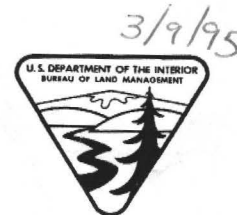




United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Carson City District Office
1535 Hot Springs Road
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0638
PH: (702) 885-6100

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1610 (NV-03337)

March 9, 1995

April 28

Catharine Barcomb
Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
255 West Moana Lane, Suite 207 A
Reno, NV 89509

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking your comments on a proposal to revise the management of public lands in the Pine Nut Mountains of Carson City and Lyon and Douglas Counties. This planning effort will address the management of pinyon-juniper woodlands and the management of motorized vehicle use through an amendment to the Walker Resource Management Plan.

One issue we would like to address is increasing the bio-diversity of the public lands through more intensive management of pinyon-juniper woodlands. Current patterns of vegetation in the Pine Nut Mountains resulted from clear-cut logging in the late 1800s, followed by a period of historic overgrazing by livestock. Then a long period of fire suppression limited the natural role of wildfires in the Pine Nut Mountains ecosystem. This reduced natural diversity in vegetation patterns and favored the establishment of an even aged pinyon-juniper woodland. Fire suppression activities have led to an accumulation of fuels that has caused a trend towards large, expensive, and destructive wildfires such as the Holbrook Junction fire of 1994.

Possible pinyon-juniper management methods to be considered in the plan amendment include changes in fire management strategies. Historically, it was assumed that wildfires should be put out as quickly as possible. Today, many believe it is best to let nature take its course. Other possible considerations are the removal of trees by establishing fire-wood cutting areas or by using prescribed fires. Please refer to Map 1 for the extent of pinyon-juniper woodlands in the Pine Nut Mountains. We would like your comments on whether any of these methods should be considered.

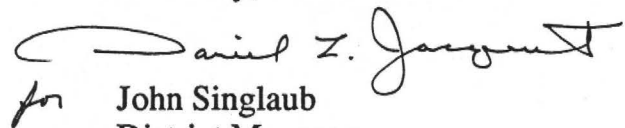
A second issue we would like you to consider is the management of off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation in the Pine Nut Mountains. Map 2 shows the existing OHV designations.

Although the majority of the area is currently open to OHV use, a portion of the Pine Nut Crest is designated limited to specific routes in order to protect high wildlife, recreation, watershed, and scenic values. The Burbank Canyons Scenic Area is closed to OHVs. The region has experienced a rapid population growth and increase in both private and commercial event OHV use. The current designations are over ten years old and difficult to manage. Conflicts with adjacent property owners have increased. We would like your ideas on what changes in OHV management should occur.

Visual resources will be considered throughout this planning effort to help identify changes in management. Map 3 shows the proposed visual management inventory classes for this effort. The most valued scenic resources identified include Mt. Siegel, Burbank Canyons, Eldorado Canyon, Illinois Canyon, the Rawe Peak viewshed and the lower Carson River Canyon.

We would like any thoughts or ideas that you may have on these or any other issues for management of public lands in the Pine Nut Mountains. How appropriate are the visual inventory classes shown on Map 3 and how important are the scenic values of the Pine Nut Mountains to you? What issues should be addressed regarding off highway vehicle use and pinyon-juniper management? Please submit your comments by April 28, 1995 to David Loomis, Team Leader, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Carson City, NV 89706-0638 (ph) 702 885-6149 . Any questions or requests for additional information may also be directed to Mr. Loomis.

