



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



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4130
(NV-03580)

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

MAY 15 1990

Dear Ms. Lappin:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the Marietta and Candelaria Allotment Evaluation. All comments should be addressed to this office prior to June 15, 1990.

The main impetus for this evaluation is the Marietta Wild Burro Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) requirement of dedicating a major portion of the Marietta Herd Management Area (HMA) to burro management without the construction of projects that will restrict the wild and free roaming nature of wild burros. Although the majority of the Marietta HMA lies in the Marietta Allotment, it also overlaps into the Candelaria Allotment. Consequently, this evaluation addresses both the Marietta and Candelaria Allotments.

Sincerely yours,

Acting

John Matthiessen
Area Manager
Walker Resource Area

1 Enclosure:

1. Marietta and Candelaria Allotment Evaluation

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**Carson City District Office
1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0638**

**MARIETTA AND CANDELARIA
ALLOTMENT EVALUATION**

May 10, 1990



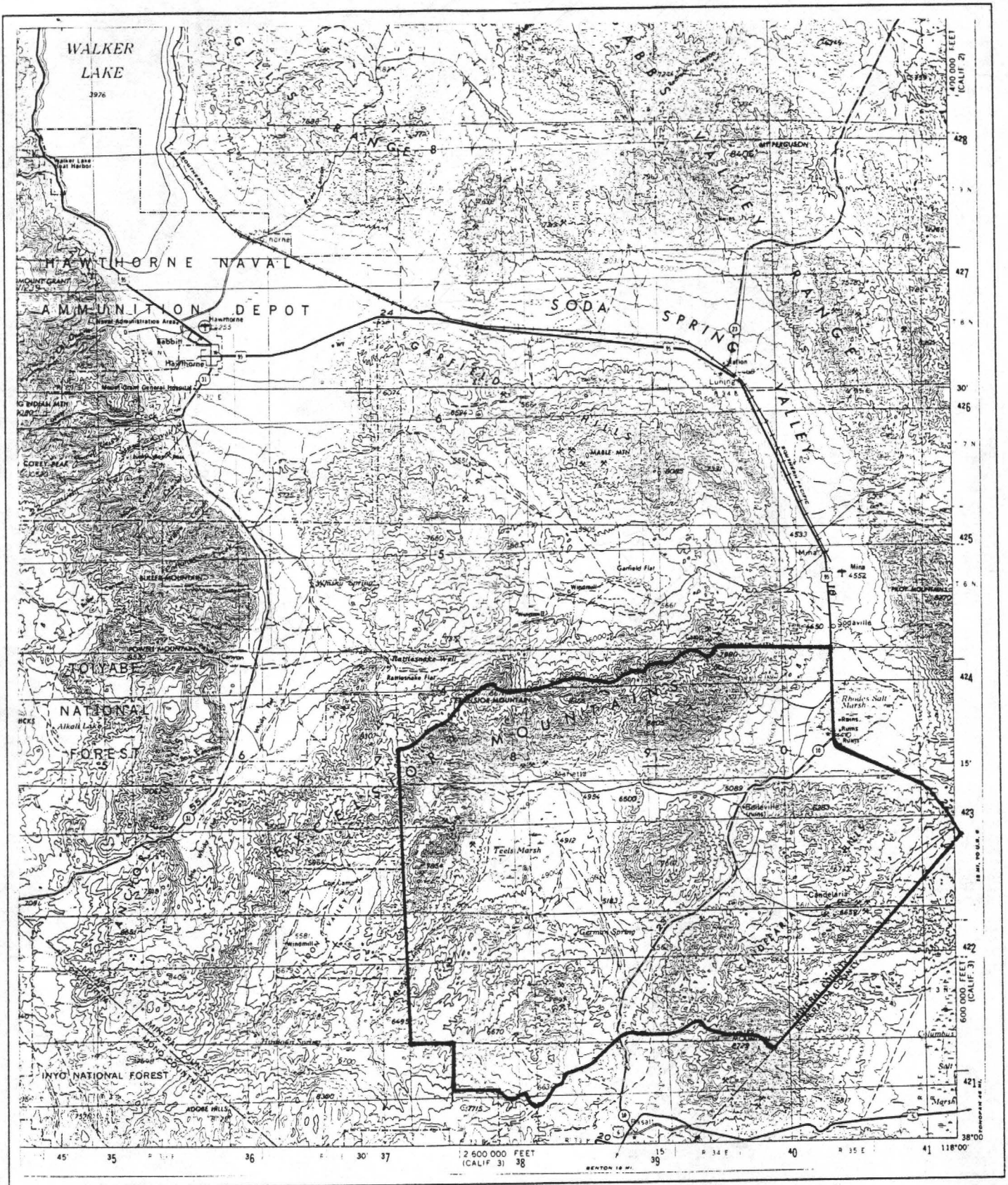


Figure No. 1: Allotment Evaluation Area

Scale 1 : 384,600 (Approx. 1 in. = 6 miles)

Table of Contents

I.	<u>Introduction</u>	1
II.	<u>Initial Stocking Level</u>	1
A.	Livestock Use	1
1.	Preference	1
2.	Other Information	1
B.	Wild Horses and Burros	2
1.	Herd Areas in Allotment	2
2.	Management Levels	2
C.	Wildlife Use	2
1.	Mule Deer	2
a.	Existing Numbers	2
b.	Key and Crucial Areas	2
2.	Bighorn Sheep	3
3.	Pronghorn Antelope	3
III.	<u>Allotment Profile</u>	3
A.	Description	3
B.	Acreage	3
C.	Allotment Specific Objectives	3
1.	Walker Resource Management Plan Objectives	3
2.	Range Program Summary (RPS)	4
2.	Marietta Wild Burro Herd Management Area Plan	5
3.	Threatened and Endangered Species	5
D.	Key Species Identification	6
IV.	<u>Management Evaluation</u>	6
A.	Purpose	6
B.	Summary of Studies Data	6
1.	Actual Use	6
2.	Precipitation	8
3.	Utilization	8
4.	Trend	8
5.	Range Survey Data	9
6.	Ecological Status	9
7.	Wildlife Habitat	9
8.	Riparian Habitat	9
9.	Wild Horse and Burro Habitat	9
V.	<u>Conclusions</u>	9
A.	Authorizing Livestock Use	9
B.	Utilization, Trend, and Condition	10
C.	Wildlife Habitat	11
D.	Riparian Management	11
E.	Wild Horse and Burro Numbers	11
F.	Marietta Wild Burro Range	12
G.	Exclusive Burro Management in Marietta HMA	12
H.	Free Roaming Nature of Wild Horses and Burros	12
I.	Wild Horse and Burro Water	12
VI.	<u>Technical Recommendations</u>	13

Appendices:

1. Evaluation Summaries

Maps¹

1. Candelaria and Marietta Allotments
2. Recommended Boundary Adjustments

¹Larger scale maps are available for review at the Carson City District Office.

