DAVE FREUDENTHAL
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING

STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

July 25, 2006

Bob Bennett, State Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
P O Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82003

Dear Director Bennett:

Thank you for your May 31, 2006, and June 20, 2006, letters regarding compliance with the Wild Horse Consent Decree.

I was heartened to see that the state BLM office has received the funding to complete the scheduled gathering operations in the Divide Basin, Stewart Creek, Lost Creek, Green Mountain and Crooks Mountain Herd Management Areas and any associated non-HMA areas by September 2006.

As you are aware, we again face severe drought, and it is imperative that the removal of approximately 1,360 wild horses missed during the 2005 Salt Wells Creek and Adobe Town gathering operations be funded and completed in late 2006 or early 2007, per the consent decree. Wyoming state lands within the affected HMAs are impacted by the management actions on adjacent BLM land, and it is important that those state lands not be harmed by BLM inaction.

You had stated in your letter of June 20, 2006, that you are currently working with the Washington, D.C. office to schedule and fund the removal of these horses. If I can be of assistance in procuring this funding, please let me know.

In the meantime, please provide information related to the funding and scheduling of the gathers for the Little Colorado, White Mountain, Fifteen Mile, McCullough Peak, Rock Creek Mountain, Muskrat Basin, Dishpan Butte and Conant Creek HMAs to be conducted in 2007. I want to make sure that the consent-decree funding is not diverted and that the scheduled gathers are completed.

Thanks to you and your staff for the good job of working to comply with the consent decree. I look forward to receiving your update.

Best regards,

Dave Freudenthal
Governor

DF:pjb

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