



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

M

3/3/93



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
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(NV-03480)  
273001  
273016  
273027

Certified Mail (P 398 783 671)  
Return Receipt Requested

Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses & Burros  
Stewart Facility  
5500 Snider Ave., Bldg. 6, Rm. 137  
Carson City, NV 89710

MAR 03 1993

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed for your information are copies of the Antelope Mountain and the Lahontan Allotment Multiple Use Decisions (MUD). Thank you for your interest in Multiple Use Management.

Sincerely yours,

James M. Phillips  
Area Manager  
Lahontan Resource Area

Enclosures:

1. Antelope Mountain Allotment Multiple Use Decision.
2. Lahontan Allotment Multiple Use Decision.



# United States Department of the Interior

TAKE  
PRIDE IN  
AMERICA

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Carson City District Office  
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Carson City, NV 89706-0638

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Amerongen Family Trust  
Frederrick K. Amerongen  
10153 Valley Spring Lane  
North Hollywood, CA 91602

Harriman and Son  
Earl L. Harriman  
10050 Pioneer Way  
Fallon, NV 89406

FEB 18 1993

### Proposed Multiple Use Decision Lahontan Allotment

The Record of Decision for the Lahontan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Lahontan Resource Management Plan was completed September 3, 1985. These documents established the multiple use goals and objectives which guide management of the public land on Lahontan Allotment. The Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) was issued in October of 1985, and updated in 1989, which further specifically identified the allotment specific objectives for Lahontan Allotment. On June 13, 1986, Rangeland Management Implementation Notice was issued to Gary Snow establishing the normal operation to graze on the Lahontan Allotment (03036) with 156 cattle from November 1 to March 31 each year at 100 percent public land and 780 AUM's total preference. On March 28, 1989, Rangeland Management Implementation Notice was issued to Harriman & Son establishing the normal operation to graze on the Lahontan Allotment (03036) with 75 cattle from November 1 to March 31 each year at 100 percent public land and 375 AUM's total preference. The Lahontan Allotment Evaluation was completed on August 23, 1990.

Monitoring data has been collected since 1975. Additional monitoring, as identified in the RPS, was established on Lahontan Allotment to determine if existing multiple uses for the allotment were consistent with attainment of the objectives established by the RPS.

The data was analyzed in 1990, through the allotment evaluation process, to; (1.) Determine progress in meeting multiple use objectives for Lahontan Allotment, and (2.) Determine what changes in existing management are required in order to meet specific multiple use objectives for this allotment. Through the consultation, coordination and cooperation process (CCC), input from affected interests was considered in the Lahontan Allotment Evaluation. It was determined that a change in existing management was required, in order to meet multiple use objectives for this allotment. The evaluation identified specific technical recommendations which included monitoring, removal of all wild horses outside of the HMA and requiring the permittee to selectively pump the existing wells and haul water to improve the utilization patterns.

The specific multiple use objectives of the Lahontan RMP, Rangeland Program Summary and the Lahontan Allotment Management Evaluation for Lahontan Allotment are found in Appendix I.

Using the above planning documents and activity plans and in consideration of the current condition of the rangeland resources on the Lahontan Allotment, my proposed decision is as follows:

#### LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT DECISION

On June 13, 1986, Rangeland Management Implementation Notice was issued to Gary Snow establishing the normal operation to graze on the Lahontan Allotment (03036) with 156 cattle from November 1 to March 31 each year at 100 percent public land and 780 AUM's total preference. On March 28, 1989, Rangeland Management Implementation Notice was issued to Harriman & Son establishing the normal operation to graze on the Lahontan Allotment (03036) with 75 cattle from November 1 to March 31 each year at 100 percent public land and 375 AUM's total preference. No additional adjustment is necessary at this time. Livestock use within the Lahontan HMA will be limited to 122 AUM's. The Lahontan HMA comprises 21% of the allotment.

#### WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT DECISION

##### Lahontan Herd Management Area:

It has been determined through monitoring and the allotment evaluation process that a thriving natural ecological balance can be obtained through an Appropriate Management Level (AML) of 9 wild horses managed within a range of 7 to 10 wild horses for the Lahontan Herd Management Area (HMA) which occurs in the Lahontan Allotment.

