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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
CARSON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE  
1535 HOT SPRINGS ROAD  
SUITE 300  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89706

# GARFIELD FLAT ALLOTMENT EVALUATION



PREPARED BY:

ROBERT R. MEAD  
RANGE CONSERVATIONIST  
WALKER RESOURCE AREA

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I. Introduction

- A. Allotment - Garfield Flat 03535
- B. Permittee - Harold E. and Sherri Porter
- C. Evaluation Period - Fall of 1986 to the spring of 1992.
- D. Category "I", Priority 8 (Walker RMP, November 1989)

II. Initial Stocking Level

A. Livestock Use

1. Land Use Plan Objectives (AUMs)

Total Preference	Susp.	Active	Temp. Non Renew.	Season of Use	Kind of Livestock	%Federal Range
3516	0	3516	0	11/1 to 4/15	Cattle	80

2. Other Information

The Garfield Flat Allotment is situated in Mineral County ten miles south of Hawthorne, Nevada.

The small communities of Mina and Luning are located on U.S. 95 which is the northern and eastern boundary of the allotment along with the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant. The southern boundary is formed by the Excelsior Mountains. On the west is State Route 31 which is the boundary for the Toiyabe National Forest.

Rollin Eckis was the permittee from 1950 to 1971. In 1971, Albert and Karl Rodi acquired the grazing privileges. In 1987, William and Rosemary Weaver acquired the grazing privileges. In March of 1990, Corte Diablo Capital Inc. acquired the grazing rights and then in May of 1990, they were transferred to Hal and Sherri Porter.

The base ranch that supports the Garfield Flat Allotment is located approximately 25 miles south of Wellington, Nevada and is known as the Sweetwater Ranch. The base ranch is 40 miles from the allotment. The base property requirement for the ranch is three months which is more than adequately met. On April 15, the cattle are taken to private meadows at Sweetwater and Bridgeport. In addition, the permittee has grazing privileges on U.S. Forest Service administered lands. On November 1, the cattle are moved back onto the Garfield Flat Allotment.

On May 6, 1959 grazing privileges were allocated in the Garfield Flat Allotment. Total range use of 4400 AUMs was identified (800 cattle from 11/1 to 4/15). The active grazing privilege established at this time was 4242 AUMs.

On June 16, 1988, William and Rosemary Weaver were informed that 8,910 acres of land within the Garfield Flat Allotment were identified for transfer to private ownership (Aerojet Corp.) in accordance with the Nevada-Florida Land Exchange Authorization Act of 1988. These lands estimated grazing capacity was 420 AUMs. On July 1, 1988, Benny Romero who was the Authorized Representative for the Weavers, signed a Waiver of the Two Year Notice thereby accepting the transfer. The grazing privileges were adjusted accordingly.

In October of 1988, the National Forest and Public Lands of Nevada Enhancement Act mandated transfer of 12,240 acres of land administered by the Carson City District to the Toiyabe National Forest (Refer to Appendix A, Map No. 1). The estimated grazing capacity is 306 AUMs. On April 26, 1989, this transfer became effective and grazing privileges were adjusted to the current active preference of 3516 AUMs on the public lands. The 306 AUMs on the Forest Service land is used in conjunction with the BLM grazing schedule for the allotment. At this same time approximately 5,852 acres of land was transferred from the USFS to the BLM. This land has not been inventoried therefore no adjustments to grazing preference has occurred.

Acreage Statistics for the allotment are:

Unfenced Owned Land	2,564
Unfenced Controlled (Aerojet)	8,910
Fenced farm land	1,200
Public Lands	218,841
Unfenced Forest Service	12,240
Total	<u>243,755</u>

(Refer to Appendix A, Map No. 2 for land status).

#### B. Wild Horse and Burro Use

The Garfield Flat Herd Management Area (HMA) is approximately 141,800 acres and is fifty-eight percent (58%) of the Garfield Flat Allotment (Refer to Appendix A, Map No. 3). The earliest population census was conducted in 1973 when 184 head were counted. Wild horses have been removed from the HMA twice, 183 head in 1977 and 380 head in 1985.

### C. Wildlife Use

There is a wide variety of wildlife species within the allotment. These include chukar (*Alectoris chukar*), mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttallii*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), numerous small mammals, birds, and reptiles.

The important big-game species is mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). Existing demand is taken from the Walker Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (1984):

<u>Mountain Range</u>	<u>Season of Use</u>		<u>Existing Demand</u>	
	<u>Dates</u>	<u>(months)</u>	<u>Nos.</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
Excelsior Mtns.	01/15-05/15	(4.0)	308	308
	Yearlong		31	93
Wassuk Range	11/15-05/01	(5.5)	103	141
	01/01-04/15	(4.5)	1088	1232

There is key mule deer winter range located in the Excelsior Mountains (Refer to Appendix, Map No. 4). This area is located on the southern boundary of the allotment and is administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The key mule deer winter range in the Wassuk Range is now under the jurisdiction of the USFS, Bridgeport, Ca.

### III. Allotment Profile

#### A. Description

##### 1. Topography

The topography varies from a low elevation of 5600 feet to a high of 8600 feet. It is rolling mountainous country with numerous open valleys. Soda Springs Valley, drains the allotment to the north and east, Whiskey and Rattlesnake Flats drain to Walker Lake with the remainder of the allotment draining into Garfield Flat.

##### 2. Soils

The soils range from sandy to silt loams with varying amounts of intermixed gravel and rocks. The central portion of the allotment has an alkali flat (Garfield Flat) while Whiskey in its lower reaches exhibits some alkaline soils.

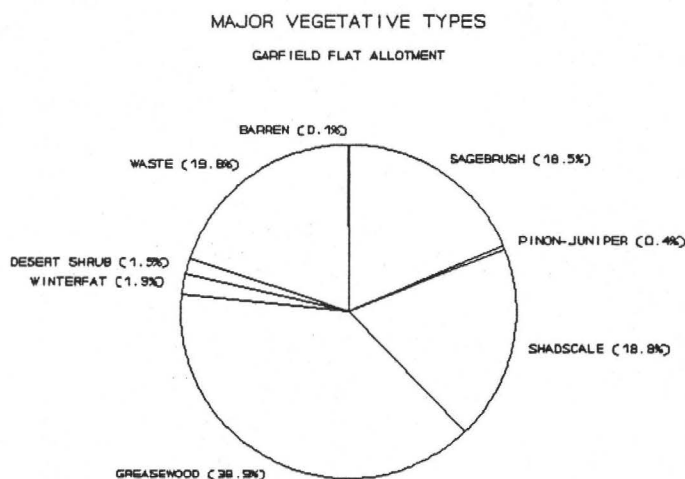
### 3. Vegetation

The vegetation in the allotment is quite varied due to the elevational extremes. The main vegetation zones in the area are salt-desert shrubs and sagebrush-bunchgrass associations. An ocular reconnaissance range survey was completed in the Mina Unit in 1953.

Major vegetative types, by acres, are as follows:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>ACRES/PUBLIC DOMAIN</u>
4 Sagebrush	39,474
9 Pinon-Juniper	831
13 Shadscale	40,038
14 Greasewood	82,914
15 Winterfat	4,127
16 Desert Shrub	3,245
7-W Waste	42,143
8-B Barren	217
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>212,989*</b>

\* This figure doesn't include information on the lands transferred from the U.S. Forest Service to the Bureau of Land Management in 1989. Approximately 5,852 acres of land was acquired adjacent to the Garfield Flat Allotment on which no range survey has been conducted. This additional acreage brings the allotment total to approximately 218,841 public land acres.



There are numerous key forage species throughout the allotment. Indian Ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*) is probably the most important forage species. Other key forage species include Needlegrass (*Stipa spp.*), Winterfat (*Eurotia lanata*), Fourwing Saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), and to a lesser extent Squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*).

4. Climate

The mean annual precipitation for the Mina, Nevada recording station is 4.78 inches. The average temperature, also recorded at Mina, is 55 degrees F with a recorded low of minus 9 degrees F and a high of 106 degrees F. The average growing season is 160 days. The heaviest amounts of precipitation occur during the winter months with the effective moisture occurring in April and May. Any precipitation that occurs during the summer months will generally come as violent localized thunderstorms. Prevailing wind direction is west-southwest.

5. Allotment Management Plan - Revisions

After eight years (1982-1990) of operating under an Allotment Management Plan (AMP), the following resource issues and conflicts were identified:

1. Lack of water in the northern portion of the Whiskey pasture.
2. Consecutive years of spring use (2/15 - 4/15) in the Whiskey pasture during the early critical growth period of key species.
3. Key areas had been established but no specific objectives had been established for these sites.

The AMP divided the allotment into three pastures. The Garfield/Douglas Flat pasture (Pasture I) was fall/winter use and could be grazed all season long (11/1 to 4/15). Whiskey Flat was divided in half (Pastures II and III). Grazing was in late winter/early spring and they were grazed in alternate years with one pasture being grazed each year.

There is no division fence separating the Whiskey Flat pastures. The normal operation was as follows:

Pasture I	11/1 to 2/15
Pasture II and III	2/16 to 4/15



On October 25, 1990 the allotment management plan was revised. Three pastures were created. They are Garfield, Whiskey and Rattlesnake (Refer to Appendix A, Map No. 5). Rattlesnake is used for approximately two weeks in the months of January and February in conjunction with moves between the Garfield and Whiskey pastures. The revised grazing treatments and schedules are as follows:

WHISKEY PASTURE

Treatments	11/01	12/01	01/01	02/01	03/01	04/15
A	GRAZE			REST		
B	GRAZE			REST		
C	REST				GRAZE	
D	REST				GRAZE	

GARFIELD PASTURE

Treatments	11/01	12/01	01/01	02/01	03/01	04/15
A	REST		GRAZE			
B	REST		GRAZE			
C	GRAZE				REST	
D	GRAZE				REST	

The grazing schedule through one cycle is as follows:

	Garfield	Whiskey
1990	01/01 - 04/15	11/01 - 12/31
1991	01/01 - 04/15	11/01 - 12/31
1992	11/01 - 02/15	02/16 - 04/15
1993	11/01 - 02/15	02/16 - 04/15

The normal operation is to run 450 cattle from 11/1 to 4/15. The change in the grazing system provides for two years consecutive spring rest for each pasture.

B. Acreage

1. Allotment Total

The allotment has approximately 218,841 public land acres.

2. Pastures

The allotment is divided into three pastures. They are Whiskey, Garfield, and Rattlesnake.

Rattlesnake is used to hold cattle during moves between Whiskey and Garfield pastures.

C. Allotment Specific Objectives

1. Land Use Planning Objectives

The objectives identified in the Resource Management Plan (1984), Management Decisions Summary (1986), Rangeland Program Summary (1989), and the revised Allotment Management Plan (1990) have been combined where objectives were similar.

a. Short Term

1. Initially provide 3516 AUMs of forage for livestock.
2. Initially provide approximately 3720 AUMs of forage for wild horses which is prorated demand based on an estimate of 85% of Herd Management Area located in allotment.

b. Long Term

1. Maintain or improve the condition of the public rangelands and watersheds so as to enhance productivity for all rangeland and watershed values.
2. Manage wildlife habitat to achieve a long term goal of 420 mule deer from January 15 to May 15 and 44 mule deer yearlong (552 AUMs).
3. Continue to provide 3516 AUMs of forage for livestock use.
4. Maintain or improve wild horse habitat and free-roaming behavior (1) consistent with wildlife and livestock objectives; (2) assuring that all waters remain open to use by wild horses; and

(3) by protecting or enhancing the wild horse ranges.

5. Objectives for key management areas are as follows:

<u>KEY AREA</u>	<u>KEY SPECIES</u>	<u>FREQUENCY/TREND</u>	<u>LEVELS OF UTILIZATION</u>
G001	Orhy Sihy Stsp	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initiate upward trend</li> <li>2. Increase the frequency of Orhy and Stsp.</li> <li>3. Maintain the frequency of Sihy.</li> <li>4. Improve ecological status from mid seral to mid-late seral.</li> </ol>	Less than or equal to 70% on all key species.
G002	Orhy Eula Stco	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initiate upward trend.</li> <li>2. Increase frequency of Orhy and Eula.</li> <li>3. Maintain frequency of Stco.</li> <li>4. Maintain ecological condition in mid to late seral.</li> </ol>	Less than or equal to 50% on Eula and less than or equal to 70% on Orhy and Stco.
G003	Eula Atca Orhy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initiate upward trend.</li> <li>2. Increase frequency of Orhy.</li> <li>3. Maintain frequency of Atca and Eula.</li> <li>4. Maintain ecological condition in mid to late seral.</li> </ol>	Less than or equal to 50% on Eula and Atca and less than or equal to 70% on Orhy.
G004	Orhy Atca Eula	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Initiate upward trend.</li> <li>2. Increase the frequency of Atca and Eula.</li> <li>3. Maintain the frequency Orhy.</li> <li>4. Improve the ecological condition from mid seral to early late seral.</li> </ol>	Less than or equal to 50% on Atca and Eula and less than or equal to 70% on Orhy.

2. Threatened and Endangered Species

There are no known threatened or endangered species located within the allotment.

D. Key Species Identification

1. Uplands

There are four (4) key areas located in the allotment (Refer to Appendix A, Map No. 6). The key species for each key area is as follows:

G001 - Orhy (Indian ricegrass), Stsp (Desert needlegrass), and Sihy (Squirreltail).

G002 - Eula (Winterfat), Orhy, and Stco (Needleandthread).

G003 - Orhy, Eula, and Atca (Fourwing saltbush).

G004 - Orhy, Eula, and Atca.

2. Riparian Areas

No riparian areas are located within the allotment on public lands.

3. Crucial/Critical Habitat

Key mule deer winter range is located in the Excelsior Mountains which is under Bureau of Land Management administration.

IV. Management Evaluation

A. Purpose

Instruction Memorandum No. 86-706 requires a decision or an agreement be implemented with a target of five years after publication of the Rangeland Program Summary. This evaluation of the Garfield Flat allotment is done in preparation for such decision or agreement.

The purpose of the allotment evaluation process is to determine if the current grazing practices are consistent with obtainment of the Land Use Plan (LUP) and allotment specific objectives for the Garfield Flat allotment. If current grazing practices are not consistent with the obtainment of these objectives, then the appropriate changes in management needed to meet the objectives will be identified and implemented.

B. Summary of Studies Data

1. Actual Use

a. Livestock

Grazing Season	Livestock Use (AUMs)
11/01/91 to 04/15/92	1853
10/18/90 to 04/30/91	2378
10/15/89 to 04/15/90	2426
10/10/88 to 04/15/89	2441
10/10/87 to 04/15/88	2195
11/15/86 to 04/15/87	1785

*3516 preference*

b. Wildlife

A spring mule deer composition aerial survey is conducted each year by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. This survey was conducted the past two years on February 25, 1991 and March 24, 1992. The survey results shown below were specific to the Walker-Mono Interstate Herd. The Wassuk range is located on lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The Excelsior Mountains form a portion of the southern allotment boundary but comprise only a small percentage of the allotment.

WASSUK MTNS.	ADULTS	FAWNS	EXCELSIOR MTNS.	ADULTS	FAWNS
03/24/92	305	60	03/24/92	89	18
02/25/91	154	40	02/25/91	44	20

This data can't be used to evaluate whether the LUP objectives of reasonable numbers is being met. The data is not specific enough to plot exact locations of sightings. Reasonable numbers identified in the Land Use Plan are 420 animals for four months (420 AUMs) and 44 animals yearlong (132 AUMs).

