

Nellis
STATE OF NEVADA

m 1-22-98

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Fax (702) 687-6122**COMMISSION FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES**~~1105 Terminal Way~~~~Suite 200~~~~Reno, Nevada 89502~~~~(702) 688-2626~~**RE: JMAC Meeting, 22 Jan 98, at Nellis AFB, NV**

What is the Nevada perspective on Wild Horse issues? Should the designated NWHR be expanded to cover current horse distribution or the horse population be reduced to preserve the environment?

The Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses is unable to attend this meeting but would like the committee to consider our comments.

The Bureau of Land Management must census, collect utilization data, develop seasonal migration patterns identifying critical winter and summer ranges, and compute carrying capacity of the required habitat for the horses. From this data the Bureau can structure the population to those identified ranges.

Reducing the herd when habitat requirements are not considered and met will do nothing to limit the horses to a specified area as they will increase their range to facilitate their needs. Current monitoring will identify areas where horses have established home ranges.

Relocating horses back to the original identified wild horse range will not keep them in that area, they will quickly migrate back to their "home ranges", unless fenced, which is not practical.

We feel a suitability study of the wild horse range and adjacent lands must be completed to determine true home ranges. We recommend that you redelineate the boundaries based on the resources to accommodate the true wild horse range for current environmental restrictions.

Please continue to keep us informed. If you have any questions, please feel free to call. I look forward to working with you on this issue.