

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2002-67

FOR RELEASE: Sept. 30, 2002

#### Rich Hoops Receives Special Achievement Award

The Geothermal Resources Council (GRC) has honored Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada's Rich Hoops with a Special Achievement Award. Hoops, the fluid minerals team leader in the Nevada State Office's Division of Minerals Management, received the award during a Sept. 24 GRC awards luncheon at the Reno Hilton Hotel.

The award recognized Hoops' "outstanding contributions to the development of geothermal resources," praising him as a "stellar example of a regulator who has sought to assist developers rather than impede them.

"Rich has undertaken the role, not only of a committed regulator, but as a teacher and facilitator, advising the industry on how to fulfill requirements in an efficient way," according to the citation Hoops received.

-BLM-

For more information contact: Richard Brown at 775-861-6586

---

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2002-66

FOR RELEASE: Sept. 30, 2002

#### BLM to Sell Impounded Livestock

Reno, Nev. - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will offer for sale impounded cows, calves and bulls on Friday, Oct. 4. The livestock will be auctioned by written bid. Bids will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on the day of the sale.

Bids may be hand delivered or faxed to the BLM State Office at 1340 Financial Blvd., in Reno. Information about the sale is available at the BLM website:

<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

The livestock will be sold in four lots: Lot #1, 40 cow/calf pairs; Lot #2, 88 dry cows; Lot #3, 58 calves/yearlings; and Lot #4, 3 bulls.

The successful buyer(s) will be given a valid, standard Brand Inspection Clearance Certificate by the Nevada State Brand Inspector. Interested buyers may call Doug Furtado at 775-934-7996 to schedule an appointment to inspect the livestock. Inspections may be scheduled through Wed., Oct. 2.

-BLM-

Note to Editors: Media wishing to take photographs or video footage of the livestock before the Friday morning sale, may schedule a time to do so with JoLynn Worley, 861-6515. No media opportunities will be available inside the Palomino Valley Center on Friday, Oct. 4.

For more information contact: JoLynn Worley, (775) 861-6586

---

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2002-65

FOR RELEASE: Sept. 25, 2002

#### BLM Accepts Bids for 16 Geothermal Leases

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has accepted winning bids on 16 tracts of geothermal land in north-central Nevada, following a sale held Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Sixty-seven tracts in six Known Geothermal Resource Areas (KGRAs) were offered in the competitive sale. High bids on the 16 tracts totaled \$311,159 for 31,094 acres. Interest in the parcels was high, with four bids received for one of the tracts. One of the tracts bid out at \$35 an acre, and another at \$16 per acre. The 16 tracts are located on three KGRAs in north-central Nevada, including Brady, Dixie Valley and New York Canyon.

"The National Energy Policy for renewable energy is working in Nevada. The bid amounts and the number of firms bidding indicates the increased interest the geothermal industry has in obtaining leases to work with geothermal resources in Nevada," said Jean Rivers-Council, BLM Nevada Acting State Director. "Environmental and planning considerations were a primary factor in which lands could be offered at this sale."

As part of the BLM Nevada's implementation plan for geothermal leasing, the agency has been processing non-competitive lease applications, and held the competitive lease sale for KGRAs in areas of low environmental sensitivity. The BLM organized the sale as partial implementation of renewable energy aspects of the National Energy Policy. The BLM will provide the opportunity to issue the lease effective Oct. 1, 2002.

Environmental documents for each KGRA have been prepared, and are available upon request. The Legal Notice for this competitive sale has been posted on the web at:

<http://www.nv.blm.gov/>

The President's National Energy Policy places a high priority on alternative energy development on federal lands. The Secretary of the Interior has pledged to find opportunities to expand alternative energy development on federal lands and to streamline geothermal lease processing. A new Nevada state law requires use of renewable sources within the state to meet new electrical demands.

Nine power plants are currently using federal geothermal resources in Nevada. They generate 165 megawatts, meeting the needs of 165,000 households. Since generation began in 1986, these plants have produced more than 15 million megawatt hours of electricity with a gross value of more than \$1 billion. Federal royalties exceed \$42 million. Half of all royalties, bonuses and rentals are returned to the State of Nevada. The plants contribute to the tax base in rural counties. Geothermal energy in Nevada is also used directly in vegetable dehydration plants, and mining companies use it to improve the leaching process in cold weather.

In fiscal year 2001, Nevada issued 20 noncompetitive leases and held a competitive sale that resulted in seven new leases. So far during fiscal year 2002, BLM Nevada has issued 47 noncompetitive and competitive leases covering 112,000 acres.

-BLM-

For more information contact: Richard Brown at 775-861-6586

---

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2002-64

FOR RELEASE: Sept. 25, 2002

Adopt a Saddle Trained Wild Horse or Weanling October 12 in Carson City

A special adoption on Sat., Oct. 12 at the Warm Springs Correctional Center, Carson City, will feature nine wild horses gentled and trained to saddle plus 15 weanlings, ages five and six months. Viewing begins at 10 a.m., with a competitive silent bid at 11 a.m. Bidding on each horse begins at \$125 per animal.

Participants are asked to enter the facility via the rear entrance on Edmonds Drive in southeastern Carson City. All attendees must abide by the prison dress code: no blue clothing, blue jeans, shorts, tank tops, cell phones or keys.

Inmates at the Warm Springs Correctional Center have trained nine Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wild horses for this adoption. The Corrections program has been training state (stray) horses, but this is the first time they have gentled wild horses for the BLM under a special arrangement.

Fifteen fillies and colts recently weaned from their mothers are also available for adoption. It is anticipated many of the young animals will be halter broke by the time of the adoption. The weanlings come from the BLM's Callaghan Herd Management Area in central Nevada. They are brown, bay, black and sorrel in color.

For information on the trained horses or on the Corrections program, call Tim Bryant (775) 887-9331. For general adoption information, call the BLM's National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley at (775) 475-2222.

BLM requirements for gentled horses and weanlings are for a five-foot fence, rather than the six-foot fence required for adult, ungentled wild horses. Fences should be of pole, pipe or plank construction and must not have dangerous protrusions. Barbed wire or electric fence is not allowed. Initially, newly adopted wild horses must be kept in an enclosed corral with a minimum area of 400 square feet per animal. A two-sided shelter with a roof is required for all animals.