**RATIONALE:** Monitoring information shows that approximately 122 AUM's or 10 wild horses is the maximum proper stocking level within the Lahontan HMA. This AML was based on actual numbers of wild horses during the evaluation period.

By maintaining the wild horses and livestock AUM's at this level it is anticipated that Land Use Plan objectives will be met including maintaining or improving current ecological condition and maintaining utilization at 55 percent or less on key species on upland areas.

In order to prevent resource damage, horse numbers will be limited to a maximum of 10 animals. To avoid annual removals and to minimize stresses and band disturbances associated with removals, removals will be conducted every three years. To avoid excessive vegetation utilization horses will be managed within a range from 7 to 10 animals. This will allow for a 15 percent annual rate of increase to a maximum of 10 head.

**AUTHORITY:** Authority for the this decision is contained in Section 3(a) and (b) of the Wild-Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (P.L. 92-195) as amended and in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4700.0-6(a): "Wild horses and burros shall be managed as self-sustaining populations of healthy animals in balance with other uses and the productive capacity of their habitat."

4710.4: "Management of wild horses and burros shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting the animals' distribution to herd areas. Management shall be at the minimum level necessary to attain the objectives identified in approved land use plans and herd management area plans."

4720.1: "Upon examination of current information and a determination by the authorized officer that an excess of wild horses or burros exists, the authorized officer shall remove the excess animals immediately..."

**PROTEST/APPEAL:**

In accordance with 43 CFR 4770.3 which states in part:

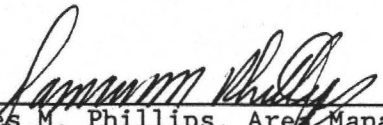
"Any person who is adversely affected by a decision of the authorized officer in the administration of these regulations may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.4 within 30 days of receipt of the written decision."

Although these regulations allow for an appeal with no mention of a protest, for the purpose of consistency the multiple use decision will be initially sent as a "Proposed" decision. If no protests are received within fifteen days, the proposed decision shall constitute the final decision, which may then be appealed.

Should you wish to appeal this decision as it pertains to wild horses to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, you are required to appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.400. An appeal should specify the reasons, clearly and concisely, as to why you think the decision is in error and a statement of standing, if necessary as per 43 CFR 4.400.

**WILDLIFE DECISION**

Utilization of key upland species will be maintained at 55% to ensure adequate habitat for nongame birds and mammals.

  
James M. Phillips, Area Manager  
Lahontan Resource Area

**Special Interest**

**(Certified Mail No.)**

cc: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	(P 398 783 657)
American Horse Protection Association	(P 398 783 658)
National Mustang Association	(P 398 783 659)
Fund for Animals	(P 398 783 660)
International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros	(P 398 783 661)
U.S. Humane Society	(P 398 783 662)
Animal Protection Institute	(P 398 783 663)
L.I.F.E. Foundation	(P 398 783 664)
C. Jean Richards	(P 398 783 665)
American Bashkir Curley Register	(P 398 783 666)
Humane Society of Southern Nevada	(P 398 783 667)
Nevada Humane Society	(P 398 783 668)
Wild Horse Organized Assistance	(P 398 783 669)
Dan Keiserman	(P 398 783 670)
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses/Stewart Facility	(P 398 783 671)
Craig Downer	(P 398 783 672)
Nevada Department of Wildlife	(P 398 783 673)
Sierra Club - Toiyabe Chapter	(P 398 783 674)

Special Interest

(Certified Mail No.)