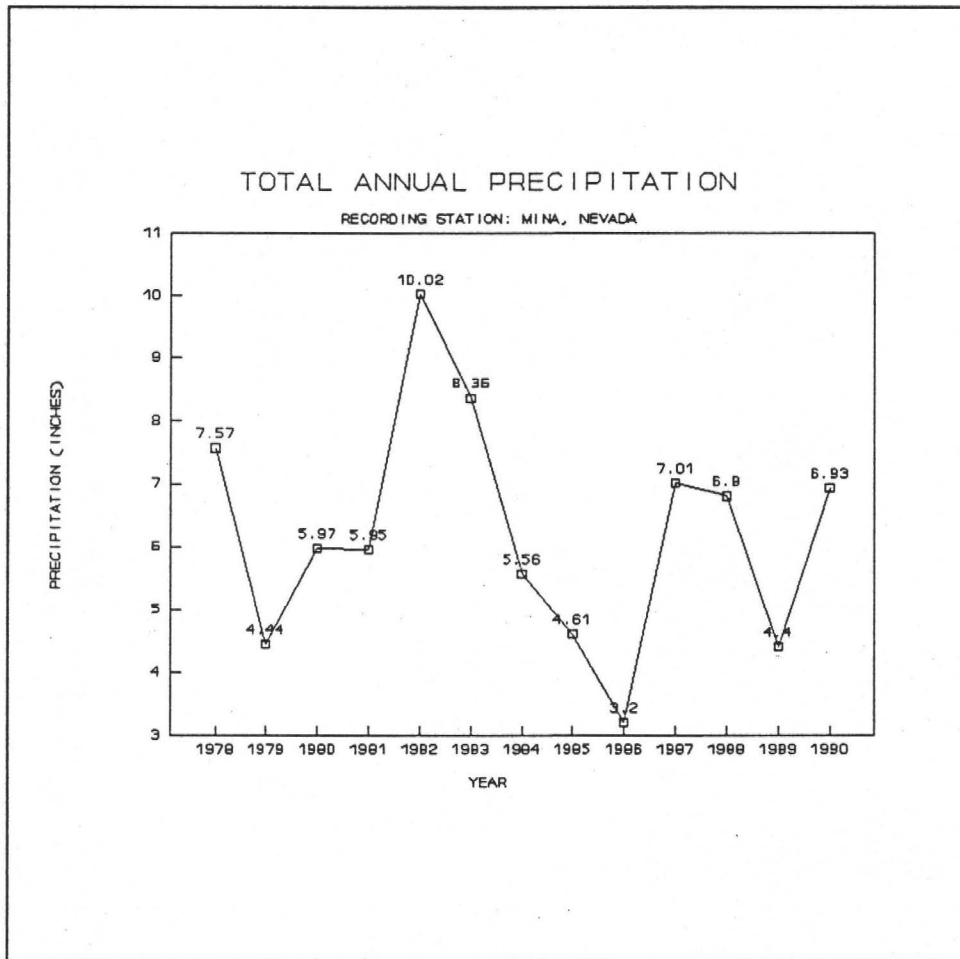
c. Wild Horses

Aerial census data was gathered in 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1991. Results are as follows:

DATE	AERIAL COUNT ADULT/FOALS
11/21/91	106/10
09/11/90	71/10
11/07/89	76/10
11/08/88	92/7

2. Precipitation

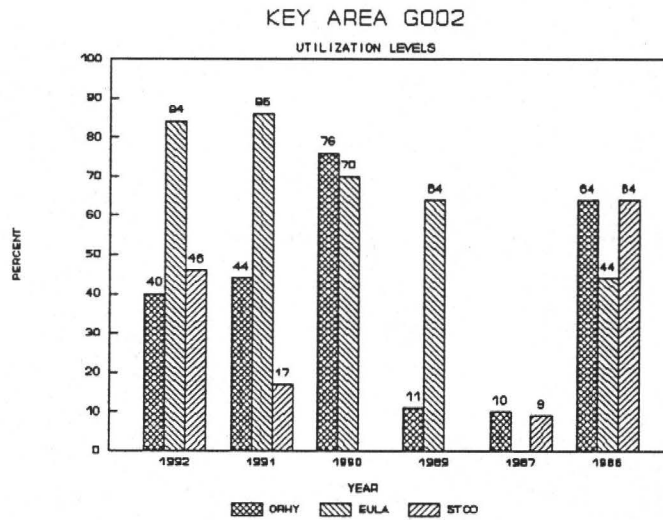
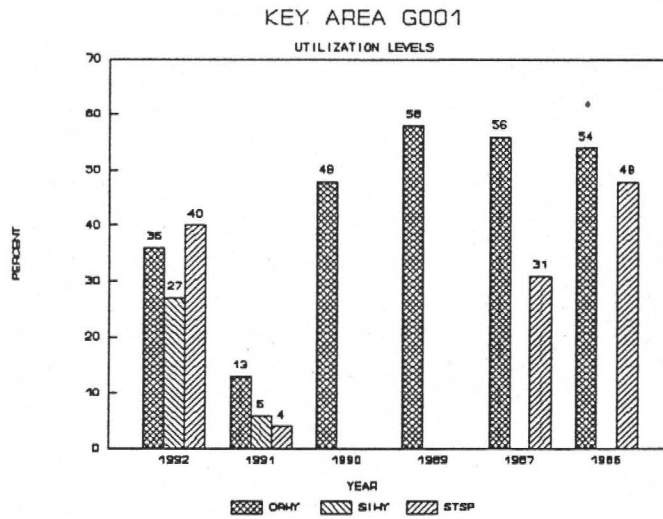
The mean annual precipitation for the Mina, Nevada recording station is 4.78 inches.



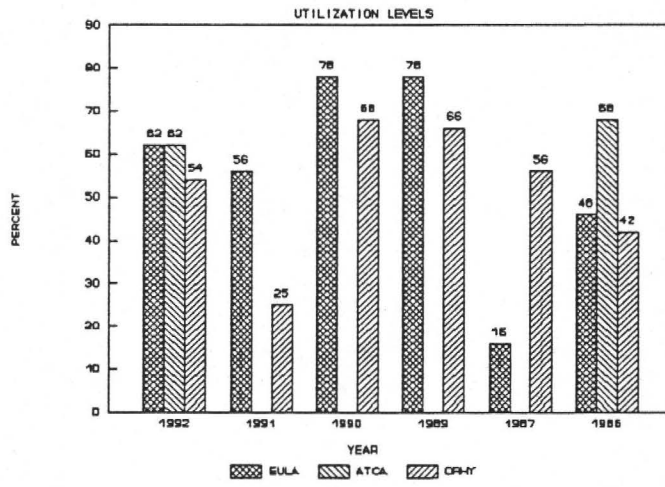
3. Utilization

a. Key Area

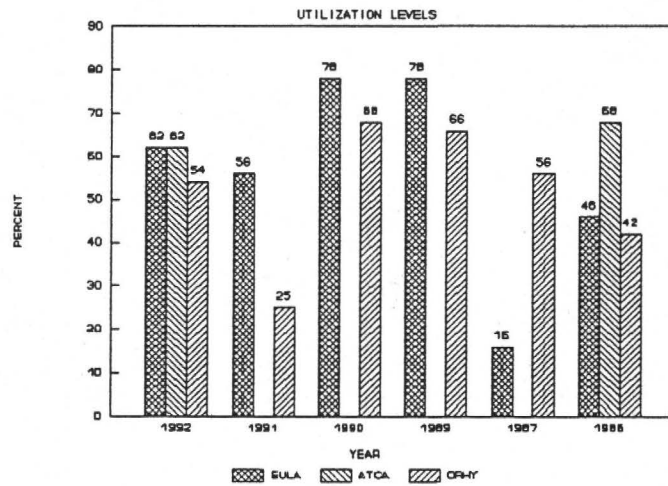
Key species use levels are shown below for the four key areas located on the allotment.



KEY AREA G003



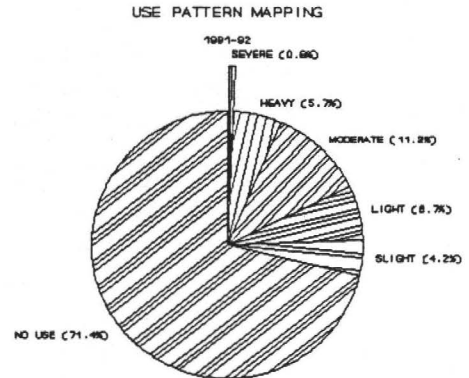
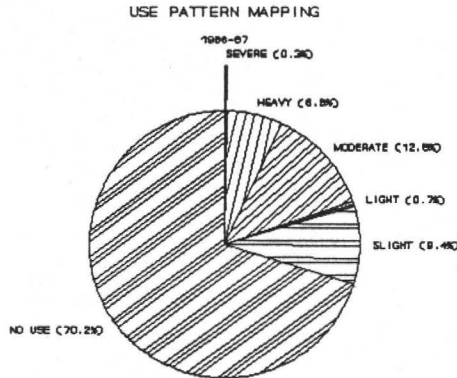
KEY AREA G003





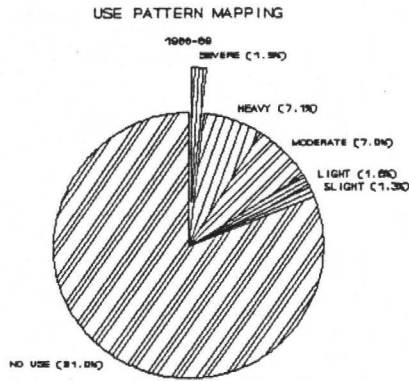
b. Use Pattern Mapping

During the 1991/92, 1990/1991, 1989/90, 1988/89, 1987/88, and 1986/87 grazing seasons, use pattern mapping was completed over the entire allotment for livestock (Refer to Appendix A, Map Nos. 7-12). Wild horse utilization is included for 1991 (Refer to Appendix A, Map No. 16). The primary areas of heavy and severe use have consistently been around the private land in Whiskey pasture, southward in the draw which contains an abundance of winterfat. Heavy use has also been mapped in the Garfield pasture in the areas adjacent to the pipelines that extend through this area. Results are as follows:

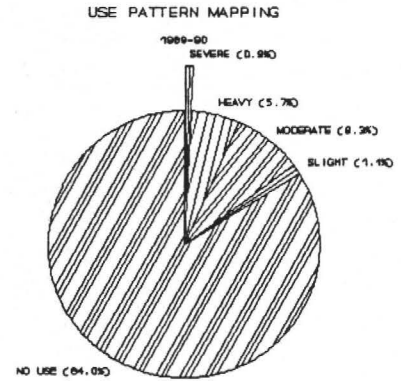


SEVERE	790 ACRES
HEAVY	15172 ACRES
MODERATE	29629 ACRES
LIGHT	1603 ACRES
SLIGHT	21761 ACRES
NO USE	162560 ACRES

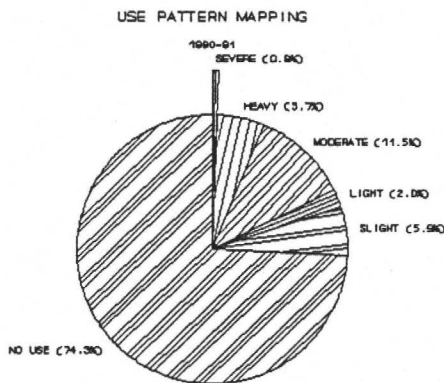
SEVERE	3278 ACRES
HEAVY	11040 ACRES
MODERATE	18056 ACRES
LIGHT	1391 ACRES
SLIGHT	3069 ACRES
NO USE	194681 ACRES



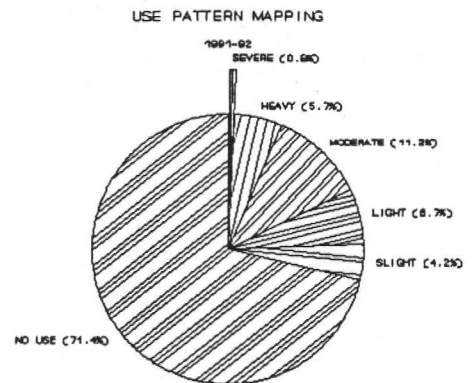
SEVERE	4340 ACRES
HEAVY	16420 ACRES
MODERATE	16288 ACRES
LIGHT	3803 ACRES
SLIGHT	3110 ACRES
NO USE	187554 ACRES



SEVERE	2110 ACRES
HEAVY	13121 ACRES
MODERATE	19300 ACRES
LIGHT	0 ACRES
SLIGHT	2610 ACRES
NO USE	194374 ACRES



SEVERE	1446 ACRES
HEAVY	13082 ACRES
MODERATE	26691 ACRES
LIGHT	4671 ACRES
SLIGHT	13602 ACRES
NO USE	172023 ACRES

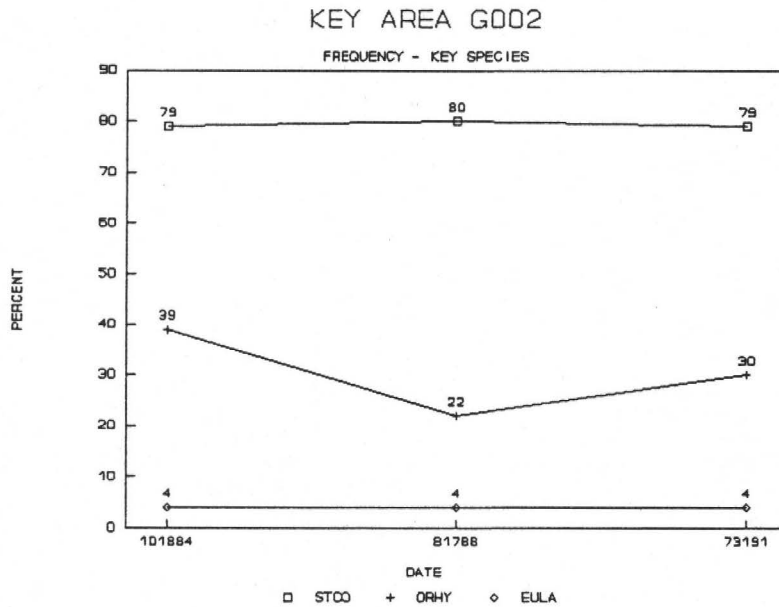
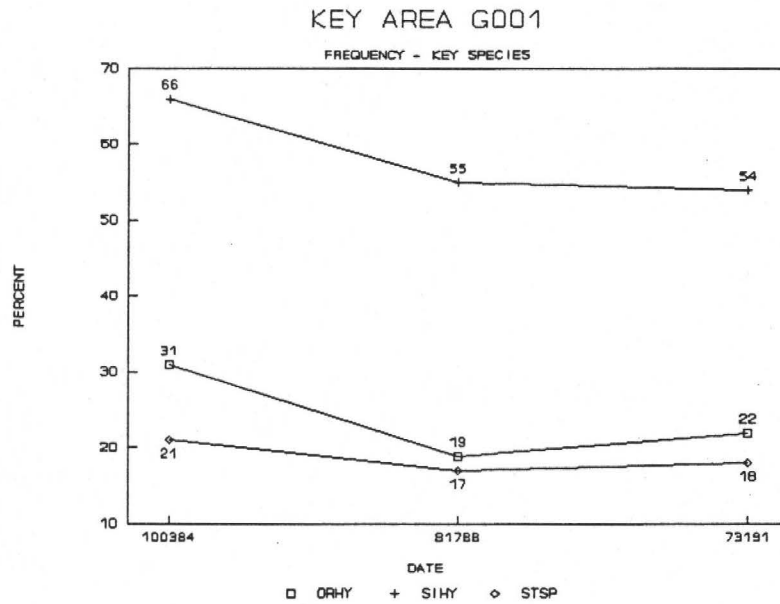


SEVERE	1087 ACRES
HEAVY	13199 ACRES
MODERATE	26097 ACRES
LIGHT	15585 ACRES
SLIGHT	9841 ACRES
NO USE	165706 ACRES

4. Trend

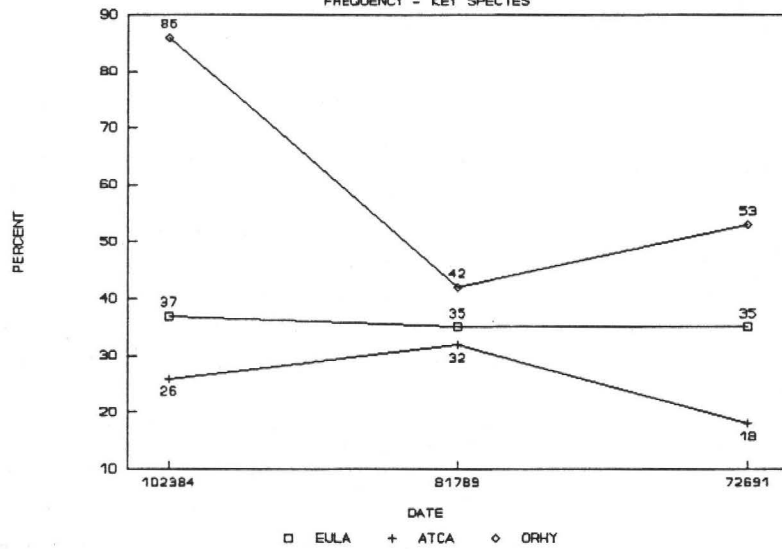
Vegetative trend plots were established in 1970 and 1976. A total of ten (10) are established in the allotment.