Stock trailers are preferred for transporting saddle horses. A two-horse trailer with the partition removed and the back covered may be used for a weanling. Drop ramps are not allowed. Adopters should bring a halter and lead rope for each animal they are approved to adopt.

-BLM-

For more information contact: Maxine Shane (775) 861-6586 or Debra Kolkman (775) 289-1946

---

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2002-63  
FOR RELEASE: Sept. 23, 2002

### **BLM Completes First Phase of Unauthorized Livestock Removal**

Elko, Nev. — After impounding 227 cattle from public lands in Eureka County yesterday (September 22), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has terminated the first phase of impoundment of unauthorized livestock that were grazing on public lands. The trespass livestock were on the South Buckhorn allotment in Pine Valley, approximately 60 miles southwest of Elko. Mary and Carrie Dann, who own the livestock, and others herded about 200 livestock off the public lands last week.

"This is an action that had to be taken," said Bob Abbey, BLM Nevada State Director. "The actions of the past few days resulted in the removal of more than 400 cattle from rangeland that is seriously degraded. We will continue to monitor the situation. If they release cattle back onto public land, we will take action to impound them."

A second gather is planned to remove horses which are also in trespass. "We have reduced stress on the rangeland resource by removing the cows," Abbey said. "Our intention is to also impound the horses if they are not voluntarily removed."

The BLM plans to sell the impounded livestock on October 4, if they are not claimed and if the Danns do not make a viable settlement offer to pay for grazing fees, fines and other damages due the United States. Any proposed offer must be accepted by both the Departments of Interior and Justice because of the long-standing nature of the trespass and the large amount of accumulated damages. In addition, the Danns must remove any remaining livestock that are in trespass on public lands.

Information on the sale will be available later this week. Bid forms will be available on the BLM Nevada internet site, [www.nv.blm.gov](http://www.nv.blm.gov), or by calling the BLM.

If the owners do not reclaim the livestock or prove that they were not in trespass, the impounded livestock will be sold at public auction and the proceeds will go toward unauthorized use fees and impoundment costs. Any proceeds from the sale in excess of the amount due the United States will be returned to the livestock owners.

**Background:** More than 500 unauthorized cattle have been grazing on public lands in the allotment this year. The unauthorized livestock are causing significant resource damage and are severely straining the grazing capacity of the allotment, which is shared by five grazing permittees with valid permits.

Mary and Carrie Dann and other heirs of the Dewey Dann Estate were served with an order to remove and demand for payment for their long-time outstanding livestock trespass. The Danns held a valid permit at one time, but lost it because of failure to follow grazing regulations.

The Danns ignore Federal regulations, claiming the land in Crescent Valley belongs to them. In 1985, the Supreme Court ruled that payment for Western Shoshone lands was effected when the Indian Claims Commission award was deposited in a trust account in the United States Treasury for the benefit of the Western Shoshone. That payment extinguished the aboriginal rights. The U.S. District Court ruled in 1991 that the BLM should enforce its regulations and hold the Danns accountable for any future unauthorized use on public lands.

The BLM has tried to work with the Danns and local interests in every possible fashion over a number of years to resolve their unauthorized use of the public lands, said Elko Field Manager Helen Hankins. Removing the Danns' unauthorized livestock is the last resort in nearly 30 years of trying to resolve this issue. We must take action to turn around the severe degradation of the public range lands that is occurring as a result of this unauthorized use. A

Hankins continued, ABLM has a huge task before us now - to begin planning for the restoration work needed to repair decades of environmental abuse. Even with appropriate and responsible management, it's going to take years and likely millions of dollars to bring the land back to a healthy condition that will benefit wildlife and vegetation as well as livestock. @

BLM Nevada State Director Bob Abbey commented, AIn no way are the actions of the Danns and a few others reflective of livestock operators in Nevada. BLM has almost 700 livestock grazing permits issued for the public lands in Nevada, and 99 percent of them are complying with the terms of their permits. They pay their fees, and they're good stewards of the public lands. @

-BLM-

*For further information, please select one of the following links:*

## **BLM Removes Unauthorized Livestock**

Elko, Nev.-The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today removed 227 head of unauthorized livestock that were grazing on public lands. The trespass livestock were on the South Buckhorn allotment in Pine Valley, approximately 60 miles southwest of Elko. More than 500 unauthorized cattle have been grazing on public lands in the allotment this year, as well as about 800 horses. The unauthorized livestock are causing significant resource damage and are severely straining the grazing capacity of the allotment, which is shared by five grazing permittees with valid permits.

Mary and Carrie Dann and other heirs of the Dewey Dann Estate were served with an order to remove and demand for payment for their long-time outstanding livestock trespass. The Danns held a valid permit at one time, but lost it because of failure to follow grazing regulations.

The Danns ignore Federal regulations, claiming the land in Crescent Valley belongs to them. In 1985, the Supreme Court ruled that payment for Western Shoshone lands was effected when the Indian Claims Commission award was deposited in a trust account in the United States Treasury for the benefit of the Western Shoshone. That payment extinguished the aboriginal rights. The U.S. District Court ruled in 1991 that the BLM should enforce its regulations and hold the Danns accountable for any future unauthorized use on public lands.

The BLM has tried to work with the Danns and local interests in every possible fashion over a number of years to resolve their unauthorized use of the public lands, said Elko Field Office Manager Helen Hankins. Removing the Danns' unauthorized livestock is the last resort in nearly 30 years of trying to resolve this issue. We must take action to turn around the severe degradation of the public range lands that is occurring as a result of this unauthorized use. "

Hankins continued, "BLM has a huge task before us now - to begin planning for the restoration work needed to repair decades of environmental abuse. Even with appropriate and responsible management, it's going to take years and likely millions of dollars to bring the land back to a healthy condition that will benefit wildlife and vegetation as well as livestock."

BLM Nevada State Director Bob Abbey commented, "In no way are the actions of the Danns and a few others reflective of livestock operators in Nevada. BLM has almost 700 livestock grazing permits issued for the public lands in Nevada, and 99 percent of them are complying with the terms of their permits. They pay their fees, and they're good stewards of the public lands."

A contractor for the BLM is removing the livestock under BLM supervision. The owners may regain possession of the impounded livestock by paying the unauthorized use fees and impoundment costs, or by proving that the livestock were not in trespass. If the owners do not reclaim them, the impounded livestock will be sold at public auction and the proceeds will go toward unauthorized use fees and impoundment costs. Any proceeds from the sale in excess of the amount due the United States will be returned to the livestock owners.

