

Deer Lodge Canyon Ely

1/12/83

**LINCOLN COUNTY CRMP COMMITTEE**  
**Agricultural Services Complex**  
**Box 8, Caliente, Nevada 89008**  
**(702) 726-3101**

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(N-057.6)

January 12, 1983

Dear CRMP Members:

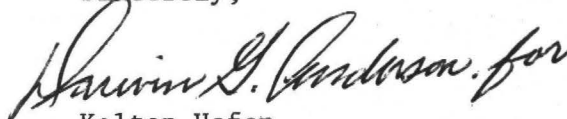
The Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP) process in the Caliente Resource Area is progressing satisfactorily. As a CRMP member your active participation is required to assure the continued success of our planning effort.

The next meeting of the Caliente Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Committee will be on Wednesday, January 26, 1983 at 9:00 A.M. at the Agricultural Service Center in Caliente, Nevada. The allotments to be discussed are Lower Lake West, Simpson, and Condor Canyon. The discussion of the proposed wild horse re-introduction on the Little Mountain Allotment will be postponed until the February 16, 1983 CRMP meeting because of prior commitments for the National Mustang Association representatives.

Any questions you have concerning these allotments or other agenda items should be directed to the Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 237, Caliente, Nevada 89008, or phone (702) 726-3141.

Thank you for your active participation.

Sincerely,



Kelton Hafen  
Chairman

SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 5, 1983 CRMP MEETING

I. Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments

A. Objectives

B. Problems/Issues

II. Rox Tule and Rox Allotments

A. Problems/Issues

B. Objectives

III. Discussion of proposed Wild Horse re-introduction on the Little Mountain Allotment.

## CRMP MINUTES

The CRMP meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. on January 5, 1983 at the Agricultural Service Center in Caliente, Nevada by Chairman Kelton Hafen.

Those in attendance were:

Kelton Hafen	CRMP Chairman
Stuart Twitchell	ASCS
Kim Jenson	Permittee
John Ballow	Permittee
Frank Delmue	Permittee
Terry Driver	BLM, Las Vegas
Tom Combs	BLM, Las Vegas
Lenard Smith	SCS
Eddie Guerrero	BLM, Caliente
Phil Seegmiller	BLM, Caliente
Rick Orr	BLM, Caliente
Richard Sewing	National Mustang Association
Ken Lee	Permittee
Henry Rice	Permittee
Dave Henderson	BLM, Caliente
Raymond Anderson	Permittee

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotment were discussed by Phil Seegmiller. These allotments underwent partial CRMP review during 1981. The Committee felt it would be beneficial to re-evaluate this operation in the presence of their livestock representative. Since action plans have previously been developed for these allotments, our discussions centered mainly on the problems and objectives already identified as well as any new issues brought to bear.

### Objectives

1. Same.
2. Amend to read; Revise the Oak Springs AMP. The permittees do not wish to include the Cliff Springs Allotment in the Oak Springs AMP.
3. Amend to read; Develop a Forestry and Fire Plan for the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotment aimed at maintenance of the existing vegetative manipulations and identifying modified suppression areas.
4. Same.
5. Amend to read: Manage for a reasonable number of 154 mule deer for summer and 194 mule deer yearlong. Also, manage for a reasonable number of 28 bighorn sheep yearlong in the Oak Spring Allotment. Manage for 26 mule deer yearlong on the Cliff Springs Allotment.
6. Amend to read: Pasture #1 of Oak Springs is included in the Rattlesnake Wild Horse Herd Management Area. Manage for 25 horses (1982 actual count) in this management area. Pastures four and five of Oak Springs is included in the Delamar Wild Horse Herd Management Area. Manage for 95 horses (1981 actual count) in this management area.

7. Develop the following waters;
  - a. Willow Spring with approximately three miles of pipeline.
  - b. Blythe Spring.
  - c. Reconstruct Cliff Spring Pipeline.
  - d. Reconstruct Dana Spring Pipeline.
  - e. Pipe water from Pace/Wheatgrass Spring into Cliff Springs Allotment.
8. Construct the following fences;
  - a. Drift fence in Cedar Wash.
  - b. Cross fence on north end of Pasture 1 in Oak Springs.
9. Classify both allotments in selective management category "M" (maintenance). This category was approved with the stipulation that there are still several range improvements required to make the AMP work as originally planned.
10. Consider multiple uses in the development of range improvement projects.

