



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CALIENTE RESOURCE AREA

P.O. Box 237

Caliente, Nevada 89008

m

10/1/89

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4700
(NV-055.14)

(702) 726-3141

SEP 01 1989

Terri Jay
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Stewart Facility
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

Dear Ms. Jay:

Enclosed are copies of the Five Party Meeting minutes that you requested. If you have any questions please contact Jule Durfee, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist.

Sincerely,

Curtis G. Tucker
Area Manager

Enclosure: Meeting Minutes



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NEVADA STATE OFFICE

850 Harvard Way

P.O. Box 12000

Reno, Nevada 89520-0006



IN REPLY REFER TO:

1120
(NV-912)

DEC 7 1989

Ms. Terri Jay
Executive Director
Commission for the Preservation
of Wild Horses
Stewart Facility
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Dear Ms. Jay,

As requested at your November 16 meeting, we will be pleased to have our manager most familiar with the Nevada Wild Horse Range meet with you at the next Commission meeting. We understand that the meeting is set for January 25, 1990, at the Clark County School District Board Room on E. Flamingo in Las Vegas.

Mr. Curtis Tucker, our Caliente Area Manager, would like to make a short presentation to you on the management of the Wild Horse Range. This would include a brief historical background on the range and on the Five Party Agreement which is instrumental in the management of the geographic area. It would also include recent findings on horse condition, habitat and resulting actions. As you are aware from information you and Mrs. Lappin presented at your November meeting, there is immediate concern for the welfare of the wild horses in the area. By the Commission's January 25 meeting date there may be several management actions which have occurred in December and January.

Prior to the January meeting, we will send each of the Commissioners information on the Five Party Agreement and any other material which may be useful in preparing for your session.

Mr. Tucker has mentioned the January 25 meeting in telephone conversations with personnel from the Nellis Air Force Base. However, we would suggest that you formally invite them to be on your meeting program so that you may include them on the agenda. The addresses for the Five Party Agreement members and for the key members of the groups which were involved in drawing up that arrangement are enclosed.

If either Mrs. Shane or Mr. Tucker may be of further assistance in facilitating your meeting, please feel free to call on them.

Sincerely,



For

Edward F. Spang
State Director, Nevada

Enclosure: 1

1. Five Party Agreement members

cc: DeLoyd Satterthwaite, Chairman
Commission for the Preservation of
Wild Horses
Spanish Ranch
Tuscarora, NV 89834

Five Party
Agreement members

Nevada Division of Wildlife
Attn: John Donaldson
State Mailroom Complex
Las Vegas, NV 89158

BUTCH P2D1A
486-5127

Commander
554 RG/CC
Nellis Air Force Base
Attn: Col. J. W. La Casse
Las Vegas, NV 89191

✓ Lt. Col. Taylor yes

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Desert National Wildlife Range
Attn: Dave Brown
1500 North Decatur Boulevard
Las Vegas, NV 89103

✓ 646-3401
not interested - only
involved in wildlife mgmt area

Department of Energy
Nevada Operation Office
Attn: Frank Bingham
P. O. Box ~~14100~~ 98518
Las Vegas, NV ~~89114~~

✓ Les Monroe 295-1744 will call yes
89193-8518

554 Range Group
Nellis Air Force Base
Attn: Harley Dickensheets
Las Vegas, NV 89191-5000

✓ 652-3650 yes

Col. Charles L. Meyer, USAF
USAF/DOE Liaison Officer
Nevada Operations Office
P. O. Box 98518
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518

✓ 295-1147 yes and/or Lt. Col.

Arwin Wendell Mars
TTR Assistant Department Manager
Reynolds Electric & Engineering
P. O. Box ~~14400~~ 1072
~~Las Vegas, NV 89114~~ 89049
Tonopah

Arthur L. Williams, Jr. Esq.
General Counsel
Reynolds Electric & Engineering
P. O. Box ~~14400~~ 98521
Las Vegas, NV ~~89114~~
89193-8521

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, USE&W	646-3401
Frank Bingham, DOE	295-1146
Arthur L. Williams, REECO M/5541	295-2226
Arwin Wendell Marrs, REECO - TTR	295-8188
Butch Padilla, NDCW	468-5127

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 AFI, 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.

Wile 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
1st Lt. Col. Jake Jacobs	USAF/DOE Liaison
Curtis Tucker	BLM/CRA
Witch Padilla	NDOW
Gary Ryan	BLM/Las Vegas
Wile Durfee	BLM/CRA
Bob Furlow	USFWS/Las Vegas

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

BLM/Las Vegas
BLM/Las Vegas
BLM/Battle Mountain
BLM/Las Vegas
BLM/Las Vegas

SEP 17 1989

Case File Copy

1000

SEP 17 1989

RA
09-26-89

Nancy Whitaker
Animal Protection Institute of America
P.O. Box 22505
Sacramento, CA 95822

Dear Ms. Whitaker:

Your comment letter on the Nellis Air Force Range Draft Resource Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RP/EIS) was received by the Callente Resource Area office on September 13, 1989. The comment period ended on September 1, 1989.

Because your comments were not received until after the close of the public comment and review period, they will not be included in the Proposed Resource Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, and therefore, do not establish a record of participation in the planning process and do not establish an "affected interest" status.