*-BLM-*

*For further information, please select one of the following links:*

To download a copy of this news release,

**For more information contact:** Mike Brown (775) 753-0386 (Elko), Jo Simpson (775) 861-6586 or (775) 722-9796 (Reno)

## **BLM Removes Unauthorized Livestock**

Elko, Nev.-The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today removed 227 head of unauthorized livestock that were grazing on public lands. The trespass livestock were on the South Buckhorn allotment in Pine Valley, approximately 60 miles southwest of Elko. More than 500 unauthorized cattle have been grazing on public lands in the allotment this year, as well as about 800 horses. The unauthorized livestock are causing significant resource damage and are severely straining the grazing capacity of the allotment, which is shared by five grazing permittees with valid permits.

Mary and Carrie Dann and other heirs of the Dewey Dann Estate were served with an order to remove and demand for payment for their long-time outstanding livestock trespass. The Danns held a valid permit at one time, but lost it because of failure to follow grazing regulations.

The Danns ignore Federal regulations, claiming the land in Crescent Valley belongs to them. In 1985, the Supreme Court ruled that payment for Western Shoshone lands was effected when the Indian Claims Commission award was deposited in a trust account in the United States Treasury for the benefit of the Western Shoshone. That payment extinguished the aboriginal rights. The U.S. District Court ruled in 1991 that the BLM should enforce its regulations and hold the Danns accountable for any future unauthorized use on public lands.

The BLM has tried to work with the Danns and local interests in every possible fashion over a number of years to resolve their unauthorized use of the public lands, said Elko Field Office Manager Helen Hankins. Removing the Danns' unauthorized livestock is the last resort in nearly 30 years of trying to resolve this issue. We must take action to turn around the severe degradation of the public range lands that is occurring as a result of this unauthorized use. "

Hankins continued, "BLM has a huge task before us now - to begin planning for the restoration work needed to repair decades of environmental abuse. Even with appropriate and responsible management, it's going to take years and likely millions of dollars to bring the land back to a healthy condition that will benefit wildlife and vegetation as well as livestock."

BLM Nevada State Director Bob Abbey commented, "In no way are the actions of the Danns and a few others reflective of livestock operators in Nevada. BLM has almost 700 livestock grazing permits issued for the public lands in Nevada, and 99 percent of them are complying with the terms of their permits. They pay their fees, and they're good stewards of the public lands."

A contractor for the BLM is removing the livestock under BLM supervision. The owners may regain possession of the impounded livestock by paying the unauthorized use fees and impoundment costs, or by proving that the livestock were not in trespass. If the owners do not reclaim them, the impounded livestock will be sold at public auction and the proceeds will go toward unauthorized use fees and impoundment costs. Any proceeds from the sale in excess of the amount due the United States will be returned to the livestock owners.

*-BLM-*

*For further information, please select one of the following links:*

## **Dann Trespass**

### **Questions and Answers**

*What action is the BLM taking?*

The BLM issued a Notice of Intent on March 5, 2002, to gather and impound livestock in trespass by the Dann Ranch, Mary and Carrie Dann, and the Western Shoshone National Council on the South Buckhorn allotment.

*Why is the BLM taking this action?*

Because the Danns have longstanding unauthorized use in the area and currently (August 16, 2002 aerial count) have 516 cattle and 834 horses on the range in trespass. The BLM is required to enforce grazing regulations for all public land users. Livestock related regulations are designed to protect the public lands from too many livestock in one place and to provide the American people with a return on their investment in public lands from fees charged to ranchers and others who make money from the use of these lands.

Most significantly, serious resource damage has occurred because of the unauthorized grazing and conditions continue to worsen.

*Why has it taken the BLM so long to take this action?*

BLM wanted to give the Danns every opportunity to comply with grazing regulations and waiting for cases to make their way through the courts and administrative system. The unauthorized grazing and land ownership claims have been off and on for the past nearly 30 years. A chronology of events shows the BLM made every effort to get the Danns to follow grazing regulations. Additionally, the Danns have taken their land ownership claim to the courts, including the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. The U.S. courts did not rule in the Dann's favor. The U.S. Supreme Court stated in 1985 that Western Shoshone aboriginal title to the land ended when the \$26 million payment was made to the U.S. Treasury account managed by trustees. In 1991, the U.S. District Court instructed BLM to enforce grazing regulations.

During the litigation the BLM did not attempt to impound Dann livestock. The BLM conducted an impoundment in 1992, gathering nearly 430 horses that the Danns did not claim and were determined as stray. Just prior to the BLM impoundment, the Danns removed and sold 1,500 horses and 300 cattle from the South Buckhorn Allotment.

*What is the current status of the Dann's grazing permit?*

The BLM has revoked the Dann's grazing privileges. Dewey Dann, the late father of Mary, Carrie, Richard and Clifford Dann, had a recognized grazing preference for 180 head of livestock (965 AUMs) in the South Buckhorn allotment. He applied for and paid for grazing use until his death. After his death, the Dewey Dann Estate applied for and paid for grazing use until 1983. Payments resumed after the June 6, 1991, District Court ruling. In April 1995, the BLM informed the Dann's that the Dewey Dann Estate grazing permit needed to reflect the current owners of the Dann Ranch which is the base property for the grazing privileges acquired by Dewey Dann. Despite requests from BLM, to date, the Dann family has not submitted the necessary documents to transfer grazing privileges to the Dann Ranch owners (Mary, Carrie, Richard, and Clifford Dann and Toni and Lori Steve, their nieces). As a result the former Dewey Dann Estate grazing permit has been cancelled. On August 9, 2002, the grazing preference for the Danns' base property was cancelled. "Grazing preference" is the federal

authorization (or privilege) that is "attached" to base property (typically a ranch). Without the preference, no grazing permit for public lands may be issued.

*Is the BLM going to put the Dann's out of the livestock business?*

The agency is concerned about both the protection of the public lands and the economic viability of ranchers using those lands. We are aware of the Dann's concern that limits to the numbers of livestock they are permitted to graze may jeopardize their ability to make a living. However, viable ranching includes being responsible about environmental concerns. All attempts at finding ways to balance their needs with an environmentally sound grazing system or plan for the South Buckhorn allotment have not been successful.