#### Problems/Issues

1. The quarantine has been lifted. Brucellosis is no longer a problem.
2. See objective 8a.
3. See objective 8b.
4. See objective 6.
5. The Delamar and Dry Lake Valleys have been identified as possible reintroduction areas for antelope. Future range developments should consider this possibility.
6. Remains unchanged.
7. This was identified as a potential problem but subsequent investigation provided little evidence to support the contention. The spring source is fenced to exclude livestock and wild horses but is available to wildlife. There is ample water available for livestock and wild horses outside the spring source.
8. There is a portion of Pasture 1 in Oak Springs that could be better managed by including it in the Cliff Springs Allotment.

The Rox Allotment was presented by Rick Orr. The area in question is actually two allotments; Rox lies entirely in Clark County, Rox Tule is in Lincoln County. Rox Tule is perennial based with an active preference of 756 AUM's. Rox is classified as ephemeral.

## Problems/Issues

1. Cattle get trapped along the Union Pacific line.  
Action: Have Union Pacific improve the fence and install cattle-guards on each end of the canyon where the cattle get trapped. Write a letter to Union Pacific (R.M. Brown) on CRMP letterhead detailing the problem.
2. Pumps have been disappearing from the two wells in the Rox Allotment.  
Action: The committee recommended that caps be welded on the wells and the cords hidden.
3. There is a bottleneck in the fence near the south boundary and the main road.  
Action: BLM and permittee will look at the problem and recommend a solution.
4. There is a lack of water in both allotments. Water distribution is poor.  
Action: BLM and the permittees will look into the feasibility of developing new waters.
5. Portions of the Rox Tule Allotment are included within the Mormon Mountain and Meadow Valley Mountains Wilderness Study Areas.  
Action: Manage these areas according to "Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review".
6. Lack of an official livestock representative designated by the tribal council.  
Action: BLM will request a new designation of authority from the council.

## Objectives

1. Establish stocking rates through monitoring for perennial range. Manage ephemeral range according to the ephemeral regulations.  
Action: Initiate monitoring program upon stocking of the Rox Tule Allotment.
2. Upon stocking, coordinate management between ephemeral and perennial ranges.  
Action: BLM and permittees will work together to coordinate use of the two areas and provide for resting of the key forage species.
3. Classify both allotments as selective management category "C" (custodial) until the area is stocked.  
Action: Upon stocking management will remain at the custodial level until monitoring indicates a need for more intensity or resource conflicts are identified.

4. There is limited hunting and some mining in this area. Forestry values (except desert plants) are limited:

Action: None needed.

5. Manage for a reasonable number of five bighorn sheep yearlong on the Rox Tule Allotment. In addition, desert tortoise are present throughout the area.

Action: Five bighorn sheep will be the population goal managed for on Rox Tule. Desert tortoise will be considered in any management systems developed.

6. Manage for 11 wild burro's (1982 actual count) in the Meadow Valley Mountains Wild Horse and Burro Management Area.

Action: BLM will prepare a management plan for this area. The 11 burros represent the 1982 actual count and will be the number used to begin monitoring, unless a subsequent inventory takes place prior to the initiation of monitoring.

7. NDOW recommended that wild burros be excluded from bighorn sheep areas.

Action: None at present. If competition between burros and sheep is identified then look at the alternatives for mitigating the problem.

8. Consider multiple uses in all range improvements.

Action: Standard operating procedure for improvements on public lands.

The National Mustang Association made a proposal to remove problem wild horses from the Amargosa Desert for possible reintroduction on the Little Mountain Allotment. This allotment was designated as a wild horse allotment after the National Mustang Association bought the grazing privileges and relinquished them to the Bureau. The proposal is to release one band to see if they locate and stay on the allotment. If so a second band may be released for a total of approximately 30 horses. Much discussion ensued, mainly centering on the fact that the Little Mountain Allotment is unfenced and there is no way of keeping the horses there. Richard Sewing made a motion to accept the proposal to transplant one band of horses. The motion died for lack of a second. Eddie Guerrero made a motion to delay action until the next meeting so NDOW and the adjacent permittees (Dave Jenson, Wendell Mathews, J Bar P Cattle Co., and Rulon Cox) could be advised and attend the meeting if possible. The motion was seconded by Hank Rice and carried with one opposed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 26, 1983 and will cover Lower Lake West, Simpson, and Condor Canyon.

