



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Egan Field Office
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Ely, Nevada 89301-9408
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html



In Reply Refer to:
4130 (NVL0100)

Dear interested public:

On June 26, 2012 the Pinto Fire was started by arcing power lines. The fire burned approximately 2,612 acres of public land within the Ely District BLM (White Pine County), 122 acres within the Battle Mountain District BLM (Eureka County), and 146 acres of private land for 2,880 acres total. The fire primarily burned on the east side of the Diamond Mountain Range in the Newark Watershed (121), in the Newark Grazing Allotment. The fire burned in several vegetative communities including pinyon/juniper woodlands, mountain sagebrush, Wyoming sagebrush, black sagebrush, mountain mahogany, and mixed mountain brush types. As a result of the burn, rehabilitation of the area is required to maintain site suitability and vegetation establishment. The Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (ESR Plan) for the Pinto Fire has recommended a fire treatment including aerial seeding, chaining, seed caching, soil stabilization and erosion protection, sage grouse and mule deer enhancement measures, weed prevention measures, and range fence repairs. As a result of the Pinto Fire, portions of the Newark Grazing Allotment will be closed to livestock grazing.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Livestock Closure Agreement and map. Please review this and provide any comments by Friday September 14, 2012. We will review and consider all comments received. Following the comment period and review of comment, the Livestock Closure Agreement will be issued and approved.

If you have any questions or would prefer to discuss this matter with us, please call Mark Lowrie of my staff at 775 289-1888.

Sincerely,

Doris Metcalf
Acting Field Manager
Egan Field Office

2 enclosures:

1. Livestock Closure Agreement for Newark Allotment
2. Map of Pinto Fire Closure Area

NVL0100,mllowrie,ml,7/20/2012, Interested public letter for Pinto Fire closure

Mail list for interested publics and grazing permittees for the Pinto Fire
Regular Mailing

Cc:

Warren Scoppettone

Pete Goicoechea

Jim Bauman

Alan Jenne (NDOW)

Betsy MacFarlan (ENLC)

Craig C. Downer

Edward D. Koch

Elko County NRMAC

Eureka County Dept. of Natural Resources

Harold Roth Farms Inc.

Jacob Carter

N-4 Grazing Board

Nevada Cattlemen's Association

Nevada State Clearinghouse (electronic mail only)

Steve Carter

Tom Allen

Western Watersheds Project

WPC Community & Economic Dev. c/o Jim Garza

WPC Community & Economic Dev. c/o Dahn Puckett

Sustainable Grazing Coalition

Doug D. Robison

LIVESTOCK CLOSURE AGREEMENT

On June 26, 2012 the Pinto Fire started as a result of arcing power lines. The fire burned approximately 2,612 acres of public land within the Ely District BLM (White Pine County), 122 acres within the Battle Mountain District BLM (Eureka County), and 146 acres of private land for 2,880 acres total. The fire primarily burned on the east side of the Diamond Mountain Range in the Newark Watershed (121), in the Newark Grazing Allotment, within the Egan Field Office Area. The fire was declared contained June 28, 2012. As a result of the burn, rehabilitation of the area is required to maintain site suitability and vegetation establishment. Aerial seeding, chaining, and other conservation treatments are proposed during the winter/spring of 2012/2013. As a result of the Pinto Fire, portions of the Newark Allotment will be closed to livestock grazing.

For protection of the soil and vegetation, due to the Pinto Fire, I hereby close to livestock grazing on public lands, as designated in the following paragraph, those public lands located within the Pinto Fire Closure Area. This area is located in White Pine County, Nevada within the Egan Field Office Area of the Ely District Bureau of Land Management (see map attached to this agreement). This Closure Agreement is effective immediately and will remain in effect for a minimum of two years and/or until the emergency stabilization rehabilitation objectives have been met. A description of the closure area is as follows:

Portions of T. 19 N., R. 54 E., sections 23-26, 35, 36
Portions of T. 19 N., R. 55 E., sections 19, 30,31
Portions of T. 18 N., R. 54 E., sections 1,2 all MDBM

No livestock grazing animal unit months (AUMs) will be placed in nonuse within the Newark Allotment. There is native range and crested wheatgrass seedings within the allotment, unaffected by the burn, that are available for livestock grazing. Due diligence by the permittees is required to continually ensure that livestock are not grazing in the burned area.

The primary goals to be accomplished through this livestock closure agreement are:

1. The restoration of vegetative communities.
2. Watershed stabilization and protection.
3. Control of erosion.
4. Provide rest and recovery period for the reestablishment of vegetation.
5. Provide rest and establishment period for seeded species.
6. Provide and protect forage and cover for wildlife species.
7. Provide sustained forage for livestock and wild horses.

The Bureau of Land Management will monitor the recovery of the burned and/or treated areas to see if the goals and objectives of the closure are being achieved. The area will be monitored to determine that sufficient cover of perennial vegetation has been reestablished before authorized

grazing may resume. Monitoring sites will be established within one year following the fire and measured yearly by interdisciplinary teams. A minimum of two specialists representing different resource disciplines are required for determining whether to re-open burned areas to grazing. An assessment will be made to determine if the following objectives have been met:

1. An average of 2-3 or more desirable perennial plants per square-meter will be permanently established in the aerial seeded area and an average of three desirable perennial plants per square meter will be permanently established in the drill seeded area.
2. Resprouting vegetation will have leader growth appropriate to the species and the Ely region (based on available monitoring or production data from wildlife, range, NDOW, and/or NRCS), will provide vertical and horizontal cover appropriate for the site, and will show resistance to damage from grazing by pulling or tearing of the vegetation.
3. Newly sprouting vegetation, including seeded species, with young root systems will resist disruption when pulled indicating grazing will not impair established root systems.
4. Native vegetation will show vigor, health and evidence of reproduction.

Monitoring sites would be established within one year following the fire and measured yearly.

Failure to keep livestock out of a burned area may result in suspension of grazing privileges on the affected allotment for the duration of the closure period.

This closure agreement is issued pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 4110.3-3(b) of the Grazing Regulations for the Public Lands for the protection of the soil and vegetation due to the imminent likelihood of significant resource damage.

A map of the closed area is attached to this agreement.

Date

Doris Metcalf
Acting Field Manager
Egan Resource Area

Date

Pete Goicoechea
Warren Scoppettone
Eureka, Nevada