*Why has the BLM issued trespass notices to the Western Shoshone National Council?*

In 1992, the Western Shoshone National Council notified the BLM that they had "nationalized" all the livestock formerly belonging to the Dannels. Their brand, SN, is registered with the state of Nevada and appears on many of the livestock found on the South Buckhorn allotment. The WSNC does not hold and has never held a grazing permit for this area. Their livestock is therefore unauthorized and subject to unauthorized use fees and potential impoundment.

*Does the land in question belong to the Western Shoshone?*

No. The Supreme Court ruled in 1985, that any aboriginal tribal rights to the land had been extinguished with payment of \$26 million to the Western Shoshone, as dictated by the Indian Claims Commission. In 1991, the Dannels withdrew their claim of individual aboriginal rights. The initial \$26 million has grown to more than \$100 million. Currently, legislation is pending to distribute those monies. A vote held among Western Shoshones Tribal members in June 2002, indicated the majority would like to receive the funds.

*Why is the BLM only impounding livestock that belong to Native Americans?*

In May 2002, BLM impounded 150 head of unauthorized livestock belonging to individuals who are Te-Moak Band Western Shoshone members of the Te-Moak Livestock Association that were grazing on public lands. In July 2001, BLM impounded 235 head of unauthorized livestock belonging to Ben Colvin and Jack Vogt, livestock operators in central Nevada who are not Native Americans. After the 2001 impound operations, BLM received many complaints from livestock operators that only non-Native American violators were being targeted.

*Do the Dann's own any private property?*

The Dann's own 800 acres: 160 from the original homestead patent and 640 acres purchased from the railroad in the 1950s.

*Do mining companies have the right to stake claims near the Dann Ranch?*

Yes. Any public land is open to mineral entry under the 1872 Mining Law. The law allows exploration by miners sampling rocks and does not require BLM approval for ground disturbances up to five acres. Oro Nevada Mining Company staked some areas on public land near the Dann Ranch and were previous owners of the adjacent Dean Ranch. Cortez Joint Venture Mining Company purchased the property from Oro Nevada in 1998. In addition to the Mining Law, the Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP) was developed in the mid 1980s for this area with public input. The RMP affirmed the public's intent that the land in this area be open to mineral entry, exploration, and development.

*What actions will BLM take next?*

BLM has a huge task before us now - to begin planning for the restoration work needed to repair decades of environmental abuse. Even with appropriate and responsible management, it's going to take years at a considerable cost to bring the land back to a healthy condition that will benefit wildlife and vegetation as well as livestock. In addition, with the reduction in rangeland health noxious weeds in the area have increased, which is a long term management concern, and is very costly to reverse.

*What are current conditions in the South Buckhorn Allotment?*

Due to the unauthorized use over a number of years by Dann livestock in the nearly 32,000 acres of public land surrounding the Dann ranch, the forage base in the allotment is severely depleted, riparian conditions on the streams are depleted, and thus has affected the overall carrying capacity of the allotment. This means fewer animals can be grazed now versus the last twenty years. The entire valley surrounding the Dann ranch has gone from a perennial vegetative community to an annual state. Additionally, any restoration activity would be long-term (10-15 years) at a cost of several million dollars. The area is now prone to large fires which incur a tremendous cost to the American taxpayer to control.

*What attempts has BLM made to work out concerns over damage to the lands?*

Over the past 30 years, BLM has had countless communications and meetings with the Danns and/or their representatives. Several BLM Nevada State Directors and Elko Field Managers have met face to face with the Danns to attempt to resolve differences and initiate actions to improve the degraded and deteriorating rangelands. Simply put, in a recent interview with the *Washington Post*, Carrie Dann stated, "I'm not into recognizing the laws of the United States." The situation is at impasse.

*Why does BLM care about burned areas?*

Burned areas must have intensive post-fire grazing management so that plants can reestablish and wildlife habitat can be restored. Depending on conditions, livestock grazing immediately after a fire can increase the damage caused to vegetation and eventually lead to soil erosion and entire watershed degradation and a reduction in wildlife habitat.

*What has been the involvement of BLM's citizen advisory council?*

The Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) visited the allotment in April 2002. The RAC members met with the Danns and other interested parties and spent a day touring various sites in Crescent Valley. The RAC includes people knowledgeable of rangeland health, such as university professors and ranchers. After noting the severely degraded conditions of the rangeland and riparian areas, the RAC recommended that BLM take whatever action appropriate to make significant progress toward meeting the rangeland health standards established by the RAC in 1997.

*rev 9/13/02*

## **Dann Trespass Chronology**

**1973-2002**

**2002**

8/30 No settlement proposal from the Danns or their attorney has been forthcoming.

8/16 BLM Elko Field Manager received a phone message from the Dann's attorney, stating that she was overdue in contacting the BLM regarding the settlement. The Field Manager, in turn, called the Dann's attorney and was informed that she would be out of her office until August 26<sup>th</sup>.

8/9 Notice of Final Decision Effective Upon Issuance sent to Mary Dann, Carrie Dann, Richard Dann, Clifford Dann, Toni Steve and Lori Steve (members of the Dann family that inherited the Dewey Dann Estate). The Notice cancelled the grazing preference which was attached to the Dewey Dann base property.

8/9 Flight reconnaissance of South Buckhorn allotment shows 516 cows and 834 horses scattered throughout the allotment.

7/30 As of July 30<sup>th</sup>, Elko Field Manager had received no response from the Dann's attorney.

7/15 BLM was notified by the State Brand Inspector that Dannels have removed 167 horses in recent weeks and that (according to Dannels) no additional horses will be gathered until later this year because of foaling and heat.

