



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Ely District Office  
HC33 Box 150  
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4400.3  
(NV-047)

JUN 07 1991

Commission For The Preservation  
of Wild Horses  
Stewart Facility  
Capitol Complex  
Carson City, NV 89710

Dear Participant:

We appreciate your interest in being involved in the allotment evaluation consultation process and enclosed for your information and review are the Cold Creek, Horse Haven and North Cove allotment monitoring evaluation(s). This is your opportunity again to (provide allotment specific information) and also provide comments to the evaluation which will be incorporated into Section VII, Management Action Selection Report. We would appreciate receiving your information and/or comments by July 12, 1991, to allow adequate time to review all input and to adhere to our deadlines. All of the information received will be evaluated and considered in the final portion of the evaluation which is the selection of a management action.

We appreciate your participation and solicit your continued involvement in the consultation process.

Sincerely,

Gene L. Drais, Manager  
Egan Resource Area

3 Enclosure

1. Cold Creek (28 pp)
2. Horse Haven (10 pp)
3. North Cove (14 pp)

## HORSE HAVEN ALLOTMENT EVALUATION SUMMARY

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Horse Haven allotment (0620) is a category "I" allotment, involving 25,000 federal acres, partially fenced, situated at the north end of the Maverick Range, just south of the Elko county line. See Appendix 1 for a general allotment map. The permittees are Lincoln Land & Livestock, and Raymond Rosenlund, of Ruby Valley, Nevada. The Buck, Bald, Maverick and Diamond Mountains Habitat Management Plan (HMP) includes the Horse Haven Allotment. There are no other current activity plans for this allotment.

### II. INITIAL STOCKING LEVEL

#### A. Livestock Use

Total preference for the allotment is 1056 AUM's of spring/summer/fall cattle use. Lincoln Land & Livestock maintains 1038 AUM's, while Rosenlund has 18 AUM's, licensed to cover cattle drift onto an unfenced portion of the allotment from the Ruby Valley allotment. The three year average stocking rate used in the Egan Resource Area Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) is 671 AUM's cattle use. The allotment has actually been in non-use since 1983.

#### B. Wild Horse Use

The allotment falls within the boundaries of the Buck and Bald Wild Horse Herd Management Area (HMA). See Appendix 2 for the District HMA map. The Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) objective for this allotment is to provide habitat and forage for approximately (28) horses, or 335 AUM's yearlong use. During wild horse census for this allotment, there were no horses found in the small portion of Long Valley Wash included within the allotment boundaries. Animals censused in this area are included in the counts for the adjoining allotments, Warm Springs and Medicine Butte, and their impacts will be evaluated for those allotments, since they contain the majority of Long Valley Wash. Horses were censused on much of the remainder of the allotment, primarily in the Maverick Range.

Table 1. Wild horse census results, Horse Haven allotment (exclusive of Long Valley Wash).

<u>Census date</u>	<u>Number of horses</u>	<u>AUM's</u>
3/89	36	432
6/87	15	180
12/85	27	324
9/85	13	156
2/80	23	276


migration/seasonal movement gather?

### C. Wildlife Use

The RPS objective for this allotment is to provide forage and habitat for 12 AUM's for antelope, 540 AUM's for deer, and to provide for possible antelope reintroduction. There are no key or critical wildlife management areas (i.e. sage grouse leks or ferruginous hawk nests).


### III. ALLOTMENT PROFILE

#### A. Description

The Horse Haven allotment (0620) includes 25,000 federal acres, partially fenced, situated at the north end of the Maverick Range, just south of the Elko County line. The allotment is entirely native range, and varies from black sage and winterfat types in the valley bottoms to pinyon/juniper and mountain brush types in the mountains and foothills. Water is provided by two wells, one spring, and seasonal snow availability. Of the 5 riparian areas identified in the 1982 Egan RA inventory, only one area, Salas Spring (1 acre) meets the District definition of riparian vegetation. 