cc: Natural Resources Defense Council Inc.	(P 398 783 675)
Clearing House for the State of Nevada	(P 398 783 676)
The Nature Conservancy	(P 398 783 677)
Nevada Cattlemen's Association	(P 398 783 678)
Resource Concepts Inc.	(P 398 783 679)
Nevada Land Action Association	(P 398 783 680)
N-3 Grazing Board	(P 398 783 681)
Carson City District Grazing Advisory Board	(P 398 783 682)
U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service	(P 398 783 683)
U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service	(P 398 783 684)
Nevada Woolgrowers Association	(P 398 783 685)
Buhel R. Heckathorn	(P 398 783 686)
Steven Fulstone	(P 398 783 687)
The Wilderness Society (Cal-Nev Reg. Coordinator)	(P 398 783 688)
Nevada Wilderness Association	(P 398 783 689)
Nevada Wildlife Federation	(P 398 783 690)
Honorable James H. Bilbray	(P 398 783 691)
Honorable Barbara Vucanovich	(P 398 783 692)
Honorable Richard Bryan	(P 398 783 693)
Honorable Harry M. Reid	(P 398 783 694)
Nevada Wildlife Federation	(P 398 783 695)
Board of County Commissioners (Nye County)	(P 398 783 696)
Michael Kirk, D.V.M.	(P 398 783 697)
Ms. Deborah Allard	(P 398 783 698)
Ms. Kathy McCovey	(P 398 783 699)
Ms. Rebecca Kunow	(P 398 783 700)
Nevada State Department of Agriculture	(P 398 783 701)
Paula S. Askew	(P 398 783 702)
U.S. Wild Horse & Burro Foundation	(P 398 783 703)
Bobbi Royle	(P 398 783 704)
Ms. Ann Earle	(P 398 783 705)
Ms. Susan Alder	(P 398 783 706)
Fallon Naval Air Station	(P 398 783 707)
Kent Brothers	(P 398 783 708)
Butch Robinson	(P 398 783 709)
L-M Ranch	(P 398 783 710)



APPENDIX I.

Lahontan Allotment Specific Objectives:

1. Land Use Plan Objectives - Lahontan RMP - 1985.

A. Long Term:

1. In the long term, the range monitoring program will provide data on which to base future adjustments in livestock, wildlife, and wild horse use and to identify additional range improvements. All future adjustments and improvements would be designed to achieve the objectives of this alternative.
2. The initial assignment of allotments into the categories of "Maintain", "Improve", and "Custodial" will be evaluated periodically. These evaluations will assure that the management objectives are being reached and that AMP's and range improvements will be initiated for those allotments requiring more intensive management.
3. The Lahontan Allotment would be evaluated periodically. The evaluations would determine if the management objectives are being reach.

B. Short Term:

1. Develop AMP's/grazing systems on Category I Allotments and grazing systems as needed on Category M and C Allotments to improve condition, provide for proper utilization within key areas, achieve better livestock distribution to obtain more uniform utilization, and provide an increase in available forage and water for livestock, wild horses, and wildlife.
2. Objectives are to improve condition, provide for proper utilization within key areas, achieve better livestock distribution to obtain more uniform utilization, and provide an increase in available forage and water for livestock, wild horses and wildlife.
3. Continue existing rangeland monitoring studies, and establish new range studies as recommended by the 1984 Nevada Range Monitoring Procedures book to determine if management objectives are being reached and what adjustments in livestock use, and wild horse numbers are necessary.
4. Conduct wild horse gatherings as necessary to initially maintain the herds at the current populations of 2,190 head (Planning Unit Wide; 42 head for the Lahontan HMA).

2. Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) Objectives - October 1985.

A. Long Term:

1. Maintain existing ecological condition and trend.

2. Maintain or improve wild horse habitat consistent with wildlife and livestock objectives. Maintain or improve free-roaming behavior of wild horses by protecting or enhancing wild horse home ranges. Maintain or improve wild horse habitat by assuring that all waters remain open to use by wild horses. Initially provide approximately 504 AUM's of forage for approximately 42 head. 21% of the allotment is in the HMA.

B. Short Term:

1. Maintain Utilization not to exceed 55% on identified key species on upland key areas.
2. Initially allow 1,155 AUM's for livestock use.

3. Lahontan Allotment Evaluation Recommendations - August 1990.

The following Technical Recommendations have been approved by the Lahontan Area Manager.

On Nevada ranges both research and evaluation studies show the key to rangeland improvement lies in the amount of rest provided the vegetation by deferment of grazing use during the growing season. The rate of improvement appears to be related to frequency and duration of rest. To improve the HMA area it is recommended to:

A. TR#1:

Adjust stocking rate, reduce wild horse numbers so that vegetation will be available within the HMA yearlong. This will require removal of all wild horses that range outside of the HMA and reducing the wild horse population within the HMA to an average of 10 (Appendix 1).

B. TR#2:

Maintain utilization levels at 55% or less on identified upland key species. Continue with monitoring and re-evaluate the Lahontan Allotment 1993.