7/11 The Dann's attorney contacted the BLM and requested information on grazing fees owed by the Dannels. The information was provided informally via fax on 7/12. The attorney was reminded of BLM's conditions that needed to be addressed in a settlement offer. Also on this date, the BLM Elko Field Manager was informed by the Dann's attorney, that if she (being the Dann's attorney) went out personally and worked with them, it might be possible to make some progress towards settlement. This would take place the week of July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

6/19 BLM Elko Field Manager responded via letter, on this date, to the attorney regarding the June 5<sup>th</sup> communication, agreeing to consider proposals by the Dannels and expressing appreciation for their apparent willingness to negotiate. Field Manager stated that there were four specific areas BLM needs addressed: outstanding trespass fees; reduction in numbers of both horses and cattle; improved rangeland health; and obtaining an authorization to use public lands. It was requested that these deficiencies be addressed in another proposal to be submitted by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

6/5 BLM Elko Field Manager contacted by the Dannels' attorney of the Indian Law Resource Center. The attorney presented a written offer to remove all but 100 horses from the South Buckhorn allotment no later than November 30, 2002, with the first 250 to be removed by June 30, 2002. The attorney indicated that the Dannels might be willing to obtain a permit for grazing their livestock on public land. The possibility to open discussions in the future with BLM to resolve concerns about grazing and resource management issues was also discussed.

5/24 Dann representative contacts BLM indicating a desire to talk. BLM responded that BLM would meet with them after receiving a written proposal.

5/20 Unauthorized Use Notice and Order to Remove, sent to Dewey Dann Estate, Mary and Carrie Dann, and the Western Shoshone National Council c/o Raymond Yowell.

5/10 Actual ground count of South Buckhorn allotment shows 400 cow/calf pairs still occupy South Buckhorn allotment. Total horses counted were 450 head, which were mainly concentrated in the Frenchie Flat area. The livestock contained the 3M brand and 29 brand.

5/7 Actual livestock count of South Buckhorn allotment reveals 1027 studs, mares and foals and 1017 bulls, cows and calves combined still remain in trespass.

4/25 RAC passes a resolution after visiting Crescent Valley and the South Buckhorn allotment requesting "that BLM take necessary and legally appropriate actions to protect the resources."

4/24 The Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) toured Crescent Valley to examine mining and grazing issues. Mary and Carrie Dann and Chris Sewall (Western Shoshone Defense Project) joined the tour of the South Buckhorn allotment and were present for all discussions. The tour-stop topics included fire rehabilitation areas, range conditions/health and trespass livestock. RAC members had lengthy discussions with Mary and Carrie Dann. Dannels given until May 15, 2002, to negotiate a settlement or solution to trespass with BLM.

4/3 On-the-ground reconnaissance of the Dann Ranch and Crescent Valley area finds 150 cattle and approximately 500 horses are grazing on public lands.

3/5 Notice of Intent To Impound sent to the Dewey Dann Estate, Mary and Carrie Dann, and the Western Shoshone National Council as well as all other possible affected permittees in the nearby allotments, and authorized permittees within the South Buckhorn allotment.

2/22 Flight reconnaissance of South Buckhorn reveal 40 head of cattle and 600 horses scattered throughout the allotment.

## **2001**

12/12 On-the-ground reconnaissance of the Dann Ranch area reveals over 400 cattle north of the ranch and many horses spread throughout the valley and foothill area.

12/05 BLM and Nevada State Brand Inspector meet to discuss pre-impoundment measures for pending Dann impoundment. State Brand inspector states all horses will be determined to be stray animals and turned over to the State for disposition. Agreed that no horses will be returned to the Dannels until they pay all amounts owed the United States for unauthorized use and cost of impoundment.

11/20 Elko Field Office issues a Notice of Closure to grazing in the areas burned by the Beowawe and Linka fires in 2000.

9/10 Compliance flight finds 312 cattle and 935 horses in trespass in the South Buckhorn Allotment. All of the cattle and 20 percent of the horses are located on fire rehabilitation areas.

7/18 Elko Field Office issues Trespass Notice to the Dannels.

6/15 Compliance flight of livestock on burn areas and areas immediately adjacent to the burns finds 265 cattle and 108 horses in trespass on the burns in the South Buckhorn Allotment.

3/16 Elko Field Office issues Notice of Intent to Impound.

2/14 Compliance flight finds 400 cattle and 771 horses in trespass within the South Buckhorn Allotment. Horses are grazing in the seeded portions of the 1999 Frenchie Flat burn and the 2000 Beowawe and Linka burns.

## **2000**

11/6 The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals dismisses the appeal of the Western Shoshone National Council and Raymond Yowell of the District Court decision.

4/12 Compliance flight finds 544 cattle and 667 horses in the South Buckhorn Allotment.

**1999** Elko Field Office continues to conduct on the ground and aerial compliance checks and find unauthorized cattle and horses on the allotment.

The Indian Law Center, representing the Danns, submits a proposal to the Elko Field Office for the BLM and Danns to agree to interim measures. BLM responds to the Indian Law Center letter stating the proposed interim measures are inconsistent with the law and regulations.

The Federal District Court issues an order stating the injunctions requested on 2/6/98 by the Western Shoshone National Council would not be granted. The Western Shoshone National Council appeals the District Court decision to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals.

Elko Field Office issues a Notice of Intent to Impound.

### **1998** Court Order Stops BLM Impoundment

12/18 The Interior Board of Land Appeals affirms the BLM's 4/2/98 Orders to Remove and Demands for Payment, and the 5/26/98 trespass decision.

8/20 Elko Field Office completes a compliance flight to count trespass horses and finds 464 horses in trespass in the South Buckhorn Allotment and 4 horses in trespass in the adjoining Scotts Gulch Allotment.

7/19 Federal Magistrate recommends the District Court dismiss the Western Shoshone National Councils complaints and dissolve the temporary injunction regarding livestock impoundment.

7/17 The Interior Board of Land Appeals grants a stay of the 5/26/98 trespass decision.

6/24 Danns appeal the 5/26/98 trespass decision and request a stay.

6/2 Federal District Judge issues an order denying a stay for all but one of the requests the Western Shoshone National Council. The order stops the BLM from impounding livestock.

5/26 Elko Field Office issues trespass decisions to the Danns related to the unauthorized property such as semi-permanent structures, tents, etc.

5/6 Federal Magistrate recommends the motions for preliminary injunction requested by the Western Shoshone National Council be denied, but does not deny the request to enjoin the BLM from impounding livestock.

5/5 Danns appeal the Order to Remove and Demand for Payment and request a stay. The Danns submissions include an appeal from the Western Shoshone Defense Project.

4/2 Elko Field Office issues Order to Remove and Demand for Payment for unauthorized livestock use to the Danns and requires removal of unauthorized improvements.

2/19 Elko Field Office issues Notices of Trespass to the Danns against certain unauthorized property such as semi-permanent structures, tents, abandoned vehicles, corrals, trailers, agricultural products and other personal property located on public lands.

