



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Humboldt-Toiyabe  
National Forest

Spring Mountains NRA  
4701 N. Torrey Pine Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

File Code: 2260

Date: May 3, 2002

Ms. Billie Young  
President  
National Wild Horse Association  
4011 Hellen Ave  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Dear Ms. Young:

This letter is to document our discussions and points of agreement reached at a May 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 meeting involving the Board of Directors of the National Wild Horse Association and myself.

We discussed and agreed upon the following:

1. There is serious concern over the condition of the range supporting the Cold Creek herd and the Spring Mountains Wild Horse and Burro territory. This range is being severely and negatively impacted. Of particular concern is fact that there area several rare and sensitive plant species within the area that may be killed if the impacts continue.
2. The forces believed to be causing the negative impacts to the territory are the State managed grazing animals (particularly elk and deer) and, the Forest Service managed horses and human recreational activities. However, neither the Forest Service nor the Nevada Division of Wildlife has adequately defined the interrelationships of these individual forces or adequately determined the relative impact of each of these upon the territory.
3. The guidance and direction for the management of the Spring Mountains National Recreation area is set forth in the 1996 General Management Plan. This plan contains direction to manage the Cold Creek herd area at an Appropriate Management Level (AML) of 26 horses.
4. There is serious concern that an AML level of 26 may not provide the genetic diversity necessary to sustain a healthy closed herd.
5. There is serious concern that by managing only the horse population levels the Forest Service is neglecting to address the impacts of State managed grazers and Forest Service managed recreationists.

To resolve these concerns we further agreed:

6. I will ensure that a component of the planned landscape analysis of the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area will address the issues believed to cause the negative impacts to the Cold Creek herd area mentioned above.
7. I will pursue, through the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, an analysis



of the impacts to covered species in the Cold Creek area. I will request the analysis provide biologically sound recommended management actions to mitigate these impacts.

8. Amy Torres of the Bureau of Land Management and Christine Brehm of the National Wild Horse Association will work together to design a hypothesis for a study of the impacts to the Cold Creek area and submit this hypothesis to me.
9. The Wild Horse Association will assist the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in conducting an emergency 2002 gather in the Spring Mountains Territory consisting of approximately 100 to 150 horses.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us towards on our common goal managing the Spring Mountains Herds in a thriving ecological balance with the environment.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Holdsambeck  
STEVEN HOLDSAMBECK  
District Ranger

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this ~~is~~ is the  
letter that they  
didn't like -  
the meeting was a  
previously scheduled  
NWHHA Board meeting  
not a special meeting  
between me & them

WILDLIFE COMMISSION MTG 8/9/02 LAS VEGAS

SPRING MOUNTAIN/COLD CREEK

DOUG HUNT QUESTIONED MGT ISSUES:



CRITICAL CONDITIONS TO WILDLIFE + RANGE CONDITIONS

CONCERNED THAT DYING ANIMALS REMOVED BUT 60 RETURNED

246 Elk in mgt plan only 200 there

AML is 26 in FS why 60 returned?

population mgt is not the purpose of the emergency gather  
→ just relief of the emergency

JELINDO ECHOED DOUG'S COMMENTS

↳ HARD STRUCTURING, HE WAS TOLD THAT CERTAIN "TYPES" WERE BEING RELEASED FOR WHAT (FS) THEY WANTED

↳ CONTINUED LACK OF COOPERATION NOTHING DONE, NO GATHERS IN 10 YEARS + WILDLIFE KEEPING TO THEIR GOALS BUT FS DOING NOTHING, NOT COOPERATING

↳ LAWSUIT TO FS TO DO THEIR JOBS

Commission:

SOME BLM MANAGERS DOING THEIR JOBS/SETTING AML - OTHERS DO NOTHING

IF THERE ARE ESTABLISHED AML'S, THEY FEEL THE GOV'T IS VIOLATING THE LAW - LAWSUIT? URGING CONTACTING FED LEGISLATORS OR MORE SEVERE ACTIONS

WANT AG'S OFFICE OPINION FOR FILING SUIT

Commission <sup>Demands</sup> RETRACTION OF FS LETTER TO NLOHA  
- agreement must go out to public  
↳ management

Amy = FEELS THEY HABITAT CAN SUSTAIN 60, THEY ARE HEALTHY

AML - COLD CREEK 26

- gather in 96, scheduled gather for 2000 (drought driven gathers) NOT SCHEDULED

(CB - BREEDING AML# NOT APPROPRIATE UNDER LAW)

(STARTED IN APRIL)

STEVEN HOLSOBEEK <sup>NEED TO RE-ADDRESS GMP</sup>  
~~TO LEGISLATION~~ (LETTER TO BILLIE/NLOHA)  
IFS GIVEN FUNDING TO DO ENTIRE LANDSCAPE PLAN  
COMP SOIL ANALYSIS, LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS FOR CULTURAL CONCERS

**Subject: Wildlife Commission Meeting**

**Date:** Tue, 6 Aug 2002 12:25:04 -0700 (PDT)

**From:** Christine Brehm <mstng\_lvr@yahoo.com>

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

Cathy,

I sorry but I will not be able to make the meeting Friday. My father is not doing as well as we had hoped and I am trying to get out of here Thurs if possible.

Re: Cold Creek. I was not able to get a map of the HMA. However, during the recent emergency gather there were 196 horses gathered. At least 10 were not captured. Of the 196 gathered, 65 were released back onto the HMA (34 mares, 17 foals, 14 studs). The Gather was approved by NWA on the condition that Forest Service re-evaluate horse numbers AML vs elk numbers. Requesting new and better count of elk population in the HMA. As you saw on your visit there is just as much elk sign as horse sign. FS is also looking into recreational activities esp. those involving off-road vehicles, again as you saw on your visit. The horses came off in good shape, but already there were looking like there were going to be water and forage issues by summers end. Hopefully the removal of horses will help, but not if the elk numbers are still out of balance. NDOW refuses to consider that there is an overpopulation of elk. This issue needs to be raised and is a major concern. Both species are introduced species and we cannot allow the removal of one species for the benefit of another, also non-native (Rocky Mountain Elk). My problem with NDOW is that they 'said' they did an aerial count. Well, since elk spend most of their time amongst the trees, just how accurate can the count be? I have my doubts that an official, scientific count was done at all and that they are pulling numbers out of the proverbial hat, or basing on a modeling program, which practical experience has shown me is not a realistic method for determining living organisms.

Hope I didn't get too long winded there. If you need anything else I will be at work the rest of today (Tuesday) and Weds. from 1-5pm. Or you can try me at home on Thurs. am.

Talk to you later,  
Christine

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