MARIETTA AND CANDELARIA ALLOTMENT EVALUATION

I. Introduction

- A. Allotment Names and Numbers: Marietta (03559)
Candelaria (03511)
- B. Permittees: Mervin McKay and Harris Brothers
- C. Evaluation Period: 1982 to 1989 (period just prior to wild burro gather in 1983 to present).
- D. Selective Management Category: Marietta (I)
Candelaria (M)

II. Initial Stocking Level

A. Livestock Use

1. Preference (Marietta Allotment Only)

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Active</u>	<u>Susp.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%PL*</u>
McKay	778	0	778	Cattle	11/01 to 04/15	100
Harris	768	0	768	Cattle	12/01 to 02/28	100

* Percent Public Land Use

2. Other Information

Mervin McKay has previously grazed during the winter in Marietta and the adjacent Huntoon Valley Allotments. A portion of the Marietta Allotment and the majority of Huntoon Valley Allotment were transferred to the United States Forest Service (USFS) on April 26, 1989, in accordance to the National Forest and Public Lands Enhancement Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-550). This resulted in the following adjustments to active preference on public lands:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Public AUMs Prior to USFS Transfer</u>	<u>Public AUMs After Transfer</u>
Harris	Marietta	800	768
McKay	Marietta Huntoon Valley	800 700	768 10

Since so little of the Huntoon Valley Allotment has remained under BLM administration, the remaining active preference (10 AUMs) has been added to McKay's Marietta preference. As a result, Mervin McKay's current active preference in the Marietta Allotment is 778 AUMs.

Candelaria Allotment does not have an adjudicated grazing preference. Occasionally, temporary and nonrenewable grazing has been allowed in Candelaria Allotment to help relieve the competition between livestock and wild burros in the Marietta Allotment.

B. Wild Horses and Burros

1. Herd Areas in Allotment

The Marietta Wild Burro Herd Management Area is located in the central portion of Marietta Allotment and extends into the western portion of Candelaria Allotment. In addition, the Montgomery Pass wild horse herd (managed by the U.S. Forest Service) uses the southern portion of Marietta Allotment, while the Garfield Flat wild horse herd (managed by B.L.M.) uses the northern portion of Candelaria Allotment.

2. Management Levels

The Marietta Wild Burro Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) has established an adjusted population level of 85 burros with fluctuations from 70 to 100 head. A removal in 1987 reduced the population to 65 head. Continued monitoring will establish the actual appropriate management level.

The current management objective numbers for horses (prorated to the specific allotments addressed in this evaluation) are as follows: Marietta (13); Candelaria (54).

C. Wildlife Use

1. Mule Deer

a. Existing Numbers

Existing demand for mule deer from the Walker RPS are shown below:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Season of Use Dates (Months)</u>	<u>Demand</u>	
		<u>Nos.</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
Marietta	1/15 - 5/15 (4)	327	317
	Yearlong	8	23
Candelaria	Yearlong	36	107

b. Key and Crucial Areas

Mule deer winter and yearlong range is shown below. The key deer winter range is located in the Excelsior Mountains north of Marietta (ghost town), and the remainder of the winter range is in the Excelsiors south and west of Rock House Spring. The yearlong range is located in the northern portion of the Excelsiors in the vicinity of Moho Mine and Silverdyke Canyon. No crucial habitat has been identified in the evaluation area.

<u>Mule Deer Range</u>	<u>Acres per Allotment</u>	
	<u>Marietta</u>	<u>Candelaria</u>
Winter	28,538	0
Key Winter	15,639	0
Yearlong	2,731	8,807

2. Bighorn Sheep

Fourteen head of desert bighorn sheep were released into the Excelsior Mountains in January, 1986. The population was estimated at 22 to 28 head in 1988, with a goal of 75 head (180 AUM's). The area of use is in the vicinity of Silver Dyke Canyon (primarily in the Candelaria Allotment).

3. Pronghorn Antelope

Pronghorn from the Benton Valley subunit (Bishop Resource Area) use the southern half of the Marietta Allotment during spring and summer for fawning and fawn rearing. Reasonable numbers have not been established.

III. Allotment Profile

A. Description (refer to Map No. 1)

The Marietta Allotment is located in Mineral County, Nevada, approximately 20 miles southeast of Hawthorne. It is characterized as an internally drained mountain basin, containing a playa (Teels Marsh) on the valley floor. The Excelsior Mountains which bound the basin are fairly rugged.

Candelaria Allotment lies to the east of Marietta. It contains two basic areas that form basins: a small playa in the central portion, and the area west of Rhodes Salt Marsh in the northeastern portion. The Excelsior Mountains bound the salt marsh to the north, while the Candelaria Hills dominate the central and southern portions of the Allotment. The Candelaria Hills are fairly rugged mountains.

A major problem in both Marietta and Candelaria Allotments is the availability of water. The few natural water sources in Marietta Allotment are located in the wild burro HMA (which probably explains their current distribution). Although one well has been drilled in the northern portion of Candelaria Allotment, past drilling attempts in the remainder of Candelaria and Marietta Allotments have proved futile. Harris Brothers were able to graze livestock in Candelaria Allotment only by hauling water.

B. Acreage

Acreage and land status are shown below. None of the private land is controlled by the grazing permittees.

<u>Allotments</u>	<u>Acreage by Land Status</u>		
	<u>Public (%)</u>	<u>Private (%)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Marietta	123,032 (99)	1,800 (1)	124,832
Candelaria	100,331 (98)	1,716 (2)	102,047

C. Allotment Specific Objectives

1. Walker Resource Management Plan Objectives

The objectives shown below are from the Walker Management Decision Summary, issued in 1986.

a. Short Term

- 1) Initially, authorize livestock grazing at the three year average use level [722 AUM's for Marietta Allotment as per Draft RMP, pages

3-8 and 3-9] if this use is consistent with the attainment of the multiple use objectives for the allotment. There will be no initial change of active preference.

- 2) Initially manage wild horses and burros at present estimated population levels.

b. Long Term

- 1) Develop and implement AMPs on seven Category I allotments, and continue implementation of existing AMPs on one Category I Allotment and four Category M allotments to improve and/or maintain 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 burros, and wildlife.
- 2) Propose an area near Marietta for designation as the Marietta National Wild Burro Range.
- 3) Manage wildlife habitat for a long term goal of providing forage for reasonable numbers of big game.

