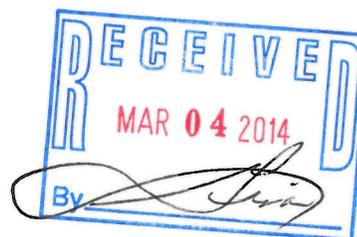


Public Comment

Jim R. Barbee

*READ INTO RECORD
BY DIRECTOR BARBEE*

From: Paul Tomera [paultomera@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 9:38 PM
To: Jim R. Barbee
Subject: Summary of meetings with B.L.M.



Jim,

I talked to Mike Stremmer today, he said you were having a meeting today and wanted a summary of our meetings with the B.L.M. concerning the Argenta Allotment.

Prior to our meeting with all the permittees on the 20th, Pete, Lynn and Dan Tomera met with Adam Cochran (our range con) on the 19th, to work out a plan of use for our allotment. During this meeting a plan to move our turnout date back 2 weeks, turn fewer cattle out than we are permitted to run and to remove cattle from the allotment earlier in the fall was settled on. Also included was a plan to allow us to lease some pasture to Hank Filippini and Shawn Mariluch. This agreement was reached at about 4:00. By 5:30 that same evening Adam called the ranch to inform us that Doug Furtado (Battle Mtn. district manger) had denied the plan. His reasons being that he had evaluated all the data (which had been available since last fall) and made the decision not to allow any cattle on the hill at any time this year. Also some time during the afternoon of the 19th our state assemblyman Ira Hansen called and talked to Doug Furtado requesting the time of the permittee meeting on the 20th, he was informed that there were no meetings scheduled for that day. Mr. Hansen had to call Pete Goicoechea to learn the correct time of the meeting.

On the 20th all the permittees of the Argenta Allotment met with the B.L.M. to discuss what we would be allowed to do in the allotment this year. Meghan Brown (congressman Mark Amodei's northern Nevada rep) and Ira Hansen were also in attendance. We (the Tomeras) will be able to use the Mule Canyon allotment, 600 head, for 3 months and our winter range, 500 head, for 3 months. We have aum's to run 2500 head for 8 months. We are not able to lease any pasture to Shawn Mariluch this year, he is attempting to locate pasture elsewhere. Dan Filippini was told he could turn a small amount of cows on the flat after Nov. 1st provided there was sufficient snow to keep the cattle off the mountains. Ellison Ranching has made plans to run their sheep elsewhere this year. We were told we could use our private ground on the flat provided we fence it or rode the flat to keep cattle off the mountains as they would be trespassed if they were to end up in the hills. As the largest permittee in this allotment we are taking approximately an 85% cut in our aum's. With the other cuts and non-use the allotment will be taking at least a 90% cut in use.

It was stated that 2 to 3% of the allotment is considered riparian area. It had been stated that the uplands were considered to be in good to excellent condition and that decisions were being based on riparian area health.

When asked why the other districts were not implementing the drought management plan as the Battle Mtn. district was Doug Furtado responded "Because the other district mangers were not as qualified to make decisions on how to run their allotments as he was because of his background as a range con. He felt the other district mangers were acting criminally."

When told that a 85% cut could force most of the ranchers out of business the B.L.M. responded that was not their intentions. It was pointed out that that would be the indirect result.

Several days later we participated in a forage availability tour with the B.L.M. 3 teams went out. We went with the team up Hilltop Canyon and Indian Creek. The B.L.M. hydrologist (who has been in B.M.

3/4/2014

only a short time) was unaware that Hilltop Canyon had burned in 1999 and had suffered washouts that fall from thunderstorms. He stated that the area had recuperated surprisingly well considering it had been burned. As no cattle were allowed in the Hilltop Canyon and Indian Creek areas at all in 2013 it was determined that the area was in good condition. In Ferris Creek the B.L.M. weed specialist discussed the weed spraying set to begin this spring and the planned rehabilitation of the area. Also the hydrologists discussed other alternatives besides cattle removal (spreader dams and gabian-type structures) that could be used to improve riparian health in the area. A 3 section rotational grazing plan was also discussed at length. We have discussed this plan in the past but because of the high turnover rate of range cons in the B.M. district nothing has ever been followed up on this plan.

If you have any questions or would like to follow up on this contact me at [REDACTED]

Thank you, Paul Tomera