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IN REPLY REFER TO:



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

### CALIENTE RESOURCE AREA

P.O. Box 237

Caliente, Nevada 89008

4720.1  
(NV-055.10)

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CERTIFIED MAIL # P 503 308 850  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

OCT 09 1991

Wild Horse Organized Assistance  
Dawn Y. Lappin  
P.O. Box 555  
Reno, NV 89504

Dear Ms. Lappin:

The Spring/Summer 1991 Nellis wild horse gather and removal was successful in removing from the Nellis range 1874 adult horses and 395 orphan foals. The total number of horses processed was 3613 with 1344 horses returned to the range.

The purpose of the gather and removal was to initiate action to restore and maintain the range to a thriving ecological balance and to prevent further deterioration of the rangeland resources. Another gather and removal is planned to start sometime between November 1991 and February 1992 to continue to bring the existing wild horse population (September 1991 census - 5219 animals) into balance with the rangeland resources and to maintain and restore a thriving ecological balance.

Enclosed for your information, you will find draft copies of the Environmental Assessment and Gather Plan. Your comments concerning either or both of these documents is invited. Please submit your written comments to the Caliente Resource Area office no later than close of business on Wednesday, October 23, 1991. Comments received will be incorporated into the final documents. Your cooperation and review of these documents is vital to assure the well being of the Nellis wild horse population and rangeland resources are properly managed for the benefit of the public.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jule Durfee, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist at the Caliente Resource Area office.

Sincerely,

*Terry Lee Smith*

"Acting" Curtis G. Tucker  
Area Manager

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment for the Nellis Air Force Range Wild Horse Removal (pp. 25)

Removal Plan for the Nellis Air Force Range Wild Horse Removal (pp. 20)



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50**BRIEFING PAPER**

Nellis Air Force Range

The Nellis Air Force Range was censused on September 21 and 22, 1991. The census was conducted by personnel from the Las Vegas District Office and the Caliente Resource Area.

Total numbers censused were 3552 wild horses. Of these, 299 were foals and 902 "bob-tails". In addition, 91 burros were censused with 76 adults and 15 foals.

The AML for Nellis Air Force Range is 1,000-1,200. The AML was derived based on vegetative monitoring data and water flow measurements.

Under PAWP cost targets, Nevada has adequate funding to remove 1,500 animals.

The capture plan is currently in draft form and has been reviewed by NSO. The draft gather plan will be issued for public review October 4, 1991. The thirty days comment period will end November 3, 1991.

The gather can proceed any time following the thirty days comment period provided there are no Protests. It is estimated that the gather will start in December 1991 or January 1992.

The 1991 Nellis Air Force Range gather removed a total of 1,832 adults and ~~over~~ 500 leppie foals.

Late summer rain storms have provided disbursed water for the wild horses. However, DOE personnel have indicated that the water provided by the thunder storms is beginning to dry-up. The Air Force is currently not hauling water.

Water conditions on Nellis may require that a helicopter be used for the gather, as an abundance of disbursed water will render water trapping unfeasible. Coordination with the Air Force for air space and flying time windows could become a deciding factor concerning the starting date and the performance time of the gather.

The Caliente Resource Area will be coordinating the gather with Terry Smith (Supervisory Range Conservationist) acting as COR and Julie Durfee as PI.

Should additional PIs be required, Las Vegas District will request assistance from the neighboring Districts. Ely and Battle Mountain (Tonopah RA) will have personnel who are able to assist.