## OAK SPRINGS AND CLIFF SPRINGS ACTION PLAN (REVISED 01/05/83)

### I. Location and Size

Oak Spring and Cliff Springs Allotments are located in Lincoln County, Nevada in the Lincoln County Conservation District. Their position is along the West portion of the Delamar Mountains and the Burnt Spring range, and, West into the Dry Lake and the Delamar Valleys. The allotments are within T. 2 S. through T. 6 S., R. 63 E. through R. 66 E.

There are 1440 acres of patented mining claims in the Oak Spring Allotment with no private land in the Cliff Springs Allotment. There are 193,609 acres of public lands in the Oak Spring and 35,821 in the Cliff Springs Allotment.

### II. Physiographic and Biotic Characteristics

The Oak Spring Allotment occupies a large share of the Delamar Mountains, West of the mountains across Delamar Valley to the South Pahroc range, North of 93 where the allotment narrows through Dry Lake Valley for about 10 miles then extends to the West up Wheatgrass Wash. The elevation ranges from about 7000 feet in the Delamar Mountains to about 4800 feet in the valley.

Cliff Springs Allotment occupies the West portion of the Northern end of the Delamars North of Highway 93 through the Burnt Springs Range and down into the Dry Lake Valley. Elevation ranges from almost 6900 feet atop Gray Dome to about 4600 feet in Dry Lake Valley.

There is a wide diversity of vegetation communities represented in these allotments. The Oak Spring Allotment is comprised of approximately 38% pinyon-juniper, 31% desert shrubs, 20% sagebrush, 7% winterfat, 2% annuals, 1% mountain shrubs, and 1% saltbush.

The Cliff Springs Allotment contains approximately 29% desert shrubs, 24% winterfat, 21% sagebrush, 19% pinyon-juniper, 4% mountain shrubs, and 3% saltbush.

### III. Resource Uses

Major resource uses in the area include livestock, wildlife, recreation, wild horses, mining, and forestry products. Antelope and/or bighorn sheep may be re-introduced in the future.

NDOW has set a management goal for deer at 220 head of deer yearlong. Management goal for bighorn sheep is 28 yearlong.

### IV. Livestock Mangement

Oak Spring and Cliff Springs Allotments are managed as water base even though Oak Springs is partially a land base allotment. Since the allotments are

#### IV. Livestock Management (con't)

water base the permittee is responsible for the development of water sources. Both allotments are used year-round, the difference is that Oak Spring Allotment is under an AMP with a five pasture Rest Rotation grazing system. Oak Spring is an actual use allotment.

The total AUMs for Oak Spring Allotment is 14,997 with 5,726 suspended and 9,268 Active. Cliff Springs has a total number of AUMs of 3,243 with 1,200 suspended and 2043 Active.

The Oak Spring Allotment is under an AMP which is scheduled for revision, at which time it will be coordinated with the operator.

The five pasture Rest Rotation grazing system in the Oak Spring Allotment is set up so that pastures four and five are summer use areas and pastures one, two, and three are used as winter and summer use when either four or five are rested. Cliff Springs is used year-round with cattle rotating by season and water.

Monitoring studies have been installed on both Oak Spring and Cliff Spring.

#### V. Planning Objectives and Actions

Objective #1 Establish stocking rates through monitoring.

Action: Present active preference will be used to start monitoring. Monitoring studies to be read by BLM and operator when possible.

Objective #2 Revise the existing AMP on Oak Springs. The permittees do not wish to include the Cliff Springs Allotment in the Oak Springs AMP.

Action: BLM to work with operator and coordinate AMP development on Oak Springs. As a result of Cliff Springs not being included in the Oak Springs AMP a formalized grazing system will be developed for Cliff Spring by BLM with the operators consultation. Actions on above items to be completed as time and funding allows.

Objective #3 Develop a Forestry and Fire Plan for the Oak Springs and the Cliff Springs Allotments aimed at maintenance of the existing vegetation manipulations and identifying modified suppression areas.

Action: BLM to develop a Forestry and Fire Plan through coordination with operators and other interested parties.

Objective #4 Use vegetation manipulation to improve wildlife, livestock, and wild horse habitat areas.



V. Planning Objectives and Actions (Con't)

Action: BLM to determine feasibility and do survey and design with multiple use in mind. Operator will be responsible as stated in co-op agreement. Operator should act as consultant in planning of projects.