Regardless of the above situation, however, I would like to address your concerns. The plan is, by necessity, limited to two alternatives. The primary use of the planning area is, by law, for military purposes; almost all other uses are allowed at the discretion of the Air Force (see Section 3 of the Military Lands Withdrawal Act on page A-2 of the Draft RP/EIS), thus limiting the Bureau's management options.

The confusion over the "wild horse boundary issue" appears to be a misunderstanding. The Nevada Wild Horse Range (NWHR) is still in existence, and has been, continuously, since its inception in 1962. The boundaries of the NWHR were originally established by cooperative agreement between the GLM and Air Force in 1962; the size of the NWHR was reduced from 435,000 acres to approximately 394,000 acres by a cooperative agreement between BLM and the Air Force in 1965. The 1973 cooperative agreement between BLM and the Air Force did not modify the boundary of the NWHR nor did it abolish the NWHR; the 1973 agreement did, however, re-define the two agencies' responsibilities under the Wild, Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971. As shown on Map 8 in the Draft RP/EIS, the NWHR is located within, but is not identical to, the 1971 horse use area.

BLM's Wildlife 2000 plan is a statement of policy, and as such, generally applies to all BLM-administered lands. In some situations, however, a policy is not applicable due to other constraints on land use; this is especially true where lands have been withdrawn for other purposes such as military use.

Your statement that "The number of acres involved is estimated as 814,300 or 37 percent of the wild horse habitat area" is incorrect. Paragraph 4 on page 3-6 of the Draft RP/EIS states that the area involved is "814,000 acres-37 percent of the planning area" (emphasis added). The Draft RP/EIS state does not indicate that wild horses utilize the entire planning area.

Trend studies were established in 1986, and utilization studies have been conducted in 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988.

Map 8 on page 1-14 clearly identifies the boundaries of the Bald Mountain allotment and the boundaries of the NWHR; the map also clearly shows that there is no overlap between the Bald Mountain allotment and areas being utilized by wild horses.

The acreage figure given for wild horse habitat on page 3-6 refers to the acreage being utilized by wild horses; it is not to be confused with the NWHR (the 394,000 acres comprising the NWHR is included in the acreage figures stated on page 3-6).

The information on page 3-8 is correct; authorized livestock grazing was discontinued in 1959, and by 1965, all permits and leases had been eliminated by the Air Force. However, as stated in the Nevada Wild Horse Range Herd Management Area Plan (paragraph 6, page D-1 of the Draft RP/EIS), unauthorized livestock grazing did continue to occur until 1979 when the northern boundary fence of the Nellis Air Force Range was completed.

Curtis Tucker, the Caliente Area Manager, is responsible for the Nevada Wild Horse Range and is available to help you. He can be contacted at P.O. Box 237, Caliente, Nevada 89008, or you can reach him at (702) 726-3141. He has arranged a tour of the Nevada Wild Horse Range.

I hope that the above answers your concerns and clears up any confusion you may have had regarding the status of the Nevada Wild Horse Range. If you have further questions, please contact either myself or Roger Alexander at the above address or call (702) 546-8600.