2/6 The Western Shoshone National Council files for a preliminary injunction in Federal District Court to prevent the BLM from contacting them outside the processes and protocol of the District Court, to prevent the BLM from enforcing BLM regulations, and to prevent the BLM from executing any notices of unauthorized use, orders to remove, intent to impound or similar actions.[Western Shoshone

National Council v. United States, No. CV-S-97-327-HDM (D.Nev. 1997)] A Federal Magistrate Judge is assigned to the case to render a recommendation to the District Judge.

## 1997

12/12 Elko Field Office completes a compliance flight and finds 302 cattle and 445 horses in trespass in the South Buckhorn Allotment. A partial on-the-ground count three days later finds 309 cattle and 62 horses in trespass in the allotment.

11/20 BLM State Director and Elko Field Office staff meet with Mary and Carrie Dann at the Dann Ranch to discuss the unauthorized use and explain the Bureau's authority and the need to be in compliance with the regulations. Abbey also told the Danns that he would like to reach some sort of an agreement on the unauthorized use or BLM would need to take further steps to resolve the trespass including impoundment.

6/10 Carrie Dann responded to the District Manager that the grazing of Western Shoshone livestock was authorized by the Western Shoshone government and is consistent with the Treaty of Ruby Valley. She also stated the *United States v. Dann* case is irrelevant, having nothing to do with the Western Shoshone Nation as recognized by the United States in the Treaty of Ruby Valley.

5/30 BLM District Manager responds that the meeting would not be video taped and discussion of land issues would not take place. The issue of ownership of these lands has been addressed by the United States Supreme Court in *United States v. Dann*.

5/21 Yowell and Carrie Dann declined a BLM invitation to meet to discuss unauthorized grazing and occupancy use. Their reason was based on the pending law suit filed by the Western Shoshone National Council against the BLM in U.S. District Court. Carrie Dann agreed with Yowell's reason for not attending the meeting and stated that any future proposed meeting requests be in writing and that the meeting be video taped. In addition, the discussion at any future meetings would include United States laws back to and including 1863. Carrie also stated that they would request the BLM's compliance with these laws by documentation.

## 1996

8/16 BLM meets with Carrie Dann at the Dann Ranch to discuss the ongoing grazing trespass, occupancy trespass, mining activities and land ownership dispute. Carrie Dann does not feel that she is in trespass because the land in question is Shoshone land. She said that if there were to be future talks regarding resolution/settlement of the ongoing grazing and occupancy trespass that they include the Western Shoshone National Council and Yowell.

5/21 District Manager notified Yowell that the BLM has no authority to enter into a cooperative agreement for joint management of public lands. However, Yowell was advised that BLM still would like to meet to discuss unauthorized grazing and occupancy of the public lands and options to resolve this trespass. The Council did not respond.

5/9 Raymond Yowell and the Elko District Manager decided that it would be necessary to agree to disagree on the land ownership issue in order to make any progress on grazing and occupancy trespass concerns raised by the BLM

5/2 Mary and Carrie Dann, Raymond Yowell and Chris Sewall (member of Western Shoshone Defense Project) met with Elko District Manager and resource staff to discuss unauthorized use by the Danns, the Western Shoshone National Council, and the Western Shoshone Defense Project. The meeting

concluded with the understanding that Yowell would discuss the idea of a grazing management agreement with the other Council members at their May 4 meeting.

### **1995 BLM Revokes Dewey Dann Estate Permit**

8/23 Letter sent to all owners of the Dann Ranch explaining the steps needed to be completed by them to transfer the Dewey Dann Estate grazing privileges to the current owners of the Dann Ranch. No response was received from any of the owners of the Dann Ranch.

5/26 Final Decision to deny the Dewey Dann Estate grazing application based on loss of control of base property, stating that the grazing privileges associated with the Dewey Dann permit need to be transferred to the current owners of the base property.

5/19 Grazing transfer applications were sent to Mary Dann and a copy was sent to her attorney. The cover letter explained the base property transfer procedure.

4/26 Dann's attorney requests information related to the Dewey Dann Estate and the Mary and Carrie Dann unauthorized use case under the Freedom of Information Act.

4/19 Yowell claims all 3M livestock have been nationalized and rebranded with the SN brand. Indicates the Dewey Dann Estate grazing application should be approved because the Danns have stayed out of the trespass case and have followed BLM regulations.

BLM's proposed decision is to deny Mary Dann's application for Dewey Dann Estates grazing permit because the Estate had been settled.

4/14 The Danns apply for grazing use for the Dewey Dann Estate in the South Buckhorn Allotment and submit the Dewey Dann Estates actual use report for 1994. The Danns were informed their application may be denied because of the unsettled 3M trespass. The Danns have an ownership interest in the 3M and the Dewey Dann Estate operations.

4/6 A helicopter livestock count revealed a total of 249 horses and 953 cattle on public land South Buckhorn area.

**1994** Mary Dann applied for grazing use for the Dewey Dann Estate (29 brand) in the Native Pasture of the South Buckhorn Allotment. The Danns were informed of the conflict between the 3M trespass and the authorization of the Dewey Dann Estate. Danns responded that the 3M livestock had been nationalized by the Western Shoshone Council. The Danns were also informed it is necessary to change the name on the permit to reflect the current ownership of the base property.

### **1993 Clifford Dann sentenced**

5/17 Clifford Dann sentenced to nine months with two months as time already served and fined \$5,000.

Third Notice of Intent to Impound Unauthorized Livestock sent to Danns.

3/2 Jury trial of Clifford Dann in U.S. District Court in Reno (Judge Howard McKibben). Jury found Clifford Dann guilty of assaulting a federal officer. Sentencing date set for 5/17/93. Clifford Dann was transferred to the Washoe County Jail pending sentencing.

Maynard Alves filed a takings claim against the BLM claiming that the agency's failure to enforce grazing regulations on the Danns had led to damage of his adjacent private property. (Mr. Alves was the owner of the Dean Ranch adjacent to the Dann's ranch.)

## **1992 BLM Impounds Dann horses/Clifford Dann arrested at impoundment**

11/24 Last day of unauthorized horse gather. A total of 269 horses were gathered, 27 of which were branded with the 3M brand. All horses were classified as stray and sold under State of Nevada stray laws.

