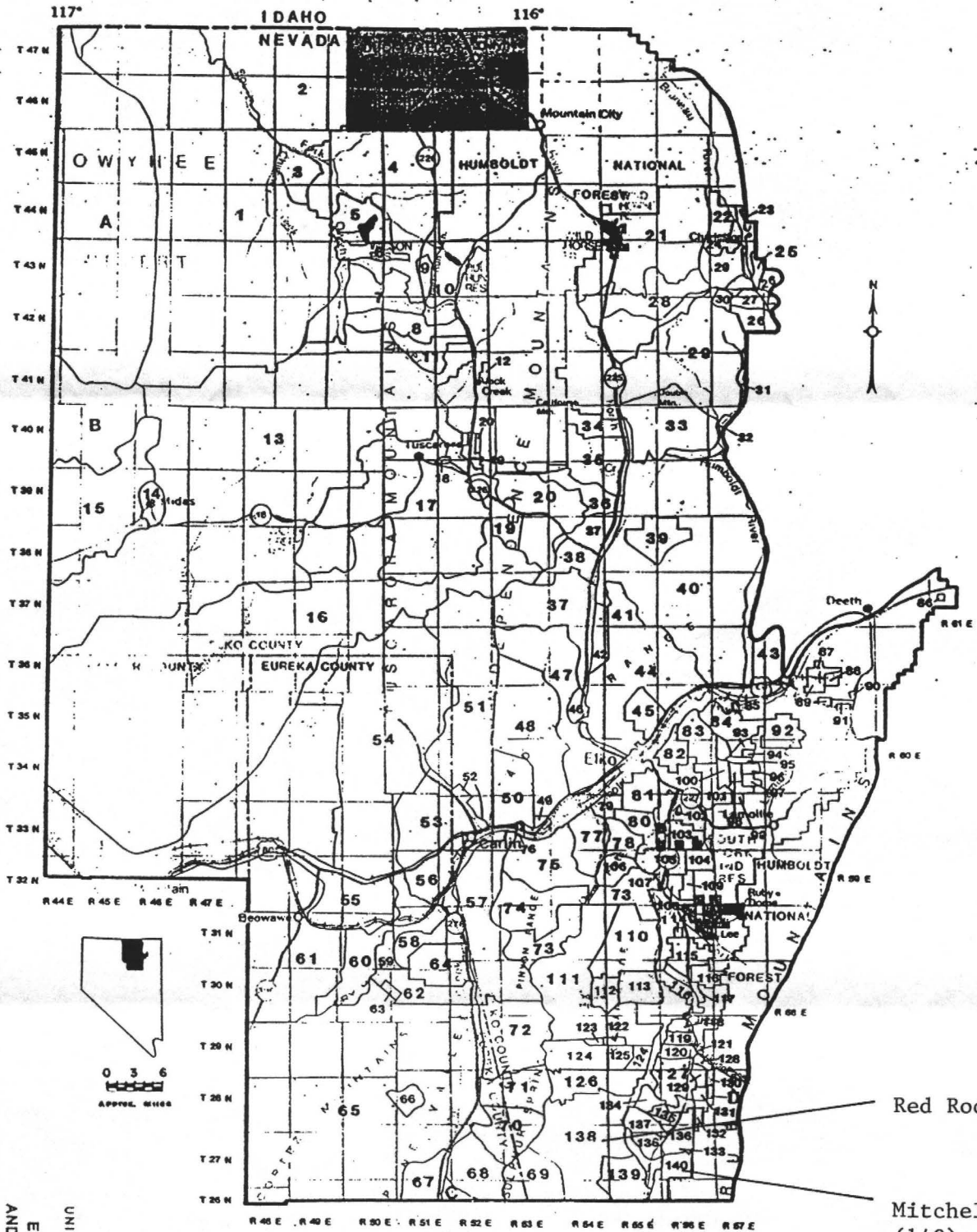
I have determined this action has been covered by a previous NEPA analysis and is in conformance with the land use plan. It is my decision to implement the action, as described, with the attached mitigation measures (if any).

Approved By:

Authorized Officer*

Date

*District Manager's signature for non-delegated or District-wide actions, otherwise signed by the Division Manager



Red Rock (138)

Mitchell Creek (140)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 ELKO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
 AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES



COMMISSION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

1105 Terminal Way
Suite 209

Reno, Nevada 89502
(702) 688-2626

October 24, 1996

Ms. Helen Hankins
Elko District
Bureau of Land Management
3900 East Idaho Street
P.O. Box 831
Elko, Nevada 89803

Subject: Red Rocks Allotment TNR - North Diamond Hills HMA

Dear Ms. Hankins:

Thank you for providing the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses an opportunity to review and comment on grazing authorizations in the Red Rock Allotment of the North Diamond Hills Wild Horse Herd Area.

On October 10, 1996 three BLM Districts and affected interests met to discuss the wild horse herds associated with the Diamond Range in Nevada. At this meeting, BLM disclosed the most recent wild horse survey and rangeland monitoring data. Elko District could not provide any use pattern mapping data collected on allotments within the North Diamond Hills HMA. Ely District initiated the need for emergency gathers, Battle Mountain District strived for an "interim number" for immediate gathers and the Elko District suggested a gather to achieve the original land use plan initial stocking rates. It was obvious to the affected interests that BLM desires an immediate wild horse gather, but could not determine the proper rationale to succeed.

In the previous meetings in August, Elko District's, Mr. Clint Oke insisted that any management action would require data with rationale to justify any wild horse gather.

It would appear any grazing authorization in the herd management areas should also require data and rationale.

Ms. Helen Hankins
October 24, 1996
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If use pattern mapping data specific to wild horse use of HMAs can justify emergency gathers, then it would appear that additional temporary non-renewable use would be inappropriate. Any lack of use pattern mapping data would fail to provide any supportive rationale to authorize additional use to the HMA.

In the interest of addressing the wild horse issue in the Diamond Mountains, we request additional insight on these authorizations in the Elko District.

Sincerely,



CATHERINE BARCOMB
Executive Director

cc. Jerry Smith, Battle Mountain
Eureka County
Gene Kokeman, Ely