2. Range Program Summary (RPS)

The following objectives are from Table II in the Walker RPS, issued in November 1989.

a. Short Term

- 1) Initially provide 1536 AUMs of livestock forage in the Marietta Allotment. Initially provide 1200 AUMs of livestock forage in the Candelaria Allotment on a temporary and nonrenewable basis to lessen grazing pressure on the Marietta Allotment.
- 2) Maintain an acceptable allowable use level for key species on key areas in the Marietta Allotment. Initially this will be 55%, but may be changed to meet allotment specific conditions as additional monitoring data is collected.
- 3) Limit use on bitterbrush to 45% on key deer winter range in the Marietta Allotment.
- 4) Limit utilization on 2 upland riparian areas in the Marietta Allotment to 55%.
- 5) Initially provide for approximately 840 AUMs of forage for wild burros in Marietta Allotment and 180 AUMs in Candelaria Allotment, which are prorated demands based on an estimate of 83% in Marietta and 17% in Candelaria.
- 6) Initially provide for approximately 156 AUMs of forage for wild horses in the Marietta Allotment, which is the prorated demand based on an estimated 35% of the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory. Provide for approximately 648 AUMs in Candelaria Allotment, which is the prorated demand based on 15% of the Garfield Flat Herd Area.

- 7) Propose designation of 68,000 acres as Marietta National Wild Burro Range.

b. Long Term

- 1) Improve ecological condition from early seral to mid seral on key management areas in the Marietta Allotment. Maintain existing trend and condition on key area in the Candelaria Allotment.
- 2) Maintain habitat condition to support a population of 479 mule deer from January 5 to May 15 and 11 mule deer yearlong (513 AUMs) in the Marietta Allotment. Maintain habitat to support a population of 51 mule deer yearlong (153 AUMs) and a population of 75 bighorn sheep yearlong (180 AUMs) in the Candelaria Allotment.
- 3) Maintain or improve upland riparian sites in the Marietta Allotment to late seral stage.
- 5) Maintain or improve wild horse and burro habitat by insuring that all waters remain open to use by wild horses and burros.
- 6) Maintain or improve the free-roaming behavior of wild horses and burros by protecting or enhancing the Herd Area.

2. Marietta Wild Burro Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP)

a. Short Term

- 1) In order to increase the frequency of Indian ricegrass 5% over a five year period in the severe utilization area, maintain 55% utilization.
- 2) Maintain a healthy herd of 85 head of burros, with variation of approximately 20 percent.

b. Long Term

- 1) Develop an AMP that will dedicate a majority of the Marietta Wild Burro Herd Management Area to Burro management, either by adjusting allotment boundaries or closing area to livestock.
- 2) Range improvement projects restricting the free roaming behavior and movement of wild burros will not be allowed.
- 3) To ensure long term availability of water for wild burros by filing jointly with the livestock permittees on three springs in the burro / livestock overlap area [German Springs and Rock House Spring]. These spring sources will be protected with water available in troughs or small dugouts for all animals to drink from.

3. Threatened and Endangered Species

The only plant species of particular concern within the evaluation area are Oryctes nevadensis and Penstemon arenarius, which have been found near the

road going to Marietta, near old site of Belleville, and near the site of Candelaria. These plants have been recommended for Federal Threatened designation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The current threats to these plants are summer grazing and mining.

D. Key Species Identification

1. Uplands

Antelope bitterbrush (Purshia tridentata), Bud sagebrush (Artemisia spinescens), fourwing saltbush (Atriplex canescens), Indian ricegrass (Oryzopsis hymenoides), winterfat (Eurotia lanata).

2. Riparian

Meadow plant species. May include any of the following: Nevada bluegrass (Poa nevadensis), rushes (Juncus sp.), sedges (Carex sp.), willow (Salix sp.).

IV. Management Evaluation

A. Purpose

The purpose of this evaluation is to determine if the current grazing practices are consistent with the obtainment of allotment specific objectives for the Candelaria and Marietta Allotments. 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.

The main impetus for the evaluation is the HMAP requirement of dedicating a large portion of the Marietta HMA to burro management without the construction of projects that will restrict the wild and free roaming nature of wild burros. Although the majority of the Marietta HMA lies in the Marietta Allotment, it also overlaps into the Candelaria Allotment. Consequently, this evaluation shall address both the Marietta and Candelaria Allotments.

B. Summary of Studies Data (refer to Evaluation Summary, Appendix I)

1. Actual Use

Livestock AUM's shown below are derived from actual use records submitted by the permittees and from licensed use. The AUMs are calculated between March 1 and February 28 (BLM grazing year). Wild horse and burro use is based on BLM census and removal records, calculated on a prorata basis for each allotment in the HMA or herd areas².

²The actual numbers counted during censuses were used to calculate AUMs. Due to topography, heavy juniper and pinyon cover, etc., all wild horses and burros may not have been counted. Consequently the actual use may be greater than is shown in the tables.

a. Marietta Allotment

Year	Livestock AUMs			Burro AUMs	Horse AUMs
	McKay ³	Harris	Total		
1982	290	300	590	2,629	420
1983	158	0	158	2,192	420
1984	186	0*	186	926	420
1985	195	330*	525	926	420
1986	226	137*	363	1,384	420
1987	253	73	326	1,540	773
1988	96	0	96	627	773
1989	165	0	165	578	836

* indicates actual use data

b. Candelaria Allotment

Year	Livestock AUMs (Harris)	Burro AUMs	Horse AUMs
1982	0	539	968
1983	0	449	968
1984	651*	190	968
1985	466*	190	238
1986	101*	284	238
1987	27	316	238
1988	0	129	178
1989	0	118	155

³Figures listed in this column are from grazing licenses issued to McKay. Conversations with the permittee and BLM observations indicate that a majority of McKay's grazing was actually made in the Huntoon Valley Allotment. Additional information on this situation is available in McKay's grazing case file.

2. Precipitation

The precipitation data shown in the Evaluation Summary was provided by the National Climatological Data Center. The closest station to the evaluation area with reliable data is Mina, Nevada.

3. Utilization

Key area utilization is shown in the Evaluation Summaries. This use data was collected in spring. Allotment utilization has occurred frequently since 1976, however only data collected during the evaluation period will be addressed in this analysis.

a. Marietta Allotment

Between 1982 and 1985 heavy and severe use levels were recorded in the area of the Marietta HMA, predominately from wild burros. Note that in 1982, cattle use was also recorded in Jack Springs Canyon and in the vicinity of Company, German and Rock House Springs (referred to as the burro/cattle overlap area in this evaluation). However, no cattle use has been recorded in those areas since then.

In fall, 1988, spring, 1989, and fall, 1989, slight to moderate use levels were recorded in the HMA from burros and rodents (and/or rabbits). The area of moderate use was east of Teels Marsh and was exclusively from rodents (and/or rabbits). The moderate use was recorded only during the spring of 1989.

b. Candelaria Allotment

The portion of Marietta Burro HMA overlapping into Candelaria allotment showed moderate use by wild burros in 1985. In fall, 1988, spring, 1989, and fall, 1989, slight to light levels were recorded.

Other than the portion within Marietta HMA, allotment-wide utilization data has been recorded only once during the evaluation period. In 1985, moderate to heavy use by cattle was recorded in the basin west of Candelaria (ghost town) and in the vicinity of Candelaria Junction. The remainder of the allotment showed slight use.