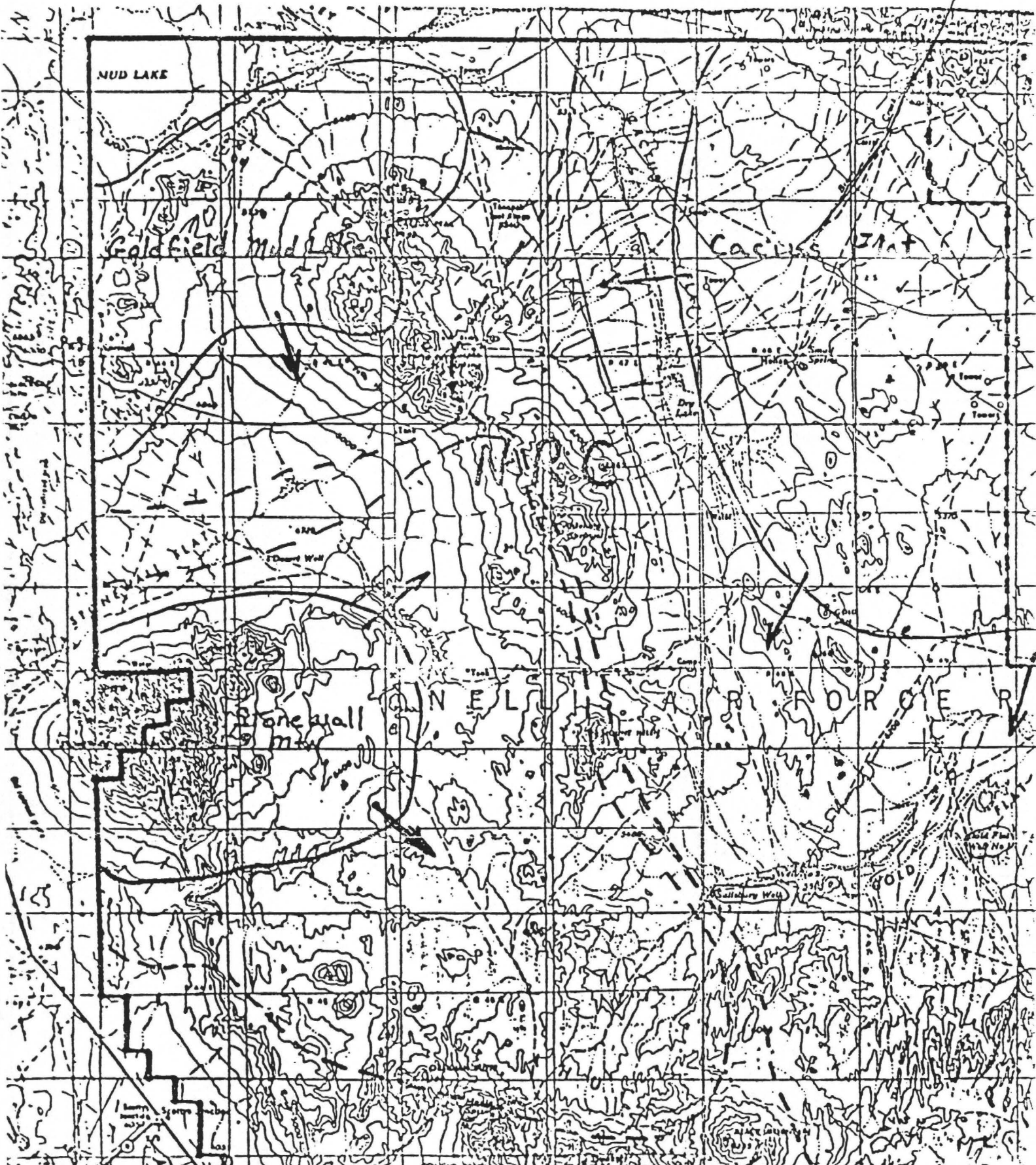
Sincerely,

BEN F. COLLINS

Ben F. Collins
District Manager

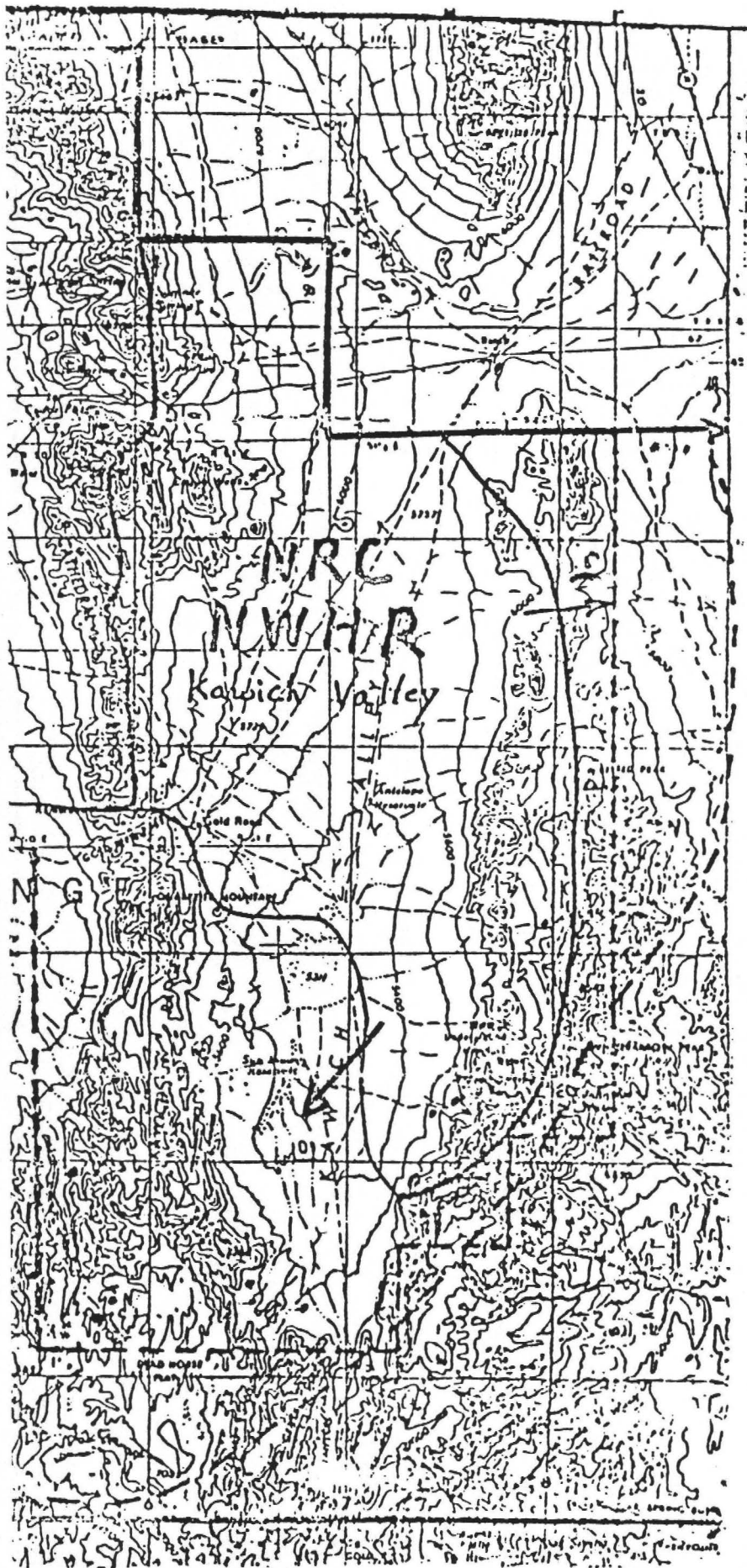
cc: Curtis Tucker

Green



HOME RANGE & HERD USE AREAS

- HERD USE AREAS (SPRING & SUMMER)
- - - HERD USE AREAS (FALL & WINTER)



OCK MOUNTAIN
22772

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COPY

IN REPLY REFER TO:
4700
(NV-057.7)

To : Caliente Resource Area Manager

FROM : Range Conservationist/Wild Horse & Burro Specialist,
Caliente Resource Area

SUBJECT : Check on Wild Horse condition and [REDACTED]
f [REDACTED]
t [REDACTED] ents.