Sincerely,

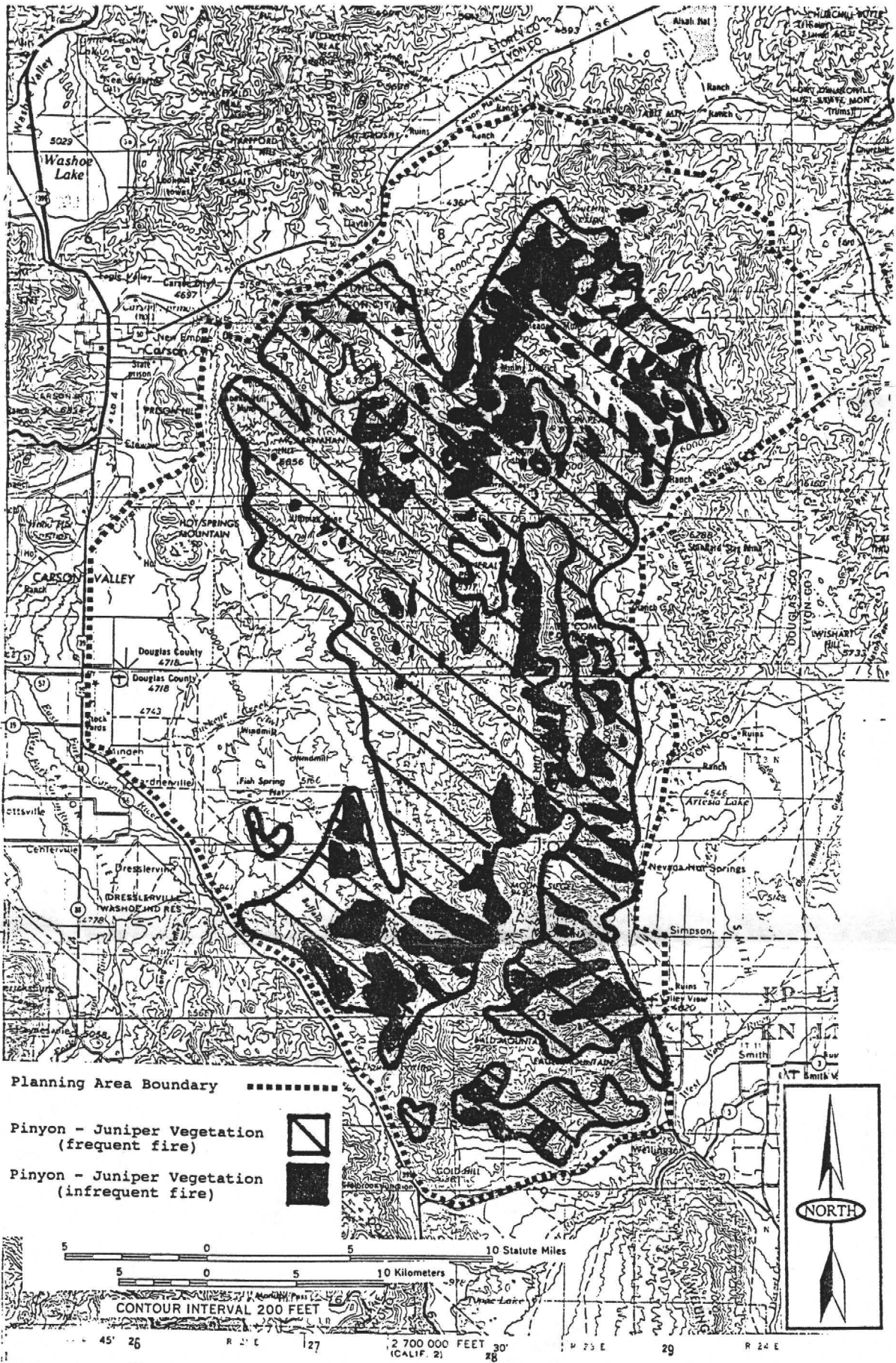


for John Singlaub
District Manager
Carson City District

Attachments:
(3) Maps

PINE NUT PLAN AMENDMENT
 PINYON - JUNIPER ECOSYSTEMS

MAP 1

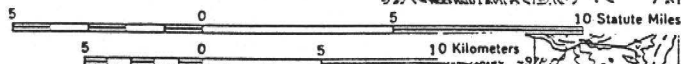


Planning Area Boundary - - - - -

Pinyon - Juniper Vegetation
(frequent fire)



Pinyon - Juniper Vegetation
(infrequent fire)



