

Highland Peak Herd Management Area

This is an example of legal administrations of the Bureau of Land Managements current multiple-use allocations on public lands regarding the treatment of wild horses within their legally designated herd areas.

On January 16, 2007 the following e-mail was sent to American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign:

“To whom it may concern.

Here is one that shows that the round ups are for big business.

On 12/8/06 thru 12/17/06 there was a round up of 200 horses just west of Lincoln County Airport, Panaca NV then about two weeks later three tracter trailer loads of sheep were unloaded there. They have been bring in loads of sheep up to today. There has to be more then 1000 sheep now.

We were told by the helicopter crew that the horses were removed for lack of feed. If there is not any feed for the horses how can over 1000 sheep live? This is one for the books. Thank you for your time.”

American Wild Horse Preservation then sent out a request to various individuals asking if this could be verified.

Research indicated that the area in question was under the jurisdiction of the Ely Field Office in Nevada, who had also recently conducted a wild horse gather and removal in December 2006 on the Clover Mountains HMA, Clover HMA, Seaman HMA, Dry Lake HMA, Rattlesnake HMA and Highland Peak HMA.

In a previous request to the Ely Field Office for the follow-up information regarding the gather and removal numbers for these HMA’s, this information was supplied

Ely Field Office Gather Summary Dry Lake Complex and Fire Gathers December, 2006

FY 2007

| HMA | Captured Horses | Shipped Horses | Released Horses | Died/Destroyed Horses | Removed | Left on Range |
|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Dry Lake | 181 | 134 | 45 | 1/1 | 136 | 75 |
| Highland Peak | 64 | 64 | 0 | 0/0 | 64 | 25 |
| Clover Mtn. (fire) | 19 | 17 | 2 (jumped) | 0/0 | 17 | 40 |
| Seaman (fire) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 145 |
| Rattlesnake | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0/0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 264 | 215 | 47 | 1/1 | 217 | 285 |

Because of these recent removals and the Panaca airport being in the Ely Field Office jurisdiction, an inquiry was sent to the Field Office in efforts to verify this report. The following e-mail was received in response to this inquiry by William Dunn, Assistant Renewable Resource Manager for the Ely Field Office on January 18, 2007:

“I spoke with our wild horse and rangeland management. specialist regarding your e-mail below. As you know we gathered horses in the Clover/Seaman HMAs, and the Dry Lake and Highland HMAs. The Clover/Seaman HMAs were gathered due to fires from this previous summer and the Dry Lake/Highland HMAs were gathered to reach AML. The sheep are located on three allotments in the Highland area. Both actions are through approval processes, the setting of AML and permitted grazing to ensure vegetative health is maintained in the watersheds.”

The “appropriate management levels” for wild horse populations issued by the Ely Field Office within their legally protected herd area is 33 horses on 136,091 acres. This is a forage allocation of 396 Animal Unit Months. The livestock allocations legally issued to sheep are 3,704 Animal Unit Months. Wild horses have been given 10% of the public lands forage allocation within their own designated herd area. The 64 horses that have been removed cost the public \$138,944.00 to gather, remove, transport, provide medical treatment, and assumes only one year containment with all horses successful adopted.

Livestock Allotments:

| | Cattle AUMs | Sheep AUMs |
|------------------|-------------|------------|
| Rattlesnake | 1,108 | |
| Oak Springs | | 253 |
| Geyser Ranch | 12,308 | |
| Sunnyside | 5,402 | |
| Wilson Creek | 34,059 | 14,191 |
| Fox Mountain | 403 | 5,919 |
| Bennet Spring | | 3,498 |
| Black Canyon | | 1,105 |
| Ely Sheep Spring | 1,802 | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Highland Peak | | 3,704 | |
| Klondike | | 832 | |
| Pioche | 402 | | |
| <u>Rocky Hills</u> | | <u>Relinquished</u> | |
| Total: | 55,484 | 29,502 | Grand Total: 84,986 AUMs |

These wild horses are available for adoption on BLM's Internet Website
Bidding ends 1/22/07

Sex: Stud Colt Age: 1 Years Height (in hands):
Necktag #: 8603 Date Captured: 12/11/06
Color: Sorrel Captured: Highland Peak (NV)



Sex: Filly Age: 1 Years Height (in hands):
Necktag #: 8618 Date Captured: 12/11/06
Color: Sorrel Captured: Highland Peak (NV)
Notes: Foal date is estimated at April of 2006.



Sex: Filly Age: 1 Years Height (in hands):
Necktag #: 8621 Date Captured: 12/11/06
Color: Strawberry Roan Captured: Highland Peak (NV)
Notes: Foal date is estimated at March of 2006.