Frequency data has been collected on these four (4) key areas as follows:



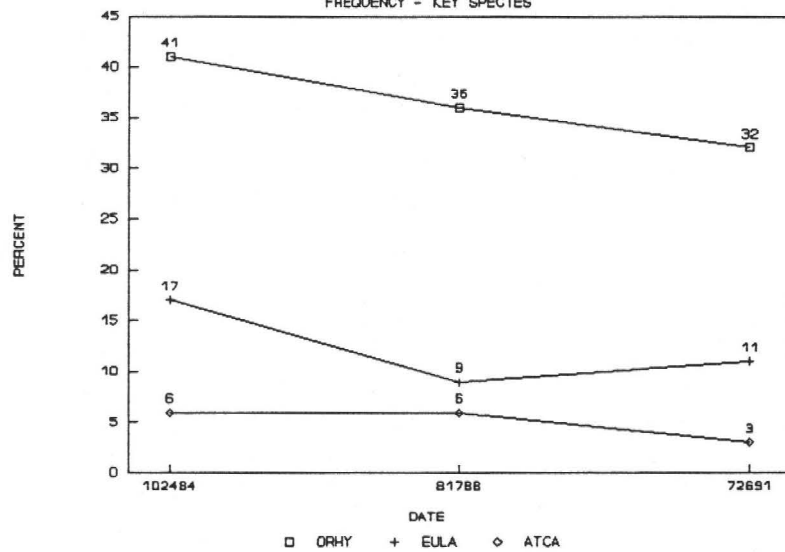
### KEY AREA G003

FREQUENCY - KEY SPECIES



### KEY AREA G004

FREQUENCY - KEY SPECIES



5. Range Survey Data

An ocular reconnaissance range survey was completed in the Mina Unit in 1953. A total of 234,499 acres were contained in the allotment at this time. There were 5210 AUMs available.

6. Ecological Status

An Order 3 soil survey was completed in the Mina Planning Unit which encompasses the Garfield Flat Allotment in Ecological sites were identified at this time but no ecological status was established. The ecological status for the four (4) key areas are as follows:

<u>ALLOTMENT</u>	<u>KEY AREA</u>	<u>%PNC</u>	<u>SERAL STAGE</u>	<u>RANGE SITE</u>
Garfield Flat	G001	39	Mid Seral	Loamy 8-10" P.Z.
	G002	61	Late Seral	Sandy Loam 8-10" P.Z.
	G003	55	Mid to Late Seral	Silty 5-8" P.Z.
	G004	51	Mid Seral	Sandy 5-8" P.Z.

7. Wildlife Habitat

The key mule deer winter range associated with the Wassuk Mountains is under the jurisdiction of the USFS, Toiyabe National Forest, Bridgeport, California.

The key mule deer winter range in the Excelsior Mountains receives slight to no use from livestock.

8. Riparian/Fisheries Habitat

There is no riparian/fisheries habitat on public lands within the allotment.

9. Wild Horse Habitat

The wild horse habitat is limited, somewhat, by water distribution. There are three main sources of water within the HMA. These are Whiskey Spring, Pepper Spring and the water pits on the alkali flat in the Garfield Flat pasture. All three sources are on privately owned land. The two spring sites have been privately owned for decades. The water pit sites were included in the 8910 acre transfer to Aerojet in 1988. The majority of grazing use has occurred between these main water sources (Refer to Appendix A, Map No. 13).

V. Conclusions

The objectives outlined in Section III. C. are discussed below as to being met, not met, partially met, or inadequate data available to make a determination.

C,a,1 Livestock use has been below this level each year, but the forage has been available each year should the permittee haul water to unused or lightly use areas.

The objective has been met.

C,a,2 The 1983 horse census showed a population of 585 head. Utilization was reaching 90% on key areas prior to the beginning of winter livestock grazing: this level of use was not sustainable. Calculations showed that a population level of 364 horses in the HMA would lower utilization levels to 50% prior to livestock winter use, and the 1985 horse gather was predicated on lowering the population to achieve this use level, even though this would still leave very little forage for livestock. This 50% utilization level would then translate to 3720 AUMs forage from the Garfield Flat allotment for wild horses. The 1985 horse gather was made with the projection that the horse population was still growing at a 12% annual rate, but apparently the unsustainable utilization level had resulted in the beginnings of the population fall: instead of 230 horses remaining on the HMA, the July 1985 count showed only 132. By 1988 this was down to 99 with a further decline by 1990. Only in the past year has the horse population begun to increase again, and forage utilization on favored horse areas is approaching the heavy levels. Horse use within the Garfield Flat allotment has ranged from 1188 AUMs in 1988 down to a low of 972 AUMs and is back up to around 1392 AUMs at present. A contributing factor to this lower use level may be the activity at the Aerojet facility in Garfield Flat. This may be shifting use by the horses to adjacent areas.

The objective has not been met and cannot be sustained.

C,b,1 The overall condition on the rangeland and watershed resources is being maintained. Implementation of the revised allotment management plan in 1990 will provide an opportunity to improve these values. During the entire evaluation period the region has experienced drought conditions. This has resulted in a decline in vigor and frequency of key species. Key areas were established in October of 1984. The two preceding years received precipitation far in excess of the mean annual level. This may in part explain the fluctuation in frequency data. Trend generally has been slightly downward throughout the entire resource area. Comparison of photo plots since 1970 and 1976 actually show that 1-1, 1-2 and 3-1 have improved dramatically. Plot 3-2, 2-1, 2-2, 1-3, 1-4, RS-1 and RS-2 are stable. Results of use pattern mapping show one

area that is of concern. This is the draw from the ranch, moving southward in the Whiskey pasture. This area contains winterfat.

The objective is being met.

- C,b,2 No livestock grazing of any appreciable amount is occurring in the key deer winter range of the Excelsior Mountains. Habitat condition is not being impacted by the livestock. The forage demand by mule deer has been met on a consistent basis.

The objective is being met.

- C,b,3 The total active preference of 3516 AUMs remains available to the permittee on a yearly basis.

The objective is being met.

- C,b,4 Overall the wild horse habitat has been maintained with two exceptions. The area around Whiskey spring in the Whiskey pasture is currently being utilized at a heavy use level by horses only. In Garfield pasture the area surrounding key area G003 and moving eastward toward Pepper spring is being used heavily by horses and cattle.

The herd management area is being managed for protection and enhancement. The ability of wild horses to roam freely has been maintained and currently all waters (Whiskey spring, Pepper spring, and the Aerojet pits are all located on private land) remain open to use by wild horses.

The objectives are being met. The exceptions are the two localized areas identified as having heavy use made primarily by wild horses.

C,b,5

G001 Statistical data for all key area frequency studies are based on a 95% confidence level.

1. Trend during the evaluation period appears to be slightly downward. With the change in management, trend should show improvement. The area has experienced drought conditions since 1985.

The objective has not been met.

2. Orhy - significant difference between all years. Frequency has declined since 1984. A slight increase occurred between 1988 and 1991.  
Stsp - no significant difference between years. Frequency has declined since 1984. A slight increase occurred between 1988 and 1991.

The objective has not been met.

3. Sihy - significant difference between all years.  
Frequency has declined since 1984.

The objective has not been met.

4. No ecological status has been determined since 1985.

The objective has not been evaluated.

Allowable use level of 70% has been met for all key species in all year that data was gathered.

The objectives are being met.

#### G002

1. Trend appears to be stable during the evaluation period. With the change in management, trend should show improvement. The area has experienced drought conditions since 1985.

The objective is being met.

2. Eula - no significant difference between years.  
Frequency has remained stable since 1984.  
Orhy - significant difference between all years.  
Frequency has declined since 1984. An increase has occurred between 1988 and 1991.

The objective has been partially met.

3. Stco - no significant difference between years.  
Frequency has remained stable since 1984.

The objective has been met.

4. No ecological status has been determined since 1985.

The objective has not been evaluated.

Key Area G002 - Allowable use level of 50% on Eula has been met only once in four years of data. Allowable use level of 70% on Orhy was exceeded only once in five years of data. Allowable use level of 70% on Stco has been met in all three years data has been gathered.

The objective for Orhy and Stco is being met. The objective for Eula is not being met.



G003

1. Trend appears to be downward during the evaluation period. With the change in management, trend should show improvement but not to the extent of the other key areas. This is due to the amount of horse use that is occurring in the vicinity. The area has experienced drought conditions since 1985.

The objective has not been met.

2. Orhy - significant difference between all years. Frequency has declined since 1984. An increase occurred between 1988 and 1991.

The objective is not being met.

3. Eula - no significant difference between years. Frequency has declined slightly since 1984 but remained stable between 1988 and 1991. Atca - significant difference between 1984 and 1991. Frequency has declined since 1984.

The objective is being partially met.

4. No ecological status has been determined since 1985.

The objective has not been evaluated.

Key Area G003 - Allowable use level of 50% on Eula has been met two out of five years data has been gathered. Allowable use level of 50% on Atca has not been met in the two years data was gathered. Allowable use level of 70% for Orhy has been met in all five year data has been gathered.

The objective for Orhy is being met. The objective for Eula and Atca is not being met.

G004

1. Trend appears to be downward during the evaluation period. With the change in management, trend should show improvement. The area has experienced drought conditions since 1985.

The objective is not being met.

2. Atca - no significant difference between years. Frequency has declined since 1984 but remained stable between 1988 and 1991.  
Eula - significant difference between all years. Frequency has declined since 1984 with a slight increase between 1988 and 1991.

The objective has not been met.

3. Orhy - significant difference between 1984 and 1991. Frequency has declined since 1984. The objective has not been met.

4. No ecological status has been determined since 1985.

The objective has not been evaluated.

Key Area G004 - Allowable use level of 50% on Eula was met one out of two years data was gathered. Allowable use level on Atca has not been measured. The amount of Atca present is minimal. The range site description lists Atca as having the potential of 10-20%. The allowable use level of 70% for Orhy has been met in all five years that data was gathered.

The objective for Orhy is being met. The objective for Eula and Atca is not being met. The amount of Atca present on site is of concern.

## VI. Technical Recommendations

### A. Livestock

The 1990 revision of the allotment management plan should remain intact for two more grazing cycles after the current cycle is completed. This will run through the 2001/2002 grazing season. This will allow adequate time to more fully evaluate if the grazing treatments are effective in meeting the land use plan and allotment specific objectives. If at any time during this period changes are necessary they will be made with consultation of all affected parties.

Modifications are recommended for the key area objectives identified in the plan. A standard modification to all key area objectives will be the change from ecological seral stages to the Desired Plant Community (DPC) concept. The Ecological Site Inventory data will be the basis for measuring the DPC. Information on the DPC can be found in Appendix C. Changes that are as needed are discussed by key area.

G001 All objective will remain the same with the exception of the following:

4. The desired ~~plant~~ community will consist of 30% grasses, 1% forbs, and 69% shrubs by the end of the 2001/2002 grazing season. Potential vegetative composition for the range site is about 50% grasses, 5% forbs, and 45% shrubs. The rating established in 1984 showed 21% grasses, 0% forbs, and 79% shrubs. Frequency data has shown that the grass species have declined, forbs have increased, and shrubs have remained relatively stable. This area is dramatically lacking in grass production.

G002 The allowable use level for Eula will need to be monitored more closely. It should remain at 50%. One way of achieving this goal would be to fence the small reservoir that is located across the highway from the key area on Forest Service land. All other objectives will remain the same except for the following:

4. The desired plant community will consist of 70% grasses, 1% forbs, and 29% shrubs by the end of the 2001/2002 grazing season. Potential vegetative composition for the range site is 50% grasses, 5% forbs, and 45% shrubs. The rating established in 1984 showed 75% grasses, 0% forbs, and 25% shrubs. Frequency data has shown that grasses have remained stable, forbs have increased, and shrubs have declined. It is desirable to increase the amount of Eula in the shrub community. This will provide a better mix of forage. In the event of disease within the grass community, the ability of the area to provide adequate forage would not be optimal.

G003 The allowable use levels for Eula and Atca will be maintained at 50%. This area is being impacted by both livestock and wild horses. It is recommended that, if through continued monitoring, wild horses are found to be adversely impacting the area, a gather of some of the horses using this area be considered. The rationale is that cattle grazing can be controlled through movement of animals (time and numbers). Wild horses cannot be controlled in this manner. All other objectives will remain the same except for the following:

4. The desired plant community will consist of 50% grasses, 1% forbs, and 49% shrubs by the end of the 2001/2002 grazing season. Potential vegetative composition for the range site is 25% grasses, 5% forbs, and 70% shrubs. The rating established in 1984 showed 55% grasses, 0% forbs, and 45% shrubs.

Frequency data has shown that grasses have declined, forbs have increased, and shrubs have remained relatively stable. The increase of shrubs is directed toward improving the amount of Eula in the community. The range site description notes that the site should be dominated by winterfat. The ecological site write-up completed in 1984 showed that 80% of the shrub production can be attributed to Atca. Currently the shrub component is dominated by Atca. There is a possibility that the site has been misidentified. This needs to be explored further.

G004 All objectives will remain the same with the exception of the following:

4. The desired plant community will consist of 45% grasses, 1% forbs, and 54% shrubs by the end of the 2001/2002 grazing season. Potential vegetative composition for the range site is 75% grasses, 5% forbs, and 20% shrubs. The rating established in 1984 showed 38% grasses, 0% forbs, and 62% shrubs. Frequency data has shown that grasses have declined, forbs have increased, and shrubs have remained relatively stable. The increase of shrubs is directed toward improving the amount of Atca in the community. The site is becoming dominated by undesirable shrub species (i.e. horsebrush, rabbitbrush). This trend must be reversed.

In order to achieve some of these key area objectives it may be necessary to impact sagebrush and greasewood by feeding hay upon them during the winter use period. This will result in a concentration of animals in small areas over short periods of time (i.e. 1 - 2 weeks maximum). The soil surface will be disturbed along with vegetation being broken, trampled, and consumed. This may be followed through the grazing treatments with complete rest or deferment during the critical growth periods for the key species. This will be determined on a case by case basis. It should be noted that this type of treatment may be used anywhere in the allotment where modification of the current vegetation may benefit livestock, wild horses and wildlife.