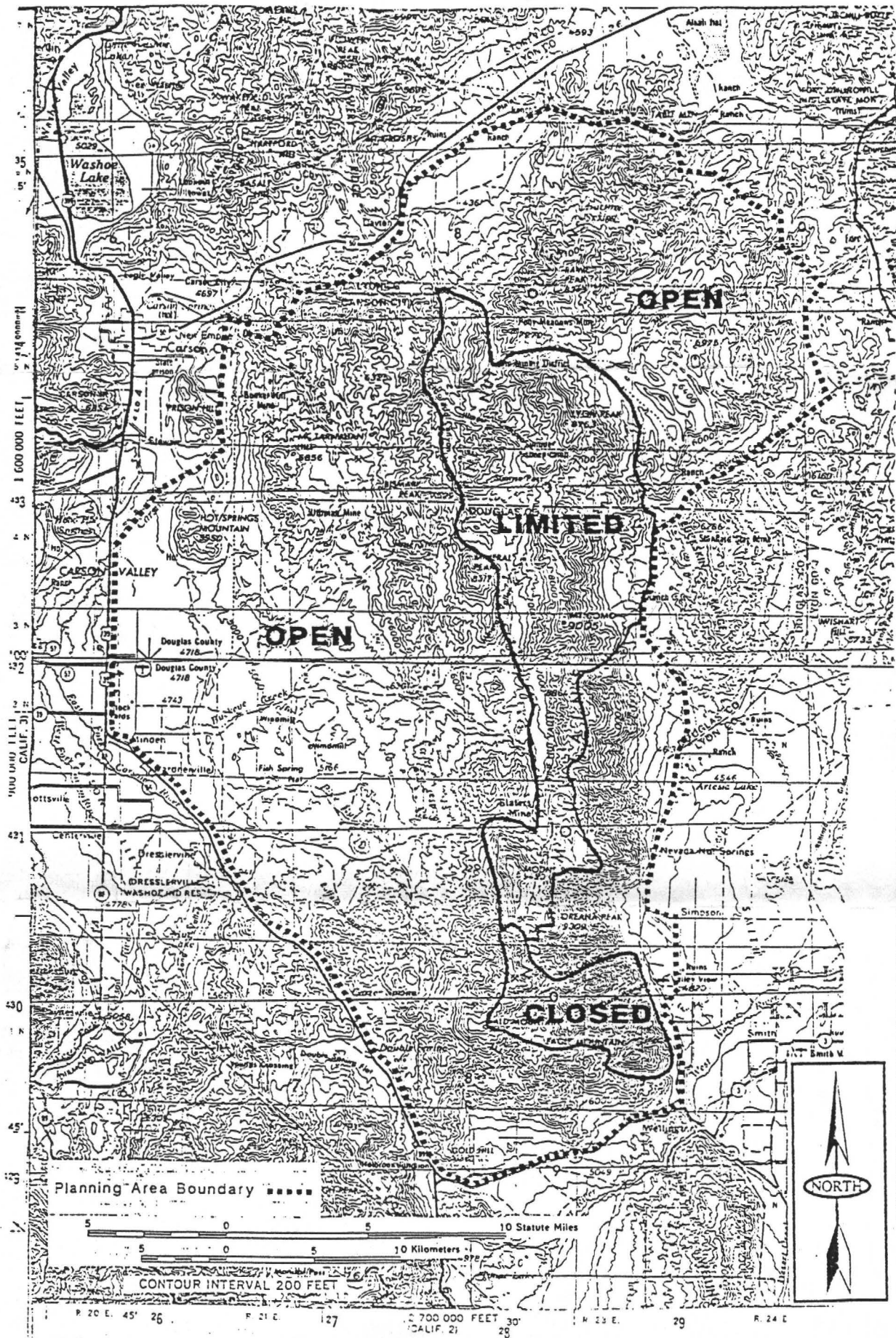
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 FEET