Date: MAY 24 1984

On April 26, 1984 Chester Davis, Phillip C. Seegmiller, from the Caliente Resource Area visited the NWHR on the TTR in the accompaniment of Cecil Lang (DOE). The purpose of the trip was to show Cecil areas where maintenance is needed on water sources to bring these water sources back into full operation to provide an adequate supply of water for the wild horse population.

Corral Spring - At this site there are two main spring sources which will be referred to as upper and lower springs. The lower spring seems to be operating fine although there is problems with the amount of storage. The waterflow is approximately one gallon per minute. Also, gravel needs to be placed around the head box to prevent a cave-in which might stop the flow of water. The upper spring needs to be redeveloped, this will require use of backhoe, installation of headbox, pipe, storage tanks, and troughs. If the upper spring was connected to lower spring with adequate storage added it could supply plenty of water for the number of wild horses in the area. Troughs at both sites are old but could be repaired to last for a few more years. What is needed is about a 5-1 thousand gallon tank for storage.

Materials needed: 300 feet of 1½" pipe (plastic), cement and epoxy (one yard of cement), storage tank, 5,000 to 10,000 gallons, valves and connectors.

All water should be collected from source and the overflow should come from the storage tanks.

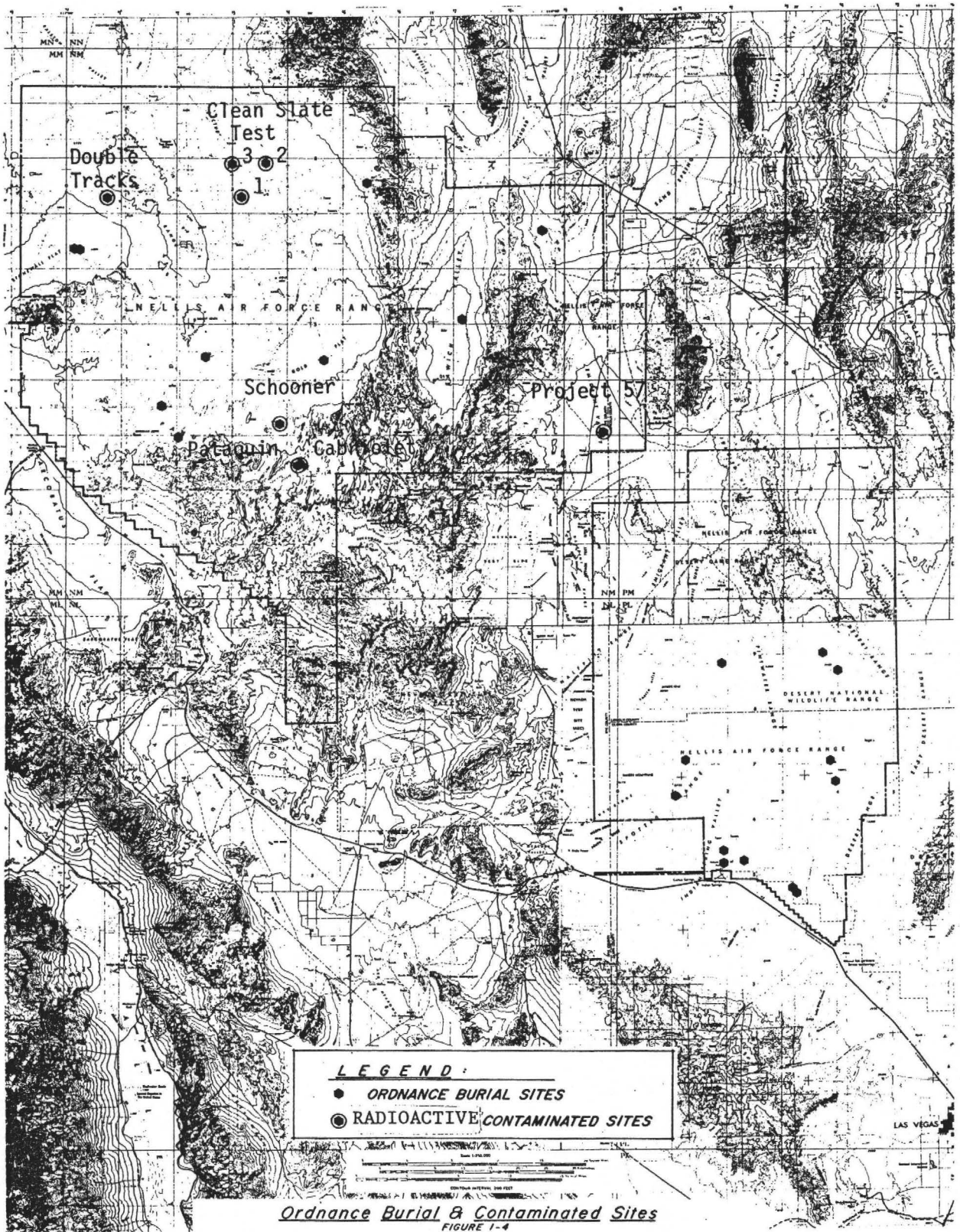
Tunnel Spring - Needs to be redeveloped to try and get all water available at source. Present flow is just a small amount of approximately ¼ gallon per minute. Additional storage should also be added (2-3 thousand gallons).

