



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4400 (NV-047)

MAR 26 1993

Dear Affected Interest:

The Egan Resource Area (ERA) has recently completed a third year re-evaluation of the Six Mile Allotment (0613). A copy of the re-evaluation, which includes my management action, is enclosed for your information. The fifth year re-evaluation is scheduled for fiscal year 1995.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Lowrie of my staff at (702) 289-4865.

Sincerely,

Gene L. Drais, Manager
Egan Resource Area

1 Enclosure

1. Six Mile Allotment Re-evaluation

Six Mile Allotment (0613) Third Year Re-Evaluation Summary

I. INTRODUCTION

A Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) on the Six Mile Allotment (0613) was issued on April 19, 1991. The FMUD reduced the existing cattle permit on the two crested wheatgrass seedings within the allotment from 432 AUMs to 287 AUMs of active preference, with a season - of - use from 4/15 to 10/31. This reduction in active preference is to be phased in over 5 years, with year 1 being the 1991 grazing year, commencing 3/1/91. The FMUD also retained the active preference for sheep at 922 AUMs; however, stipulated conditions require 380 AUMs sheep use to the east of Belmont Road during spring and 542 AUMs sheep use west of Belmont Road during winter. The FMUD also stated that full use of the 922 AUMs would be dependent on water hauling to certain locations in the allotment, in the absence of snow. Sheep season - of - use was set at 11/1 - 4/15.

The FMUD established a wild horse appropriate management level of 135 AUMs, or 11 horses yearlong.

KIND	USE PERIOD	% FEDERAL RANGE	TOTAL AUMS	ACTIVE AUMS	SUSP.AUMS
Cattle	4/15-10/31	100%	432	287	145
Sheep	11/1-4/15	100%	922	922	<0>

II. MANAGEMENT RE-EVALUATION

A. Purpose

The purpose of this re-evaluation is to analyze the changes in the grazing use on the Six Mile Allotment which were implemented as per the FMUD dated April 19, 1991. This re-evaluation is necessary to determine if the allotment objectives are being met under the changes in grazing use implemented by the first phase of the decision. If the objectives are now being met the 1991 decision will be modified. If the objectives are still not being met the 1991 decision will stand as issued.

B. Summary of Studies Data

Since the issuing of the FMUD in April of 1991, utilization transects have been completed on both the native range and crested wheatgrass seedings in May of 1991. In April of 1992, Bureau personnel accomplished several use transects in native range at the same locations as 1989 use transects. Fourteen utilization transects were completed in September of 1992, as was a use pattern map of the allotment. The transects were conducted in both native range and in the seedings. An observed apparent trend study was recorded on the allotment in native range at key area SM-2, also in September of 1992. Wild horse census was accomplished for the allotment in October of 1991, August of 1992, and February of 1993.

A frequency trend study and utilization cage were established on the allotment in October of 1992 in a key winterfat/ricegrass stringer meadow utilized by wild horses and sheep. This study will be used to determine the long term vegetative response to grazing.

A summary of utilization transects and utilization pattern mapping conducted on the allotment since the issuing of the FMUD follows:

May, 1991 - Utilization Transects

West Seeding - 23% use (light) on AGCR, by wild horses.* Carryover forage present; Seedlings present; Plants of fair vigor; Not much soil movement.

* This was inadvertent wild horse use. The seeding is fenced to exclude wild horses.

East Seeding - 78% use (heavy) on AGCR, by unauthorized sheep and inadvertent use by wild horses, due to broken fences, or open gates. No carryover forage; No seedstalks; Few seedlings present; Considerable big sagebrush invasion.

ML-1 - Big sagebrush/ricegrass native range west of the west seeding. ORHY 67% (heavy)
EULA 64% (heavy)
Poa present, fairly abundant; Mostly wild horse use.

ML-1B - Black sage/winterfat/bunchgrass native range west of the west seeding.
EULA 75% (heavy) sheep use.
Light to moderate use on ARNO & CHVI by sheep.

ML-2 - Pinyon-Juniper/big sagebrush/bunchgrass native range east of the east seeding.
ORHY/SIHY 76% (heavy) mostly by wild horses.
Moderate to heavy use on CHVI by wild horses.
Grasses not frequent; No seedstalks;
No carryover forage; Thick sagebrush.

April, 1992 - Utilization Transects

JS-1 - Winterfat/ricegrass native range T 17N R 57E S 21
ORHY 76% (heavy) wild horse and sheep use
EULA 65% (heavy) wild horse and sheep use
Good regrowth; Small winterfat plants

JS-2 - Winterfat/ricegrass native range T 17N R 57E S29
ORHY 28% (light) mostly wild horse use, some sheep use
EULA 45% (moderate) mostly wild horse use
Vigorous Eula; Abundant seedstalks; Little sheep sign.