Objective #5 Manage for a reasonable number of 154 mule deer for summer and 194 mule deer yearlong on Oak Springs. Also, manage for 26 mule deer yearlong on the Cliff Springs Allotments.

Action: BLM to coordinate the reading of studies with interested parties. NDOW to coordinate any re-introductions of wildlife. BLM should consider wildlife in survey and design of range improvement projects.

Objective #6 Pasture #1 of Oak Springs is included in the Rattlesnake Wild Horse Herd Management Area. Manage for 25 horses (1982 actual count) in this management area. Pastures four and five of Oak Springs are included in the Delamar Wild Horse Herd Management Area. Manage for 95 wild horses (1981 actual count) in this management area.

Action: BLM to coordinate development on Rattlesnake WHMAP with operator and interested parties.

Objective #7 Attain better livestock distribution on the Oak Springs and Cliff Springs Allotments by water developments.

Action: Develop the following waters;

- (a) Willow Spring with approximately three miles of pipeline.
- (b) Blythe Spring.
- (c) Reconstruct Cliff Spring Pipeline.
- (d) Reconstruct Dana Spring Pipeline.
- (e) Pipe water from Pace/Wheatgrass Spring into the Cliff Springs Allotment.

BLM and operator to work together in accordance with the water base status of the allotments. BLM to do feasibility, the operator will be responsible as per co-op agreement.

Objective #8 Reduce cattle drift in Pasture #1 and #4 of the Oak Springs Allotment.

- Action:
- (a) Construct drift fence in the Cedar Wash area of Pasture #4.
  - (b) Construct cross fence on North end of Pasture #1.

V. Planning Objectives and Actions (con't)

Objective #9 Establish a selective management category for Oak and Cliff Springs Allotments.

Action: Classify the allotments into selective management category "M" (maintenance). This category was approved with the stipulation that there are still several range improvements required to make the AMP work as originally planned. Management and monitoring intensity will be dictated accordingly with efforts aimed primarily at end of season utilization and trend in range condition.

Objective #10 Consider multiple uses in the development of range improvement projects.

Action: Consider wildlife and wild horses in the design of new projects. Permittee will be responsible as per Cooperative Agreement stipulations.

VI. Problems/Issues and Actions

Problems/Issues #1 Brucellosis, identified as a problem in the past but is not considered a problem any longer.

Problems/Issues #2 There is a problem with keeping the livestock in the upper eastern end of Pasture #4 of the Oak Springs Allotment.

Action: See Objective #8a.

Problems/Issues #3 Livestock distribution within Pasture #1 in Oak Springs is a problem.

Action: See Objective #8b.

Problems/Issues #4 There is a Wild Horse Herd Management Plan for Pasture #4 and #5 of the Oak Springs Allotment. Also, there is planned a Wild Horse Herd Management Plan for Pasture #1 of the Oak Springs Allotment.

Action: See objective #6. Also, consider wild horse free roaming movement on any new proposed fencing projects.

Problems/Issues #5 The Delamar and Dry Lake Valleys have been identified as possible reintroduction areas for antelope.

Action: Future range developments should consider this possibility.

Problems/Issues #6 Cliff Springs is a water base allotment. Oak Springs is a water and land base allotment.

Action: BLM will manage both allotments as water base. There water base status affects who is responsible for the development of the water source.

## VI. Problems/Issues and Actions (con't)

Problems/Issues #7 Grassy Spring thought to be a problem for wildlife and wild horses, etc

Action: This was identified as a potential problem but subsequent investigation presented little evidence to support the contention. The spring source is fenced to exclude livestock and wild horses but is available for wildlife. There is ample water available for livestock and wild horses outside the spring source.

Problems/Issues #8 There is a portion of Pasture #1 in the Oak Springs Allotment that could be better managed by including it in the Cliff Springs Allotment.

Action: BLM to determine feasibility and coordinate design with permittee. Permittee will be responsible as per stipulations listed on co-op agreements for any fence construction.

## VII. Private Land Plan

Oak Spring and Cliff Springs Allotments are water base but are used in conjunction with private lands in the Meadow Valley Wash. There was a private land plan completed together with the AMP for the Oak Spring Allotment. This plan was completed in 1968 for Summa Corporation, since that time ownership has changed hands. Hence, the management of the private lands has changed. Therefore, it is suggested that a new plan be developed by SCS at the operator's request.