Rose Spring pipeline needs to be cleaned out to allow more water down the line. There needs to be storage tanks added to line of approximately 5 to 10 thousand gallons. Water control valves needed to be

added in to line to extend life and better control water flow. Troughs also need to be added to create 1500-2000 gallon storage. Also, there should be an investigation concerning the possibility of extending the line past USAF Site 4 and build capture facilities.

Silverbow - Silverbow seems to have maintenance problems near the source. Lines should be pumped back to source from approximately 300-400 yards down the line with the filter off the source to clean out line. In addition, a trough of at least 1500-2000 gallon capacity with float valves needs to be added to the pipeline. Pipeline should also be extended four to five miles down the old corral road with capture facilities constructed to handle horses for removals.

Phillip C. Seaymiller



CONV
Mount bound
4730
4708
(NV-931-3)

MAR 19 1985

MM
3/18/85
3/14
930
3/18

Memorandum

To: Office of the Solicitor, Washington, D.C.
From: State Director, Nevada
Subject: Legislative History, Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971

We have recently attempted to determine the area which can reasonably be considered as 1971 wild horse habitat and the potential status of wild horses on the Nellis Bombing Range near Las Vegas, Nevada. To accomplish this task, we have reviewed our available records relative to the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act. Unfortunately, we do not have copies of the Legislative History for this Act and therefore are unable to determine if wild horses or their status on the Nellis Bombing Range was mentioned by Congress when considering the 1971 Act.

We would like to request that your office review the Legislative History for the Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act to determine if wild horses on the Nellis Bombing Range are mentioned. If this is not possible, we would like to request that a copy of the Legislative History be made available to us so that we can research the record.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

/s/ Roger J. McC

MFrei/ID
03/15/85

Associate

To: NWHR CASE FILE

From: Wild Horse And Burro Specialist

Subject: Summary of events on the NWHR since the HMAP was developed.

Summary of use on the Nellis Range Complex:

1985	1986	1987
198,795 acres severe 17%	319,616 acres severe 28%	165,760 acres severe 15%
177,835 acres heavy 16%	127,424 acres heavy 11%	143,040 acres heavy 13%
259,202 acres moderate 23%	117,568 acres moderate 10%	108,160 acres moderate 10%
244,431 acres light 21%	119,724 acres light 11%	119,040 acres light 10%
257,154 acres slight 23%	453,085 acres slight 40%	601,417 acres slight 53%

Also Utilized [redacted] in 1986.

The severe category did go higher in 1986, but that can be attributed to lack of precipitation that would allow for wild horses to move away from areas surrounding the water sources.

[redacted]

During the summer of 1985 three miles of pipeline and four sets of water troughs were installed. This maintenance activity took place at Tunnel Springs, Rose Springs, and at the two sources at Corral Springs.

During the Summer of 1986 one water source was maintained at Camp Springs. Key monitoring areas were selected and utilization studies completed.

During the Spring of 1987 one additional Source was maintained at Camp Springs.

One project (Cedar Wells) has been identified to be maintained during 1988.

[redacted]

There has been a wild horse removal every year since 1985 on the NRC. During the spring of 1985, 1425 excess wild horses were removed from the west side of the Kawich Mountain Range, and 77 from the east side of the Range. During the Spring of 1985, 225 excess wild horses were removed from the west side of the Kawich Mountain Range, and 534 excess wild horses and 275 excess wild burros were removed from Stonewall Spring. Also removed 224 horses and 28 Burros from wild horse Spring; both areas are on the extreme west side of the Nellis Range Complex boundary. The 1987 Excess wild horse round up removed 76 horses from the east side of the Kawich Range, 434 from the west side of the Kawich range 362 from the Green Creek Reservoir, and 288 were removed from the Pedro Lake area.

The latest wild horse Census was completed during September 1986 at which time there were an estimated 4120 (actual count) wild horses still on the NRC. Of the 4120 counted half roam off the NWHR. The situation also exists with very limited perennial water sources available for the wild horses especially during summer months.

Phillip Colegrille
6/8/88

2/11/91
BOB STAGER

hauling water now

31 mule deer
136 Bighorn in Stonewall
30+ points

Covered whole west side of herd area
capture March 18th - April 1st

March 20th - ^{Arizona} BLM crews
March 25th - Fred take

50 sq. miles 10x5
hoof print every 12" - 14"

BLM crews

INDIAN Rice Grass = Severe

8 sq miles
10 " "

8x2 miles
8x7 " "

other areas

INDIAN LAND

~~25~~ wide 20 length valley where
stealth fighter is

entirely in severe

90%+ use

70%+ winterfat

March 8th use pattern map BOB

willow + antelope spring 12' mudhole

Cliff spring
Rose spring + Stonewall OK



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEVADA STATE OFFICE
850 HARVARD WAY
P.O. BOX 12000
RENO, NEVADA 89520-0006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1120 (NV-912)

Ms. Cathie Barcomb, Acting Director
Commission for the Preservation of
Wild Horses and Burros
Stewart Facility, 5500 Snider Ave.,
Bldg. 6, Room 137
Carson City, NV 89710

NOV 20 1990

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

We'd like to draw your attention to a special event on the Las Vegas Strip. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is sponsoring a wild horse and burro satellite adoption on the Las Vegas Strip from December 7-11. The adoption site is south of the Tropicana and across from the Excalibur.