4. Trend

Three key areas with frequency studies have been established in the evaluation area: two in Marietta Allotment (M001 and M002) and one in Candelaria Allotment (D001). Frequency data was collected on all the key areas during 1985 and 1988. Refer to the Evaluation Summaries (Appendix I) for results and Map No. 1 for locations.

Key areas M001 and D001 showed no significant changes in percent frequency of key species. M002 showed a significant decrease in ricegrass, but no significant change in fourwing saltbush. "Significance" is based on analysis-of-variance results as determined by the Bureau's XMONITOR computer program (5% and 10% levels of significance).

5. Range Survey Data

The range survey, done in 1953 indicated 2303 AUM's in the Marietta Allotment and 2300 AUM's in the Candelaria Allotment was available for winter cattle grazing. A recalculation of this data due to the U.S. Forest Service Interchange showed 2,249 AUM's available in Marietta Allotment (no change in Candelaria Allotment).

6. Ecological Status

An order 3 soil survey has been completed throughout the evaluation area. Ecological sites were identified, however ecological status was not recorded. The ecological status for the key areas identified in 1985 are shown below.

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Key Area</u>	<u>% PNC*</u>	<u>Seral Stage</u>
Marietta	M001	27	Mid-Seral
	M002	32	Mid-Seral
Candelaria	D001	40	Mid-Seral

* Percent Potential Natural Community

7. Wildlife Habitat

No studies have been established in the evaluation area to monitor specific aspects of wildlife habitat.

8. Riparian Habitat

No studies have been established in the evaluation area to monitor riparian habitats. Two important riparian areas exist on public lands in the portion of the evaluation area with historic livestock use. These areas (Rock House and German Springs) are scheduled for development with source protection in the Marietta HMAP. Development is pending joint filings for water rights with the livestock permittees. Both these sources are in the burro / cattle overlap portion of Marietta Allotment.

Belleville Spring is an old water development located in Candelaria Allotment. Since heavy use levels have not been recorded at this spring, it is not scheduled for protection.

9. Wild Horse and Burro Habitat

Refer to actual use, utilization and trend sections.

V. Conclusions

The objectives discussed in Section III. C. are discussed below in relation to being met, not met, or not determined. Objectives have been grouped due to similarities.

A. Authorizing Livestock Use

Initially, authorize livestock grazing at the three year use level [722 AUM's for Marietta Allotment as per Draft RMP, pages 3-8 and 3-9] if this use is consistent with the

attainment of the multiple use objectives for the allotment. There will be no initial change of active preference. RMP Objective a, 1).

Initially provide 1536 AUMs of forage in the Marietta Allotment. Initially provide 1200 AUMs of forage in the Candelaria Allotment on a temporary and nonrenewable basis to lessen grazing pressure on the Marietta Allotment. RPS Objective a, 1).

As shown in Section IV.B.1., the average use level during the evaluation period for the Marietta Allotment has been significantly lower than the three-year level analyzed in the RMP.

Since the Draft RMP was published in 1984, temporary and nonrenewable grazing has been authorized in the Candelaria Allotment to help relieve competition pressures between cattle and burros. The average use level in Marietta and Candelaria Allotments since 1984 is 548 AUM's.

Although these objectives have not been met, it has been the result of non-use requested by the permittees.

B. Utilization, Trend, and Condition

Develop and implement AMPs on seven Category I allotments, and continue implementation of existing AMPs on one Category I Allotment and four Category M allotments to improve and/or maintain 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 burros, and wildlife [emphasis added]. RMP Objective b, 1).

The main goals of this objective are emphasized above. If they can be accomplished without an AMP, the intent of this objective would be met. This objective applies to Marietta Allotment (Candelaria is a Category M Allotment without an existing AMP).

Maintain an acceptable allowable use level for key species on key areas in the Marietta Allotment. Initially this will be 55%, but may be changed to meet allotment specific conditions as additional monitoring data is collected. RPS Objective a, 2).

Limit use on bitterbrush to 45% on key deer winter range in the Marietta Allotment. RPS Objective a, 3).

Improve ecological condition from early seral to mid seral on key management areas in the Marietta Allotment. Maintain existing trend and condition on key area in the Candelaria Allotment. RPS Objective b, 1).

In order to increase the frequency of Indian ricegrass 5% over a five year period in the severe utilization area, maintain 55% utilization. HMAP Objective a, 1).

Trend data shows no significant change of key species in Candelaria Allotment, therefore the objective for this allotment is being met.

The utilization levels in the Marietta Allotment have been maintained at 41% (moderate use) or less since fall, 1988. The downward trend in Indian ricegrass as shown in key area M002 may be attributed to the heavy to moderate spring use levels during 1986 and 1987 (note that M001 showed no significant change in ricegrass, but experienced light to moderate spring use levels in 1986 and 1987). In spring of 1988, no use was

recorded at M002. If utilization can be maintained at lower levels, an upward trend should be shown the next time the frequency studies are read.

Based on monitoring results, the objectives for Marietta Allotment were not met prior to 1987. Until future monitoring data can be collected, the accomplishment of these objectives since 1987 can not be determined.

C. Wildlife Habitat

Manage wildlife habitat for a long term goal of providing forage for reasonable numbers of big game. RMP Objective b, 3).

Maintain habitat condition to support a population of 479 mule deer from January 5 to May 15 and 11 mule deer yearlong (513 AUMs) in the Marietta Allotment. Maintain habitat to support a population of 51 mule deer yearlong (153 AUMs) and a population of 75 bighorn sheep yearlong (180 AUMs) in the Candelaria Allotment. RPS Objective b, 2).

No studies nor inventories have been performed to analyze wildlife habitat condition. Therefore, the accomplishment of this objective cannot be determined.

D. Riparian Management

Limit utilization on 2 upland riparian areas in the Marietta Allotment to 55%. RPS Objective a, 4).

Maintain or improve upland riparian sites in the Marietta Allotment to late seral stage. RPS Objective b, 3).

Upon acquiring water permits, the two upland riparian sites will be fenced. Applications to the State Water Engineer are pending completion of the required survey.

E. Wild Horse and Burro Numbers

Initially manage wild horses and burros at present estimated population levels. RMP Objective a, 2)

Maintain a healthy herd of 85 head of burros, with variation of approximately 20 percent. HMAP Objective a, 2)

Initially provide for approximately 840 AUMs of forage for wild burros in Marietta Allotment and 180 AUMs in Candelaria Allotment which are prorated demands based on an estimate of 83% in Marietta and 17% in Candelaria. RPS Objective a, 5).

Initially provide for approximately 156 AUMs of forage for wild horses in the Marietta Allotment, which is the prorated demand based on an estimated 35% of the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory. Provide for approximately 648 AUMs in Candelaria Allotment, which is the prorated demand based on 15% of the Garfield Flat Herd Area. RPS Objective a, 6).

