



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko District Office

3900 Idaho Street

Elko, Nevada 89801-4211

http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office.html

In Reply Refer To:
4130 (NVE0200)

July 17, 2009

Dear Permittees and Interested Public:

The Tuscarora Field Office has completed draft Standards and Guidelines Assessments for the Bellinger Seeding, Bottari, and Hog Tommy Allotments. These documents were originally mailed to permittees and the interested public in October 2008. Please find enclosed for your review the updated draft Standards and Guidelines Assessments. The Tuscarora Field Office would appreciate your input throughout this process. If you have any additional data or comments that would help in the development of alternatives for grazing management on the Bellinger Seeding, Bottari, and Hog Tommy Allotments please submit them to the Tuscarora Field Office by August 17, 2009.

Following the review of any recommendations for grazing management or comments received in response to the enclosed Standards and Guidelines Assessments, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared analyzing grazing management alternatives and the affected environment for the Bellinger Seeding, Bottari, and Hog Tommy Allotments. Once the EA is prepared, it will be sent out for review. Following the EA a Decision will then be issued to renew the grazing permits and implement appropriate changes, if warranted, to the terms and conditions for livestock use.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grazing regulations at 43 CFR 4130.3-1(c) require that grazing permits issued by the BLM contain terms and conditions that ensure conformance with BLM regulations at 43 CFR 4180, which are the regulations under which the *Northeastern Great Basin Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (1997)* were developed. Recently, the Tuscarora Field Office completed an assessment of the achievement of these standards on the Bellinger Seeding, Bottari, and Hog Tommy Allotments. The results of this assessment are presented in enclosed document. This assessment will serve to inform the BLM's determination as to whether these standards are being met, and, if they are not met, whether existing grazing management practices contribute to their lack of attainment.

Comments and/or alternatives maybe submitted to the Bureau of Land Management, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801-4211: attention Tuscarora Range Team, faxed to (775) 753-0347, or e-mailed to TuscFO_NEPA@blm.gov. If you fax or e-mail your comments please reference the allotment name(s) and the Tuscarora Field Office. All comments and/or alternative must be postmarked or otherwise received by August 17, 2009.

If you have any questions about the draft Standards and Guidelines Assessment for the Bellinger Seeding Allotment, please call Justin Rodgers, Rangeland Management Specialist at (775) 753-0372. If you have questions about the draft Standards and Guidelines Assessment for the Bottari and Hog Tommy Allotments, please contact Karl Scheetz, Rangeland Management Specialist at (775) 753-0280.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steve Dondero

Steve Dondero, Manager
Tuscarora Field Office

Enclosures: As stated above

cc:

Susan Kennedy
Duilio and Ella May Bottari
Rabbit Creek Ranch, LLC.
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Resource Concepts, Inc.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Western Watersheds Project – Certified Mail 7006 2150 0004 4671 1684
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Elko County
Bobbi Royle
Cindy MacDonald
Sustainable Grazing Coalition
Citizens Against Recreation Eviction, USA