The rationale for proposing this type of treatment is that evidence exists within the Whiskey pasture that past use has modified a range site into a highly desirable area. One example is in close proximity to the ranch headquarters along the main road (Refer to Appendix A, Map No. 15). On the south side of the road the site is dominated by winterfat, ricegrass, needlegrass, and other palatable species. On the north side of the road the site is dominated by sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and minor amounts of

associated grass species. The road is not conveniently located on a range site boundary. It is hypothesized that this difference is due to animal impact.

Another area that could be modified into a more productive site is located at the north end of Whiskey pasture (Refer to Appendix A, Map No. 15). Currently a mix of big sage and needlegrass predominates. The site could be modified, through animal impact, into a very productive grass site. This could potentially relieve some of the pressure on the winterfat areas located in the southern portion of the pasture. The key to improving both sites will be the amount of time livestock remain in the area.

Sites, where applicable, will be identified in the Garfield pasture for similar type treatment.

#### B. Wild Horses

Through the monitoring of the wild horses in the Herd Management Area it has been determined that the Appropriate Management Level (AML) will be 116 head of horses (Refer to Appendix D for determination of AML).

In order to effectively manage the herd area and assure that no one area is being adversely affected, it may become necessary to control the number of animals in different portions of the HMA where localized damage is occurring. This will require removal of animals on an as needed basis determined through the monitoring process. In areas where both livestock and wild horses are having an adverse impact, the number of livestock and the amount of time that livestock are in the area will be controlled.

#### C. Threatened and Endangered/Section 7 Consultation

There are no known Threatened or Endangered species located within the allotment.

#### D. Proposed Range Improvements

An extension to the Pepper Springs pipeline (Refer to Appendix A, Map No. 14 and Appendix B - Existing Range Improvements) in the Garfield pasture would begin in T 7 N, R 32 E, Section 22, tentatively pass through portions of sections 16, 17, and 21, and end in T 7 N, R 32 E, Section 18. A trough would be installed at the end of the line. This would be authorized under a Section 4 Permit (materials and labor provided by permittee, title to permittee).

Additional water developments are needed in the north end of Whiskey pasture. Locations for proposed water impoundments will be explored. It may be necessary to haul water into the area in

order to more fully utilize the area in the interim.

As more information is gathered within the parameters of the revised allotment management plan, other projects may be proposed. They will be considered on a case by case basis.

E. Monitoring Studies

The studies described below are designed to monitor the attainment of the specific management objectives developed for this allotment. The selection of studies methodology and key area/key species was accomplished in accordance with procedures established in the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook (NRMH). The current key areas were selected because they are approximately one mile from water, typically receive heavy use, exhibit moderate potential and fair ecological condition, provide a significant amount of the available forage, and are likely indicators of any change in vegetation quality or quantity.

1. Utilization Pattern Mapping

At a minimum, allotment wide utilization will be mapped every third year. The schedule will be as follows:

Spring 1995 - Spring 1998 - Spring 2001

2. Utilization

Utilization studies will be read at all key area locations every year following removal of livestock from each use area. The method for documenting utilization will be the key forage plant technique. Use levels for all key species will be recorded at each key area.

3. Actual Use

Actual use data by pasture will be submitted annually by the permittee no later than 15 days after the end of the grazing season. In a normal year this will be no later than May 1.

4. Trend

Trend will be measured in each key area to document progress towards attainment of the key area objectives. Trend will be measured by the Quadrat Frequency Method. Trend studies will be read on each key area every third year and in consultation with the permittee and other affected interests. Frequency transects have been established in four key areas to monitor the effects of livestock and wild horse grazing. The schedule will be as follows:

Spring 1994 - Spring 1997 - Spring 2000

Existing photo trend plots will be photographed every three years. The schedule will be as follows:

1992 - 1995 - 1998 - 2001

5. Condition

Ecological range condition has been determined for each key area to establish a baseline from which progress towards the desired seral stages will be measured. This data should be gathered again after completion of the current grazing cycle (Spring 1994). This will provide interim data to compare with data gathered in 1985 over a period of almost ten years. Range condition will be measured by the weight estimate double sampling technique. After this key area condition transects will be re-evaluated upon measurement of a statistically significant change in frequency data for all key species. These results will be evaluated to determine if the appropriate objectives have been realized. It is typical for certain key species (i.e. Indian ricegrass) to have cyclic increases/decreases that naturally occur. These cycles can be further influenced by drought.

6. Climate

Climatic data will be used to evaluate utilization and actual use data. A portable rain gauge should be established at the ranch headquarters (Whiskey pasture) to supplement the precipitation data available from Mina and Gabbs. Another should be established in the vicinity of Key Area G-003 (Garfield pasture). The portable stations should be read every month. Intense storms should be read as they occur (i.e. daily event).

F. Evaluation

All studies data will be used to measure progress towards attainment of the objectives of the Allotment Management Plan. Evaluation of this data will be coordinated with all affected

interests and will occur at the end of the 2001/02 grazing season, or when warranted by significant changes in resource data, trend (frequency, photo trend plots), ecological condition, utilization, climate, and other applicable renewable resource studies (wildlife, watershed, wild horses). Trend data will be analyzed for statistical significance by Analysis of Variance and Duncan's Multiple Range Test.

The interpretation and final evaluation of all monitoring data will provide the basis for decisions to modify (if necessary) any or all for the following items: 1) management objectives for the allotment, 2) the grazing management system, 3) grazing use levels, 4) installation of additional range improvements, 5) animal numbers, 6) period of use, and 7) kind/class of grazing animals.

G. Boundary Changes

The area that the Bureau of Land Management gained in the exchange with the U.S. Forest Service should be officially incorporated into the Garfield Flat allotment.

VII. Consultations

The evaluation is being sent to affected interests for comment/review. Input received will be incorporated into the Proposed Multiple Use Decision for the Garfield Flat allotment.

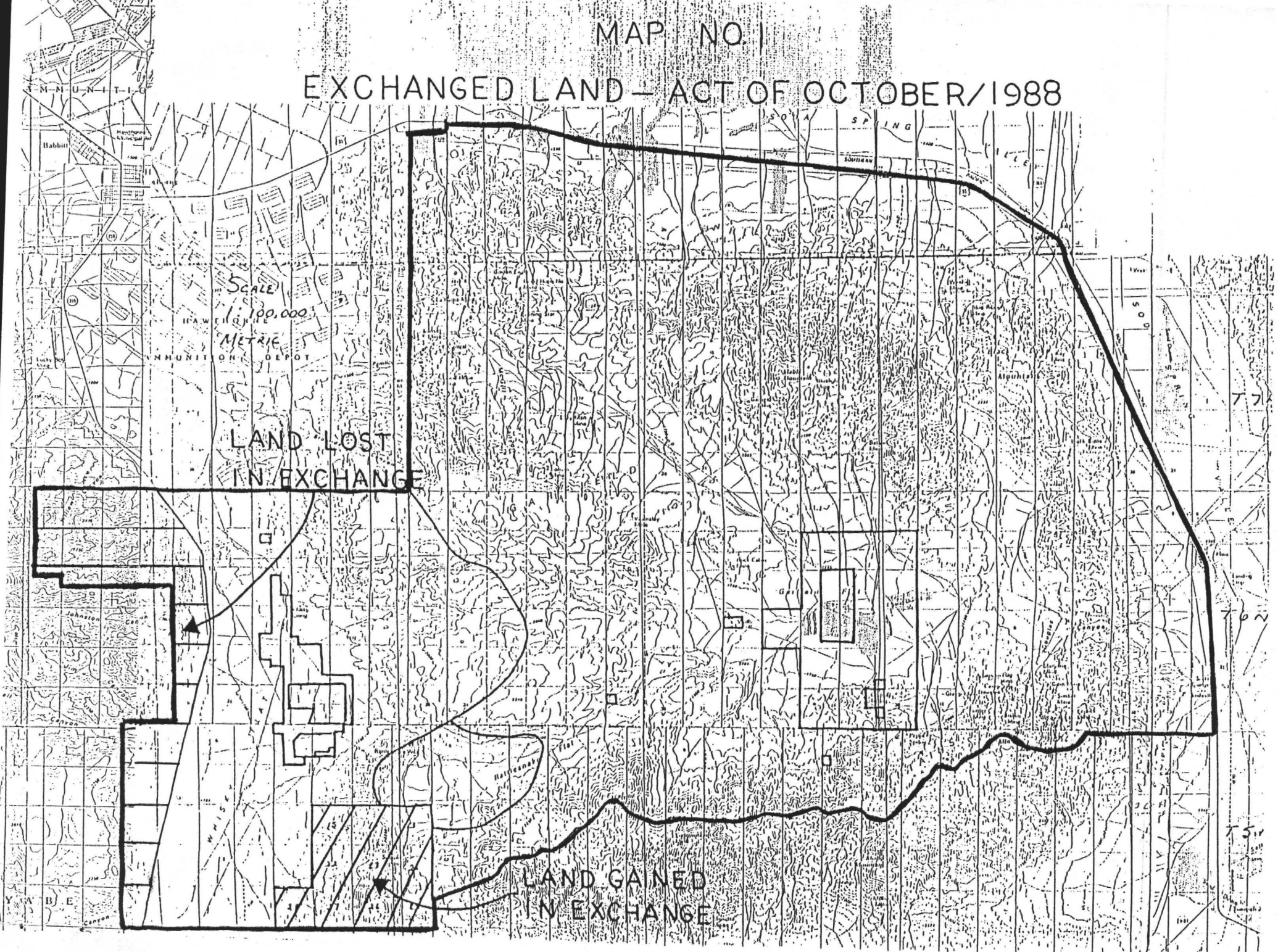


APPENDIX A  
MAPS

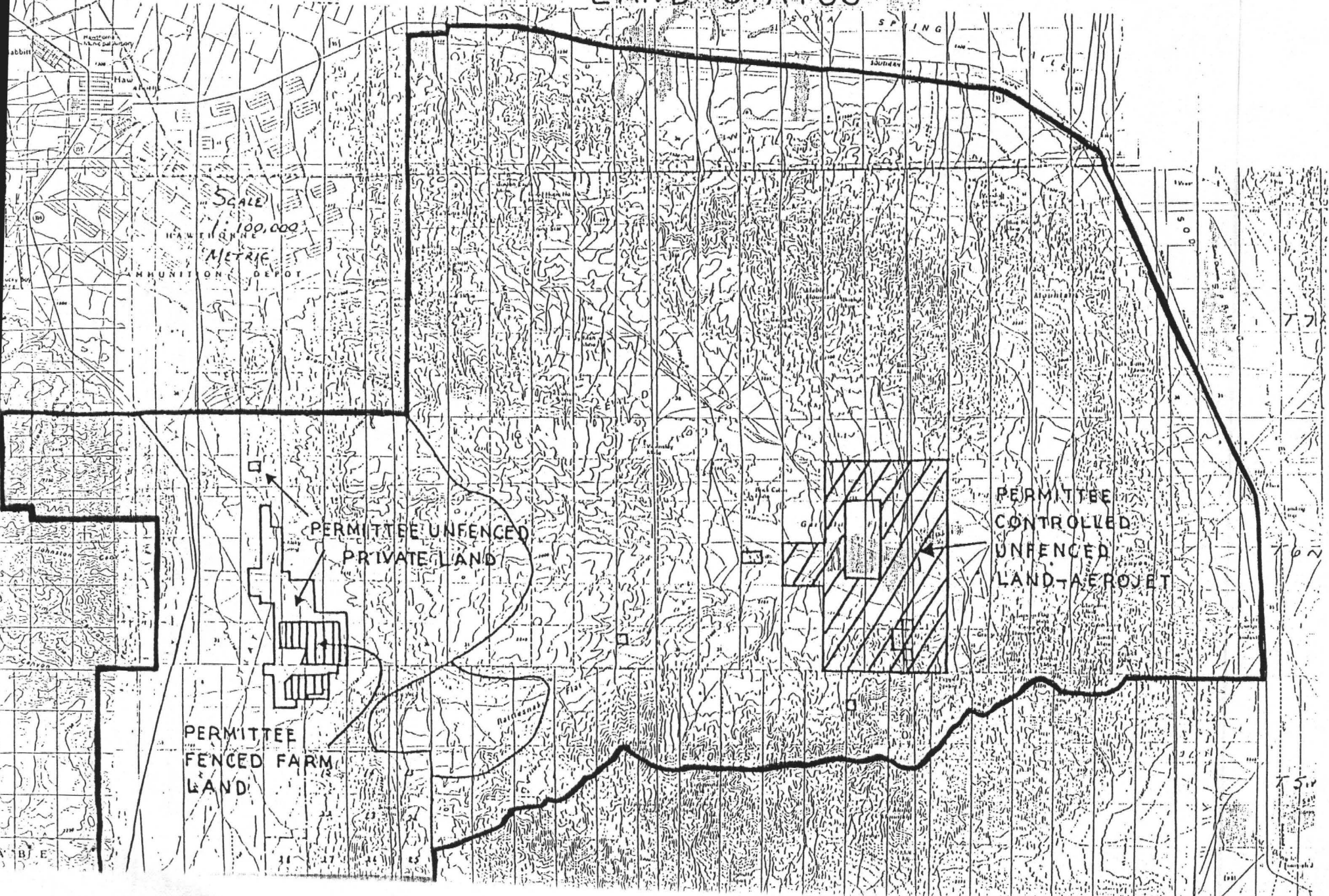
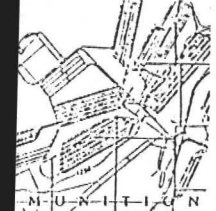
MAP NO. 1	EXCHANGED LAND - ACT OF OCTOBER/1988
MAP NO. 2	LAND STATUS
MAP NO. 3	HERD MANAGEMENT AREA - WILD HORSES
MAP NO. 4	MULE DEER HABITAT AREAS
MAP NO. 5	PASTURE LOCATIONS
MAP NO. 6	KEY AREA AND PHOTO PLOT LOCATIONS
MAP NO. 7	USE PATTERN MAPPING - 1991/92
MAP NO. 8	USE PATTERN MAPPING - 1990/91
MAP NO. 9	USE PATTERN MAPPING - 1989/90
MAP NO. 10	USE PATTERN MAPPING - 1988/89
MAP NO. 11	USE PATTERN MAPPING - 1987/88
MAP NO. 12	USE PATTERN MAPPING - 1986/87
MAP NO. 13	AREAS OF CONCERN - WILD HORSES
MAP NO. 14	EXISTING RANGE IMPROVEMENTS
MAP NO. 15	AREAS DESIGNATED FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT
MAP NO. 16	WILD HORSE UTILIZATION - 1991