Based on census records, the burro population is below the HMAP objective. Since monitoring data indicates that use levels are slight to light in most of the HMA, it can be

concluded that adequate forage exists to support the current population. Also, more burros may actually exist in the HMA than were counted (refer to Section IV, B).

Wild horse populations are above RPS levels in Marietta Allotment, and below RPS population levels in Candelaria Allotment.

F. Marietta Wild Burro Range

Propose an area near Marietta for designation as the Marietta National Wild Burro Range. RMP Objective b, 2).

Propose designation of 68,000 acres as Marietta National Wild Burro Range. RPS Objective b, 4)

Designation of the Marietta Wild Burro Range was approved by the Director on October 31, 1989.

G. Exclusive Burro Management in Marietta HMA

Develop an AMP that will *dedicate a majority of the Marietta Wild Burro Herd Management Area to burro management, either by adjusting allotment boundaries or closing area to livestock [emphasis added].* HMAP Objective b, 1).

The main goal of this objective is emphasized above. If this can be done without an AMP, the intent of the objective would be met. To this date, no actions have been taken to either adjust the boundaries of Marietta Allotment or to exclude livestock grazing in any part of the Marietta HMA. Therefore, this objective has not been met.

H. Free Roaming Nature of Wild Horses and Burros

Maintain or improve the free-roaming behavior of wild horses and burros by protecting or enhancing the Herd Area. RPS Objective b, 6).

Range improvement projects restricting the free roaming behavior and movement of wild burros will not be allowed. HMAP Objective b, 2).

No projects have been constructed in the evaluation area that would restrict the free roaming behavior and movement of wild burros. Therefore these objectives have been met.

I. Wild Horse and Burro Water

Maintain or improve wild horse and burro habitat by insuring that all waters remain open to use by wild horses and burros. RPS Objective b, 5).

To ensure long term availability of water for wild burros by filing jointly with the livestock permittees on three springs in the burro / livestock overlap area [German Springs and Rock House Spring]. Three of the spring sources will be protected with water available in troughs or small dugouts for all animals to drink from. HMAP Objective b, 3).

The first objective has been met (all waters on public land have remained open to wild horse and burro use). The second objective has not been met (Applications to the State Engineer are pending completion of the required survey).

VI. Technical Recommendations

Based on the preceding analysis, the following recommendations should be pursued in the form of an agreement or decision. Refer to Map No. 2 for proposed boundary adjustments.

- A. Separate the Little Huntoon Valley portion of Marietta Allotment as a separate use area for Mervin McKay. This would become the Little Huntoon Allotment and used in conjunction with his Forest Service Allotments in Huntoon Valley (including the formerly BLM administered Huntoon Valley Allotment). The estimated grazing capacity for this area as per the 1953 range survey is 128 AUM's. No more than this amount should be authorized until monitoring indicates an increase or decrease is warranted. Spring grazing any later than April 15 (the current off-date) should be restricted to allow for recovery of key species.
- B. Adjust the boundary of Candelaria Allotment to exclude the Marietta Burro HMA. Although the range survey showed 2,300 AUM's of winter livestock forage, no more than half this amount (1,150 AUM's) should be authorized initially. Spring grazing any later than April 15 should be restricted. Water hauling would be required to make the majority of this use.
- C. Adjust the boundary of Marietta Allotment to exclude the portion of the Marietta Allotment north of the burro / livestock overlap area. Allow no more than 672 AUMs cattle use (current Marietta preference minus the Little Huntoon AUMs) in the remainder of the Marietta Allotment. Spring grazing after April 15 (the current off-date) should be restricted.
- D. Allow no more than 1,418 AUMs livestock use (total preference of both permittees minus the Little Huntoon AUMs) in the combined Marietta and Candelaria Allotments.
- E. Pursue joint water filings on German Spring (a possible water hauling source) and Rock House Spring.

These recommendations would accomplish the following actions in order to meet allotment objectives:

- A. Dedicate a major portion of the Marietta HMA to wild burro use.
Objective: HMAP b 1).
- B. Maintain current active preference.
Objectives: RMP a 1); RPS a 1).
- C. File for water rights on German and Rock House Springs, which will subsequently allow for the riparian habitat at the spring sources to be protected while providing water for livestock, wild burros, and wildlife.
Objectives: RPS a 4); RPS b 3); RPS b 5); HMAP b 3.
- D. Accomplish the above actions without restricting free roaming nature of wild horses and burros.
Objectives: RPS b 6); HMAP b 2).

APPENDIX I
EVALUATION SUMMARIES

Key Area M001 (Marietta Allotment).....I-1
Key Area M002 (Marietta Allotment).....I-2
Key Area D001 (Candelaria Allotment).....I-3

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
KEY MANAGEMENT AREA
EVALUATION SUMMARY

