



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Carson City District Office
1535 Hot Springs Rd., Ste. 300
Carson City, NV 89706-0638

✓ 11/22/93
TAKE
PRIDE IN
AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4130 CF
(NV-03480)

NOV 27 1993

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed for your information is the Documentation of the Existing Grazing Practices on the Copper Kettle Allotment.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely yours,

James M. Phillips
Area Manager
Lahontan Resource Area

cc:

Don & Martha Sims
The Wilderness Society
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Animal Protection Institute
Nevada Department of Wildlife

Documentation of the Existing Grazing Practices
on the Copper Kettle Allotment

The Copper Kettle Allotment Evaluation concluded that no Allotment Management Plan (AMP) was necessary. Instead, the current grazing practices will be documented in the files, and monitoring will continue on the allotment to verify that resource objectives continue to be met.

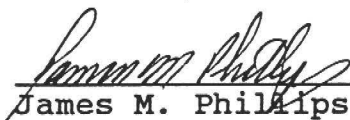
The grazing preference is 2333 AUM's, 219 cattle run yearlong.

Normal livestock operation: 219 cattle are authorized to use the entire allotment yearlong. However, cattle use the high country as weather permits, which is typically from approximately November 15 to February 15. The lower country is utilized yearlong by a portion of the herd, as precipitation accumulates in the form of snow or puddles. This use has resulted in moderate utilization.

Because the allotment boundary between the Copper Kettle and Rochester Common Allotments is unfenced, some drift between the two occurs. This has created a problem in the form of trespass cattle from the Winnemucca District.

The Technical Recommendations approved from the Copper Kettle Allotment Evaluation will be implemented. These are attached to this document.

11/16/93
Date



James M. Phillips
Area Manager
Lahontan Resource Area

Attachments (2):

1. Technical Recommendations from the Allotment Evaluation
2. Technical Recommendations, as approved

Technical Recommendations to the Area Manager in the Copper Kettle Allotment Evaluation

A. RPS Objectives

1. Short term

- a. Read utilization in the higher elevations in fall before winter storms make the area inaccessible. The remainder of the allotment should be read in early spring before green-up to determine overall utilization for the year. If possible, differentiate utilization made by horses versus cattle use.
- b. Continue to license at 2333 AUMs. A full Allotment Management Plan will not be written, however a more thorough documentation will be made, describing the current grazing practices on the allotment. Additional monitoring is needed to substantiate any adjustment in livestock grazing or wild horse numbers.
- c. See 1.a.
- d. Identify any areas of willows and establish study sites as necessary to monitor this objective.
- e. Re-visit springs and riparian areas as necessary to determine any additional needs for protection. Establish riparian area monitoring sites if needed.
- f. More information is needed on wild horses in the allotment as to use areas, numbers and movement to determine how many use the allotment and at what times, and if there is movement between Rochester Allotment and Copper Kettle. Utilization data needs to be collected according to these dates to determine how much use is attributable to livestock and wild horses.

2. Long term

- a-c. No ecological condition ratings or wildlife habitat ratings have been done since the originals to determine if ecological status has changed. When funding and resources allow, conduct a new ecological status survey.
- d. See 1e. above.
- e-g. Continue present management.

B. Other Conclusions Found

1. Prepare a rangeline agreement to incorporate upper Mississippi Canyon into Copper Kettle. Use field observations and monitoring data to determine the AUM value.
2. See Alf. above.
3. See Ala. above.
- 4 & 5. Range sites will be evaluated in the spring of 1993 to determine if the bluegrass is within normal ranges or indicative of a problem. If this is, in fact, a problem, determine if this is due to overutilization (and by what user species) and/or improper season of use.
6. Construct a fence along the district boundary to eliminate drift from the Rochester Common Allotment. This will aid in better control of livestock and eliminate trespass use from the adjacent allotment. It will also enable more accurate monitoring of actual use and utilization data.

7. Identify needs for additional waters. Construction and maintenance of any new range improvements built within the WSA will be constrained by the Interim Management Plan (IMP) guidelines for WSA's. Copper Kettle Well (JDR #3515) is in a state of disrepair. It does not recharge enough to warrant re-equipping and is not cost-feasible to redevelop. This project should be abandoned.
8. Identify a new key area and establish a frequency trend plot in the spring of 1993. Continue to monitor trend.

VIII. Technical Recommendations to the Area Manager

I recommend the Technical Recommendations identified in VI. be implemented to meet Management Objectives on the Copper Kettle Allotment, with the following revisions: B.4 & 5 and B.8, change the date from 1993 to 1994.

Andrea J. Minor
Andrea J. Minor, Range Conservationist
Lahontan Resource Area

8-9-93
Date

Concurrence:

R.H. Wolfe
R.H. Wolfe, Supv. Range Conservationist
Lahontan Resource Area

8/11/93
Date

James M. Phillips
James M. Phillips, Area Manager
Lahontan Resource Area

8/12/93
Date

I concur with the above Technical Recommendations with the following provisions:

A.1.f. Revise the Interdistrict Agreement with the Winnemucca District and initiate rangeland monitoring designed to differentiate grazing use between wild horses and livestock.

B.6. Proposed fence must be thoroughly analyzed with regard to Long term Objective 2.f. prior to construction.