MAP NO. 1

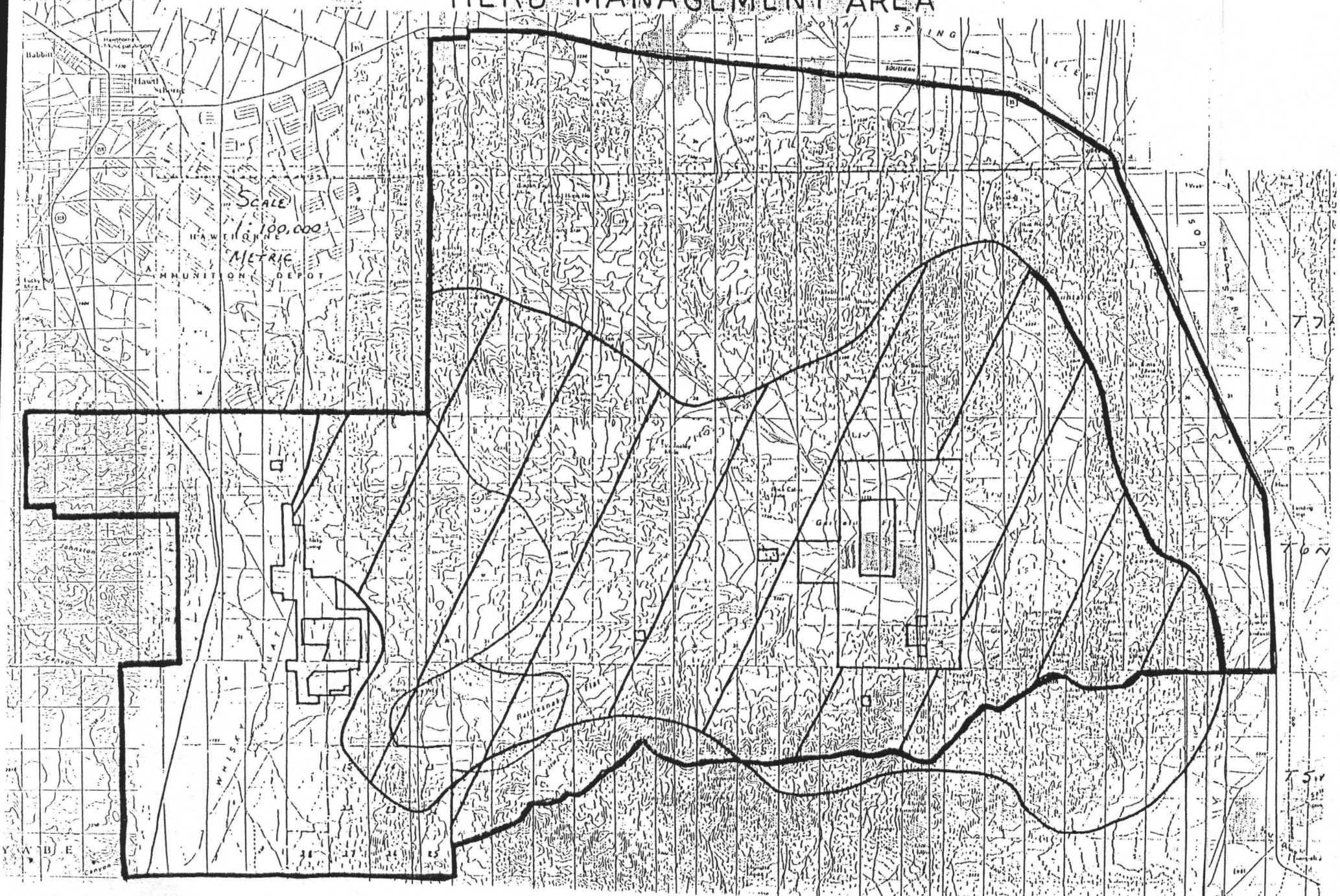
# EXCHANGED LAND - ACT OF OCTOBER/1988



# MAP NO. 2 LAND STATUS



# MAP NO. 3 HERD MANAGEMENT AREA



M M U N I T I O N

SCALE  
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METRIC

A B E

38

37

36

35

100  
50  
0

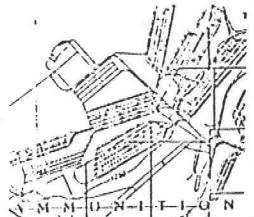
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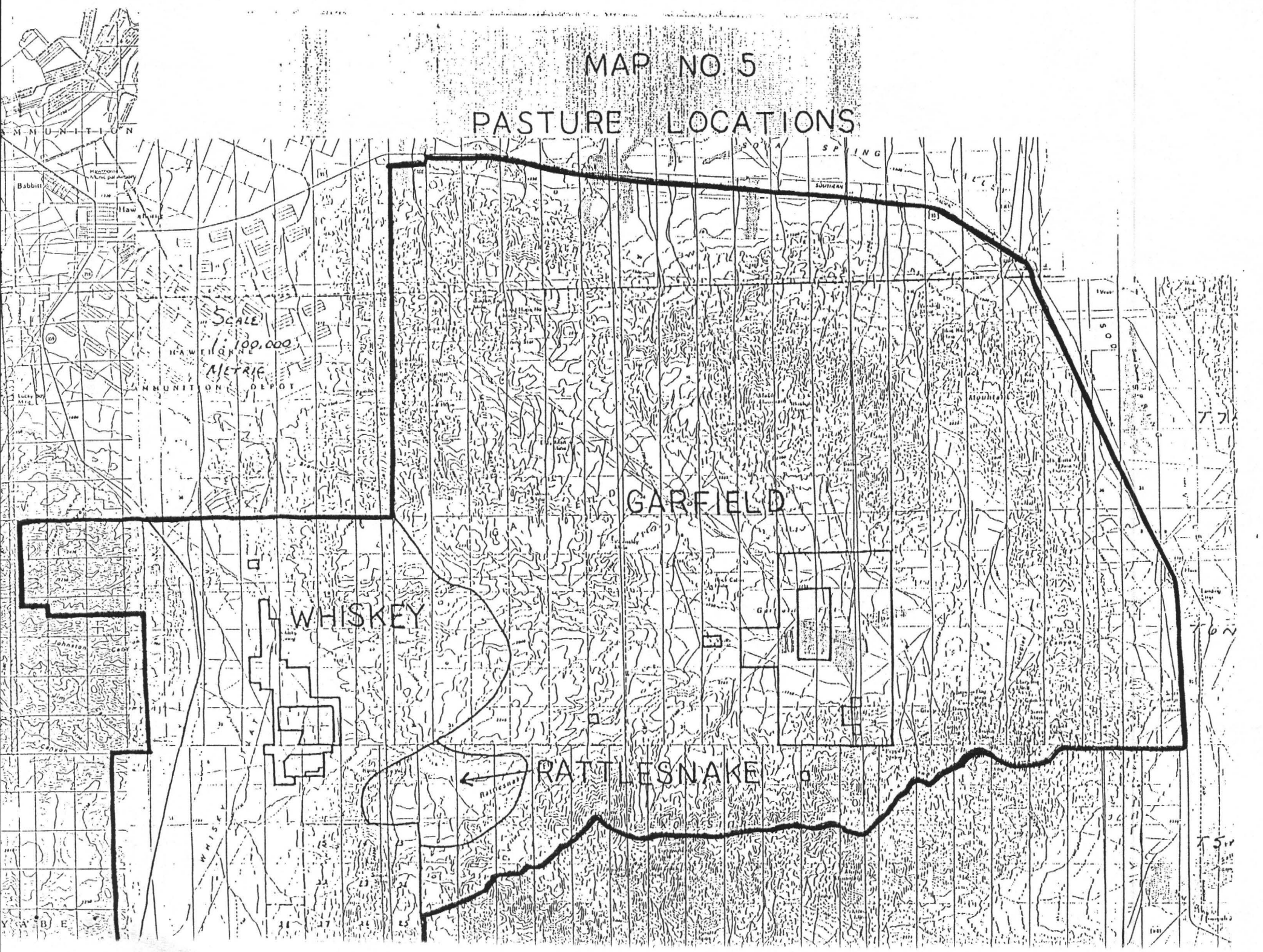
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MAP NO. 4