45° 26' R 21 E 127 27 000 FEET (CALIF. 2) 30° P 23 E 29 R 24 E

PINE NUT PLAN AMENDMENT

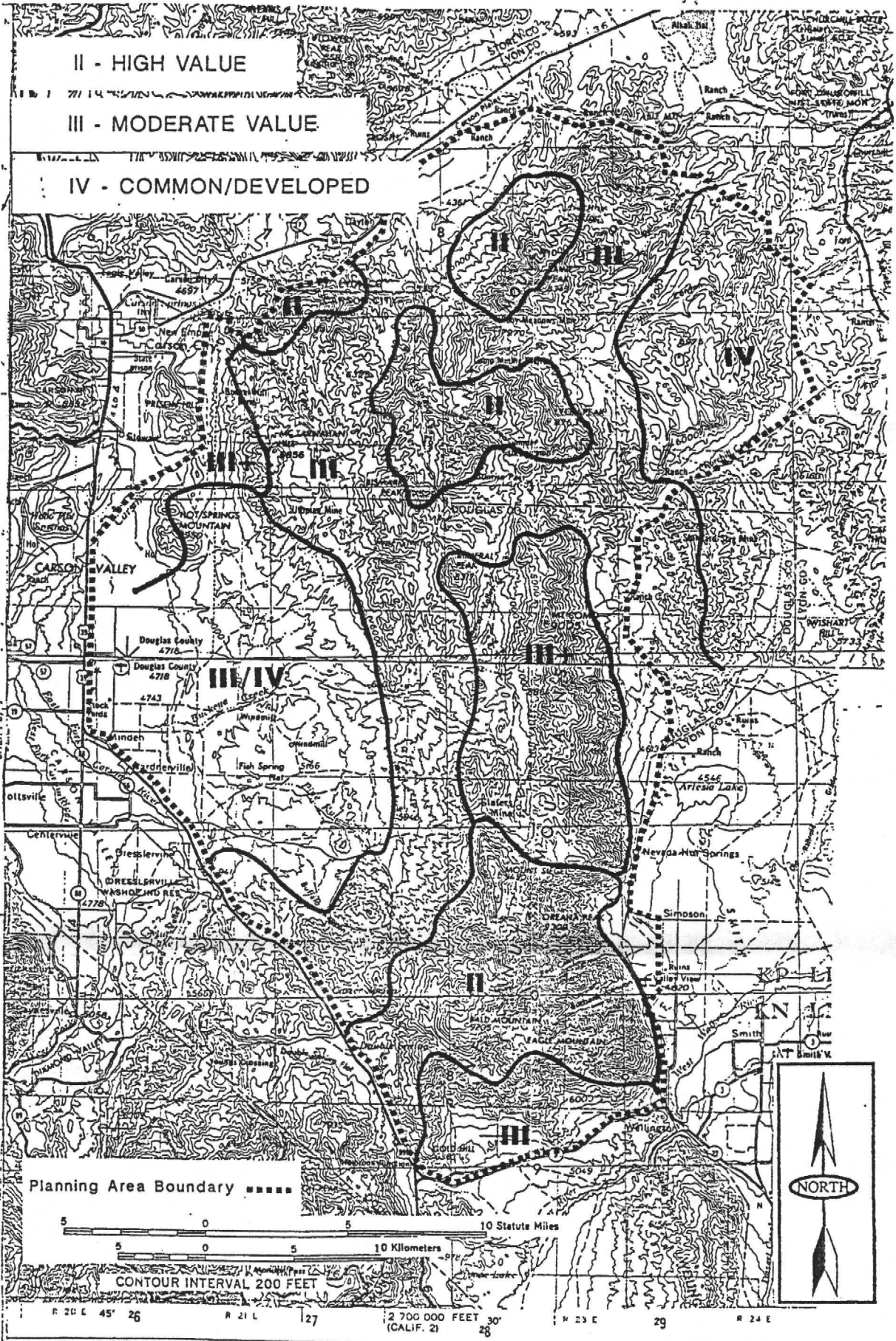
OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES

MAP 2



PINE NUT PLAN AMENDMENT
 VISUAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

MAP 3





United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Carson City District Office
1535 Hot Springs Road
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0638
PH: (702) 885-6100

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1610 (NV-03337)

March 10, 1995

Dawn Lappin
Wild Horse Organized Assistance
P.O. Box 555
Reno, NV 89504

Dear Ms. Lappin:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking your comments on a proposal to revise the management of public lands in the Pine Nut Mountains of Carson City and Lyon and Douglas Counties. This planning effort will address the management of pinyon-juniper woodlands and the management of motorized vehicle use through an amendment to the Walker Resource Management Plan.

One issue we would like to address is increasing the bio-diversity of the public lands through more intensive management of pinyon-juniper woodlands. Current patterns of vegetation in the Pine Nut Mountains resulted from clear-cut logging in the late 1800s, followed by a period of historic overgrazing by livestock. Then a long period of fire suppression limited the natural role of wildfires in the Pine Nut Mountains ecosystem. This reduced natural diversity in vegetation patterns and favored the establishment of an even aged pinyon-juniper woodland. Fire suppression activities have led to an accumulation of fuels that has caused a trend towards large, expensive, and destructive wildfires such as the Holbrook Junction fire of 1994.

Possible pinyon-juniper management methods to be considered in the plan amendment include changes in fire management strategies. Historically, it was assumed that wildfires should be put out as quickly as possible. Today, many believe it is best to let nature take its course. Other possible considerations are the removal of trees by establishing fire-wood cutting areas or by using prescribed fires. Please refer to Map 1 for the extent of pinyon-juniper woodlands in the Pine Nut Mountains. We would like your comments on whether any of these methods should be considered.