District
Carson City

Planning Area
Walker Resource Area

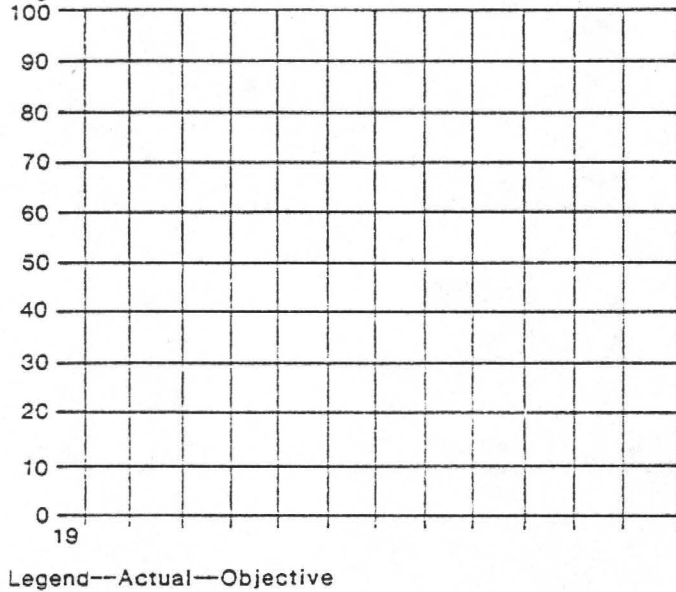
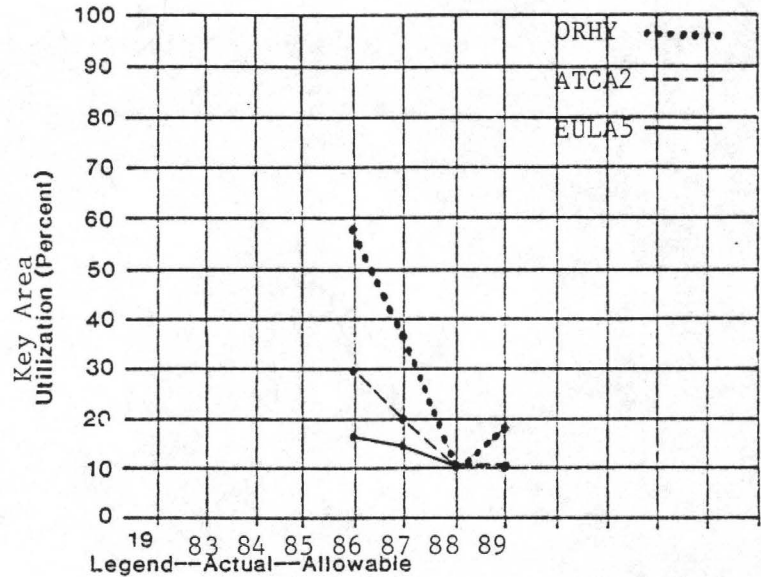
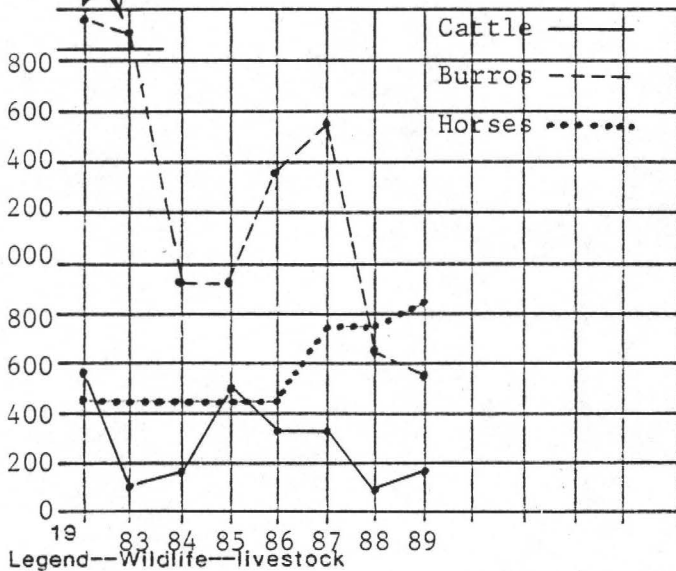
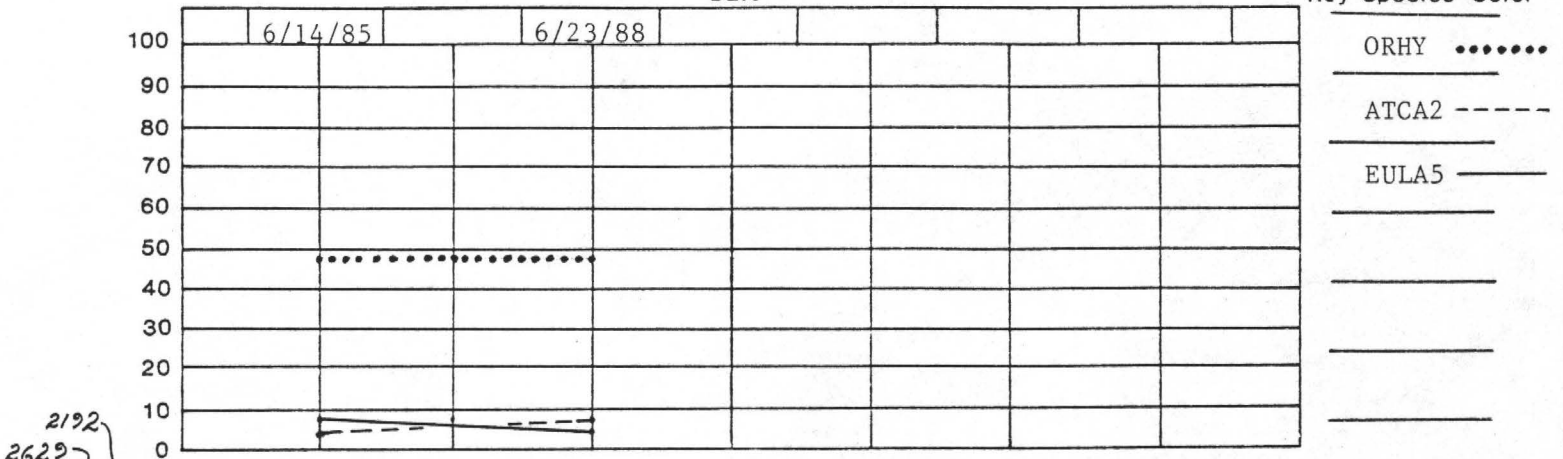
Date
4/2/90

Allotment
Marietta

Key Management Area
M001

Trend Index (Frequency)
Date

Code
Key Species-Color



UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 KEY MANAGEMENT AREA
 EVALUATION SUMMARY

