

Nellis

3-4-89

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Caliente Resource Area
P.O. Box 237 Caliente, Nevada 89008
(702) 726-3141

Memorandum

March 4, 1989

To: Area Manager

From: Supervisory Range Conservationist

Subject: Notes From March 3, 1989 Five-Party Meeting

The five-party meeting was held at the Las Vegas District Office beginning at 9:00 AM and adjourning at 11:00 AM.

Attending:

Curtis G. Tucker, Caliente R.A. Manager, BLM	726-3141
Tim Murphy, Supervisory Range Conserv., BLM	
Pete Christensen, Asst. Dist. Mg., Resources, BLM	646--8800
Roger Alexander, District Planner, BLM	
Bob Staeger, Dist. Range Conservationist, BLM	
Terry Driver, Dist. Wild Horse/Burro Spec., BLM	
Col. C.L. Meyer, USAF/DOE Liaison	295-1147
Lt. Col. J. Jacobs, USAF/DOE Liaison	
Ronald Bentley, Sandia Nat. Labs	295-8211
Harley Dickensheets, 554R6/Nellis AFB	652-3650
Dave Brown, USF&W	646-3401
Frank Bingham, DOE	295-1146
Arthur L. Williams, REECO M/5541	295-2226
Arwin Wendell Marrs, REECO - TTR	295-8106
Butch Padilla, NDCW	486-5127

Five springs are ranked by priority in the Nevada Wild Horse Range Herd Management Area (NWHRHMA) Plan. These were listed as follows at the meeting for discussion as candidates for three springs to be developed or reconstructed, and subsequently maintained for three years by REECO.

Projects Listed

Discussion Information

Cedar Wells:	Poor Condition. Number 1 priority for FY 89 reconstruction by BLM.
Upper and Lower Corral Springs:	Good Condition.
Silverbow Spg./Pipeline (PL):	Poor Condition. Head box in a poor location due to shifting channel, head box lower than end of PL, PL vapor locks. Preliminary recommendation is to relocate head box uphill (possibly 1+ miles), add required new PL, air vents, storage tanks, troughs. Good candidate for REECO.
Rose Spg./PL:	Good Condition.
Tunnel Spring:	Poor Condition. Spring, PL, tank(s), trough(s) need reconstruction. Good candidate for REECO.

Cedar Spg.:

Good water development. Of three spring heads at least two are thought to have water rights held by Joe Fellini. Possible conflicts with project development through Bureau action.

There was a unanimous agreement that Silverbow and Tunnel Spring are respectively, the number 1 and number 2 candidates for work by REECO. The NWHRHMA Plan allows for consideration of other springs in addition to the priorities listed above through consultation with the five-party cooperators. A third spring for development or reconstruction and maintenance by REECO was needed outside of the above six priorities.

Cliff Spring is an old Spg./PL development in poor condition and in need of total reconstruction. Cliff Spring is located on the east side of the NWHRHMA. Through consultation, a unanimous agreement was made to include Cliff Spring as the third candidate for work by REECO.

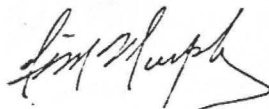
Springs to receive work by REECO by priority.

1. Silverbow
2. Tunnel
3. Cliff

The five-party cooperators (including REECO) agreed to the following action.

- Water rights for the above three candidate springs will be researched. No party was named for this detail.
- Project design will be completed by REECO with review by the BLM.
- EA / CA to be developed by REECO with review by BLM. CE possible if all work will be accomplished within the originally disturbed area and an existing EA considers all required resources in an acceptable format. An outline for EA and CE development was provided to A. Wendell Marrs, REECO - TTR.
- An EA due to proposed work on Tunnel Spg. and Cliff Spg. must be reviewed by the USAF, Tactical Air Command. This review period is 45 days.
- A field inspection will be conducted by the five-party cooperators for the following purposes.
 1. Ground check the project proposals.
 2. Gather resource data within the NWHRHMA
 - a. Use area surrounding project proposals
 - b. Other areas within the HMA.

Bob Staeger read a recommendation suggesting re-wording of the current Draft Court Order for REECO. This recommendation is attached. The five-party cooperators agreed to follow through and consult with the State regarding the suggested re-wording. The BLM and REECO will coordinate this suggestion to the State of Nevada.



FIVE PARTY MEETING
MINUTES

The Five Party meeting was convened 15 Aug. 1989 at 11:00 AM in the Las Vegas District-BLM office. Curtis Tucker-BLM conducted the meeting.

The first item for discussion was the horse situation on the NRC. Curtis Tucker lead the discussion. Terry Driver reported the results of the Nellis census; 5510 adult and 708 foals. Discussion centered around possible management options. The preferred alternative was to remove 3000 head of horses. The probability of the preferred alternative becoming reality was viewed as small given past experience. The possibility of a large die-off in the horse population was viewed as only a matter of time given current conditions. Assuming the horse population continues to increase, forage and water conditions will continue to deteriorate. The rains came last week and provided enough water to keep the horse population going. Harley Dickensheets reported that the deer and the antelope were coming into the compounds to drink. Strategies for dealing with a large die-off when it occurs were discussed. Plans for a NRC tour involving Nancy Whitaker of API, Terri Jay of Commission for Preservation of Wild Horses, and Brian McKenzie of the Humane Society were discussed. Invitations will be extended and Harley Dickensheets will coordinate a suitable date to get on the NRC. He also suggested that Public Affairs be involved in the tour. The possibility of an independent range (vegetation) study was discussed. The group as a whole felt that past experience indicates that another court case was inevitable. A range study conducted by a neutral third party, preferably a university with a good range program, would be useful evidence supporting our case. Funding was found to be the major obstacle to completing a study.

Next topic of discussion was fencing the western boundary of the NRC introduced by Harley Dickensheets. He has money he would like to spend on fencing and feels that he can make his money go further if he works with the BLM. He would like cooperation from BLM in preparing the EA, completing the cultural clearances, survey and design and preparation of a fencing contract. He feels that BLM has fewer constraints in putting a fence project on the ground. Harley was advised to talk to the Tonapah Resource Area since Tonapah has responsibility for the adjacent public lands. Maintenance of northern boundary fence was discussed. Curtis Tucker asked Harley Dickensheets to gather information on where the holes are in the fence. Plans are to have the burro offenders do the labor to maintain the fence as part of their community service time. Harley also wanted to move 4 miles of fence near Stonewall Spring. He needs someone to do the cultural clearance. Curtis Tucker agreed to complete the cultural clearance.

Jule Durfee BLM presented the current status of REECO water projects.

Roger Alexander commented on the current status of the Nellis EIS.

Meeting was then adjourned.

Personnel in attendance included:

Les Monroe	DOE
Harley Dickensheets	554RG/Nellis AFB
Lt. Col. Jake Jacobs	USAF/DOE Liaison
Curtis Tucker	BLM/CRA
Butch Padilla	NDOW
Gary Ryan	BLM/Las Vegas
Jule Durfee	BLM/CRA
Bob Furlow	USFWS/Las Vegas

Pete Christensen
Ken F. Collins
Roger Oyler
Roger Alexander
Terry Driver

BLM/Las Vegas
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BLM/Las Vegas
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