MULE DEER HABITAT AREAS

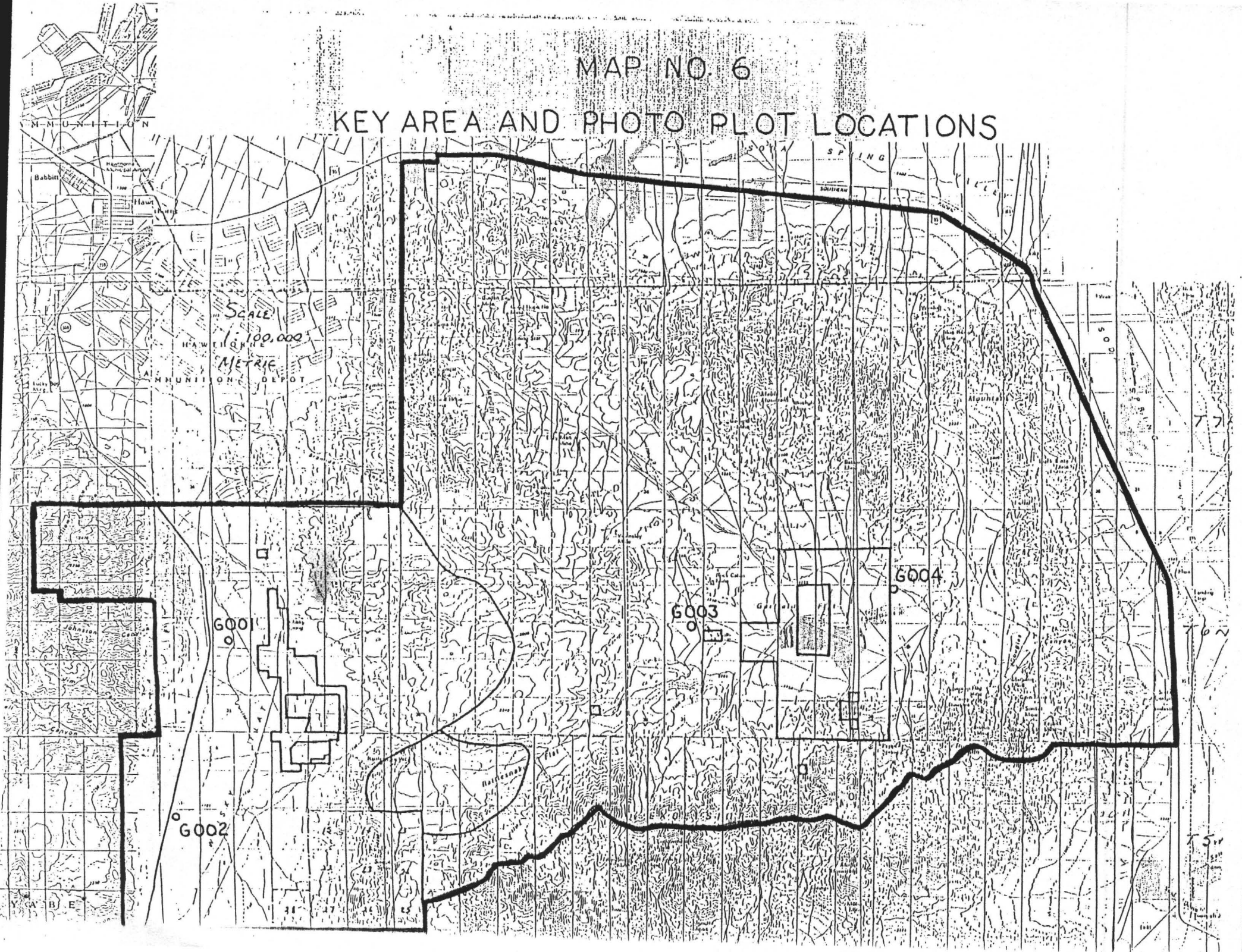


MAP NO 5  
PASTURE LOCATIONS



# MAP NO. 6







## KEY AREA AND PHOTO PLOT LOCATIONS

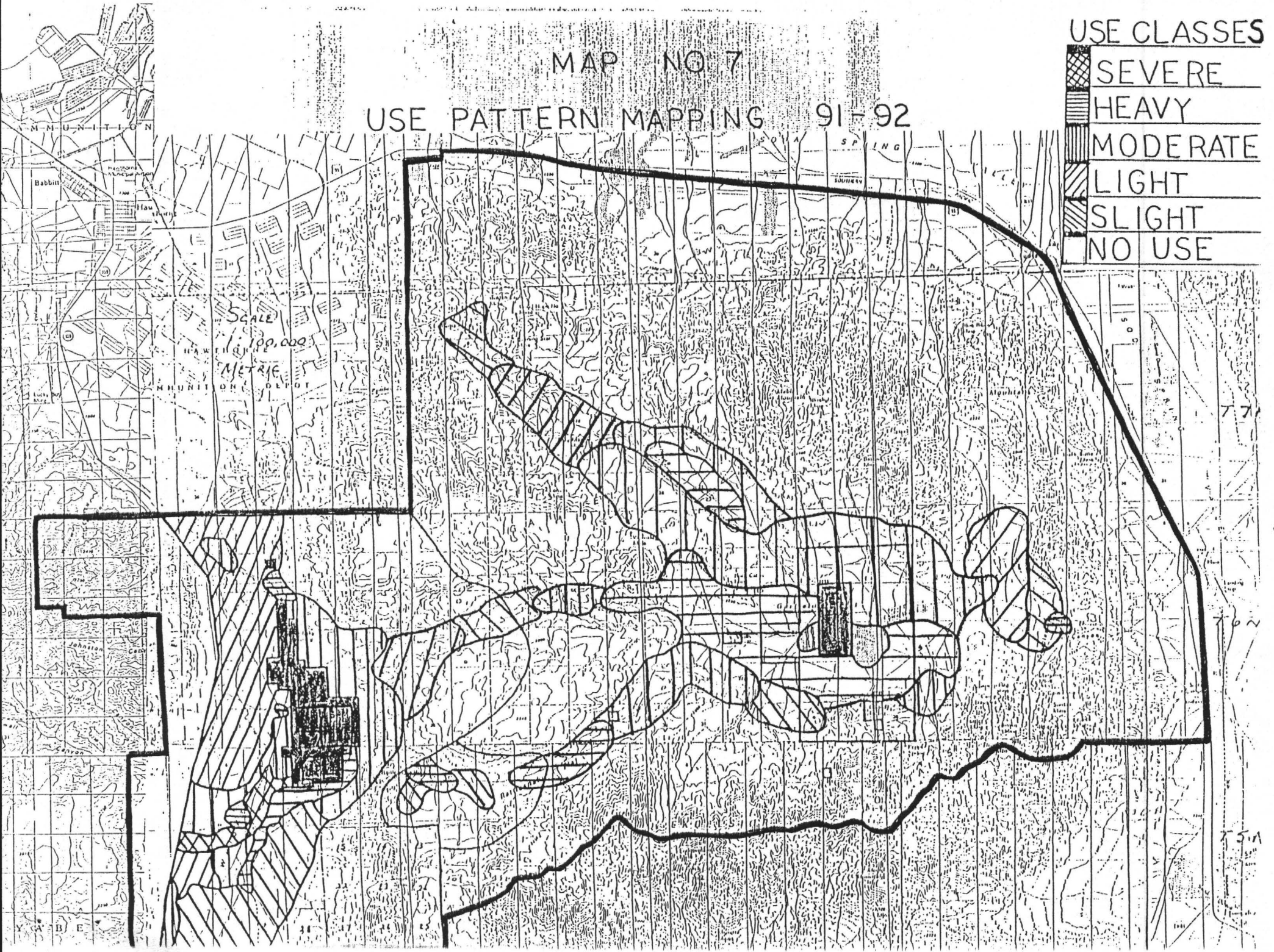


MAP NO. 7

USE PATTERN MAPPING 91-92

USE CLASSES

	SEVERE
	HEAVY
	MODERATE
	LIGHT
	SLIGHT
	NO USE



SCALE  
1:100,000  
METRIC

77

76







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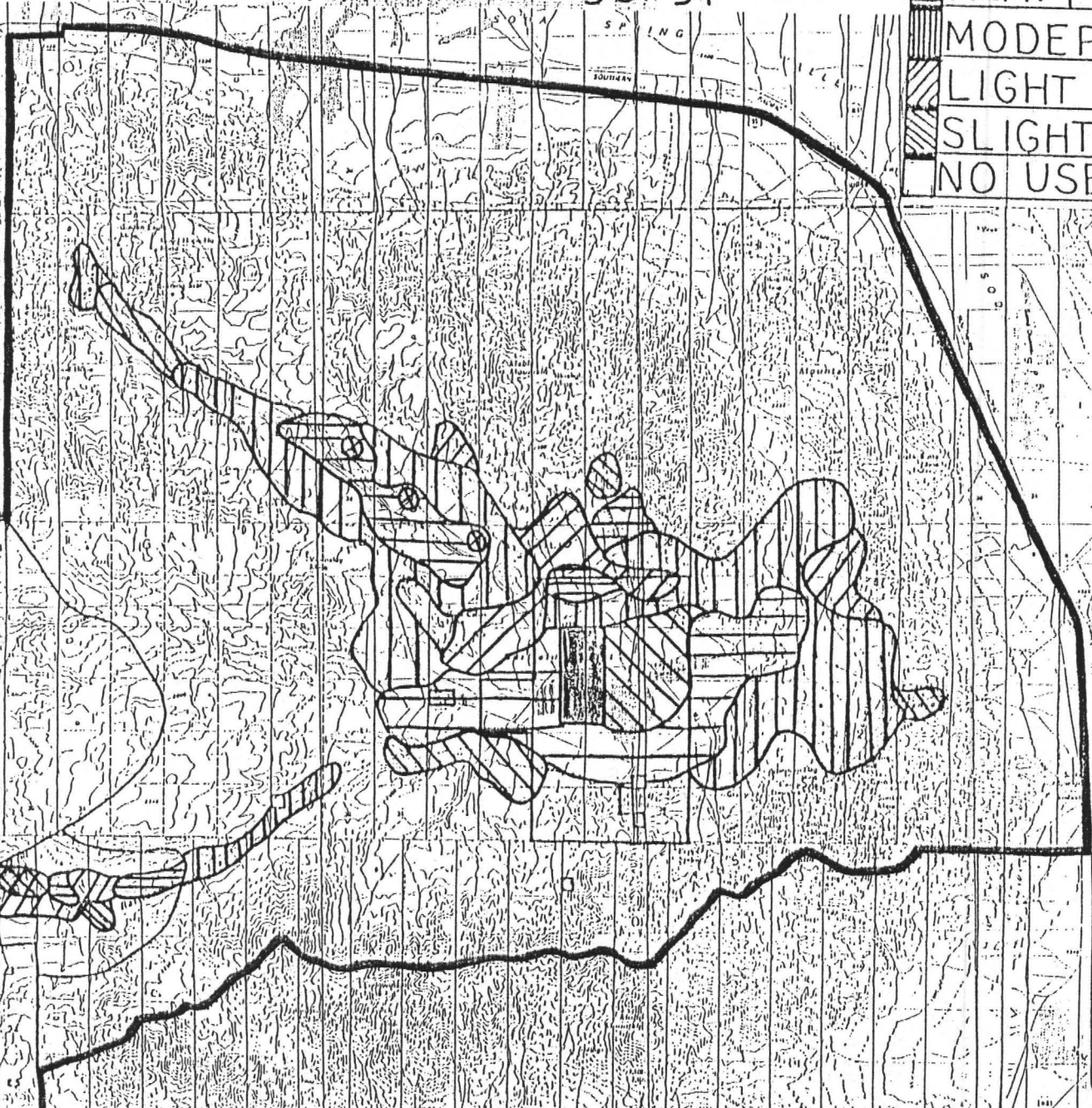
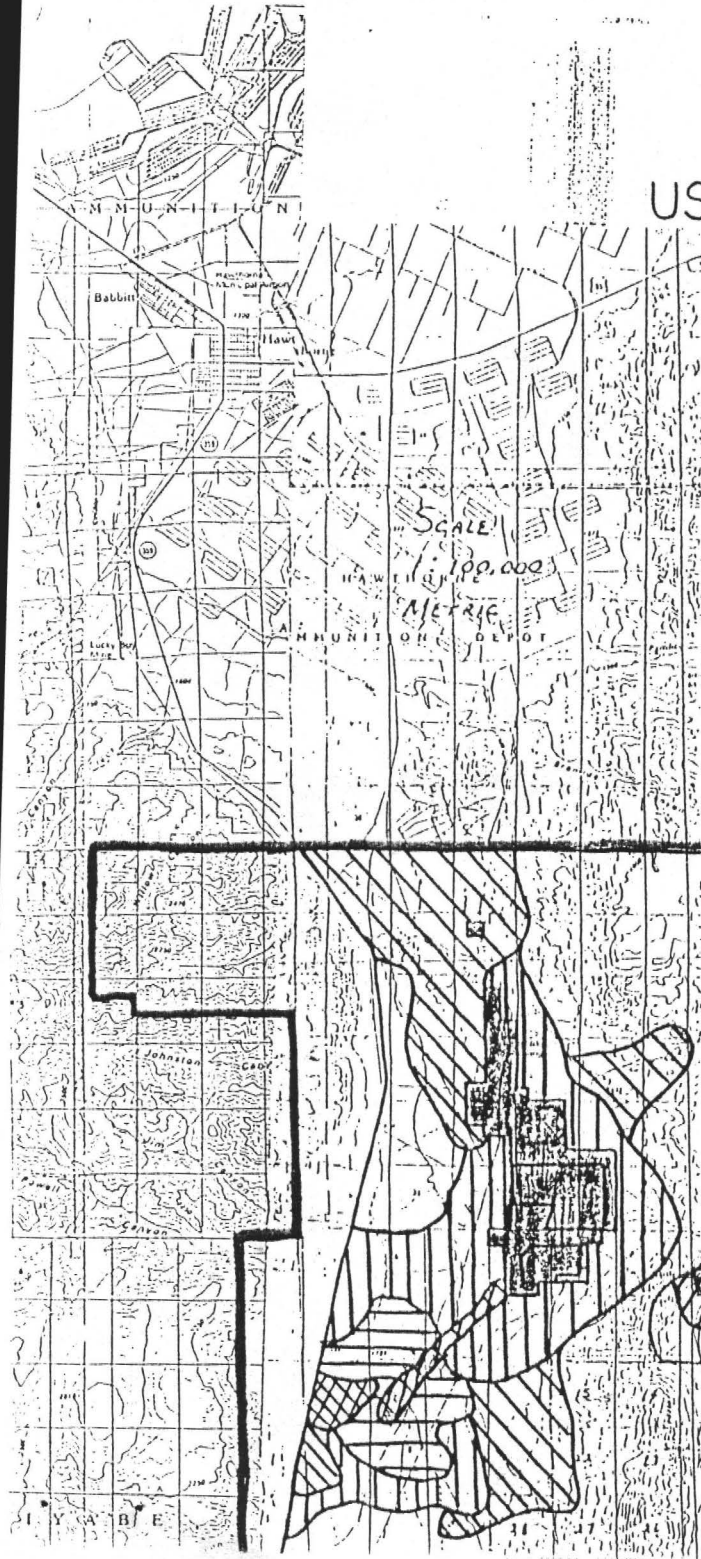


MAP NO 8

USE PATTERN MAPPING 90-91

USE CLASSES

	SEVERE
	HEAVY
	MODERATE
	LIGHT
	SLIGHT
	NO USE









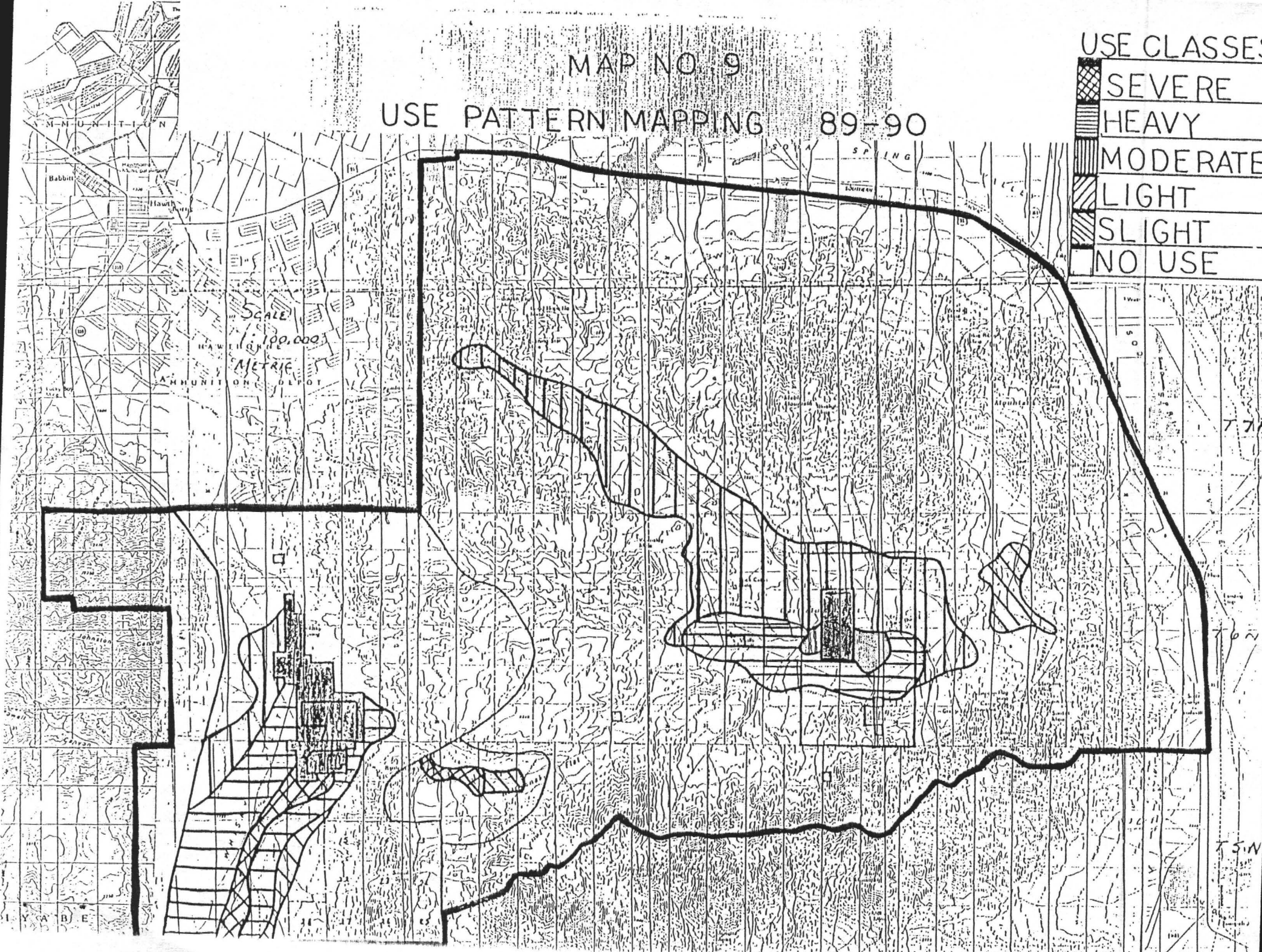
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MAP NO 9

USE PATTERN MAPPING 89-90

USE CLASSES







	SEVERE
	HEAVY
	MODERATE
	LIGHT
	SLIGHT
	NO USE

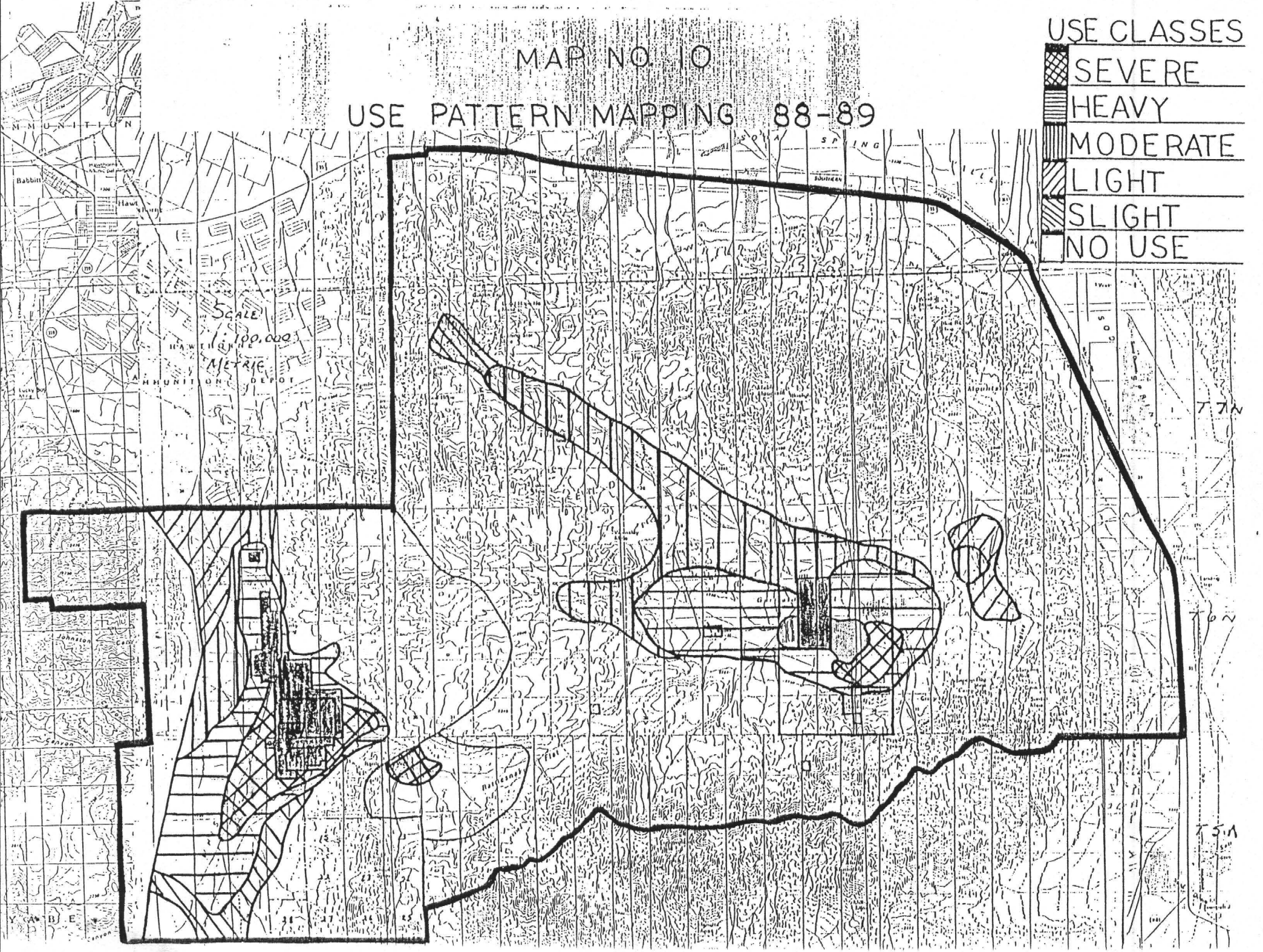


MAP NO 10

USE PATTERN MAPPING 88-89

USE CLASSES

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	HEAVY
	MODERATE
	LIGHT
	SLIGHT
	NO USE