The convenience of adopting a wild horse or burro will be highlighted with several special events which spotlight what formerly adopted "wild ones" can do. On December 7, 8 and 9 there will be two riding demonstrations on reining horses. Riders will be Steve Harris of Arizona and Tom Shilo of Nevada. A horse shoeing exhibition will be offered on those same days.

From December 3-11, the BLM will feature a wild horse and a wild burro in the showroom arena of the Excalibur, the world's largest hotel casino. The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard, which has an all wild horse unit of palominos adopted through the Nevada BLM, will be present December 7-9. Tentatively the unit is scheduled to make an appearance at the Excalibur.

Radio Station KFMS is having a live remote from the Strip location on December 7. Several well-know Western singers are scheduled to make appearances.

All of this activity will coincide with the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. It is a cooperative effort among three BLM units, Nevada, Arizona and California. The theme of the adoption centers on the contribution of the horse and burro to the development and settlement of the West.

For the Nevada BLM the event also serves as a kickoff for a slate of events planned in Nevada to note the 20th anniversary of the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act. That Act was passed by Congress on December 15, 1971. Nevadans played a major role in the passage of the legislation which declares that "wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West." We will be in touch with you again in 1991 as special events are announced, and we hope you'll be able to join us on those occasions.

Sincerely,

FOR Fred Wolf
Acting State Director, Nevada



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS 554TH RANGE SQUADRON (TAC)
NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE NV 89191-5000

NOV 27 1991

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER

SUBJECT: Wild Horse Management Plan

TO: Ms Catherine Barcomb
Executive Director, State of Nevada
Commission for the Preservation
of Wild Horses
Stewart Facility, Capital Complex
Carson City NV 89710

1. Reference your 30 October 1991 letter concerning the euthanasia of injured or sick horses during roundups and the proper procedure to effect a more humane destruction.
2. We reviewed contracted support with Advance Security Incorporated (ASI) and have determined the contractor is following procedures approved by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). A cooperative agreement for handling injured wild horses was agreed upon by representatives from BLM, Sandia Corporation, Department of Energy (DOE), ASI, and 554th Range Squadron, effective 26 April 1989. From our records and recall, either BLM was present or an incident report was completed during all cases of euthanasia. The method used to down a horse was found acceptable by BLM as both cost effective and timely, resulting in minimal pain to the animal.
3. If you feel a different method is warranted, please direct your request in writing to BLM. As managers of the wild horse program, they would need to change the established plan. 554th Range Squadron will ensure contracted security abides by the BLM agreement.
4. My point of contact for the Horse Management Plan is Captain Bert Pridham, 554th Range Squadron, Facilities Branch, telephone (702) 652-3650.

RALPH E. DUNCAN
Colonel, USAF
Commander

cc: BLM-NV State Director
BLM-Caliente/Las Vegas
USAF/DOE Liaison Office
DOE TTRSO
Sandia Corp-TTR
FWC/EM

Readiness is our Profession



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CALIENTE RESOURCE AREA

P.O. Box 237

Caliente, Nevada 89008

4720
NV-055.14

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Nevada Commission for the
Preservation of Wild Horses
Stewart Facility
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

DEC 23 1991

Dear Cathy,

This letter is in response to your comments and request for further information regarding the proposed wild horse removals from the Nellis Air Force Range (NAFR).

You stated a concern over our methodology used to estimate the wild horse population. I have attached a copy of Jule Wadsworth's census report, showing how the population estimate was derived. The Lincoln Index is a common method of estimating population numbers. The wording in the environmental assessment has been clarified to show that the population number is an estimate.

You expressed concern that too many horses may be removed. In our most recent census (September 1991), we made an actual count of 3,583 wild horses within the NAFR. Based upon data from our 1991 capture, we know that at least 581 of those wild horses are over ten years old. Our projected funding levels for the planned 1992 gather will allow us to remove 1,500 wild horses. The balance will still exceed the number of wild horses that should remain to support a thriving natural ecological balance. With our present handling methods, which include marking released horses, we will have an actual count of the horses that remain when we reach the appropriate management level. I don't anticipate any problems with removing too many horses.

You expressed a concern about monitoring. Monitoring is an ongoing process; we monitor critical water sources, forage and animal condition.

Water monitoring is conducted at three levels of intensity, based upon climatic conditions. It could be weekly, monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly. Because Air Force personnel are on the range daily, we rely upon them to notify us when there appears to be a water shortage. Upon receiving a reported shortage, we investigate conditions and make an assessment. Appropriate actions include making repairs to a damaged facility, increasing the frequency of monitoring, requesting the Air Force to haul water and conducting removals.

Forage monitoring is conducted at two levels of intensity. Formal vegetative studies that are conducted on a cyclical basis, either annually or every fifth year. Informal monitoring occurs whenever the wild horse and burro specialist or other qualified Bureau employee visit the NAFR.