C. TR#3:

Remove all wild horses from areas outside of the HMA.

D. TR#4:

Grazing use needs to be altered in areas of the Allotment receiving heavy and severe use from wild horses. Cattle use should be altered by requiring the permittee to selectively pump the existing wells and haul water. However, the areas in heavy and severe use will not recover until the wild horses are removed from areas outside of the HMA and reduced to appropriate levels within the HMA.



# United States Department of the Interior



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Carson City, NV 89706-0638

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4130 CF  
(NV-03480)  
CF-273001

Certified Mail (P 398 783 656)  
Return Receipt Requested

Feather River Ranch  
C/O John Keithley  
P.O. Box 189  
Loyalton, CA 96118

MAR 03 1993

### Proposed Multiple Use Decision Antelope Mountain Allotment

Multiple use goals and objectives which guide management of the Public Lands on the Antelope Mountain Allotment began on July 2, 1969 with the completion and signing of the Antelope Mountain Allotment Management Plan (AMP). This plan included yearlong grazing using a 4-Pasture Rest Rotation System. On March 9, 1976, a Range Use Agreement was signed limiting use in the Petersen Mountain Pasture and splitting the use by a North and South Pasture Rotation from 06/01 to 08/31 and 07/15 to 08/31 each year. On July 2, 1981, the Antelope Mountain Allotment Management Plan was revised and signed which changed the grazing use from yearlong to 04/15 through 10/31 on a 3-Pasture Rest Rotation System and resting the Petersen Mountain Pasture 2 out of 3 years. The Record of Decision for the Final Reno Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Reno Resource Management Plan was completed December 21, 1982. These documents, in addition to the AMP, established the multiple use goals and objectives on public land in the Antelope Mountain Allotment. The Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) was issued in October of 1985, and updated in 1989, which further specifically identified the allotment specific objectives for the Antelope Mountain Allotment. On April 9, 1987, a Final Decision was issued with limits of 55% utilization of key species and if the use exceeded 55%, all cattle will be moved or removed from the pasture. On June 6, 1988, a Final Decision was issued removing the Red Rock Pasture from the Antelope Mountain Allotment and making it the Red Rock Allotment with 454 AUM's preference. The remaining 7,996 AUM's were attached to the Antelope Mountain Allotment. The Antelope Mountain Allotment Evaluation was completed on April 10, 1992. On June 15, 1992, a Grazing Use Agreement was signed adjusting the Active Preference from 7,996 AUM's to 6,362 AUM's and placing the remaining 1,634 AUM's in suspended non-use.

Monitoring data has been collected since 1968. Additional monitoring, as identified in the RPS, was established on Antelope Mountain Allotment to determine if existing multiple uses on the allotment were consistent with attainment of the objectives established by the RPS.

The data was analyzed in 1992, through the allotment evaluation process, to; (1.) Determine progress in meeting multiple use objectives for the Antelope Mountain Allotment, and (2.) Determine what changes in existing management are required in order to meet specific multiple use objectives for this allotment. Through the consultation, coordination and cooperation process (CCC), input from affected interests was considered in the Antelope Mountain Allotment Evaluation. It was determined through this evaluation that the following



changes in existing management are necessary in order to meet multiple use objectives for this allotment.

Wildlife management objectives were developed in the Reno RMP and are summarized in the 1989 Lahontan Rangeland Program Summary Update and in Appendix I of this decision.

The specific multiple use objectives of the Reno RMP, Rangeland Program Summary and the Antelope Mountain AMP are found in Appendix I.

Using the above planning documents and activity plans and in consideration of the current condition of the rangeland resources on the Antelope Mountain Allotment, my proposed decision is as follows:

#### LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT DECISION

Livestock use in this allotment was adjusted on June 15, 1992 by agreement. The Active Preference is recognized as being 6,362 AUM's. The normal operation is 967 cattle from 04/15 to 10/31 on the allotment. No additional adjustment is necessary at this time.

#### WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT DECISION

##### Granite Peak Herd Management Area:

It has been determined through monitoring and the allotment evaluation process that a thriving natural ecological balance can be obtained through an Appropriate Management Level (AML) of 15 wild horses for the Granite Peak Herd Management Area (HMA) in the Antelope Mountain Allotment.

