



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Rio Puerco Field Office

435 Montano Rd. N.E.

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107-4935



IN REPLY REFER TO:

GR#300904

GR#300939

4150.4-1 (010)

Pueblo Of San Felipe
Office of the Governor
c/o San Felipe Governor
Mr. Harold Candelaria
P.O. Box 4339
San Felipe, NM 87001

Dear Mr. Candelaria:

On December, 7, 2004, our Range Technician, Bud Wilson, and I attended a meeting at San Felipe with Mr. Michael Valencia and Ms. Linda Drew to discuss the stray horse situation on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private lands in the Placitas area. Mr. Wilson was informed in previous meetings with San Felipe council that "some of the horses belonged to the San Felipe Pueblo and that the actual number of horses was unknown." The horses in question are currently in trespass on BLM lands. The BLM is trying to resolve this problem without resorting to a livestock impoundment and sale.

Bud Wilson has thoroughly investigated the situation by talking to local pueblos, lessees, private landowners and the New Mexico State Livestock Inspector. Most all of the contacted parties agreed that these horses are stray livestock from the Pueblo of San Felipe with the exception of a few individuals, suggesting the horses have no owners and have a right to stay where they are. At the meeting on December 7, 2004, Linda Drew confirmed Bud's research stating "that she knew this group of horses and that they did belong to San Felipe." Ms. Drew also stated that the BLM could not impound the horses because they are considered to be Traditional Cultural Properties protected by the State Historical Preservation Officer. Regardless, the BLM cannot allow unauthorized livestock use on public lands.

The BLM is requesting that the San Felipe Pueblo remove trespass horses from BLM and private lands in the Placitas area to help resolve this controversy. The controversy in combination with the urban growth situation in the Placitas area will result in a livestock impoundment action if San Felipe Pueblo does not return livestock to native lands. The impoundment will be advertised through a Notice of Intent to Impound. As you may know all stray animals impounded on public land become property of the State of New Mexico.

If you have concerns or questions please feel free to contact Bud Wilson at 505-761-8916 in the Rio Puerco Field Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas E. Gow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thomas E. Gow
Rio Puerco Field Manager

cc:

Deputy Director Cliff Manzanares
New Mexico Livestock Board
300 San Mateo Blvd. NE, Suite 1000
Albuquerque, NM 87108