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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:
1510/4700

(NV-053)

April 23, 1991

MEMORANDUM

To: LaVonna L. Hughes, Contracting Officer, SC-651B
From: Bob Stager, Las Vegas District Office, NV-050
Subject: Nevada East Wild Horse/Burro Removal Requirements
Contract No. N651-C1-3018 For the Nellis Air Force
Range Wild Horse Removal

The date has not been identified for the Nellis removal to date. It is anticipated that it will begin somewhere between May 6 and 13, 1991.

As we discussed on the phone, I indicated that I would write you a summary memo on any possible changes to the contract or its stipulations. Upon review of the subject Removal Requirements Contract as it relates to the Nellis Air Force Range wild horse removal, the following special needs were identified.

1. The contractor will be required to sort the animals by age. Specifically, all animals over 10 years of age will be sorted out from those 10 years or younger. Animals 6 years of age and younger will be sorted from those that are from 7 to 10 years old.

The objective is to meet this criteria for animals that are to be removed from the range:

"Animals ten years of age and under which are determined not to have recognizable defects. Animals over six years of age should exhibit positive qualities".

2. The horses require grass hay in order to reduce the possibility of any adverse digestive problems.
3. The contractor would use wood shaving rather than dirt etc. for non-skid surface in the trailer used to transport the horses to the BLM facility.
4. The disposition of the animals captured would be BLMs

- prerogative.
5. It has been suggested that the Kingman facility may be an alternative facility to transport the animals to. If this is a potentiality, it should be identified in the document as BLM's prerogative.
 6. In order to try to meet animal removal criteria and to minimize the cost to the government, we would like to consider the following changes to the subject contract (if we do not have to pay for the same animal more than once, b. may be sufficient)
 - a. We may need the option to hold animals at the trap sites that will be released back to the capture area or transported to another location by BLM. This may range from as much as 200 to 1,000 horses needing 400 square feet per animal or up to 400,000 sq. feet (2 to 9 acres of holding pens additional to capture and sorting facilities). The contractor will need to supply hay and water for these animals.
 - b. We may need the option to have the contractor mark the animals (paint, grease, etc) that are to be released back into the removal area so they can be identified easily. If they are recaptured, we would then prefer not to pay for them more than the first time they were water trapped. In other words, we do not want to pay for the same horse 3 or 4 times.
 - c. We may need the option to have the contractor move his trap frequently to distant trap locations at the CORs direction. This would reduce the possibility of recapture should we be liable to pay for the same horse more than once. Obviously, since the trap locations will be predicated on where the horses are located, we may have some overlap due to the large number of animals we will be processing (up to 4,000 horses in order to remove up to 2,000 based on processing 1.6 to 2 times the numbers to be removed).
 7. If we do not have up to the 2,000 horses removed by July 1, we may need to have the contractor provide for a helicopter capture to remove the remaining animals. We should let him know ahead of time so he can prepare.
 8. Palomino Facility has indicated that they can only process up to 200 horses per week. Additionally, the nature of the Nellis Air Force Range operations may require shut downs for a number of days once the capture begins. Both of these will cause a delayed performance in the contract. We may want to inform him of this and make the necessary changes to the contract.
 8. All the contractors employees will be subject to security

scrutiny and clearance from Nellis. They will need to send in their full name, date and place of birth, social security number, and declaration of citizenship. This should be mailed to me (COR) as soon as possible so I can begin process with Nellis.

Please look at these proposed changes and let us know if any and which you would consider "cardinal changes" to the contract warranting additional funding to him. Also, please let us know if any are not possible legally. Thanks.

For your information I've included excerpts from the Nellis removal plan for removal criteria being used. They are:

2. Number of Animals to be Removed

The number of wild horses to be removed during this removal is no more than 2000, contingent upon available funding.

3. Number of Animals Remaining

Current population estimates indicate that there will be more than 2302 wild horses remaining in the removal area.

C. SORTING

At each holding site, animals will be sorted into the following four categories using the criteria listed:

1. ANIMALS TO BE REMOVED FROM THE RANGE generally will meet the following criteria:

a. ten years of age and under which are determined not to have recognizable defects. Animals over six years of age should exhibit positive qualities.

b. in sufficient health to be shipped from processing center within a reasonable period of time following arrival.

2. Any LAME, OLD, OR SICK ANIMALS will meet the following criteria:

a. Lame means an animal with one or more malfunctioning limbs that permanently impair freedom of movement.

b. Old means an animal characterized because of age by its physical deterioration and inability to fend for itself, suffering or closeness to death.

c. Sick means an animal with failing health, infirmity or disease from which there is little chance of recovery.

3. ANIMALS TO BE RELEASED BACK ON TO THE RANGE may be

selected using the following criteria:

- a. Obviously near term pregnant mares.
- b. Mares with foals too young be shipped.
- c. Animals exceeding ten years of age and animals over six years of age not exhibiting positive qualities.
- d. Animals without identifiable hereditary defects not meeting other criteria for destruction. An example is an animal blinded in one eye due to injury.

4. BRANDED AND CLAIMED ANIMALS will be identified using the following criteria:

- a. Branded animals with offspring, including yearlings.
- b. Unbranded or claimed animals with offspring, including yearlings with obvious evidence of existing or former private ownership (e.g., geldings, bobbed tails, photo documentation, saddle marks, etc.).

5. Process

a. Removal. Animals meeting the removal criteria will be returned to the Contractor for transport to a processing center. BLM may hold selected animals and transport them separately.

b. Destruction. The COR/PI will have the primary responsibility for determining when an animal will be destroyed in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4730.1. Due to security restrictions involving personnel permitted to carry fire arms on the Nellis Air Force Range, Advanced Security Inc. (ASI) supervisory personnel will perform the actual destruction. The COR/PI will insure that destruction methodology is known to personnel involved in this aspect. In addition, the COR/PI will provide training to ASI personnel to insure that destruction is accomplished in the most humane manner possible. Only appropriate firearms will be used by ASI personnel. When the need for destruction questionable, a veterinarian will be called to assist in making a final determination.

The carcasses of wild horses that die or must be destroyed, as a result of any infectious, contagious or parasitic disease, will be disposed of by burial to a depth of at least 3 feet. The carcasses of other wild horses which must be destroyed will be disposed of by removing them from the capture site or holding corral and placing them in a inconspicuous location to minimize the visual impacts. Carcasses will not be placed in drainage regardless of drainage size or downstream destination.

c. Release. Animals selected for release back on the

range will be retained until the trap site in which they were captured is relocated and their recapture is unlikely. BLM may hold selected animals and transport them separately.

The PI's will be Jule Durfee and Mike Fewell in the Caliente Resource Area. Additional PI's may be needed later. I'll work with you should that occur. I have been identified as the COR.

I think we can make this another Gold Butte. It should be fun. At least we will have fun working together. The military will provide me with telephone communication with you and the outside world. We can be telephone partners ha.

Sincerely,

Bob Stager, COR

Enclosures