

XREFERENCE
HENRIE COMPLEX

Nellis

m 2-14-94



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Caliente Resource Area
P.O. Box 237
Caliente, Nevada 89008



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4700
Meadow Valley Mtn.
HMA Emergency Gather
Summer 1993 Nellis
Gather File
(NV-053)

FEB 14 1994

Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Cathy Barcomb, Executive Director
50 Freeport Boulevard, No. 2
Sparks, Nevada 89431

Dear Cathy,

I am responding to several questions that we were unable to answer during our telephone conversation with you and Dawn Lappin on October 25, 1993. I will attempt to paraphrase your inquiries and answer them as follows.

1. What can you tell us about the Nellis foal status?
 - a. There were 295 foals gathered in the Nellis removal during the summer of 1993. The following table shows their destination by numbers of foals.

FOALS PROCESSED DURING THE 1993 SUMMER NELLIS REMOVAL	
NUMBER OF FOALS	DESTINATION
85	Palomino Valley Center, BLM
74	Las Vegas District, BLM
136	Ridgecrest Holding Facility, BLM
TOTALS	
295	

- b. What criteria were used to decide if foals should be removed from mares and why did you ship them to various locations?

There were three criteria used to separate foals from mares.

The first was that the foals were healthy and strong, 4 to 8 months old, and actively feeding on hay.

The second considered foals that were never accepted by a mare at the holding facility. All foals were given a chance to "mother up" with a mare following trapping and processing. These foals were watched to see if they were feeding on hay or "bumming" milk from the mares within the pens. These foals ranged from a few weeks to 6-8 months of age.

The last criteria considered foals that were in a weakened state due to the mares poor condition. Most of these foals were under 4 months of age and were in declining condition.

We decided to send the foals to different locations because of the quantity, their different states of health and maturity, and to minimize stress to them. The healthy weaned foals went to Palomino Valley, the weak foals requiring one-on-one daily attention went to Las Vegas, and those requiring hay and foal supplement went to Ridgecrest for special treatment.

2. We desire future notification of BLMs findings when conducting the Henrie Complex allotment inspections for livestock and wild horses during the burn closure period.

Following inspections of the Henrie Complex allotment, a courtesy copy of the findings can be provided to the Commission for its information.

3. Has BLM collected census data (1993) for Nellis? If not, what is the approximate population level at this time?

The most recent census in Nellis was in September, 1991. The projected population on the Nellis Complex as of September 30, 1993 is 1,500-2,000 animals. Funding for census work has been requested for Fiscal Year 94 to verify our estimate.

4. We would like clarification regarding the 269 wild horse number used in the grazing decisions versus what PVC received.

The 269 number presented within the Grazing Decisions issued for the Henrie Complex permittees was a best approximate number known at the time of the decisions. The numbers were updated to better figures when they were available. The actual number of wild horses, burros, and mules gathered was 281. An additional 31 horses were claimed for a total of 312 animals gathered. Of the 281 animals, 222 were shipped to Palomino Valley, 13 died, 4 were adopted locally, and 42 released.

I hope this answers your questions. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Curtis G. Tucker

Curtis G. Tucker
Area Manager

cc:

NV-050
NV-053