11/20 Clifford Dann attempts to stop gather operations by blocking a road in the gather area, pouring gasoline on himself and others and threatened to light a match. Law enforcement personnel arrest him on charges of assaulting federal and local officers.

11/19 BLM resumed unauthorized horse gather in the South Buckhorn area with assistance from BLM law enforcement personnel and Eureka County Sheriff's Office.

8/4 Yowell claims the cattle belonging to the Danns had been nationalized by the Western Shoshone Tribe.

7/29 Second Notice of Intent to Impound Unauthorized Livestock issued to Danns.

4/10 Helicopter livestock count shows unauthorized cattle and horses belonging to the Danns. Attempt to impound unauthorized Dann cattle from the South Buckhorn allotment was stopped because of management constraints placed on law enforcement personnel on the scene, as well as safety concerns after Carrie Dann got into the pen with cattle being impounded and refused to leave until the cattle were let out.

4/9 BLM impounds unauthorized cattle in the Geysers and Scott's Gulch allotments belonging to non-Indian rancher not associated with the Western Shoshone or the Danns.

4/6 Dewey Dann Estate paid the grazing bill for the South Buckhorn Allotment. Only 29 brand livestock are authorized to graze in the allotment.

3/18 Mary Dann applied for grazing use in the South Buckhorn Allotment on behalf of the Dewey Dann Estate.

3/11 Danns did not claim any of the horses gathered. A total of 161 horses were gathered; 21 horses were branded, two of which were not identified and 19 were the 3M brand. District Brand inspector certified all the horses gathered as stray and they were sold under Nevada stray laws.

2/7 Impoundment procedures were implemented to gather the remaining 200 unauthorized horses. Danns moved 200 cattle from public lands to their ranch.

1/17 The Danns are informed the June 6, 1991, U.S. District Court ruling is still in effect and that all unauthorized livestock on public land or other lands under the control of the BLM are subject to the Notice of Intent to Impound Unauthorized livestock dated 7/11/91.

## **1991 Danns withdraw individual aboriginal claims to the land**

11/19 BLM demands the Western Shoshone honor the September agreement and breaks off further dialogue as unproductive.

U.S. District Court hearing in Reno on the Preliminary Injunction against the United States. Yowell and Alan Moss, on behalf of the Danns, inform Judge McKibben they wish to dismiss the suit without prejudice. The U.S. said dismissal without prejudice would not be acceptable and requested dismissal with prejudice.

Order of dismissal signed on Western Shoshone Council consent to dismissal of its claims according to the terms of the Court's Minute Order dated November 21, 1991

11/5 Yowell writes BLM State Director, states cattle and horses being moved from the South Buckhorn Allotment. But, says he cannot guarantee the 75 percent reduction in horses and says the Danns intend on wintering cattle on a portion of the allotment.

9/24 Nevada State Director meets with Raymond Yowell, Chief of the Western Shoshone National Council, and the Danns. Agreement to make a substantial reduction of Dann and Smales horses and cattle immediately and continue until horse numbers are reduced by 75 percent and all cattle are removed. Steps would be taken to avoid grazing on private lands. In exchange, BLM would not award contract to impound Dann and Smales livestock. BLM also to negotiate with the Western Shoshone National Council for the reintroduction of some Dann livestock into the South Buckhorn Allotment for the 1992 grazing season and develop a plan for the regulation of the Shoshone ranchers by the Council.

District Court disallowed all prior penalties and fees and orders BLM to follow all federal range codes and regulations if Dann livestock bearing the 29 brand are believed to be in unauthorized use on public lands.

BLM requests a meeting with the Danns to discuss the court ruling, future actions and time frames to be taken. The Danns are unable to attend the meeting.

BLM delivers Notices of Unauthorized Use and Order to Remove to Mary and Carrie Dann and Sandy Smales.

Mary Dann applied for and paid for the grazing use of the Dewey Dann Estate. Authorized to graze 171 cattle and 10 horses from 6/7/91 to 11/15/91 for a total of 964 AUMs. All livestock authorized must bear the Dewey Dann Estate 29 brand.

BLM sends Notices of Intent to Impound Unauthorized livestock to Mary and Carrie Dann, Sandy Smales and all affected permittees that run livestock in the affected allotments, which includes the Dewey Dann Estate.

Mary and Carrie Dann, Sandy Smales, and Western Shoshone National Council file civil complaint against the U.S. Department of Interior for temporary restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunction, declaratory judgement, depriving rights, protection, and immunities, trespass, misfeasance, breach of fiduciary duty, and genocide at law filed with U.S. District Court.

**1989** Ninth Circuit Court reversed the District Court ruling and remanded case to determine the individual claims that existed at the time the lands were incorporated into a grazing district, after the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act.

District Court disallowed all prior penalties and fees and orders BLM to follow all federal range codes and regulations if Dann livestock bearing the 29 brand are believed to be in unauthorized use on public lands.

BLM requests a meeting with the Danns to discuss the court ruling, future actions and time frames to be taken. The Danns are unable to attend the meeting.

BLM delivers Notices of Unauthorized Use and Order to Remove to Carrie Dann and Sandy Smales.

Mary Dann applied for and paid for the grazing use of the Dewey Dann Estate. Authorized to graze 171

cattle and 10 horses from 6/7/91 to 11/15/91 for a total of 964 AUMs. All livestock authorized must bear the Dewey Dann Estate 29 brand.

BLM sends Notices of Intent to Impound Unauthorized livestock to Mary and Carrie Dann, Sandy Smales and all affected permittees that run livestock in the affected allotments, which includes the Dewey Dann Estate.

Mary and Carrie Dann, Sandy Smales, and Western Shoshone National Council file civil complaint against the U.S. Dept. of Interior for temporary restraining order preliminary and permanent injunction, declaratory judgement, depriving rights, protection, and immunities, trespass, misfeasance, breach of fiduciary duty, and genocide at law filed with U.S. District Court.

**1986** BLM issues Dannels Notice of Trespass.

District Court rules the Dannels have individual claim to the land and may run 598 cattle and 840 horses year round without interference from BLM. Dannels also receive title to one section of land.

**1985** U.S. Supreme Court ruling on land ownership

U.S. Supreme Court rules the payment of \$26 million to the government trustee for the tribe extinguished tribal aboriginal claims to the land. [United States v. Dann, 470 U.S. 39 (1985)] The Court said the Dannels could raise individual aboriginal rights as a defense in the action.