#### B. Allotment Specific Objectives

##### 1. Land Use Plan (RMP) Objectives

- (a) Rangeland Management - All vegetation will be managed for those successional stages which would best meet the objective of this proposed plan. (Egan Resource Area Record of Decision, p. 3)
- (b) Wild Horses - Wild horses will be managed at a total of 700 animals within the Buck and Bald HMA (Egan ROD, p. 6)
  - Future adjustments in wild horse numbers will be based on data provided through the rangeland monitoring program. (Egan ROD, p. 8)
- (c) Wildlife - Habitat will be managed for "reasonable numbers" of wildlife species as determined by NDOW. (Egan ROD, p. 6)
  - Forage will be provided for "reasonable numbers" of big game as determined by NDOW (Egan ROD, p. 8) 
- (d) Watershed - Establish utilization limits to maintain watershed cover, plant vigor and soil fertility in consideration of plant phenology, physiology, terrain, water availability, wildlife needs, grazing system and aesthetic values. (Egan ROD, p. 44)

## 2. Rangeland Program Summary Objectives

- (a) Maintain or improve ecological condition of native range with utilization levels not to exceed Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook (NRMH) recommended allowable use levels. Allowable use level for perennial grasses and shrubs is 50%.
- (b) Manage rangeland habitat and forage condition to support 12 AUM's for pronghorn antelope.
- (c) Maintain mule deer habitat in good or better condition. Provide for 540 AUM's deer use.
- (d) Protect sage grouse breeding complexes and maintain habitat condition of meadows and riparian areas in good or better condition for mule deer, antelope, and upland game. Utilization levels not to exceed 55% on perennial grasses and 45% on shrubs along stream riparian areas and mesic meadows.
- (e) Manage rangeland habitat to support wild horses as part of the Buck and Bald HMA by not exceeding allowable use levels on native species as recommended in the NRMH. Provide forage for up to 335 AUM's (28 horses) within the allotment.

## 3. Key Species Identification

Key forage plants for livestock, wildlife and wild horses on the allotment are as follows:

Bitterbrush (Purshia tridentata) - not a key species for  
wild horses

Winterfat (Eurotia lanata)

Indian ricegrass (Oryzopsis hymenoides)

Needle and thread (Stipa comata)

## IV. MANAGEMENT EVALUATION

### A. Purpose

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess whether or not current management practices are meeting the multiple use objectives for the allotment and to determine the appropriate stocking level.

### B. Summary of Studies Data

Utilization patterns were mapped in 1990, and use transects (on key areas only) were completed in 1982 and 1989. There are two key areas identified for the allotment, one on a winterfat/ricegrass site, and one on a mountain brush community. No frequency transects have been established, but ecological status (condition) was read in September of 1989. A portion of the allotment was condition mapped (Ecological Status Inventory) in 1986, in conjunction with the adjoining Ruby Valley allotment.

## 1. Utilization Data

Use pattern mapping was completed for the allotment in the fall of 1990, and utilization transects were completed for key areas in 1982 and 1989, to evaluate spring/summer/fall cattle and wild horse use. Utilization transects were also completed for the Long Valley Wash area in spring and fall of 1990 to evaluate wild horse use on Horse Haven and adjoining allotments. Use map results are shown in Table 3, and key area utilization is shown in Table 4. These results do not include the data from the limited portion of Long Valley Wash within the allotment boundary. This area will be evaluated along with the Warm Springs and Medicine Butte Allotments, which contain the majority of the wash area, on the premise that if problems are indicated and solved for the adjoining areas in Long Valley Wash, this area will also be taken care of. Utilization transects in this area in all three allotments indicate severe use of key species by wild horses.

Table 2. Use pattern mapping summary - acres and (percent) by use class for the allotment in 1990, not including the Long Valley Wash area.