RATIONALE: Monitoring information shows that approximately 216 AUM's or 18 wild horses is the maximum proper stocking level for the Granite Peak HMA within the Antelope Mountain Allotment. Based on actual numbers of wild horses, wildlife and livestock during the evaluation period it was determined that a range of 11 to 18 wild horses would be supported along with other uses of the Public Land and therefore an AML of 15 wild horses will be set.

By maintaining the wild horses and livestock AUM's at this level it is anticipated that Land Use Plan objectives will be met including maintaining or improving current ecological condition and maintaining utilization at 55 percent or less on key species on upland areas.

In order to prevent resource damage, horse numbers will be limited to a maximum of 18 animals. To avoid annual removals and to minimize stresses and band disturbances associated with removals, removals will be conducted every three years. To avoid excessive vegetation utilization horses will be managed within a range from 11 to 18 animals. This will allow for a 18 percent annual rate of increase to a maximum of 18 head.

AUTHORITY: Authority for the this decision is contained in Section 3(a) and (b) of the Wild-Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (P.L. 92-195) as amended and in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4700.0-6(a): "Wild horses and burros shall be managed as self-sustaining populations of healthy animals in balance with other uses and the productive capacity of their habitat."

4710.4: "Management of wild horses and burros shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting the animals' distribution to herd areas. Management shall be at the minimum level necessary to attain the objectives identified in approved land use plans and herd management area plans."

4720.1: "Upon examination of current information and a determination by the authorized officer that an excess of wild horses or burros exists, the authorized officer shall remove the excess animals immediately..."

**PROTEST/APPEAL:**

In accordance with 43 CFR 4770.3 which states in part:

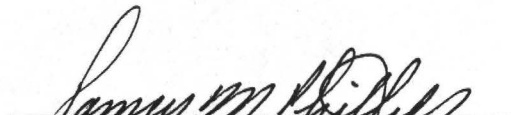
"Any person who is adversely affected by a decision of the authorized officer in the administration of these regulations may file an appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.4 within 30 days of receipt of the written decision."

Although these regulations allow for an appeal with no mention of a protest, for the purpose of consistency the multiple use decision will be initially sent as a "Proposed" decision. If no protests are received within fifteen days, the proposed decision shall constitute the final decision, which may then be appealed.

Should you wish to appeal this decision as it pertains to wild horses to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, you are required to appeal in accordance with 43 CFR 4.400. An appeal should specify the reasons, clearly and concisely, as to why you think the decision is in error and a statement of standing, if necessary as per 43 CFR 4.400.

**WILDLIFE DECISION**

Wildlife use in this allotment has been adjudicated in accordance with Reno RMP - 1982, Antelope Mountain Allotment final decision dated April 9, 1987, which states 2,500 AUM's will be provided for mule deer. Additionally, livestock and if necessary wild horses will be removed from the south end of the Sandhills when bitterbrush utilization reaches 35%.

  
James M. Phillips, Area Manager  
Lanontan Resource Area

Special Interest(Certified Mail No.)