Animal condition is conducted at two levels. Under normal conditions, visual observations by Bureau employees and/or Air Force personnel results in an initial judgement that animals are in good, fair or poor condition. When animals are judged to be in a stress condition, veterinarian expertise is obtained.

A summary of monitoring results is included in the Environmental Assessment (EA).

In your letter you express concern about water and water developments. A summary of water sources and flow data is included in the EA. Major water sources within the critical summer range have been repaired or improved during the previous 2 years. Maintenance is an ongoing process which will occur regardless of whether we gather wild horses or not.

You bring up the question of additional water development. Additional water development will not solve the problem of too many numbers. Vegetative data indicates that severe use is occurring 15 miles from perennial water sources and over 800 square miles of the vegetative resource are severely used. This level of use is excessive and unconscionable from a resource management point of view. Additional water development will only move the problem not solve it.

Continued drought conditions have decreased the amount of water available for horses. Some spring sources ceased to flow during the summer months (1991). Repair and improvement do very little when there is no water to flow into the trough.

You questioned in your letter why ship horses to Kingman, AZ. The option to ship to Kingman increases the flexibility of the gather plan. This flexibility becomes invaluable when dealing with unforeseen circumstances. Your question concerning shipment of young foals has been addressed in the final document.

Our monitoring data for Nellis are periodically consolidated and presented to the public through a herd management area evaluation. We have provided you and WHOA with copies in the past and intend to continue doing so. I don't consider it to be cost effective to send copies of every data report to you or all of the other organizations that have an interest in the Nellis Herd. If you have interest in a specific time or instance, we can provide you with that data.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our request for comments. I hope this letter has provided the information you desired. If you have further questions, please contact Jule Wadsworth at the above address.

Sincerely,
"Acting" *Jerry Lee Smith*
for Curtis G. Tucker
Area Manager

Enclosure - Census Memo

United States Department of the Interior
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 CALIENTE RESOURCE AREA
 P.O. Box 237
 Caliente, Nevada 89008
 (702) 726-3141

OCT 25 1991

4710.2
 NV-055.14

TO: Area Manager
 FROM: Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
 SUBJECT: Nellis Air Force Range Wild Horse Census


The Nellis wild horse census was conducted September 21-22, 1991. Two 206L Bell helicopters were used with 3 observers in each helicopter. Transects were flown approximately 1 mile apart in an east-west pattern. Ranges flown included; 71 north and south, 76 (including Stonewall), EC West, EC East, 75 east and west, and 74. These ranges correlate to the geographic areas known as Mudlake, Stonewall Flat, Cactus Flat/Gold Flat, and Kawich Valley. Horse numbers are listed according to range or geographic area.

Range	#Horses			Geographic Area	#Horses
	Adult	Young	Bobtails		
76	673	51	256	Stonewall Flat	724
EC East	73	2	0	Cactus Flat/ Gold Flat	1390
EC West	1029	84	539		
75	189	20	107		
71	493	31	0	Mudlake	524
74	834	111	0	Kawich Valley	945
TOTALS:	3,284	299	902		3,583

Notes: Number of bobtails is included in total number of adult horses.

A population estimate was calculated using the Lincoln Index ($N = Mn/m$) where:
 N = # of marked animals = 1314
 n = Total # of animals counted = 3,583
 m = # of marked animals recounted = 902
 Therefore; $N = (1314)(3583)/902 = 5,219$
 (Please note that the standard error in this calculation is greater than 20 percent.)

In addition, 91 burros were counted, 76 adults and 15 young in Ranges 71 and 76. One hundred thirty two bighorn sheep were counted on Stonewall Mountain.


 NELWHCEN.91/JULE
 JWADSWORTH/vm 10/15/91



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LAS VEGAS DISTRICT OFFICE
4765 VEGAS DRIVE
P.O. BOX 26569
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89126

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4700
(NV-931.3)

Commission for the Preservation of
Wild Horses and Burros
c/o Ms. Cathy Barcomb, Executive Director
Stewart Facility
5500 Snider Avenue,
Bldg. 6, Room 137
Carson City, NV 89710

SEP 20 1991

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

The Bureau of Land Management proposes to gather excess wild horses and burros from public lands in the State of Nevada no sooner than 28 days from the date of this letter.

The proposed gathering will be conducted in the Las Vegas District in the areas shown on the enclosed maps and as described below.

<u>Herd Management Area/Herd Area Name</u>	<u>Environmental Analysis Record Number</u>	<u>Reason for Gathering</u>	<u>Approximate Number to be Removed</u>	<u>Approximate Number to Remain</u>
Nellis Air Force Range	NV-055-02-01	Attain thriving ecological balance	1,500	2,083

Sincerely,

Ben F. Collins
Ben F. Collins
District Manager

1 Enclosure

1. Map-of Nellis Air Force
Range Gathering Area (1 p)

CC:

SD, NV-910
Palomino Valley Corral Manager

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 1988

FILE COPY
Humane Society of Southern Nevada

Mr. Dart Anthony
Chairman of the Board
Humane Society of Southern Nevada
P.O. Box 82022
Las Vegas, Nevada 89180-2022

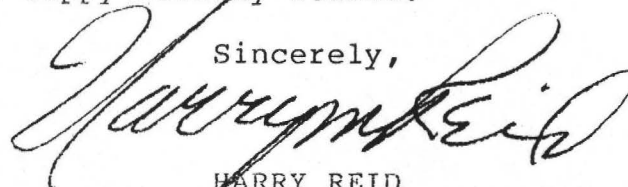
Dear Dart:

Thanks for writing about the unfortunate deaths of the wild horses at the Test Site. I want you to know that I have contacted both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Air Force, and asked that they report back to me on what action needs to be taken to see that actions such as these that led to the horses' deaths are not repeated and that this negligence is dealt with under the law.