JS-3 - Black sage/bunchgrass native range T 17N R 57E S 16
ARNO 25% (light) sheep use
ORHY & SIHY greening up.

JS-4 - Winterfat/ricegrass native range T 17N R 57E S 16
 ORHY 56% (moderate) wild horse and sheep use
 EULA 50% (moderate) wild horse and sheep use
 Plants of low vigor; little growth; Moderate wild horse
 and sheep sign.

JS-5 - Winterfat/bunchgrass native range T 17N R 57E S 3
 ORHY/SIHY 41% (moderate) wild horse and sheep use
 EULA 43% (moderate) wild horse and sheep use
 Even use; Vigorous Eula; ORHY & SIHY greening up.

September, 1992 - Utilization Transects

West Seeding - ML4 - 18% use (slight) on AGCR, by inadvertent
 wild horse use. Droughty AGCR; Few new
 seedlings. ORHY present in the seeding.

East Seeding - ML5 - 16% use (slight) on AGCR, by inadvertent
 wild horse use. Old sheep sign; Much ARTR
 invasion; Little soil loss; ORHY infrequent in
 seeding.

Utilization Pattern Mapping - September 1992

Utilization pattern mapping was completed on the allotment, on
 native range, in September 1992. The data collected reflects grazing use on
 key species (indian ricegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, and winterfat) made
 by sheep and wild horses during the winter of 1991 - 1992 and spring and
 summer of 1992. Using the Key Forage Plant Utilization Method, use zones on
 the allotment were mapped as follows, in terms of acres and (% of total
 acres).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Slight</u> (1-20%)	<u>Light</u> (21-40%)	<u>Moderate</u> (41-60%)	<u>Heavy</u> (61-80%)	<u>Severe</u> (81-100%)
1991/	6320	4106	5745	2242	<0>
1992	(35%)	(22%)	(31%)	(12%)	

There are no public riparian areas or mesic meadows located on the
 Six Mile Allotment; Thus, no riparian monitoring has been completed for the
 allotment. The only sources of water for wildlife, wild horses, or livestock
 in the allotment are on private ground, or else water is hauled for sheep.

Observed apparent trend on the native range key area SM-2
 (black sagebrush/bunchgrass) was static in September of 1992.

A summary of wild horse census data compiled since the issuing of
 the FMUD follows:

Six Mile Allotment Wild Horse Census

1991 (October) - 62 wild horses (744 AUMs)*
 1992 (August) - 75 wild horses (900 AUMs)*
 1993 (February) - 19 wild horses (228 AUMs)

* These wild horses are foraging on U.S. Forest Service lands
 also, especially during spring and summer. They forage in the
 U.S. Forest Service Treasure Hill Allotment, on the north and

northwest sides of Mt. Hamilton. Thus considerably less than the 744 & 900 AUMs indicated are actually being utilized by wild horses in the Six Mile Allotment.

C. Conclusions

The new monitoring data supports the FMUD (April, 1991). Land use plan objectives are still not being met in native range, due to locally heavy overutilization by sheep and wild horses. Site specific heavy use by sheep can be corrected by better herding and distribution (more intensive management), as stated in the FMUD. Without further cattle use in the crested wheatgrass seedings since the issuing of the FMUD, the seedings have not improved, due to drought, unauthorized use by sheep and inadvertent use by wild horses (because of broken fences or open gates), and sagebrush encroachment. The decision to implement the third year reduction in cattle preference will thus stand, from 383 AUMs with 49 AUMs suspended to 335 AUMs with 97 AUMs suspended.

D. Technical Recommendations

- > Follow through with the reduction in cattle preference for the two crested wheatgrass seedings, as outlined in the FMUD.
- > Sheep active preference will be maintained at 922 AUMs, as outlined in the FMUD. Full use of the 922 AUMs is dependent upon those herding and water hauling stipulations as stated in the FMUD.
- > Remove excess wild horses to achieve the Appropriate Management Level of 11 head yearlong. Reductions in wild horse numbers will continue to be pursued as funding allows, in order to attain and maintain a thriving ecological balance.

E. Management Action

The adjustments to livestock grazing and the establishment of the Wild Horse AML as stated in the FMUD are still appropriate. Therefore the action of this re-evaluation is to implement the third year reduction to the cattle grazing preference, retain the sheep grazing preference, and retain the Wild Horse AML.