cc: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (P 398 783 657)  
American Horse Protection Association (P 398 783 658)  
National Mustang Association (P 398 783 659)  
Fund for Animals (P 398 783 660)  
International Society for the (P 398 783 661)  
Protection of Mustangs and Burros  
U.S. Humane Society (P 398 783 662)  
Animal Protection Institute (P 398 783 663)  
L.I.F.E. Foundation (P 398 783 664)  
C. Jean Richards (P 398 783 665)  
American Bashkir Curley Register (P 398 783 666)  
Humane Society of Southern Nevada (P 398 783 667)  
Nevada Humane Society (P 398 783 668)  
Wild Horse Organized Assistance (P 398 783 669)  
Dan Keiserman (P 398 783 670)  
Commission for the Preservation of (P 398 783 671)  
Wild Horses/Stewart Facility  
Craig Downer (P 398 783 672)  
Nevada Department of Wildlife (P 398 783 673)  
Sierra Club - Toiyabe Chapter (P 398 783 674)  
Natural Resources Defense Council Inc. (P 398 783 675)  
Clearing House for the State of Nevada (P 398 783 676)  
The Nature Conservancy (P 398 783 677)  
Nevada Cattlemen's Association (P 398 783 678)  
Resource Concepts Inc. (P 398 783 679)  
Nevada Land Action Association (P 398 783 680)  
N-3 Grazing Board (P 398 783 681)  
Carson City District Grazing Advisory Board (P 398 783 682)  
U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service (P 398 783 683)  
U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service (P 398 783 684)  
Nevada Woolgrowers Association (P 398 783 685)  
Buhel R. Heckathorn (P 398 783 686)  
Steven Fulstone (P 398 783 687)  
The Wilderness Society (Cal-Nev Reg. Coordinator) (P 398 783 688)  
Nevada Wilderness Association (P 398 783 689)  
Nevada Wildlife Federation (P 398 783 690)  
Honorable James H. Bilbray (P 398 783 691)  
Honorable Barbara Vucanovich (P 398 783 692)  
Honorable Richard Bryan (P 398 783 693)  
Honorable Harry M. Reid (P 398 783 694)  
Nevada Wildlife Federation (P 398 783 695)  
Board of County Commissioners (Nye County) (P 398 783 696)  
Michael Kirk, D.V.M. (P 398 783 697)  
Ms. Deborah Allard (P 398 783 698)  
Ms. Kathy McCovey (P 398 783 699)  
Ms. Rebecca Kunow (P 398 783 700)  
Nevada State Department of Agriculture (P 398 783 701)  
Paula S. Askew (P 398 783 702)  
U.S. Wild Horse & Burro Foundation (P 398 783 703)  
Bobbi Royle (P 398 783 704)  
Ms. Ann Earle (P 398 783 705)  
Ms. Susan Alder (P 398 783 706)  
Ms. Nancy K. Lusk (P 398 783 714)

APPENDIX I.

Antelope Mountain Allotment Specific Objectives:

1. Land Use Plan Objectives - Reno RMP - 1982.

A. Long Term:

1. Possible adjustments in period of use.
2. Continued adjustments in livestock use levels based on utilization studies where applicable.
3. Adjustments in wild horse use levels.
4. Manage mule deer habitat and provide forage for reasonable numbers.
5. Implement Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) and use grazing treatments to develop grazing systems that would improve ecological condition and provide additional forage.
6. Develop land treatments to provide desired vegetation for livestock, mule deer, and wild horses.

B. Short Term:

1. Develop range improvements to protect mule deer habitat and to improve livestock and wild horse distribution and vegetation utilization.
2. Continue to monitor and/or inventory to quantify the degree of conflicts and identify opportunity for future developments. Initial livestock, wild horse and mule deer use would be at existing levels.
3. Allotment Managements Plans (AMP's) will also be developed as required.

2. Lassen-Washoe Wildlife Habitat Area (HMP) - June 1988.

A. Populations Objectives - Mule deer:

Manage Mule deer for 2,500 AUM's reasonable numbers.

B. Forage Objectives - Mule deer:

1. Recognize bitterbrush as a key species within all key mule deer habitat areas. It is/will be a key species in all livestock grazing systems and AMP's in Category I Allotments, either on a pasture or allotment-wide basis, depending on where it and the key deer areas coincide.
2. Maintain the level of use of bitterbrush by all classes of large herbivores not to exceed 45 percent of current year's growth, based on monitoring.

C. Other Objectives for HMAP:

1. Acquire 7,400 acres to block up crucial mule deer winter and migration range.

2. Protect approximately 50 acres of identified riparian habitats on seven different allotments.
3. Continue seasonal closures for seasonally sensitive habitats.
4. Reduce wildlife harassment by adjusting timing of organized motorized and non-motorized events.
5. Protect crucial mule deer habitat from destruction by wildfire.
6. Continue monitoring existing mule deer habitat and add additional studies as needed for riparian habitat and sage grouse.
7. Determine through monitoring of the known sage grouse leks whether sage grouse still exist in the HMP area and whether the MFP recommendation (in Chapter 3 of the Reno DEIS) is still valid (increase sage grouse by 50 per cent).

