

Nellis  
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COPY

Mustang Meeting

The meeting was held at the Las Vegas District Office on September 15, 1970 from 4-6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the request of the Nevada Chapter of the National Mustang Association to report on the Mustang Range.

BLM was represented by:

Dennis E. Hess, District Manager  
Frank Bingham; Chief, Div. of Resource  
Management  
David J. Walter, Esmeralda Area Manager and  
James Brunner, Range Staff Officer

NMA was represented by:

Walter E. Clutts, President  
Richard O. Baker, Pilot  
Jerry Hughes, Director  
Carlos Black, Director  
John L. McCormack, Director  
Ellis LeFevre, Vice President

Nevada Fish and Game was represented by:

John Donaldson, Regional Manager  
George Tsukamoto, Big Game Technician

The Mustang Association had recently completed a 2-day tour of the U. S. Department of Interior Mustang Range in Nye Co. President Clutts showed a movie they had made showing numerous horses filmed from their airplane. There were films made on the ground of the water holes, all of which require immediate maintenance or rehabilitation.

The group camped at Silver Bow and toured in pickups the west side of the Mustang Range plus the area north in the Battle Mtn. District. They counted 560 horses plus 60 colts. Wackenhut personnel have prev' estimated 550 horses. The horses were mostly in the valley and west and north of the Mustang Range.

This concentration related to available water and grazing p from cattle. They reported on the following waters:

Tunnel Spring - dry or nearly so. Needs a collection box.  
Corral Spring - nearly dry, needs collection box.  
Pole Spring - pools not deep enough. Needs work.  
White Spot - not visited.  
Cedar Pass - no water in pipeline.

They stated the area was very dry, little or no growth of grasses this year. Feed is exhausted for several miles around water. Range badly cut up with trails.

Mr. Clutts suggested, because of the poor water and feed conditions, that about 100 horses be relocated this fall. They fear heavy death loss if the winter is only moderately severe. The Mustang Association does not plan to make money from any relocation, in fact, past experience has shown they lose \$250-300 per horse captured. Mr. Clutts has discussed herd reduction philosophy with Mrs. Velma Johnson and stated she agreed in principle that herds must be kept in balance with range.

The NMA propose to relocate horses on other portions of range, sell some to horse lovers. Use the Amaru private fenced pastures for horse use. They said they take formal possession of the land and grazing privileges on January 2, 1971. Mr. Hess pointed out that compliance to written requirements and approval by BLM must occur before Amaru public range could be used in any way.

(NSO Range Specialist has stated that 2,500 head of cattle were counted on the Sandia Area (Colvin Cattle Co.) in either June or July, 1970.) Floyd Lamb cattle, estimated from 700 to 1500 head, make continual use of Kawich Valley. He has recently made extensive water developments in this area as far north as Cedar Wells without authority.

Both NMA and Fish and Game recommended relocations of horse numbers.

Priority jobs were decided to be:

1. Water maintenance to allow better distributions of horses.
2. Reduce horse numbers on area of concentration.
3. Reduce cattle trespass.

Mr. Hess reviewed the large public relations problem which developed on the Pryor Mountains and pointed out the sensitive potential of this situation. He suggested that the Humane Society, Velma Johnson's group, and County Commissioners all be aboard. Mr. Hess indicated that BLM would probably not oppose some relocations of horses to balance with the carrying capacity of the range. He will furnish a letter to Nye County Commissioners, AEC, USAF, and Sandia Corp. Pointing out the deteriorated condition of the range and waters resulting from the trespass cattle use plus concentration of horses in a restricted area mostly outside of horse range.

As to water maintenance, it was decided to try to get authority for BLM equipment and materials from Las Vegas and Battle Mountain for the weekend of October 24-25 or October 31-November 1. NMA will furnish 25 or more persons to assist. BLM would cooperate to extent possible to open waters not now available to horses.

Mr. Walter suggested that Dr. Pontrelli be invited to visit the Mustang Range to observe conditions and thus inform I.S.P.W H.&B.

Mr. Hess requested that any publicity be directed to water development. BLM will handle all publicity with the cooperation of NMA & Nevada Fish and Game.

The following preliminary contacts are planned to be made by:

- A. Nevada Chapter of the National Mustang Association.
  - (1) Mrs. Velma Johnson                      Weekend of September 19-20
  - (2) Dr. Pontrelli - UN Reno              Weekend of September 19-20
  - (3) Colonel Gerard - Range Officer - Nellis Air Force Base
  - (4) National and Nevada Humane Society
  - (5) Brand Inspector
  - (6) Sandia Corporation
  - (7) AEC
  
- B. BLM
  - (1) Send Nye Co. Commissioners BLM Statement of range conditions
  - (2) Battle Mountain BLM & NSO
  - (3) Nellis A.F.B. - Base Commander Statement of water and range conditions.
  - (4) Sandia - Statement of water and range conditions.
  - (5) AEC - Statement of water and range conditions.
  
- C. NF&G
  - (1) In House coordination
  - (2) Pontrelli

The group will make contact again on September 25, 1970, to discuss progress.

Respectfully submitted,

*James R. Brunner*  
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Walter E. Clute N. M. A.  
Jim Brunner B & M.

Richard O. Baky N. M. A. Pilot

George E. Hughes N. M. A.

Charles Black N. M. A.

John L. McCannack

Ellis L. Fowre Vice Pres.

George Johnson

John Donaldson

DENNIS E HESS

DAVE WALTER

FRANK BINGHAM

N F & G

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BLM

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