



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834
Sacramento, CA 95825
www.ca.blm.gov

AUG 11 2008

In Reply Refer To:
4710 (CA930)P

Coyote Canyon Caballos d'Anza
Attention: Ms. Kathleen Hayden
PO Box 236
Santa Ysabel CA 92070

Dear Ms. Hayden:

Thank you for your E-mail of June 20, 2008, regarding your inquiries about the possibility of reintroducing wild horses in the Coyote Canyon area. Our records indicate that a portion of the area that concerns you is not under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Please understand that the provisions of the Wild Horse and Burro Protection Act only apply to Federal Public Lands.

The Coyote Canyon Herd Management Area (HMA) was removed from the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan through a 1998 plan amendment approved by the Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office. This former HMA was located in the northwest portion of what is now the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. In 1993, the BLM lands within the HMA were transferred to the State of California Park System. As a result, the BLM no longer manages or has jurisdiction over this land. In 1995, the State removed remaining horses to protect riparian systems in Coyote Canyon from continued degradation.

As for your interest in Beauty Mountain Allotment, it is an active occupied cattle grazing allotment with the lease not expiring until 2012. The allotment is approximately 17,413 acres with permitted use of 1,452 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) or 121 cattle. The South Coast Resource Management Plan identifies Beauty Mountain as a cattle grazing allotment and does not establish provisions for any other livestock grazing use.

The Beauty Mountain allotment lessee has also indicated that they will continue to use the allotment subject to the existing terms and conditions of their permit. The current allotment management plan allows the lessee to graze cattle in a manner consistent with maintaining good rangeland health conditions and provide for sustainable forage for wildlife use as well. As such, additional AUMs are not available on the limited amount of public land that would sustain a viable horse herd in the area. Any release of wild horses on these lands would involve a thorough environmental review and adherence to applicable law and regulations.

We appreciate your interest in our Wild Horse and Burro Program. If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Holly Roberts, Associate Field Manager at (760) 251-4849; or Kevin Doran, Natural Resource Specialist, at (760) 251-4837, at our Palm Springs Field Office.

Sincerely,

Mike Pool
State Director