3. Rangeland Program Summary Update (RPS) Objectives - December 1989.

A. Long Term:

1. Improve ecological condition in ten years by one class from: early seral to mid-seral 3,020 acres, mid-seral to late seral 3,967 acres, late seral to PNC 615 acres.
2. Manage identified mule deer habitat to maintain a fair (26-50 rating) or better condition to support 248 deer from 05/01 to 10/31 and 1,428 deer from 11/01 to 04/31, 2,500 AUM's reasonable numbers.
3. Improve habitat condition in burned areas in key deer winter range from poor (0-25 rating) to fair or better.
4. Manage identified pronghorn antelope habitat to maintain a fair (31-60 rating) or better condition. Limit utilization to 55% on identified key species in this habitat.
5. Manage riparian areas to achieve and maintain late-seral ecological condition.
6. Maintain or improve willow, chokecherry, and aspen stands to have at least 20% of all stems over 5 feet. Six (6) feet for aspen.
7. Maintain or improve wild horse habitat consistent with wildlife and livestock objectives.
8. Maintain or improve free-roaming behavior of wild horses by protecting or enhancing wild horse home ranges.

B. Short Term:

1. Maintain utilization not to exceed 55% on identified key species on upland key areas.
2. Initially allow 7,996 AUM's.



3. Limit livestock utilization to 45% on bitterbrush in habitat areas.
4. Provide forage for Mule Deer in the Sand Hills area by limiting livestock utilization to 35% of the current years growth of bitterbrush plants. To be measured from tagged twigs in key areas.
5. Limit utilization to 55% on identified key species in pronghorn habitat.
6. Limit utilization to 55% current year's growth in riparian areas.
7. Maintain or improve wild horse habitat.

C. In Addition:

As a result of the Area Managers Decision of April 9, 1987, the following management objectives were included as Terms and Conditions of the grazing authorization.

1. When 55% utilization of the key species occurs all cattle will be removed from the pasture.
2. When 35% utilization on bitterbrush is reached at the south end of the Sand Hills, (unburned area) the water will be turned off and the livestock moved to the other portions of the pasture until 55% utilization is reached.
3. When all scheduled pastures reach 55% utilization regardless of the remaining time licensed, all cattle will be removed from the entire allotment.
4. All range improvements must be properly maintained to maximize distribution.

All adjustments in livestock use will be based on rangeland monitoring. Monitoring information will be collected and evaluated on a yearly basis in accordance with the Nevada Rangeland and Monitoring Task Force Recommendations.

Computation of overall utilization will be calculated by pasture using the weighted average method, excluding areas where livestock would be unable to use.

Based on the utilization figure the stocking levels will be computed using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Actual Use}}{\text{Average/Weighted Average Utilization}} = \frac{\text{Potential Actual Use}}{\text{Desired Average Utilization}}$$

4. Antelope Mountain Allotment Management Plan Objectives - April 1987.

From the Antelope Mountain Allotment Management Plan established in 1981, and revised in 1984 plus the Notice of Proposed Decision issued April 9, 1987.

A. Long Term:

1. Improve the overall condition of the entire allotment by increasing vigor and reproduction of existing bunch grasses: Indian Ricegrass (Oryzopsis hymenoides), Needle and Thread Grass (Stipa comata) and Thurber's Needle Grass (Stipa thurberiana) by allowing adequate period of rest.
2. Increase key species by 3-5% within 10 years.
3. Improve ecological and range condition from fair to good condition.

B. Short Term:

Achieve overall utilization on key grass species of 55%.

BOB MILLER  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Executive Director



**COMMISSION FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES**

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Reno, Nevada

April 1, 1993

James M. Phillips, Area Manager  
Lahontan Resource Area  
BLM-Carson City District Office  
1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300  
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0638

Dear Mr. Phillips,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Antelope Mountain and Lahontan Allotment Multiple Use Decisions.

In the past we have commented to other Districts that we were concerned with setting AML on an allotment basis. We felt that by setting that AML of 9 or 10, for that allotment alone that if wild horses happened to exceed that number because of seasonal movement they risked removal. We would like to request that you add this suggested paragraph or something similar to these Decisions.

"Setting wild horse numbers by allotment will eventually provide a total AML for an entire HMA. Removals will occur on an HMA basis and numbers will be maintained at or near the total AML. Numbers within Herd Areas and/or allotments may be higher or lower than the number identified/established because of seasonal movements but the total AML for the HMA will be maintained."

We would appreciate the addition of the above paragraph to these and any future wild horse Decisions. This would prevent wild horses from being removed needlessly because they happen to have traveled across an allotment during their seasonal movement.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Executive Director