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METRIC

77N







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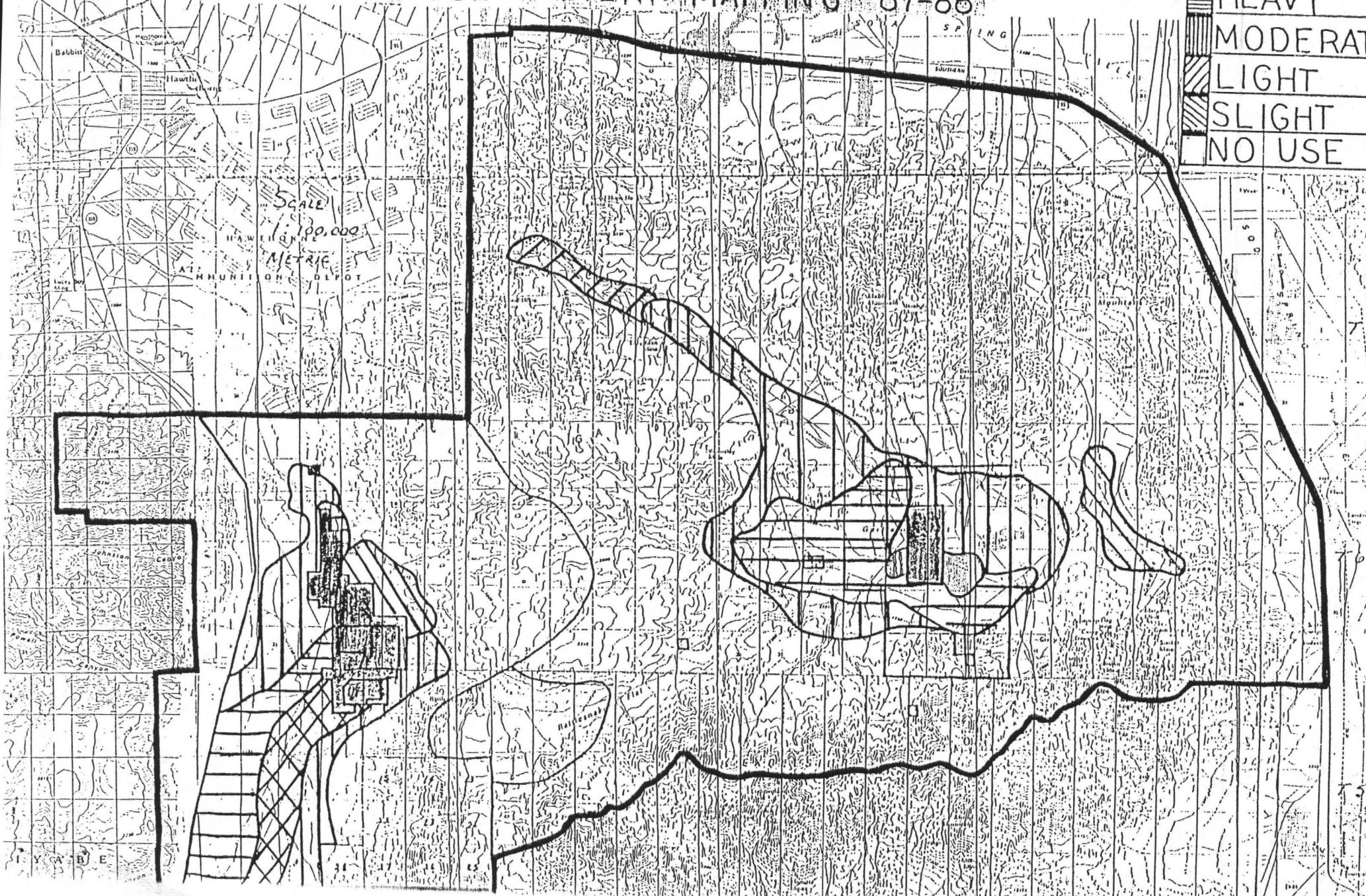
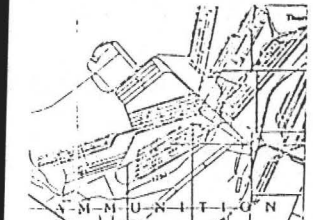
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MAP NO. 11

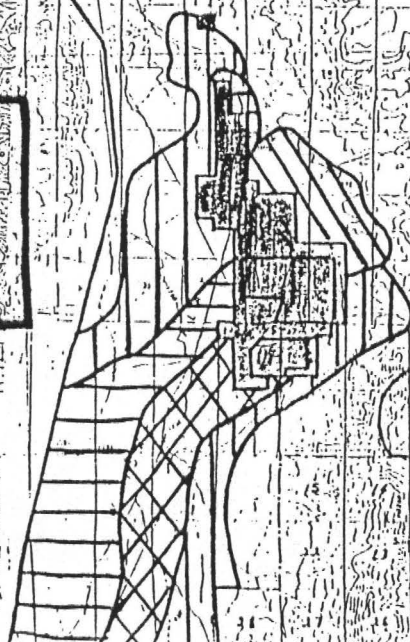
USE PATTERN MAPPING 87-88

USE CLASSES

	SEVERE
	HEAVY
	MODERATE
	LIGHT
	SLIGHT
	NO USE









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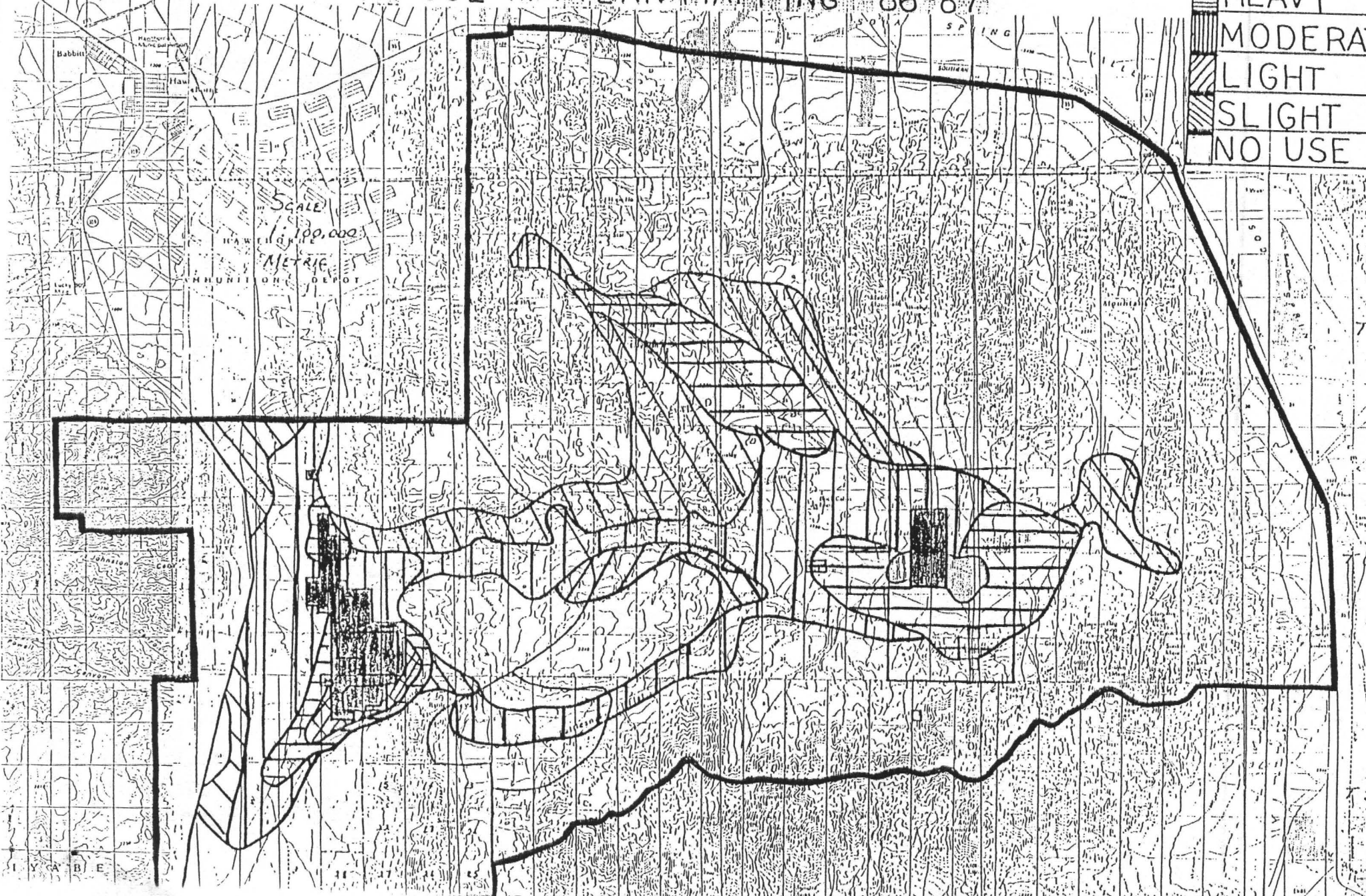
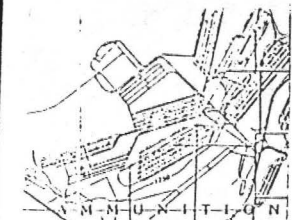


MAP NO. 12

USE PATTERN MAPPING 86-87

USE CLASSES

	SEVERE
	HEAVY
	MODERATE
	LIGHT
	SLIGHT
	NO USE



Scale  
1:100,000  
Metric  
COMMUNITY DEPT

I Y A B E

11 17 14 15

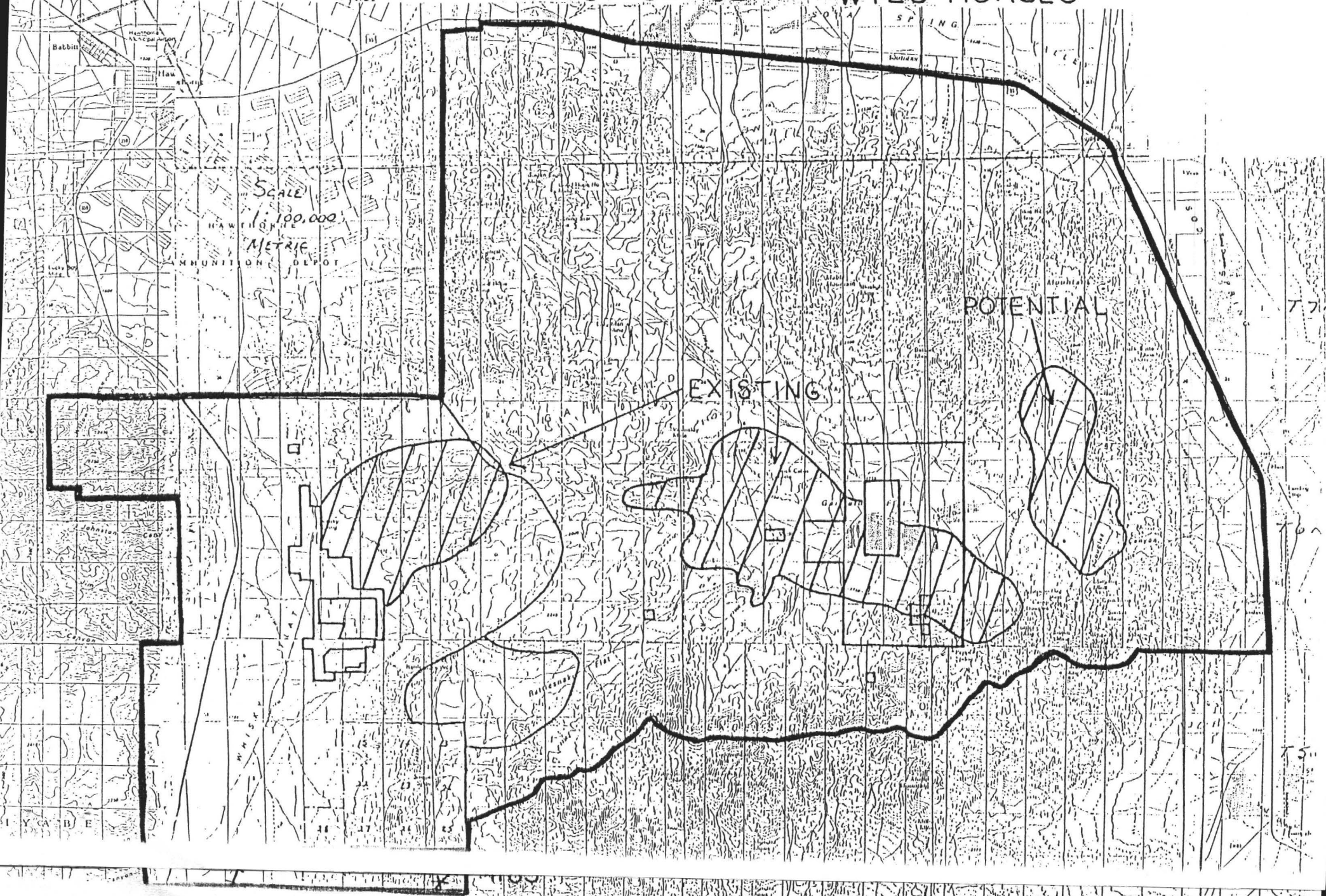
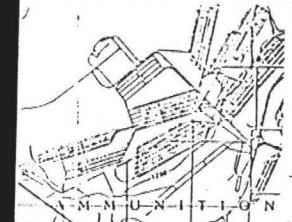
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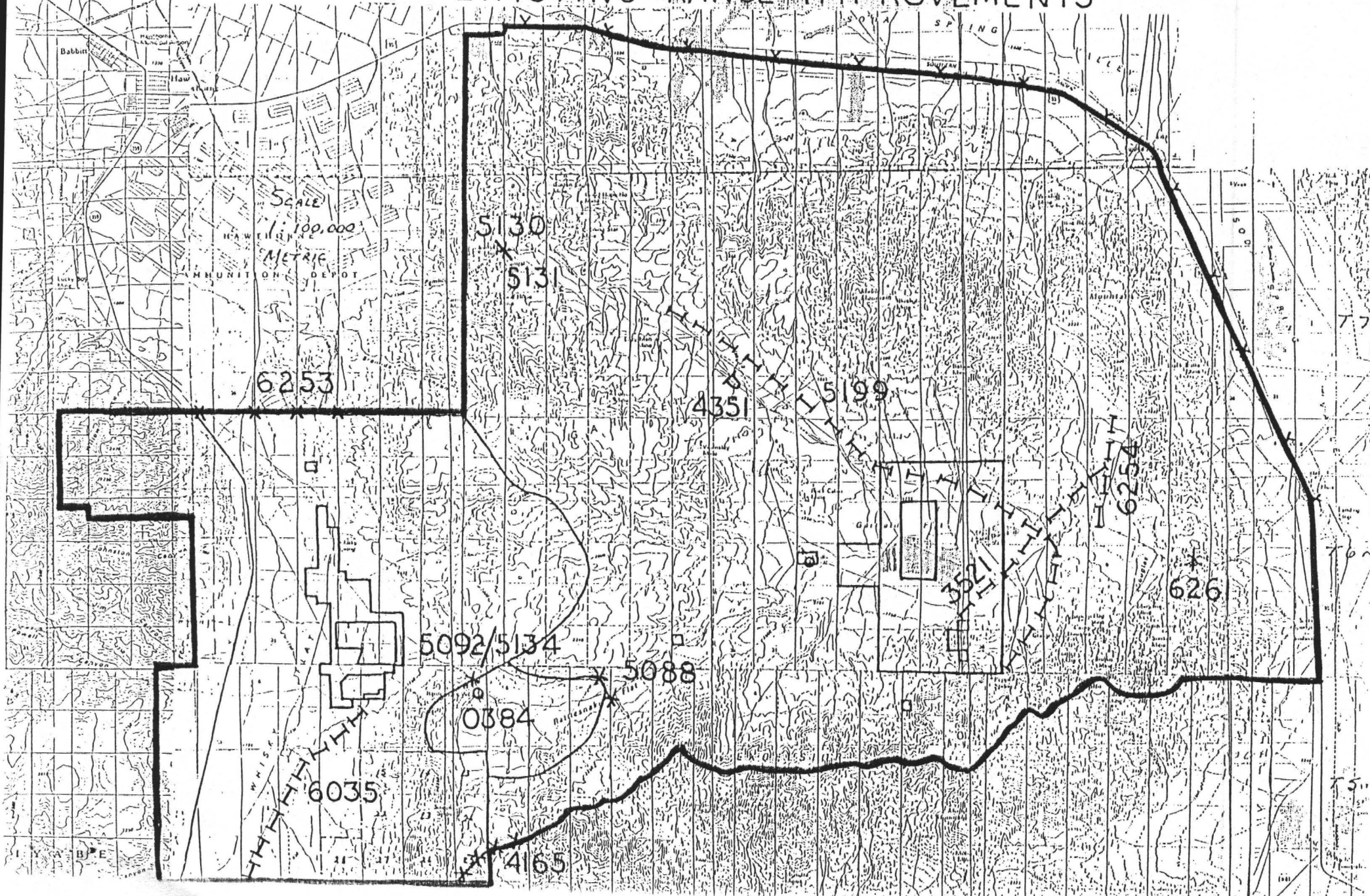
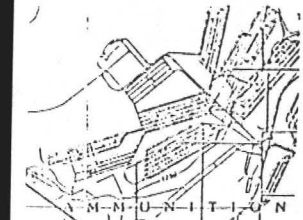
MAP NO. 13

