



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko District Office  
3900 East Idaho Street  
Elko, Nevada 89801  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:  
4130 (NVE0300)

March 4, 2009

Dear Permittees and Interested Public:

In accordance with 43 CFR 4180, the Wells Field Office is required to complete standards and guideline assessments on grazing allotments in order to determine whether or not existing grazing management practices are resulting in the attainment of the standards for rangeland health and are in conformance with the guidelines. In 2003, a Draft Standards and Guidelines Assessment was sent to the public for review and comment as part of the Marys River Complex (MRC) Allotment Evaluation (AE) (Deeth, Pole Creek, Anderson Creek, Hot Creek, Stormy, and Antelope Basin Allotments).

The enclosed Draft South Deeth and Pole Creek Allotments Standards and Guidelines determination: (1.) summarizes additional data collected for these two allotments since the 2003 MRC assessment, (2.) incorporates comments, as appropriate, and (3.) documents whether or not we are meeting or making significant progress towards meeting the standards, if we are in conformance with the guidelines, and if we are not meeting the standards or making significant progress towards meeting the standards, assessing if current livestock grazing is one of the significant causal factors leading to non-attainment of the standards and guidelines.

Any changes to existing grazing management will be evaluated following consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the interested public. Following public input, alternatives and their effects to the environment will be analyzed within a National Environmental Policy Act document. A biological assessment will be prepared and Section 7 consultation will be completed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service due to Lahontan cutthroat trout occurrence within Hanks Creek in the South Deeth Allotment.

The BLM is seeking input from the permittee, affected agencies, and members of the public interested in livestock grazing management on the South Deeth and Pole Creek Allotments in developing management strategies and alternatives that are in conformance with the Wells Resource Management Plan and will make significant progress towards attaining the Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health. All suggested alternatives for grazing management must be received by the Elko Field Office no later than the close of business of Wednesday April 15, 2009. The document is available on the BLM External website:  
[http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\\_field\\_office.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html).

Comments can be mailed to the above address, sent electronically to [patrick\\_coffin@nv.blm.gov](mailto:patrick_coffin@nv.blm.gov) or faxed to (775) 753-0385, Attention: Patrick Coffin.

If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Coffin, Fisheries Biologist, or Janice Willard, Rangeland Management Specialist, Wells Field Office at (775) 753-0200.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donna E. Jewell  
Acting for

Bryan K. Fuell  
Wells Field Office Manager

Enclosure: South Deeth/Pole Creek Allotment S & G Assessment

Sent To:

Brough Partnership  
Cross Ranch LLC  
Eureka Livestock LLC  
Western Watershed Project  
Elko County Commissioners  
Nevada Cattlemen's Association & Nevada Land Action Association  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Nevada State Clearinghouse  
Resource Concepts, Inc.  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn. Robert Williams  
Mandy McNitt  
Bobbi Royle  
Cindy McDonald  
Citizens Against Recreational Eviction, USA  
Sustainable Grazing Association  
American AG Credit  
Conagra Beef Company, Monfort Finance Company  
Elko County Natural Resource Management Advisory Commission