<u>Slight</u> <u>(0 - 20%)</u>	<u>Light</u> <u>(21 - 40%)</u>	<u>Moderate</u> <u>(41 - 60%)</u>	<u>Heavy</u> <u>(61 - 80%)</u>	<u>Severe</u> <u>(80 - 100%)</u>
16658(87.5)	1119(5.9)	439(2.3)	660(3.5)	151(0.8)

Other than the Long Valley Wash portion, the limited areas of heavy use (>60%) make up less than 5 % of the allotment. Heavy use in these areas by horses and cattle is largely unavoidable, since they consist of narrow draw bottoms in steep topography near water.

Table 3. Key area utilization

<u>Key Area</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Key Species</u>	<u>Utilization (%)</u>
HH-1	1982	EULA	57
		ORHY	57
	1989	EULA	55
		ORHY	55
	1990	EULA	81 *
		ORHY	82 *
HH-2	1982	PUTR	31
		STCO	45
	1989	PUTR	13
		STCO	31
	1990	PUTR	16
		STCO	56

\* - severe ratings in 1990 were caused by a small group of trespass cattle which hung on this key area for some time.

*were they changed?*  
2. Actual Use Data

Livestock have not been licensed on Horse Haven Allotment since 1982. For 1982, actual use was reported as 170 cattle 5/1 - 9/20, for a total of 850 AUM's. Because this is the only year of livestock use since the monitoring effort started for this allotment, calculation of proper stocking rate for livestock is not feasible, due to lack of data.

### 3. Trend/Ecological Status

Ecological status (condition) was read on both key areas in September 1989 with the following results:

<u>Key Area</u>	<u>Key Species</u>	<u>Range Site</u>	<u>Ecol. Status</u>
HH-1	ARTR/EULA/ORHY	28BY010NV	Late Seral (59%)
HH-2	ARTR/PUTR/STCO	28BY007NV	Late Seral (64%)

Both key areas have vegetation in the desired ecological condition and a desirable mix of plant species. Ecological Status Inventory completed in 1986 on a total of 3840 acres, indicates mid to late seral stages for the area surveyed.



## V. CONCLUSIONS

### A. Land Use Plan Objectives

#### III. B. 1. (a) - Met

Rationale: Existing vegetation is in acceptable successional stages, and utilization levels have not exceeded allowable levels on 97% of the allotment, exclusive of Long Valley Wash.

#### III. B. 1. (b) - Met

Rationale: Wild horses have made and continue to make use of this allotment at or above the levels provided for in the RMP, and allowable use levels have not been exceeded on 97% of the allotment, exclusive of Long Valley Wash.

#### III. B. 1. (c) - Met

Rationale: Areas to be used by antelope are in appropriate seral stages and allowable use levels are not being exceeded.

#### III. B. 1. (d) - Met

Rationale: Allowable use levels have not been exceeded on the majority of the allotment.

### B. Rangeland Program Summary Objectives

#### III. B. 2. (a) - Met

Rationale: Existing vegetation is in acceptable successional stages, and utilization levels have not exceeded allowable levels on 97% of the allotment, exclusive of Long Valley Wash.

#### III. B. 2. (b) - Met

Rationale: Areas to be used by antelope are in appropriate seral stages and allowable use levels are not being exceeded.

#### III. B. 2. (c) - Met

Rationale: Areas used by mule deer are in appropriate seral stages and allowable use levels are not being exceeded.

#### III. B. 2. (d) - Met

Rationale: No sage grouse lek/brood complexes have been identified for this allotment. Of the 5 riparian areas identified in the 1982 Egan RA inventory, only one area, Salas Spring (1 acre) meets the District definition of riparian. This area received slight use when use mapped in 1990.

#### III. B. 2. (e) - Met

Rationale: Existing vegetation is in acceptable successional stages, and utilization levels have not exceeded allowable levels on 97% of the allotment, exclusive of Long Valley Wash.

## VI. TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Problems

No major resource conflicts are indicated at this time. However, livestock impacts have not been evaluated, due to non-use during the analysis years.

