



## United States Department of the Interior

#### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Stateline Resource Area 4765 Vegas Drive P.O. Box 26569 Las Vegas, Nevada 89126

IN REPLYREPER TO:

4700/4000 (NV-054)

September 27, 1994

Jim Gallegos State of Nevada Department of Transportation 1263 S. Stewart Street Carson City, NV 89712

Dear Mr. Gallegos:

In support of your earlier agreement to aquire necessary water rights and provide water to that portion of the Johnnie HMA on the west side of SR160, we have completed an investigation of the Johnnie area and have determined that there are two(2) springs with the greatest potential for development as horse and burro water supplies. Both of these sources (Grapevine Spring and Horseshutum Spring) are located on non-public lands, and have private water rights associated with them. There are two very small springs located on public land, one of which (Kwickup Spring) has a marginal potential for development. No water rights appear to be associated with this spring. We did a cursory check with the State Engineers Office and found the following information.

Spring name	Location	Land Status	Water rights
Kwickup Spring	T.17S., R.53E., Sec. 17 SENE	BLM	None
Grapevine Spring	T.17S., R.53E., Sec. 21 SWSW	Private	#284 (Rulon and Alouise Bunker) 1104 Arrowhead Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
Horseshutum Spr.	T.17S., R.53E., Sec. 34 NENE	Forest Service	#283 (Rulon and Alouise Bunker) 1104 Arrowhead Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

#4936 (William T. and Betty H. Maher and June Johnson Emmel) S.R. Box 6773, Pahrump, Nevada 89041

#11799 (Mato Kusick) Address unknown

You may want to visit the State Engineers office to clearify with them the ownership of water rights on Grapevine and Horseshutum Springs. It is further recommended that you contact the current land owners/water right holders to determine the possibility of acquiring a portion of their water rights as well as easements for the necessary transport facilities accross their land. Both of these springs are developed and will probably only require tapping into them and installing a pipeline system with storage facilities..

If your efforts to aquire water rights on Grapevine and Horseshutum Springs is unfruitful, there are other smaller springs (all of which are on Forest Service or private lands) in the area that may have potential. These two springs however are the best and a good starting point.

As mentioned earlier, Kwickup Spring is located on Public Lands and currently has no water rights associated with it. It will require further investigation to determine its potential for development. At this time its potential for development to insure a consistant reliable source of water is questionable.

Your efforts to help in maintaining a healthy, viable horse and burro herd in the Johnnie HMA is appreciated. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact either Gary McFadden at (702)647-5024 or Donn Siebert at (702)647-5056.

Marvin D. Morgan Area Manager



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT STATELINE RESOURCE AREA 4765 VEGAS DRIVE P.O.BOX 26569 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89126



Nevada Department of Transportation 1263 South Stewart Street Carson City, Nevada 89712 Attn: Jerry Pieretti

AUG - 5 798

Dear Mr. Pieretti:

It has been brought to my attention that the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) intends to initiate fence construction along both sides of Highway 160 north of Pahrump, Nevada to prevent wild horses and burro's from entering onto/crossing the highway. I understand that this fencing project is necessary because accidents involving wild horses and/or burro's and motor vehicles is a serious concern.

The BLM is responsible for managing wild horse and burro populations within herd management areas in such a manner that we maintain free-roaming behavior. I am concerned that this fencing project will negatively impact the free-roaming nature of the horse and burro population in the Spring Mountain Herd Management Area.

I believe that we can meet the needs of both your Department and my agency. I will be in the Carson City area next Monday. If you have a few minutes I would like to meet you and perhaps we can further discuss this matter.

Sincerely

Marvin D. Morgan

Area Manager

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Sustaine Resource Area

MARVIN "DAN" MORGAN Area Managar, Statistic Resource Area

(702) 647-5000 Fax: (702) 647-5023 4765 W. VEGAS DRIVE P.O. BOX 26569 (AS VEGAS, NY 89126





# 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: 4710 (NV-050)

June 9, 1994

#### Memorandum

To

State Director, Nevada (NV-961)

From

District Manager, Las Vegas

Subject

Last Chance/Mt. Stirling (Johnnie) Herd Management Areas Wild Horse and

Burro Situation

As you are aware, Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is currently constructing a safety fence on their right-of-way along State Route 160 from Highway 95 to just north of Pahrump. This fence will cut the Last Chance/Mt. Sterling (Johnnie) HMA approximately in half creating an adverse situation for the survival of the animals on the west side of the fence.

We conducted a census the week of May 16, 1994 to determine current use areas and animal numbers. Based on census and movement data from 1988 to 1994 we estimate that 1/5 of the horses and 1/2 of the burros in the HMA have established territories on the west side of SR 160 where they make extensive use of forage and shade. Naturally occurring water, is lacking on the west side of the highway. The only available water source is a small private pond supplied by a spring on the east side of the highway. The pond provides an insufficient amount of water to handle current animal numbers. Because of this lack of available water on the west side, animals rely upon water on the east side as their primary source. If animals are not able to get to water on the east side there is the potential for deaths; concentration of animals at the private water source; and/or movement of animals into the town of Pahrump or the Ash Meadows area, both undesirable locations.

The primary water sources (springs) on the east side are located on private land and at this time it is not known if it is feasible to acquire water rights and pipe water to the west side. We are working on this but even if the land owners are cooperative it would take several months to get anything going.

Water hauling to augment the private water source on the west side was considered as an option. This however is considered to be logistically prohibitive considering the number of animals involved.

At this time there does not appear to be a viable remedy to the immediate situation other than the removal of 100 to 150 burros and 20 to 30 horses from the west side. In combination with the removal we would relocate any additional animals to the east side and provide water for any stragglers. The NDOT has agreed to leave a four mile gap in the fence for a period of two to three weeks so we can get a gather in place.

Please disregard our previous request for a Full Force and Effect Decision (dated June 3, 1994) and consider this as our amended request.

If you have any questions concerning this matter please contact Gary McFadden or Donn Siebert.

Gary Ryan District:Manager

Concurrence by:

Ron Wenker State Director, Nevada