## ROX ACTION PLAN

### I. Location and Size

The Rox Allotment is divided into two management areas by the Lincoln County, Clark County line. The portion in Lincoln County is located along the Meadow Valley Wash in T. 12S., R. 65 and 66E. This portion is known as the Rox Tule area and contains approximately 25,870 acres. The portion in Clark County is located along the East side of Meadow Valley Wash in T. 13S., R. 66E. This portion is known as the Rox area and contains approximately 22,500 acres.

There are approximately 400 acres of private property and patented mining claims within the Rox Allotment.

### II. Physiographic and Biotic Characteristics

The Rox Allotment occupies predominantly low desert bajadas from the Mormon Mountains on the East and the Meadow Valley Mountains on the West. The elevation ranges from 2000 feet in Meadow Valley Wash to 3000 plus feet on the upper bajadas.

Approximately 90% of this allotment is in the southern and salt desert shrub vegetation types and the remaining 10% is mixed desert wash and riparian vegetation along Meadow Valley Wash itself.

### III. Resource Uses

Major resource uses in the area include livestock, wildlife (bighorn sheep and desert tortoise in particular), wild burros, mining, and minor recreation in the form of hunting.

NDOW has set a management goal of five bighorn sheep in the Rox Tule portion of the allotment. Desert Tortoise will be considered in any management system proposed for the area.

### IV. Livestock Management

The Rox Tule portion of the allotment is managed as a perennial, land based allotment. This portion of the allotment has an allocated 756 AUM's for cattle on a yearlong grazing season. There are no Suspended Non Use AUM's. No use has been made in the area since at least 1978.

The Rox portion of the allotment is classified as ephemeral range. Use is made periodically throughout the year on an as ephemeral forage is available basis. Number of stock and determination of duration of grazing are made through visual inspections of the area prior to application.

### V. Planning Objectives and Actions

1. Establish stocking rates through monitoring for perennial range. Manage ephemeral range according to the ephemeral regulations.

Action: Initiate monitoring program upon stocking of the Rox Tule Allotment.

## V. Planning Objectives and Actions (con't)

2. Upon stocking, coordinate management between ephemeral and perennial ranges.

Action: BLM and permittees will work together to coordinate use of the two areas and provide for resting of the key forage species.

3. Classify both allotments as selective management category "C" (custodial) until the area is stocked.

Action: Upon stocking management will remain at the custodial level until monitoring indicates a need for more intensity or resource conflicts are identified.

4. There is limited hunting and some mining in this area. Forestry values (except desert plants) are limited.

Action: None needed.

5. Manage for a reasonable number of five bighorn sheep yearlong on the Rox Tule Allotment. In addition, desert tortoise are present throughout the area.

Action: Five bighorn sheep will be the population goal managed for on Rox Tule. Desert tortoise will be considered in any management systems developed.

6. Manage for 11 wild burro's (1982 actual count) in the Meadow Valley Mountains Wild Horse and Burro Management Area.

Action: BLM will prepare a management plan for this area. The 11 burros represent the 1982 actual count and will be the number used to begin monitoring, unless a subsequent inventory takes place prior to the initiation of monitoring.

7. NDOW recommended that wild burros be excluded from bighorn sheep areas.

Action: None at present. If competition between burros and sheep is identified then look at the alternatives for mitigating the problem.

8. Consider multiple uses in all range improvements.

Action: Standard operating procedure for improvements on public lands.

## VI. Problems/Issues

1. Cattle get trapped along the Union Pacific line.

Action: Have Union Pacific improve the fence and install cattle-guards on each end of the canyon where the cattle get trapped. Write a letter to Union Pacific (R.M. Brown) on CRMP letterhead detailing the problem.

## VI. Problems/Issues (con't)

2. Pumps have been disappearing from the two wells in the Rox Allotment.

Action: The committee recommended that caps be welded on the wells and the cords hidden.

3. There is a bottleneck in the fence near the south boundary and the main road.

Action: BLM and permittee will look at the problem and recommend a solution.

4. There is a lack of water in both allotments. Water distribution is poor.

Action: BLM and the permittees will look into the feasibility of developing new waters.

5. Portions of the Rox Tule Allotment are included within the Mormon Mountain and Meadow Valley Mountains Wilderness Study Areas.

Action: Manage these areas according to "Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review".

6. Lack of an official livestock representative designated by the tribal council.

Action: BLM will request a new designation of authority from the council.