### B. Solutions

#### 1. Short term solutions/options

##### Livestock

Comparison of actual use AUM's with utilization data to calculate a stocking rate is not valid in this case, because of a lack of livestock use during the monitoring period. Therefore, the recommendation is to continue with existing preference levels, document the files, and continue periodic monitoring. Subsequent third and fifth year re-evaluations will cover any subsequent livestock use. During subsequent Land Use Plan revisions, consideration should be given to recategorizing this allotment to the "M" category, based on a lack of major conflicts.

##### Wild horses

Since all objectives are being met at the current levels of use by horses, the Appropriate Management Level for the portion of the Buck and Bald HMA within the Horse Haven allotment (exclusive of the Long Valley Wash portion) should be set at 36 horses yearlong (432 AUMs). This is based on current monitoring and estimated existing use by horses.

#### 2. Long Term Solutions

Regardless of which short term option or combination of options is selected, the following long term solutions would be implemented:

- (a) Continue to monitor to determine if adjustments to livestock and/or wild horse use are necessary.
- (b) Manage wild horse numbers at a level which will maintain a thriving natural ecological balance as determined through monitoring.



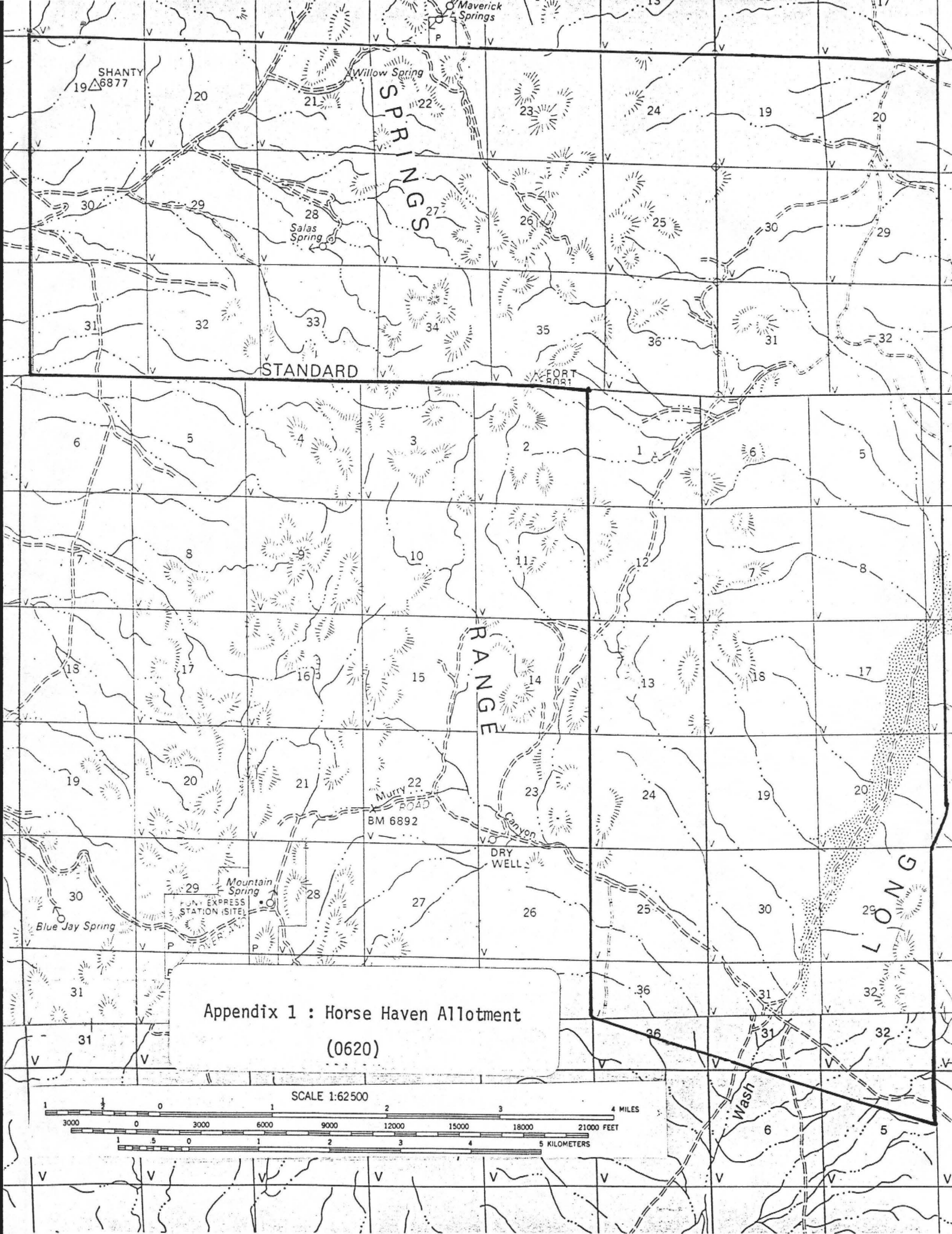
### 3. Additional Monitoring Data Required