I hope that people who have knowledge of actions leading to the deaths of our wild horses will begin to step forward. Without hard evidence on wild horse killing, it is going to be difficult to bring this to a stop.

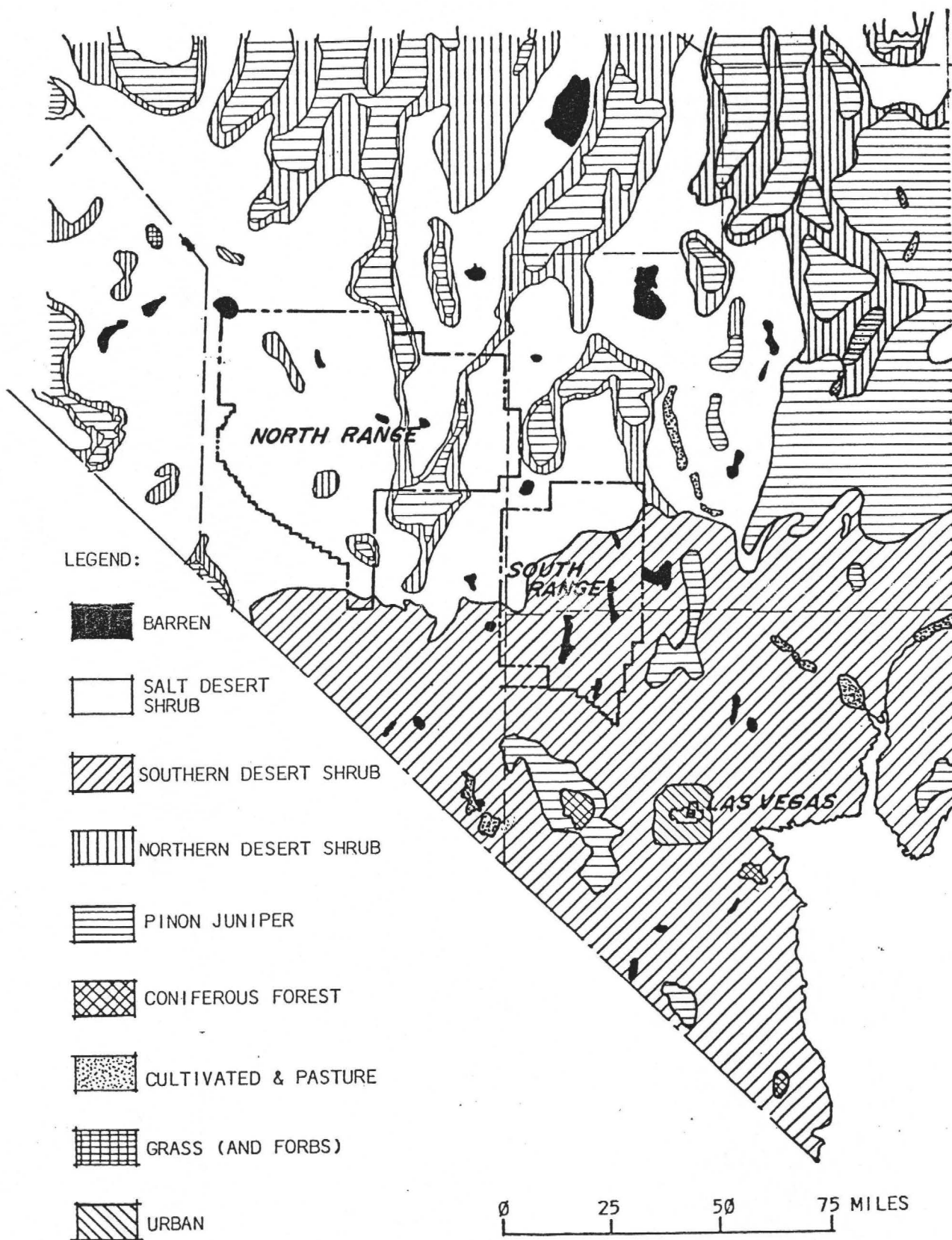
Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,



HARRY REID
United States Senator

HMR:wem



VEGETAL COVER MAP

FIGURE 2-6



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CALIENTE RESOURCE AREA

P.O. Box 237

Caliente, Nevada 89008

4700
(NV-055.14)
(702) 726-3141

OCT 27 1989

Terri Jay
Commission for the
Preservation of Wild Horses
Stewart Facility
Capitol Complex
Carson City, NV 89710

Dear Ms. Jay:

This letter is in response to the information you requested. Wild horse gathers were conducted in 1985, 1986 and 1987 on the Nellis Range Complex (NRC). The following number of horses were gathered; 1985-1502 horses, 1986-1043 horses and 233 burros, 1987-1210 horses. The BLM has two cooperative agreements with the National Wild Horse Association for the maintenance of Rose Spring pipeline and Wild Horse Corral #1.

Sincerely,

Curtis G. Tucker
Area Manager