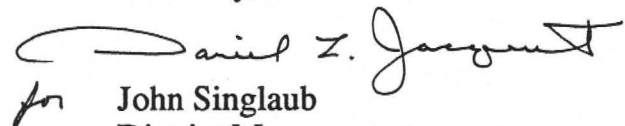
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Sincerely,



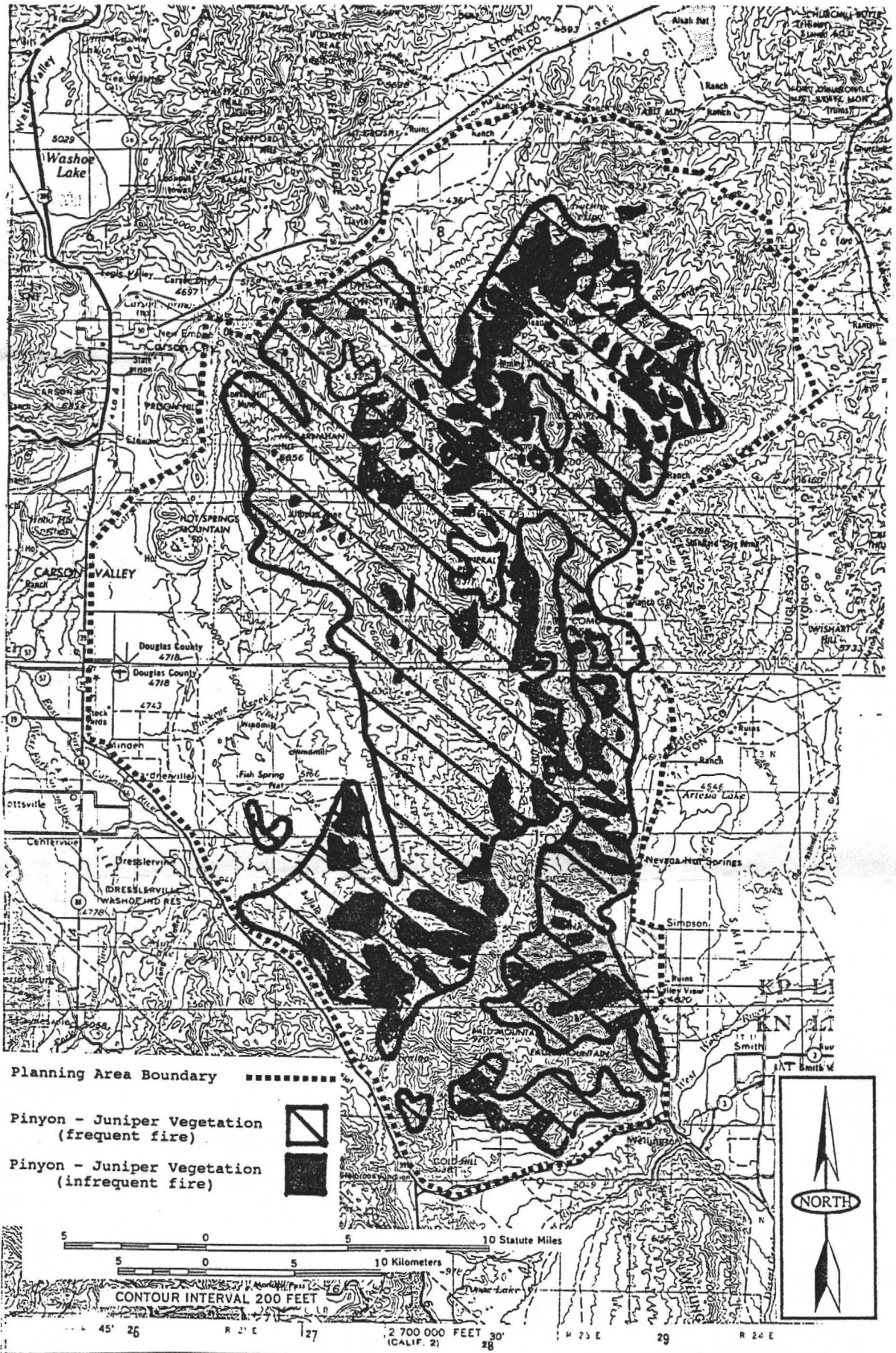
for John Singlaub
District Manager
Carson City District