**1983** Dannels stop paying BLM for Dewey Dann Estate grazing permit.

Ninth Circuit Court reverses District Court ruling and remands case for trial concerning aboriginal title.

U.S. appeals Ninth Circuit decision to U.S. Supreme Court.

**1980** District Judge issues injunction against Dannels based on the Indian Claims Commission award of \$26 million to the Shoshone in 1977 to extinguish all aboriginal claims to the lands.

**1978** Ninth Circuit reverses District Judge, remands case to determine if aboriginal title to the land is extinguished.

**1977** U.S. District Judge issues injunction to prevent further grazing by Dann livestock. Dann's appeal to 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals.

**1974** U.S. files in Federal District Court, seeking order directing Dann's to comply with BLM grazing regulations and stop trespass.

**1973** Mary and Carrie Dann issued unauthorized trespass notice for excessive numbers of livestock. Permitted to graze 171 cattle and 10 horses from June to November. Cited for 334 cattle. Dann's claim livestock are grazing on Shoshone lands not public lands.



Unauthorized cattle graze near Cottonwood Creek in the South Buckhorn grazing allotment in Crescent Valley, Fall 2000. The July 2000 the Beowawe Fire had already burned through this area, which was seeded aurally in December 2000 and closed to livestock grazing. The Danns continued to graze their cattle here after the area was closed to grazing, and kept on grazing during the first growing season following aerial seeding. The unauthorized grazing prevented the seed from becoming established in the burned soil during this critical time period.

Both sides of this fence line were burned by the July 2000 Beowawe Fire and seeded aurally in December 2000. The effects of continued unauthorized grazing after the fire are clearly visible on the left side of the fence



**For more information contact:** Mike Brown (775) 753-0386 (Elko), Jo Simpson (775) 861-6586 or (775) 722-9796 (Reno)

---

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2002-61  
FOR RELEASE: Sept. 20, 2002

### Improved Habitat Allows Wild Horses to Return to Their Range

Wild horses whose habitat was destroyed by wildfires in 1999 and 2000 have been released back onto their home rangelands in Pershing County, Nevada.

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Winnemucca Field Office returned 23 wild horses to the Seven Troughs and Lava Beds Herd Management Areas (HMAs) on September 16. The 18 mares and 5 studs represent the genetic material of wild horses, which populated the areas prior to the destruction of

the habitat. The animals, which will repopulate the historic HMAs, are 13 to 15 hands (52-60 inches) in height, and their colors include dun, sorrel, grulla, buckskin, roan and paint.

The populations in the two HMAs were reduced in October 2000, after two years of wildfire destroyed 79,000 acres. The 1999 fires were the Fairview, Dead Horse and Poker Brown fires.

The 2000 fires were named Cow Creek and South Willow. Of the 79,000 acres that burned, approximately 12,500 acres were drill seeded, 6,500 acres were aerial seeded, and 60,000 acres are recovering naturally. Grasses, forbs and shrubs were in the seed mixture of the treated areas.

Younger animals removed from the areas were offered for adoption, while older animals were transported to the BLM's long-term holding facilities in Oklahoma or Kansas. The animals, which were re-released on September 16, are mid-range age horses, which were pastured at the Pete Goicoechea Ranch near Jiggs, Nevada, for almost two years while the range was rehabilitating. After they were removed from the range they received freeze marks and inoculations for common horse diseases they might have encountered in a holding facility or domestic pasture.

This is the second group of "fire horses" released back onto their home range in Nevada this year. In August, the Carson City field office released about 35 wild horses into the Flanigan HMA, north of Reno.

-BLM-

For more information contact: Maxine Shane (775) 861-6586

---

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2002-60

FOR RELEASE: September 16, 2002

BLM Offers 67 Geothermal Lease Tracts in Sept. 24 Sale

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada will offer up six Known Geothermal Resource Areas (KGRA) for competitive sale on Sept. 24. The six KGRAs include 67 tracts for a total of 130,537 acres. The KGRAs are Soda Lake, New York Canyon, Salt Wells, Dixie Valley and Brady, all in Churchill County; and Gerlach in Washoe County.

All bids must be submitted by 4 p.m., Sept. 23, 2002, to the cashier, located in the Information Access Center of the BLM Nevada State Office, P.O. Box 12000 (1340 Financial Blvd.), Reno, Nevada 89520-0006. Bids received after the deadline will be returned unopened. Bids may not be withdrawn unless a written request is received prior to 4 p.m., Sept. 23.

Bids will be opened and read at 1:30 p.m., Sept. 24, 2002, at the Geothermal Resources Council Meeting, held at the Reno Hilton Hotel, 2500 East 2nd Street, Reno, Nevada. Each bid will be opened, publicly announced and recorded. Inadequate bids, which are for less than the Bureau's estimated value, will be rejected.

The winning acceptable bid for each parcel will be announced after all bids have been opened. At the option of the winning bidders, the BLM will provide the opportunity to issue the lease effective Oct. 1, 2002.

Environmental documents for each KGRA have been prepared, and are available upon request. The

Legal Notice for this competitive sale has been posted on the web at: <http://www.nv.blm.gov>.

The President's National Energy Policy places a high priority on alternative energy development on federal lands. The Secretary of the Interior has pledged to find opportunities to expand alternative energy development on federal lands and to streamline geothermal lease processing. A new Nevada state law requires use of renewable sources within the state to meet new electrical demands.

Nine power plants are currently using federal geothermal resources in Nevada. They generate 165 megawatts, meeting the needs of 165,000 households. Since generation began in 1986, these plants have produced more than 15 million megawatt hours of electricity with a gross value of more than \$1 billion. Federal royalties exceed \$42 million, half of which is returned to the State of Nevada. The plants contribute to the tax base in rural counties. Geothermal energy in Nevada is also used directly in vegetable dehydration plants, and mining companies use it to improve the leaching process in cold weather.

In fiscal year 2001, Nevada issued 20 noncompetitive leases and held a competitive sale that resulted in seven new leases. So far during fiscal year 2002, BLM Nevada has issued 47 noncompetitive and competitive leases covering 112,000 acres.

-BLM-

For more information contact: Richard H. Brown, (775) 861-6586