Continue to conduct use pattern mapping.

Continue to conduct aerial census of wild horses to monitor movements and actual use.

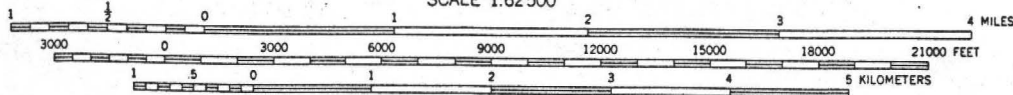
Continue to monitor livestock and wildlife actual use. This should include cattle and horse counts, both within the Horse Haven Allotment boundaries and the adjacent areas in Maverick Springs and Ruby Valley allotments.

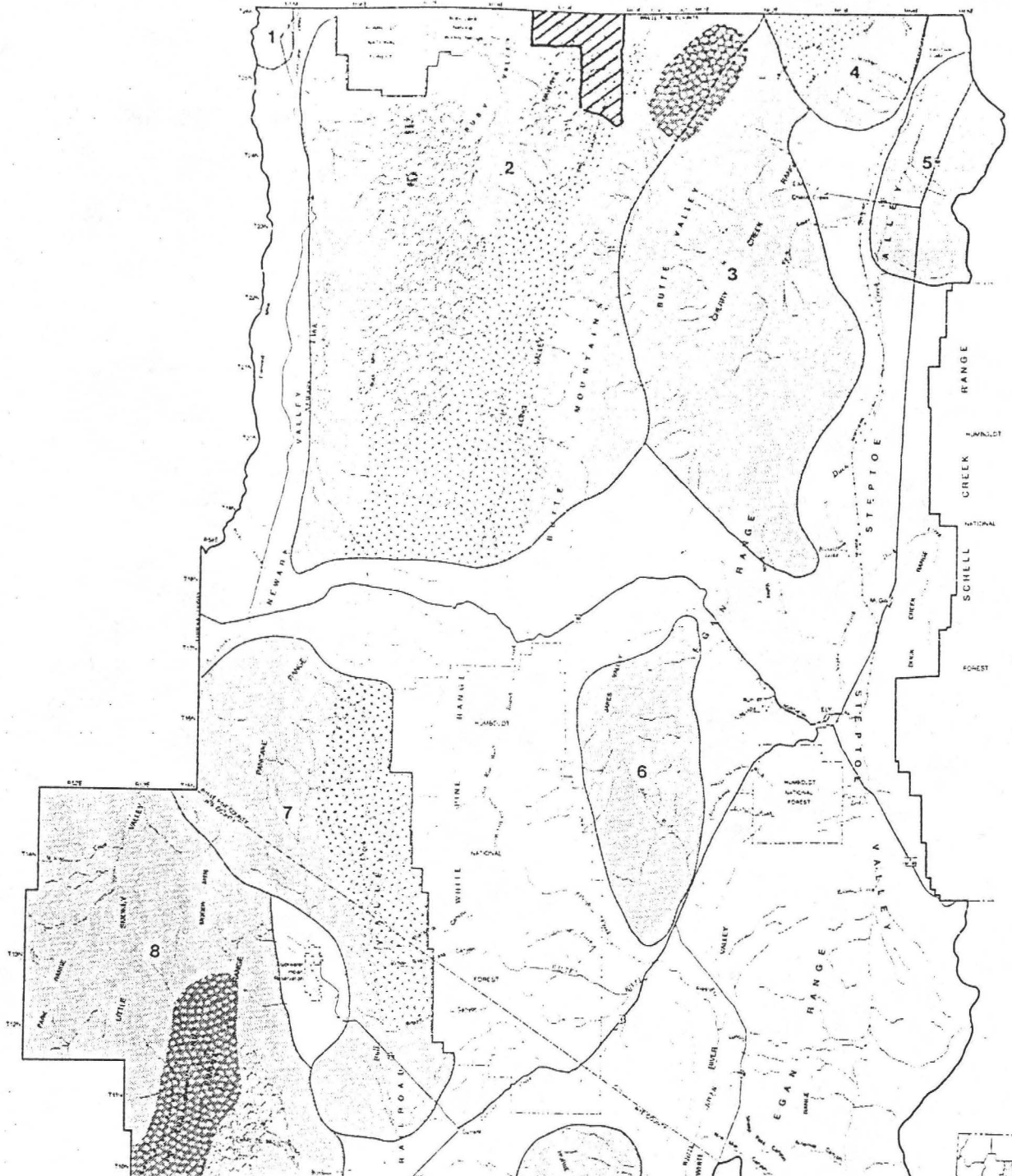
Map ecological status for the entire allotment using the recently completed third order soil survey and updated range site information.



