



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office
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<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



2003 DEC -8 AM 11:27

In Reply Refer To:
 4720 (NV-930)

Michael Turnipseed, Director
 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
 123 W. Nye Lane, Room 230
 Carson City, Nevada 89706-0818

DEC 05 2003

Dear Mr. Turnipseed: *Mike*

In recent months, several issues have emerged which have resulted in increased conflict between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses. As you know, BLM Nevada is within reach of achieving appropriate management levels (AMLs) of wild horses and burros on the range for the first time in memory. Achieving this goal is of paramount importance to Nevadans, the national wild horses and burro program, and the rangelands on which multiple species depend. As a result, I am deeply concerned about anything that may jeopardize those efforts.

In order to remain on track with the national strategy to achieve AML in 2005, I have established two key priorities for Nevada field office staff in fiscal years 2004 and 2005: (1) establishing AMLs for remaining herd management areas, and (2) achieving AML on the range. Both goals represent a significant workload for Nevada field office staff. In order to be successful, our wild horse and burro staff must stay focused on achieving these goals. To assure that BLM staff can focus on these priorities, I need your help.

It is my impression that during the past several months, numerous contacts with various BLM staff have been made by Administrator Barcomb, often regarding the same issue. I am deeply concerned that this has led to inefficient use of BLM staff time and that priority wild horse and burro program work has suffered as a result.

First, I would like to request copies of all e-mails, correspondence, or conversation records between Commission Administrator Barcomb and any BLM office or staff during June 2003, to the present. I would like to receive this information by January 1, 2004, with the hope that my staff and I can obtain a more comprehensive picture of the types of issues and concerns in which the Commission has expressed interest. An analysis of those concerns will let us work together to resolve these issues in the most efficient and productive manner possible.

Second, I want to let you know that I am designating Susie Stokke, Wild Horse and Burro Program Lead, as the central point of contact for all wild horse issues and concerns within BLM Nevada. I ask for your help in ensuring that any Commission issues or concerns be directed to Susie, who can be reached at (775) 861-6469. Susie will then refer questions/concerns to the appropriate BLM office staff, and will get back to the Commission with a response as soon as reasonably practical. I believe this change will result in a more effective and efficient use of staff time and will assist in working towards the Commission's stated goal of reducing conflict and improving communication and cooperation.

Issues and concerns related to the Palomino Valley Corral facility or the National Program Office's areas of responsibility should be referred to Dean Bolstad at (775) 861-6583.

We are at a critical crossroad in Nevada, and it is essential that BLM staff have every opportunity to focus on establishing and achieving AML. I am confident that the above approach will result in a more effective and efficient use of BLM staff time. I am also hopeful that conflict will be reduced and communications and cooperation between BLM and the Commission will be improved as a result.

Thank you for your help with this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Robert V. Abbey
State Director, Nevada

cc:
NPO (Dean Bolstad)
WO-260 (Jeff Rawson)

R. MICHAEL TURNIPSEED, P.E.
Director

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Natural Heritage Program
Wild Horse Program

STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 12, 2003

Robert Abbey
State Director, BLM
P. O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520-0006

Dear Bob;

Cathy Barcomb, Administrator of the Wild Horse Program, and I had a conversation this morning, December 12th regarding your letter of December 5, 2003. Although we do not keep copies of phone calls and sometimes emails can be lost, Cathy is going to construct a list of her concerns that she has conveyed to BLM state office and various BLM district offices and with whom she may have spoken.


I have instructed her that all future communications with BLM regarding the Wild Horse Program shall go through Susie Stokke at the number listed, or through Dean Bolstad if the issues are related to the Palomino Valley Corral facility or the National Program. I have asked her to stay focused in her future dealings with the BLM in regards to the Wild Horse Program. She needs only to concern herself with Wild Horse numbers, health, and habitat. In that regard, however, she told me that she just received twelve HMA's from Ely District, and she doesn't feel like there is enough information on total caring capacity for her to make a proper evaluation.

Perhaps the districts could supply more information that supports what is being proposed and everyone could make better decisions. The state of Nevada, I as the Director of Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses stands ready to assist you in any way we can in order for you to meet your goals.

I would agree with your last sentence on page one of your December 5th letter, we must work together in order to do our very best to protect our natural resources on the public lands in the state of Nevada.

If I can be of further assistance or if you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



R. Michael Turnipseed, P.E.

Director

cc: Steve Robinson

Cathy Barcomb