



Nellis

G 6-4-87
IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CALIENTE RESOURCE AREA

P.O. Box 237

Caliente, Nevada 89008

4700

Case# 522
(NV 057.7)

(702) 726-3141

JUN 04 1987

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Enclosed is your copy of the Final Nevada Wild Horse Range (NWHR) and Nellis Range Complex (NRC) Gathering Plan Amendment along with amendments to the Environmental Assessment and Record of Decision/Fonsi. This amendment went through draft review during May, 1987. Comments that were received at that time were incorporated as appropriate into the document. This plan received concurrence by the Nevada BLM State Director on June 2, 1987. Implementation of this plan will begin 30 days from the date of this notice.

Thank you for your interest in the well being of the wild horses of this area.

Sincerely,

acting for Perry Lee Smith
Curtis Tucker
Area Manager

Enclosures:

Record of Decisions/Rationale and Fonsi Amendment.
Amendment to NWHR EA NV-057-4-05

OFFICE: Caliente Resource Area

PROJECT: NWHR & NRC Gathering Plan Amendment

EA NUMBER: NV-057-4-05

RECORD OF DECISIONS/RATIONALE AND FONSI AMENDMENT

Decision and Finding of Impacts of Proposed Action Amending NWHR & NRC Gathering Plans.

The implementation of the proposed action of using a second helicopter to supervise the project helicopter, and assure for the well being of the Wild Horses as they are gathered will provide positive impacts as identified in the analysis. Therefore, the proposed action amending NWHR & NRC Gathering Plan is accepted as written.

Rational

This amendment to the NWHR and NRC Gathering Plan was developed through a public review process incorporating comments into the document. The proposed action as specified in the amendment is expected to result in positive impacts to wild horses. Completion of the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to the environment.

This amendment to the NWHR and NRC Gathering Plan has been found to be in compliance with P.L. 92-195 and bureau policy. No environmental impact statement is required, and the State Clearinghouse has been contacted through the review process.

I hereby approve the proposed action stated in this EA#: NV-057-4-05.

Recommended For Approval: Terry Leo Smith 5/27/87
"Acting" for Environmental Coordinator Date
Caliente Resource Area

Approved By: Curtis G. Tucker 5-27-87
Curtis G. Tucker Date
Area Manager
Caliente Resource Area

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NWHR
(NV 057.7)

AMENDMENT

This amendment incorporates the following stipulations to be attached to the Nevada Wild Horse and Nellis Range Complex Gathering Plan, dated March 18, 1985, covering use of helicopters for contract supervision.

INSPECTION OF CONTRACT SERVICES

The Bureau of Land Management will provide supervision of the project helicopter during the gathering operation. This will be accomplished by use of an additional helicopter on site to monitor all aspects of the wild horse round-up. In the event an additional helicopter cannot be obtained, or proper clearance arranged to allow access to the Nellis Range Complex (for the additional helicopter), other methods will be used to observe the removal operations, including but not limited to, using observers on horseback, observing the helicopter from vehicles and placing stationary observers in strategic locations. The observers will have direct communication with the project helicopter for contract supervision.

Prepared by: Phillip C. Chapman 5/27/87
RGE CON/WH&B SPECIALIST
CALIENTE R. A. DATE

Recommended by: Curtis D. Tucker 5-27-87
AREA MANAGER
CALIENTE RESOURCE OFFICE DATE

Approved by: Ben F. Collins 5/27/87
DISTRICT MANAGER
LAS VEGAS DISTRICT OFFICE DATE

Concurrence: [Signature] 6/2/87
STATE DIRECTOR
NEVADA STATE OFFICE DATE

4700
NWHR
AMEND EA #NV-057-4-05
(NV-057.7)

AMENDMENT to EA #NV-057-4-05 This amendment adds the following actions to the above referenced EA as necessary to address impacts.

III. PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action is for Bureau of Land Management to use a second helicopter to supervise the project helicopter, and assure for the well being of the wild horses as they are gathered. Also in the event, that for what ever reason, a second helicopter cannot be obtained then observers would be placed at strategic geographic locations to observe the project helicopter and assure for the well being of the wild horses.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ADDITIONAL PROPOSED ACTIONS:

There may be beneficial impacts to the wild horses as a result of this action, such as reducing injuries through better supervision of the project helicopter. The proposed action will cause no additional impacts on Wilderness, Threatened/Endangered Plants or Animals, Vegetation, Wildlife, Visual Resource Values, Wild Horses, or Cultural Resources.

VI. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This plan Amendment was available for public review by all interested persons, and organizations, the Consultation and Coordination Committee members, and the Five Party Cooperative Agreement Committee members for a period of 30 days. Comments were received from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the Wyoming advocates for Animals; both groups gave support to the proposed action.

This plan amendment also went through intensive internal review (Nevada State Office, District, and Resource Area Offices) with comments being incorporated into the plans as appropriate. Resource Area personnel reviewing the plan amendment and the Environmental Assessment were:

Eddie Guerrero
Richard A. Orr
Larry Lacey

Wildlife Biologist
Supervisory Range Conservationist
Range Tech/Minerals

VII. DISCUSSION OF NON-CONCURRENCE:

No non-concurrence was received on this plan Amendment.

VIII. RECOMMENDATION

The NWHR and NRC Gathering Implementation of Plan Amendment is recommended for approval with the mitigations and concurrence by the above specialists.

Prepared by:

Phillip C. Seawright
RANGE CONSERVATIONIST/WH&B SP.
CALIENTE RESOURCE OFFICE

5/27/87
DATE