



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
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TAXE
PRIDE IN
AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
4120.1
(045)

March 29, 1989

Honorable Jim Kolbe
1661 N. Swan, Suite 112
Tucson, Arizona 85712

Honorable Jim Kolbe:

This letter is in response to your letter of March 15, 1989, and the inquiry of Mr. Mike Hayhurst to your office. Mr. Hayhurst expressed concern regarding additional lands added to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and the future of his grazing lease.

Lands in Sections 4, 8, 9, and 17 of Township 20 South, Range 21 East (Cochise County) were recently acquired by BLM through State land exchange to improve management of lands adjacent to the San Pedro River. Land in Section 18 is in private, State, and federal ownership and is also included in the grazing lease held by Mr. Hayhurst.

BLM is in the final stages of completion of the San Pedro River Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. This impact statement, which included grazing restrictions, did not include any of the above-mentioned lands. The federal land acquired through State land exchange in Sections 4, 8, 9, and 17 and the federal land in Section 18 were later included in the "San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area" and identified on the map referenced in the legislation. The effects of grazing and all other uses on these new lands added to the National Conservation Area will be addressed in a Resource Management Plan (RMP) which is currently being prepared for the Safford District. The RMP for the Safford District will address management concerns for riparian areas, including grazing and other uses along the Babocomari River in Sections 8, 9, 17, and 18.

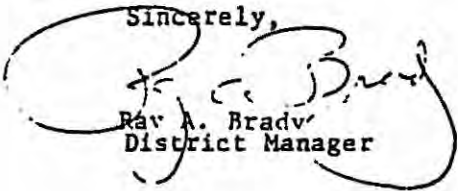
A couple of years ago, Wally Alexander (State Land Department) and Ted McRae (BLM) met with Mr. Joe Keeline (former grazing permittee) regarding the possible exchange of State and federal land within this grazing lease. At that time, Mr. Keeline was informed that BLM would honor any lease with the State Land Department.

[REDACTED]
this lease was transferred from Mr. Keeline to Mr. Hayhurst in August 1988. At that time Mr. Hayhurst visited the Safford District BLM Office and was advised of the situation.

Our staff has spoken to Mr. Hayhurst on several occasions regarding his grazing lease. It is BLM's intention to coordinate with Mr. Hayhurst on the lease and develop an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) for this area. The AMP will address a grazing system for the lease, fencing, maintenance, and other range improvement projects on the lease to protect the riparian values of the Babocomari River and the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. The grazing lease would not be terminated.

We certainly want to be open with Mr. Hayhurst and cooperate with him in managing grazing use on these lands, especially in the riparian area along the Babocomari River.

Sincerely,


Ray A. Brady
District Manager

cc: San Pedro Project Office

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
memorandum

4120.1
DATE: March 22, 1989
REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Ted McRae
SUBJECT: Mike Hayhurst, Congressional Inquiry

TO: San Simon Area Manager

This lease was transferred from Joe Keeline to Mike Hayhurst in August 1988. Recently we sent Mr. Hayhurst a grazing bill for the federal land that he leases from the federal government. The lease was increased from 10 cattle yearlong to 15 cattle yearlong to reflect the total net acreage increase after BLM traded approximately 340 acres to the State of Arizona and the State of Arizona traded approximately 1440 acres to BLM. This present carrying capacity reflects the 7 CYL that the State allowed on their land plus the small tracts (360 acres) that BLM retained. The State Land Department allows 5 CYL per section on this lease.

I remember speaking to Mr. Hayhurst twice about this lease. Once when he came to the office, I told him how I had talked to Mr. Keeline several years ago and had

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More recently Mr. Hayhurst contacted me about the need to change the current bill. I updated the billing and called him about the change. Since then he paid the bill and I assumed everything was acceptable to him. At no time do I remember talking to him about whether or not the land would be part of the SPRNCA.

I have no correspondence in his file showing that he has requested previous information on this lease.

Ted McRae