

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO : State Director, Nevada

DATE: September 25, 1970

FROM : District Manager, Las Vegas

SUBJECT: Horse Range Problem - Sensitive Issue

During a special meeting with you, part of your staff and George Lea of W.O. on September 17, 1970, I reported some critical problems connected with the Mustang range in Nye County. I consider the matter to be an extremely sensitive issue.

I am enclosing a copy of the notes made on the meeting with members of the Nevada Section of the National Mustang Association and representatives of Nevada Fish and Game on September 15 in this office. Also enclosed is a suggested notice, for your signature, to AEC, Sandia Corp, Nellis Air Force and Nye County Commissioner reporting problem on the horse range.

I suggest that as soon as possible an opinion be requested from Mr. Aho as to BIM's jurisdiction on (1) the horse range (2) the bombing range.

As we discussed in your office, I believe we should proceed as soon as possible to set up a meeting with the Air Force and AEC to discuss BIM authority and provisions to carry out its responsibility for vegetation, elimination of livestock trespass, possible fencing program, etc. The above suggested notice to them alerts them of the problem prior to a meeting.

We propose to proceed with a plan to cooperatively rehabilitate some of the waters in the Kawich range the weekends of October 24 or 31 if weekdays can not be arranged. We would maintain Tunnel, Corral, Pole Rose, Cedar Pass and possibly White Spot springs. We would do this from our project maintenance funds, if you approve, and if other excess funds are not available. We would probably get some manpower from Mustang Association. Battle Mtn. District did not indicate an interest in cooperating. If access cannot be gained during week we will need approval for weekend overtime for FA crew and several others, (possibly 6 or 7 total). By rehabilitating these waters we would hope to spread the distribution of the horses back on more of the horse range. They are now watering mostly at Silver Bow and waters north of the horse range.

The Mustang Association will ask Nye Co. Commissioner for permit to move some horses from concentrated area. This will be up to whatever they can work out with the County Commissioner. They would coordinate with Velma Johnson's group, Pontrelli, Humane Society, etc. They recognize the problem



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largely due to cattle trespass but know that relocation will take time. Their relocation arguments are to alleviate concentrated range damage and to reduce possible winter kill, this winter.

The Mustang Association took their film to Reno last weekend and showed it to Velma Johnson and others. They are using it where ever possible to point out that the horses are in trouble, livestock encroachment, over use and deteriorated water. Their conclusions are in keeping with our observation on the range, also see attached copies of reports made to you of May 11, 13 and 14 pertinent to this matter. I strongly feel that our immediate interest and action in the matter is necessary.

Encls.
As stated

Annis Estes