Attachments:
(3) Maps

PINE NUT PLAN AMENDMENT

PINYON - JUNIPER ECOSYSTEMS

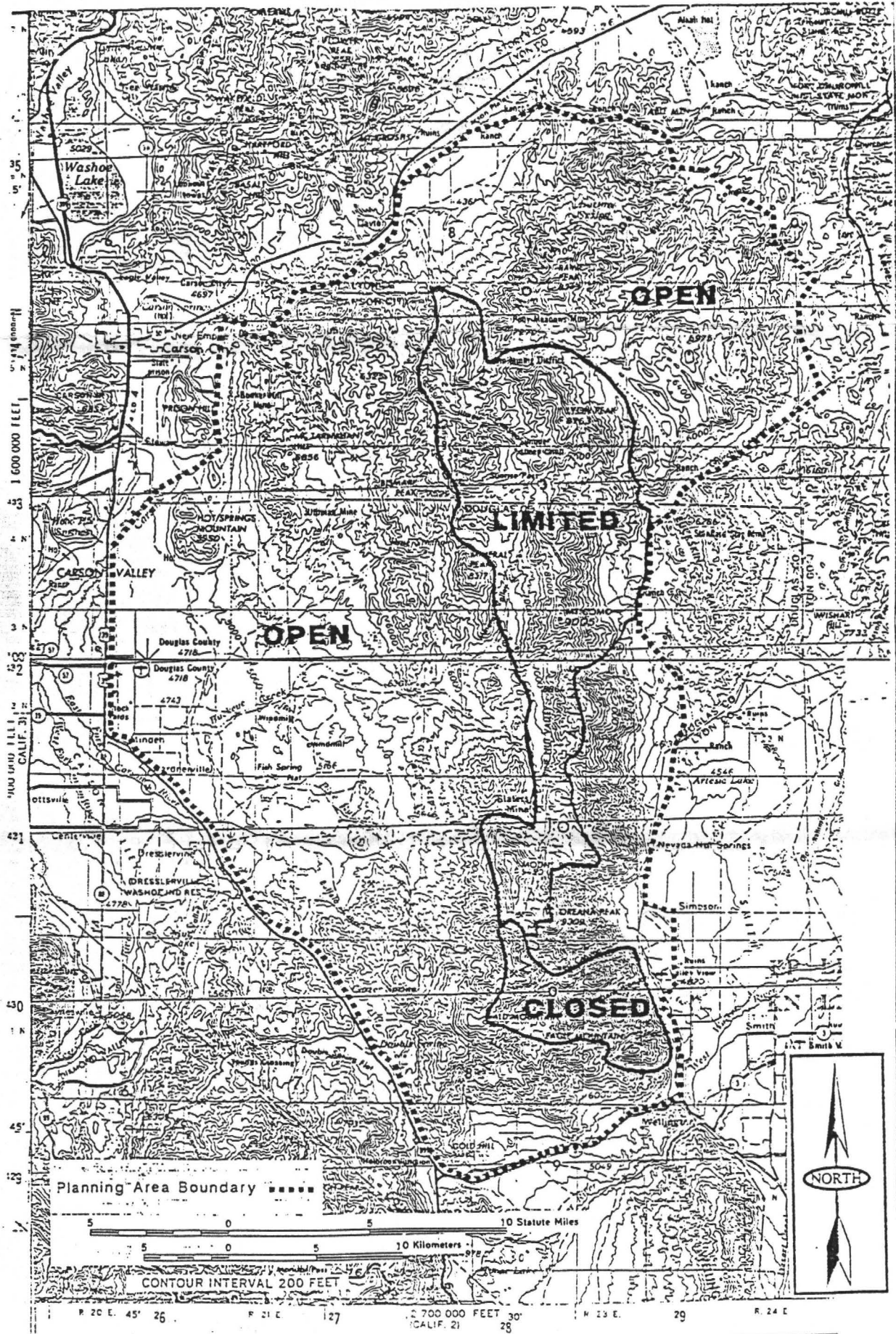
MAP 1



PINE NUT PLAN AMENDMENT

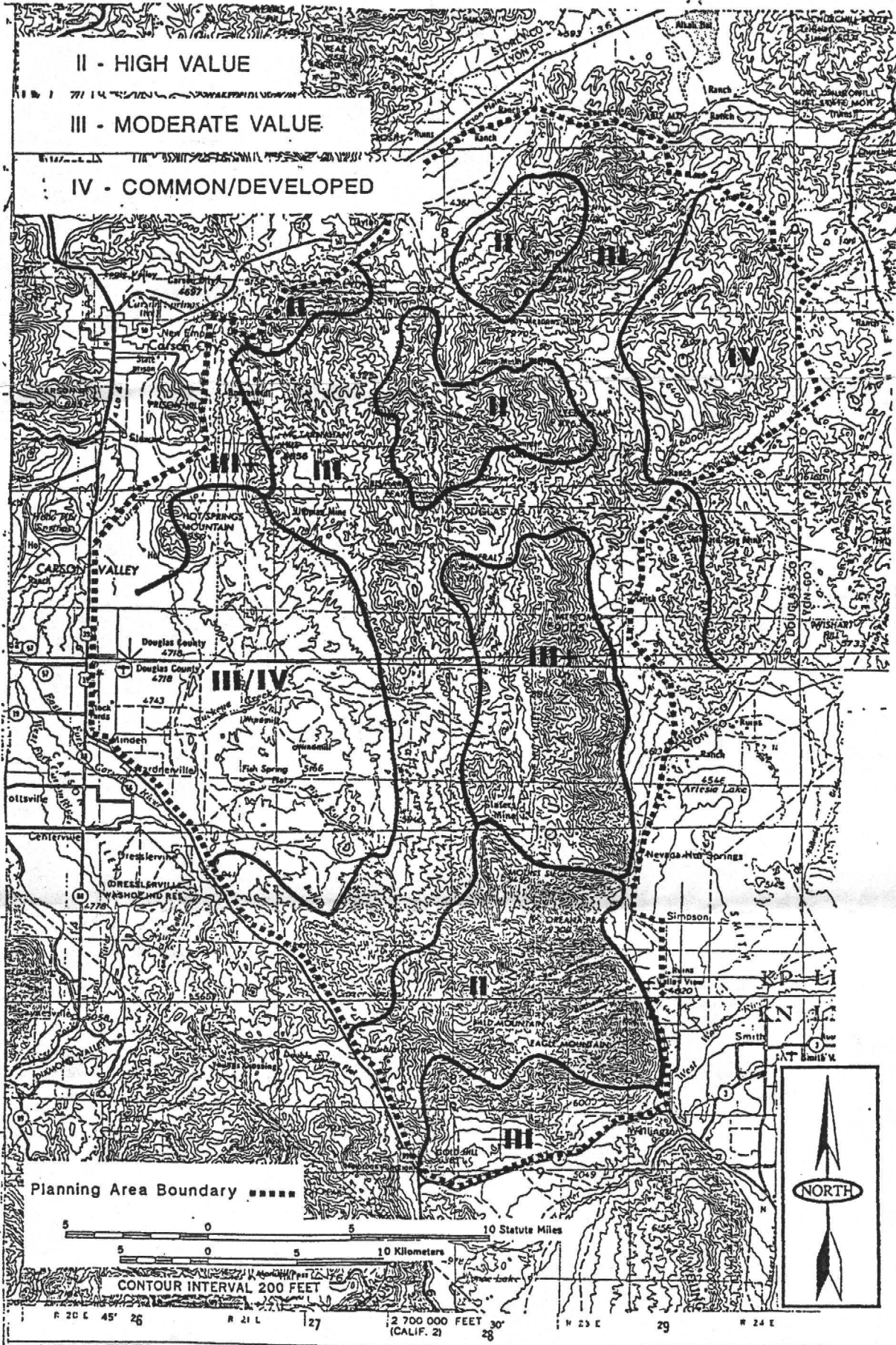
OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES

MAP 2



PINE NUT PLAN AMENDMENT
VISUAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

MAP 3





United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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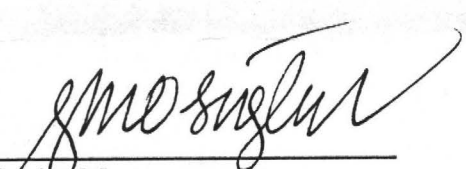
IN REPLY REFER TO:
4700
(NV-03337)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held discussing the use of helicopters in the capture of wild horses and burros within the Carson City District of the Bureau of Land Management.

The meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., on March 27, 1995, in the Carson City District Office Conference Room, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300, Carson City, Nevada 89706.

For further information, contact: Jim Gianola, Carson City District, Bureau of Land Management, 1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300, Carson City, Nevada 89706-0638, phone: (702) 885-6000.



District Manager

3-6-95

Date