

December 11, 1998

Linda Coates-Markel
BLM -Billings Resource Area
610 East Main Street
Billings, Montana 59105

RE: Cows trespassing on the Pryor Mt. Wild Horse Sanctuary.
Please see the enclosed video tape of 10-17-98.

Dear Ms. Coates-Markel:

Deb Ellsworth and I witnessed a group of cows in the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary during a trip to the Pryors in October 1998. The name *Tillett* was written on the ear tags. We understand that no livestock is allowed on the Pryor Wild Horse Sanctuary at any time, only Pryor wild horses.

The cows appeared extremely familiar with this area. They were on a well traveled path, but occasionally stopped to munch the forage. These cows were in excellent condition. As I approached them within the sanctuary area, they moved from the sanctuary through a well used opening in the sanctuary fence across Crooked Creek Ranch Road on to BLM land where they continued until they were no longer visible from the road. Numerous cow tracks were visible along Crooked Creek Ranch Road, the BLM land & the Wild Horse Sanctuary. What we observed was consistent with not just a single event, but ongoing chronic trespassing by livestock. By the way, we saw no wild horses or horse tracks that day. We also observed in this area a dead cow carcass that was perhaps a year old. The enclosed video clearly shows our observations.

We have heard numerous reports of cows grazing and cow manure in the Pryors, even since we were there. We hope something will be done to correct this situation as it's illegal for livestock to be there. It's unjust to remove wild horses from their rightful territory for alleged overgrazing by horses, if cows are being allowed to wander in and out unimpeded.

We await your response for any proposed plans or procedures to correct the problem expressed above. Thank you for your time and help in this matter. If we can be of any help to you, please let us know, too.

Sincerely,

Wild Horse Spirit, Ltd., volunteer
25 Lewers Creek Road
Carson City, Nevada 89704

Redwings Horse Sanctuary
P.O. Box 222705
Carmel, California 93922