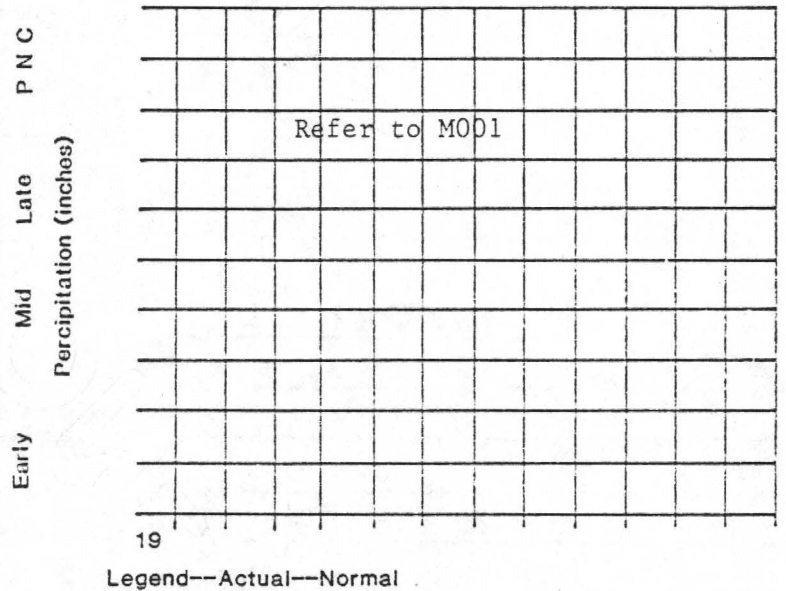
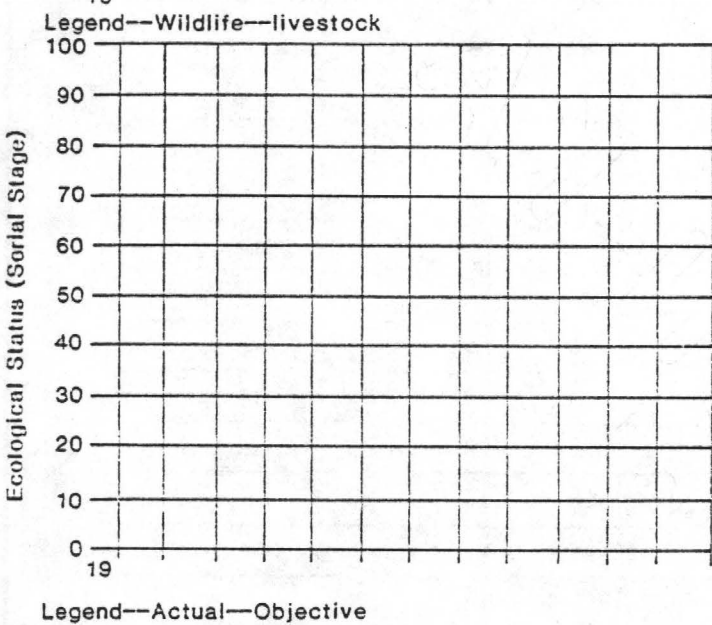
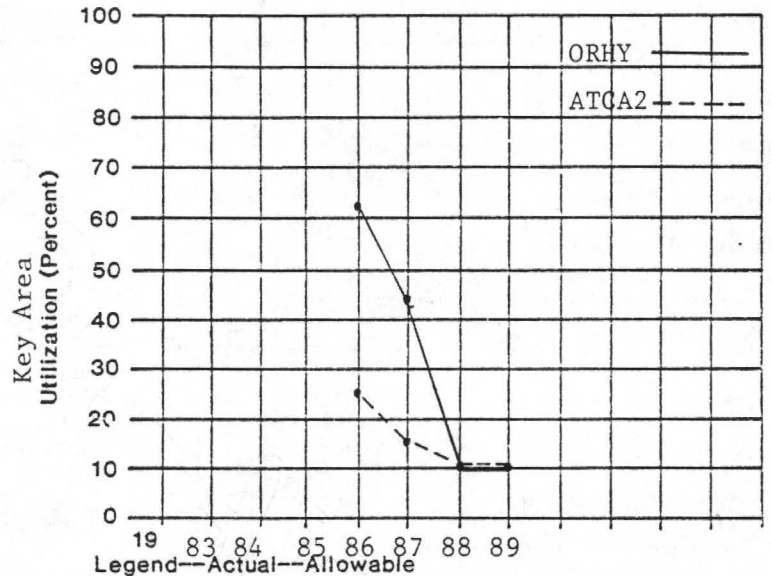
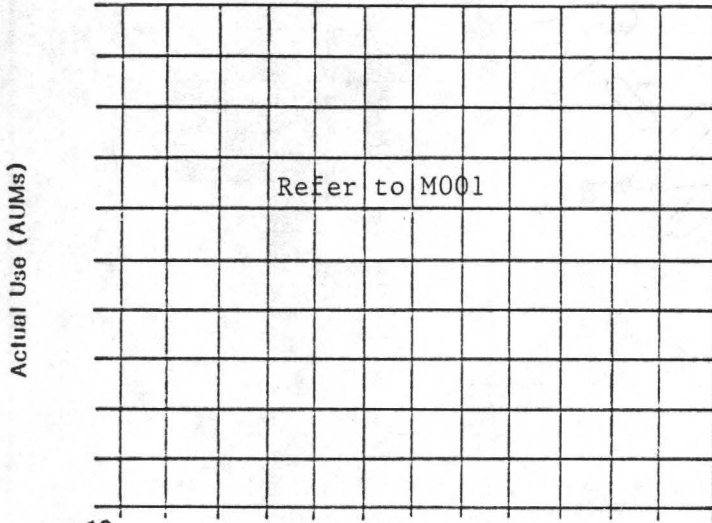
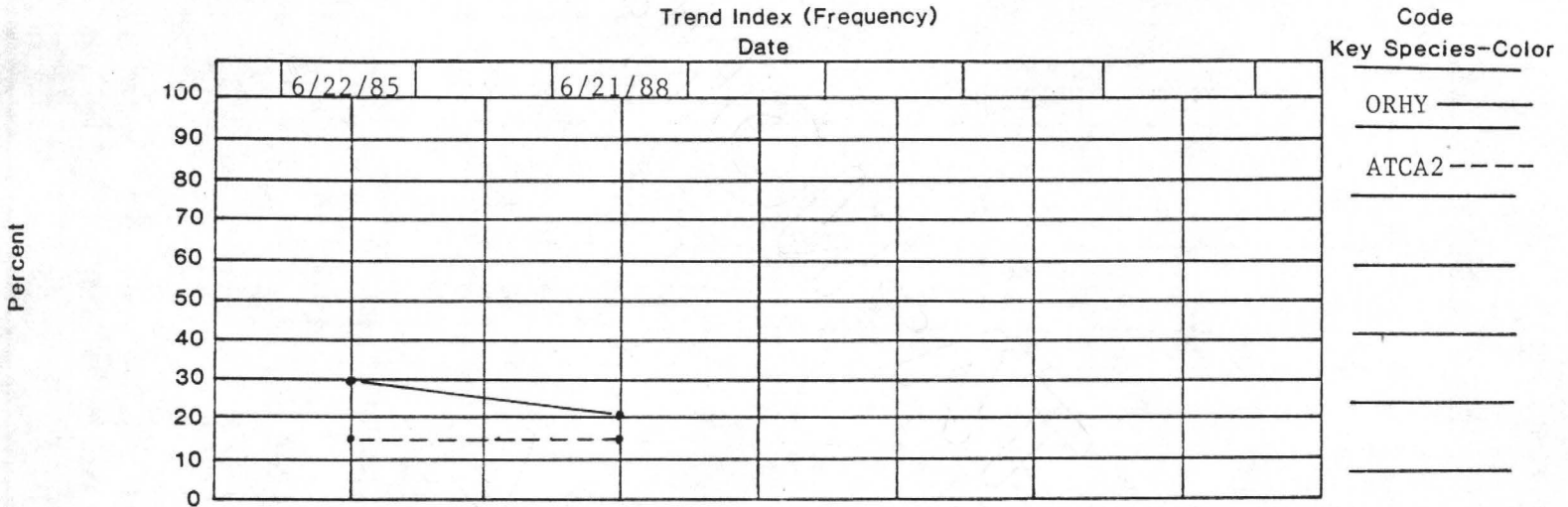
District Carson City

Planning Area Walker Resource Area

Date 4/2/90

Allotment Marietta

Key Management Area M002



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
KEY MANAGEMENT AREA
EVALUATION SUMMARY