Appendix 1 : Horse Haven Allotment  
(0620)

SCALE 1:62500





KEY USE AREAS

-  SUMMER
-  WINTER
-  YEARLONG

HERD USE AREAS (HORSE NUMBERS)

- 1 Diamond Hill (36)
- 2 Buck and Bald (700)
- 3 Butte (60)
- 4 Cherry Creek (11)
- 5 Antelope (14)
- 6 Jakes Wash (20)
- 7 Monte Cristo (96)
- 8 Sand Springs (494)
- 9 White River (20)

**1**

APPENDIX 2. Ely District Wild Horse Herd Management Areas



- Horse Haven Allotment

FAXED 7/12/91

BOB MILLER  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

CATHERINE BARCOMB  
Executive Director



**COMMISSION FOR THE  
PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES**

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July 12, 1991

Gene L. Draiss, Manager  
Egan Resource Area  
Ely district Office  
HC33 Box 150  
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

Dear Mr. Draiss,  
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Cold Creek,  
Horse Haven, and North Cove allotment monitoring evaluations.

**COLD CREEK**

I need clarification of some of the statements presented. On page 14 you presented that fences were down and in disrepair by the permittee allowing for for movement of livestock in various pastures. Were the horses contained in their HMA by this boundary? You had also mentioned removal of any horses outside of their HMA? Has the disrepair of the fencing allowed the horses to leave thier HMA thus causing a potential removal of those animals? When will the fences be repaired?

On page 12 you state "actual use AUM's for these pastures includes estimates of wild horse use...based on field observations and professional judgement." I am not quite sure what you mean by this statement, how does this compare to helicopter census data for accuracy? How can this be documented for census?

**NORTH COVE & HORSE HAVEN**

Thank you for the receipt of these monitoring evaluations. At this time I have no comments or need for clarification on these documents. Please continue to include me in any correspondence in the future concerning these allotments.

I would appreciate a written response to my questions. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Cathy Barcomb in cursive.

CATHY BARCOMB  
Executive Director