AREAS OF CONCERN - WILD HORSES



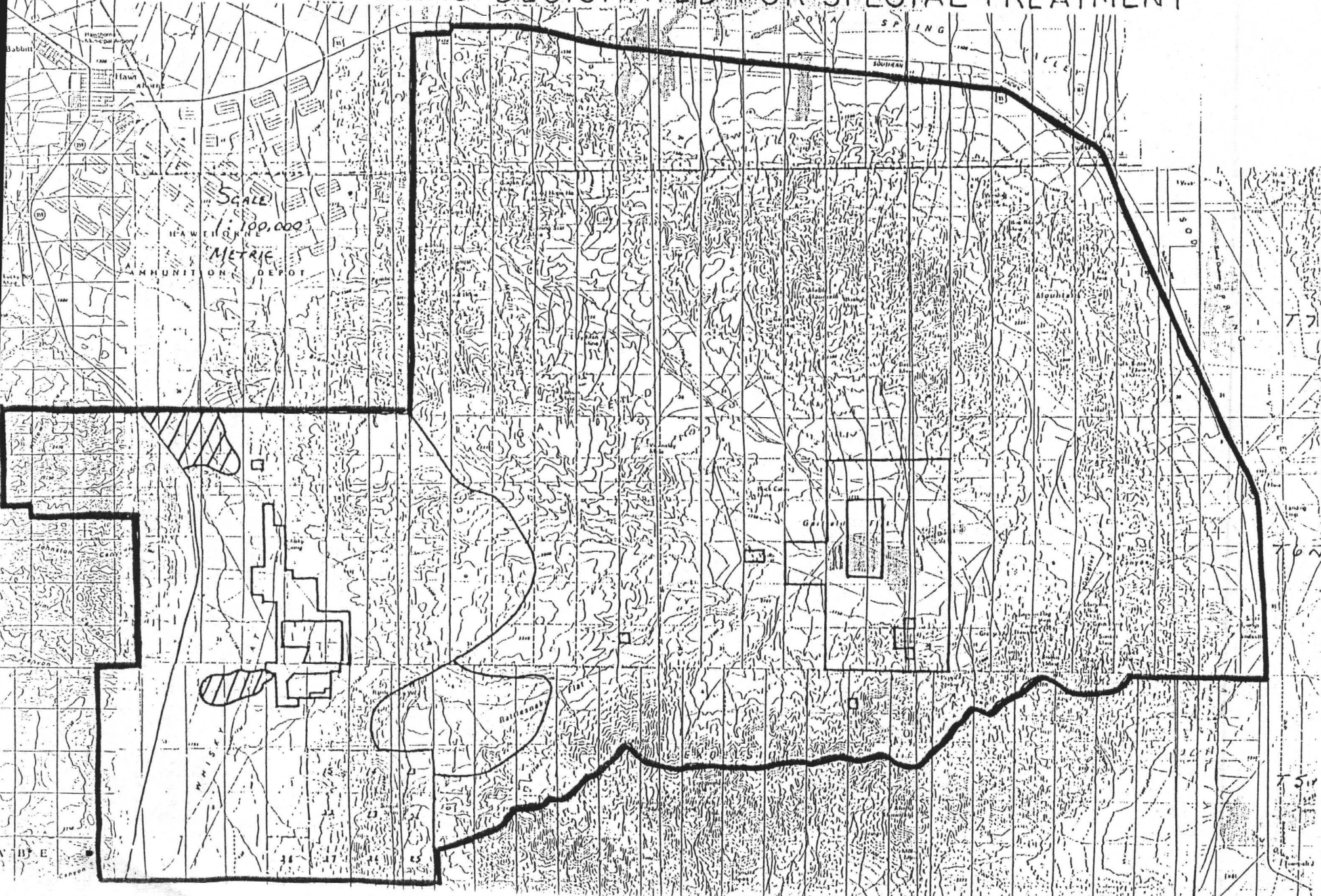
MAP NO. 14

EXISTING RANGE IMPROVEMENTS



# MAP NO. 15

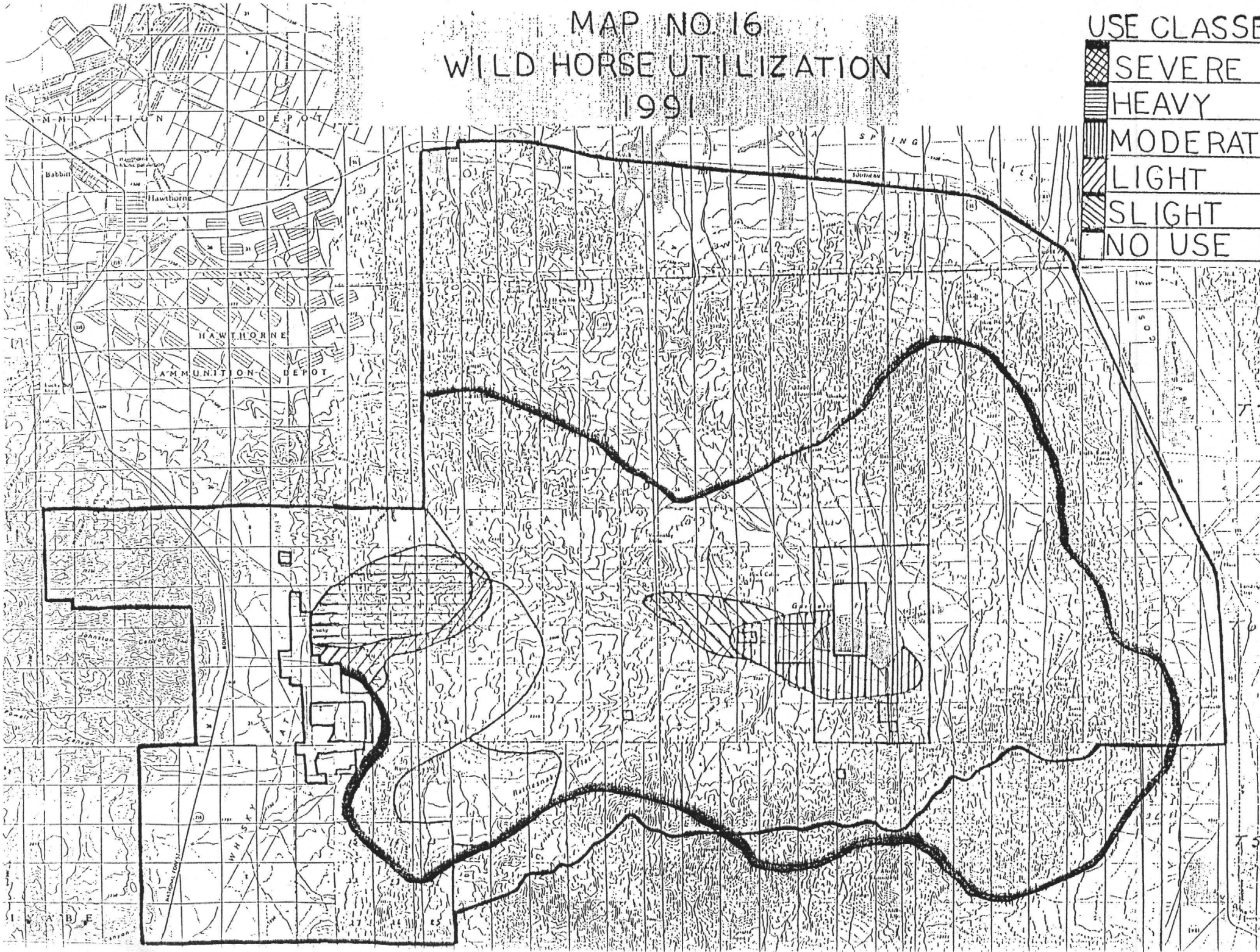
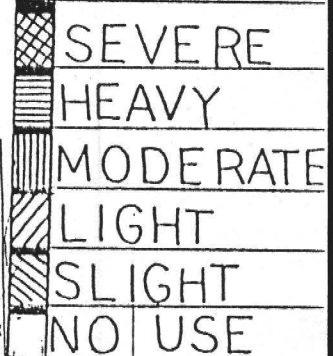
## AREAS DESIGNATED FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT





MAP NO. 16  
WILD HORSE UTILIZATION  
1991

USE CLASSES



APPENDIX B

EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS  
GARFIELD FLAT ALLOTMENT

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOWNSHIP</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>SECTION</u>	<u>SUBDIVISION</u>
x540384	Rattlesnake Fl. Well	5N	31E	1	NESW
x543521	Douglas Pipeline	6N	33E	35	SESE
544104	Mable Mtn. Reaper	7N	32E	27	SESW
x544165	Summit Spring Div. Fnc.	5N	31E	25	NWSW
544351	Marble Mtn. Reaper #2	7N	32E	25	SESW
x545088	E. Rattlesnake Fence	5N	32E	4	SESW
x545092	W. Rattlesnake Fence	5N	31E	1	SESW
x545130	Pamlico Fence	7N	32E	18	NENE
545131	Pamlico Cattleguard	7N	32E	18	NWNW
x545134	Rattlesnake Cattleguard	5N	31E	1	NWNW
x545199	Pepper Spring Pipeline	5N	33E	1	SWNE
x546035	Whiskey Flat Pipeline	5N	31E	1	NENW
x546253	Whiskey Flat Pipeline	5N	31E	3	SENE
x546253	N. Whiskey Flat Fence	6N	31E	5	NENW
x546254	Douglas Flat Pipeline	6N	34E	8	SESE
x546261	Douglas Canyon Drift F.	6N	34E	22	NENE

x - Denotes existing Cooperative Agreement

## APPENDIX C

### DESIRED PLANT COMMUNITY

Information presented here concerning the Desired Plant Community concept is contained in Bureau Handbook 1621-1-Vegetation Management. This handbook is in DRAFT form only. This is not an official publication. This section of the evaluation is to give the reader an idea of the concept.

The definition of a Desired Plant Community is the plant community which provides the vegetation characteristics required for meeting or exceeding Resource Management Plan vegetation objectives. The DPC must be within an ecological site's capability to produce these characteristics through natural succession, management action, or both.

A DPC must:

- be within the potential of the site.
- be measurable and be related to a specific location.
- be achievable within an indicated time frame.
- not normally result in irreversible site degradation.
- determined and monitored by an interdisciplinary team.

The Bureau's Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) provides baseline vegetation information.

Objectives should contain the following:

- describe the present situation.
- determine the desired situation.
- determine the time required to go from the present to the desired.
- make certain objective is not in conflict with other objectives.
- state the rationale for the desired situation.
- determine the actions required to achieve the desired situation.
- identify how to monitor effects of management actions with respect to achieving resource objectives.

APPENDIX D  
DETERMINATION OF AN APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT LEVEL (AML)  
WILD HORSES

Vegetation monitoring studies indicate that the current population of 116 head has reached the limit of allowable use for key vegetation species within certain areas of the HMA. There are two areas where grazing use may have reached or exceeded allowable use (Refer to Appendix A, Map No. 16).

A 4600 acre area east of Whiskey Spring was grazed heavily (70% utilization) and a 3660 acre area on Garfield Flat was grazed moderately (50% utilization) during the 1991 growing season. The Whiskey Spring area is not grazed by livestock. Therefore all available forage was consumed by wild horses. The moderately grazed area is used by livestock in accordance with the AMP. Wild horses use the area year-round.

In the Whiskey Spring area, an allowable use level of 55% should be maintained, down from the current 70% use level. In the Garfield Flat area, the allowable use should be shared, limiting utilization by wild horses to 25% of available forage, down from the current 50% use level.

These two areas of over-use comprise 6% of the total HMA. Much of the HMA has little or no grazing use so the potential for expanded use and a more even distribution pattern is present. Therefore no reduction in the current wild horse population is necessary.

Continued monitoring will determine if wild horses will naturally spread more evenly throughout the HMA. If there continue to be areas of overuse then selective removal of the specific bands using these areas will be accomplished. This will allow the population to increase in areas where forage is available.

8/28/92

BOB MILLER  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Executive Director



COMMISSION FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

Stewart Facility  
Capitol Complex  
Carson City, Nevada 89710  
(702) 687-5589

COMMISSIONERS

Dan Keiserman,  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Michael Kirk, D.V.M., Chairman  
Reno, Nevada

Paula S. Askew  
Carson City, Nevada

Steven Fulstone  
Smith Valley, Nevada

Dawn Lappin  
Reno, Nevada

August 28, 1992

John Matthiessen, Area Manager  
Walker Resource Area  
BLM-Carson City District Office  
1535 Hot Springs Road, Ste. 300  
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0638

Dear Mr. Matthiessen,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Garfield Flat Allotment Evaluation.

What is of concern immediately is that there are no developed waters for wild horses on public lands within this allotment and that the only available waters area on private land. The current permittee may be amendable to sharing those waters with wild horses but what about the future? If the permit changes hands in the future will the new permittee allow wild horses to water on those private water sources. We would rather not see an emergency situation for water dictate action instead it would be much more preferable to develop necessary waters before there are none for the horses. We believe the AE has identified the lack of available water on non-private land, we would hope that in your decision on this allotment that you identify the need to develop reliable water sources for wild horses.

We must protest the two-thirds reduction in allocated AUM's for wild horse use. In the LUP you had identified 3,750 available AUM's for wild horse use and #,516 AUM's for livestock. Granted this is an "I" category allotment and with the current "limited" use (1,392 by wild horses and 1,853 used by livestock), you are still not meeting most of your LUP objectives for the habitat.

If your AE, through monitoring, has determined the need for a reduction of 2,358 AUM's from the Garfield Flat Allotment then the reduction should be taken proportionately from livestock and wild horses. We agree, in the areas with heavy concentrations of wild horses and where the utilization can be attributed solely to horses that the removal should come from the offending animal in that area. On a whole though, if you are reducing available AUM's from an allotment because of resource demands the reduction should be proportionate.

John Matthiessen, Area Manager  
August 28, 1992  
Page 2

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this AE.  
If you have any questions or would care to discuss this allotment  
during a meeting, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Barcomb". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Executive Director

# W H O A

WILD HORSE ORGANIZED ASSISTANCE

P.O. BOX 555  
RENO, NEVADA 89504  
(702) 851-4817

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DAVID R. BELDING  
JACK C. McELWEE  
GORDON W. HARRIS

### In Memoriam

LOUISE C. HARRISON  
VELMA B. JOHNSTON, "Wild Horse Annie"  
GERTRUDE BRONN

August 28, 1992

John Matthiessen, Area Manager  
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Sincerely,

DAWN Y. LAPPIN  
Director