District
Carson City

Planning Area
Walker Resource Area

Date
4/2/90

Allotment

Candelaria

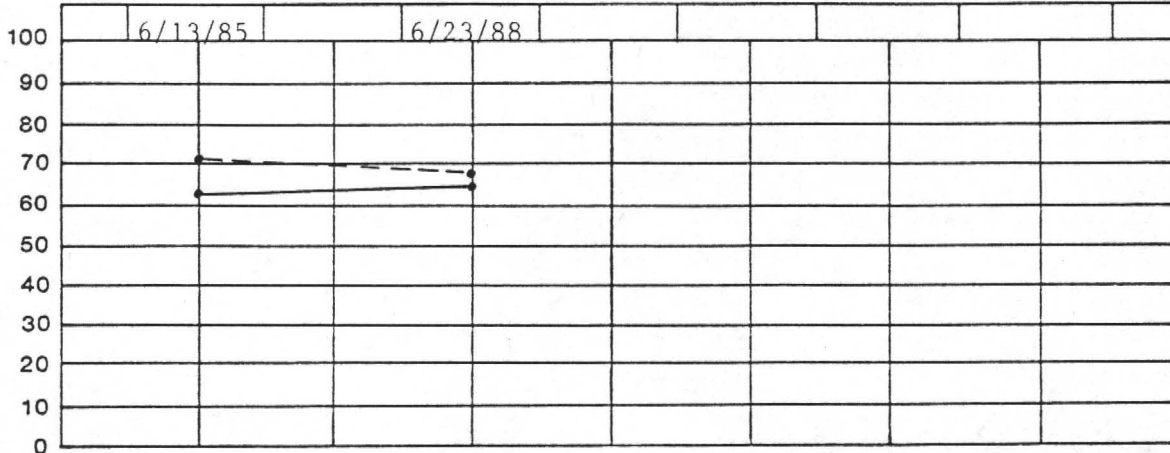
Key Management Area

D001

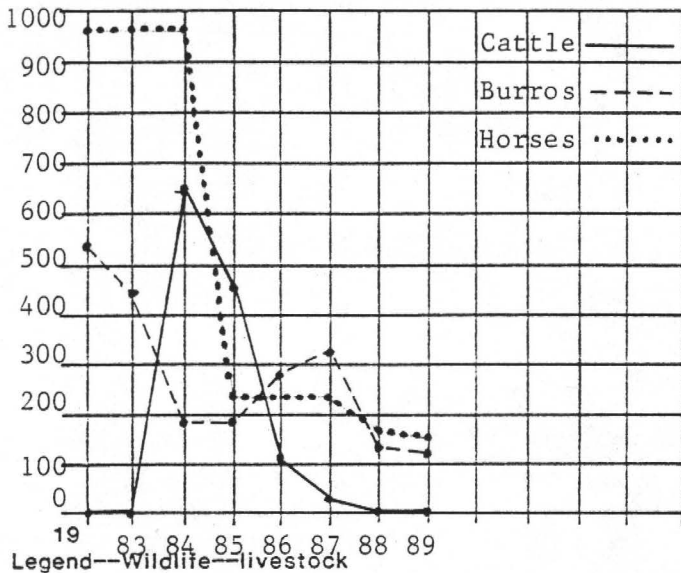
Trend Index (Frequency)
Date

Code

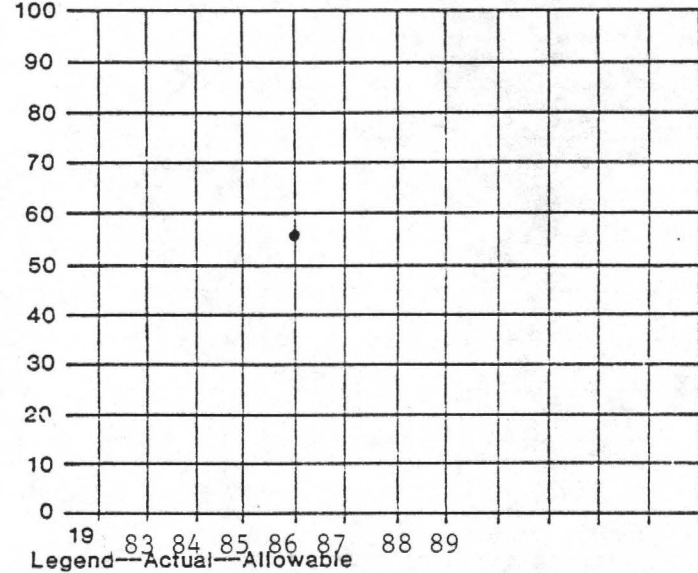
Key Species-Color



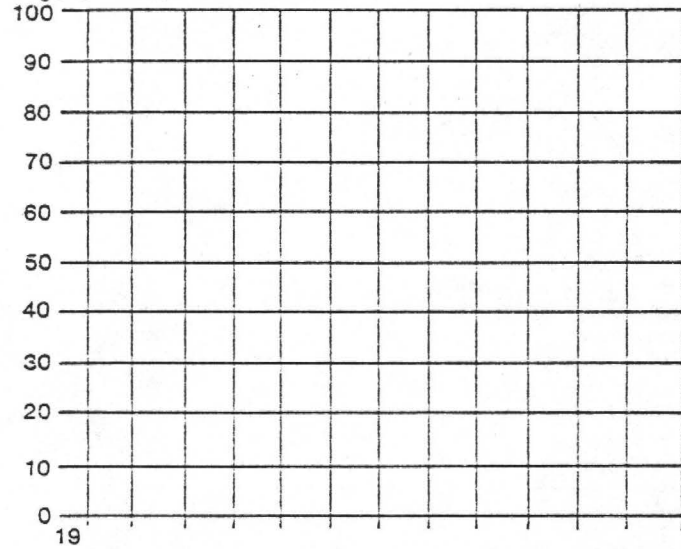
ORHY ———
ARSP5 - - - -
—————
—————
—————
—————



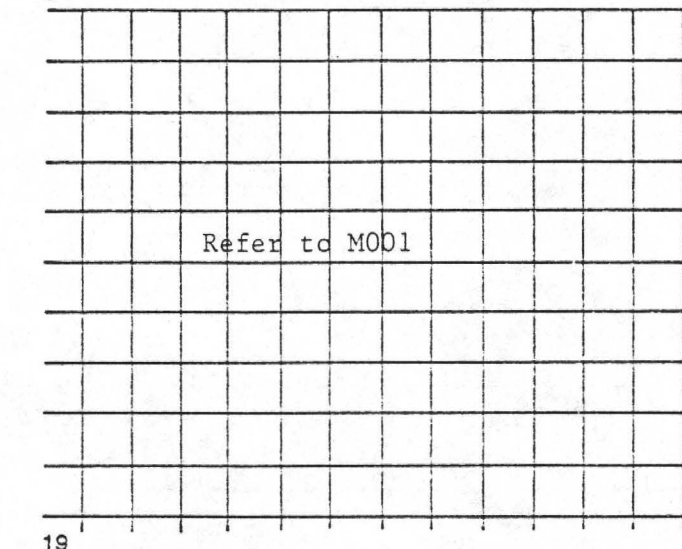
Legend--Wildlife--livestock



Legend--Actual--Allowable



Legend--Actual--Objective



Legend--Actual--Normal

