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# United States Department of the Interior

## Bureau of Land Management

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In Reply Refer To:  
4400/4700

JUN - 4 1999

Dear Interested Public:

The Caliente Field Station, Ely District has completed a Final Management Action Selection Report and Proposed Multiple Use Decision for the Henrie Complex Allotment Evaluation involving the Henrie Complex Allotment and the associated Meadow Valley Mountains, Mormon Mountains, and Blue Nose Peak Wild Horse Herd Management Areas (HMAs).

The Henrie Complex Allotment Evaluation was conducted in accordance with the direction set forth in the Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 86-706, and is based on monitoring data collected between 1992 and 1996. The draft allotment evaluation was sent out for consultation, cooperation, and coordination with interested publics and the affected permittees on July 25, 1997. The Final allotment evaluation and draft Management Action Selection Report was mailed on January 23, 1998 to the affected permittees and those interested publics who commented and/or responded to the draft evaluation document.

Sincerely,

James M. Perkins  
Assistant Field Manager-Renewable  
Resources.

2 Enclosures

1. Final Management Action Selection Report for the Henrie Complex Allotment Evaluation
2. Proposed Multiple Use Decision for the Henrie Complex Allotment

## MANAGEMENT ACTION SELECTION REPORT

### HENRIE COMPLEX ALLOTMENT

#### CALIENTE FIELD STATION

##### A. INTRODUCTION

The Henrie Complex Allotment Evaluation was conducted in accordance with the direction set forth in the Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 86-706, and is based on monitoring data collected between 1992 and 1996. The draft allotment evaluation was sent out for consultation, cooperation, and coordination with interested publics and the affected permittees on July 25, 1997. The Final allotment evaluation and draft Management Action Selection Report (MASR) was mailed on January 23, 1998 to the affected permittees and those interested publics who commented and/or responded to the draft evaluation document. (See Appendix II - Public Consultation Process Flowchart)

A moderate amount of public comment was received pertaining to the Henrie Complex Allotment Evaluation conducted in the Caliente Field Station, Ely District. Copies of the comment letters pertaining specifically to this allotment can be found in Section VII of the allotment evaluation summary, located in the Caliente Field Station files. All allotment specific comments were carefully considered for incorporation into the final evaluation. Responses to comments can be found in Section VII of the Evaluation.

Conclusions of the evaluation were based on monitoring data collected and consultation, cooperation, and coordination from the following sources:

Range, wildlife, and wild horse monitoring files compiled by the Caliente Field Station staff.

Input from Permittees: Kevin Olson through letters and meetings dated March 7, 1997, August 26, 1997, and September 26, 1997. Robert Lewis through a letter dated March 10, 1998, telephone conversation dated April 8, 1999, and a meeting on May 14, 1999.

Input from interested publics: Lincoln County Commissioners through letters dated August 25, 1997 and February 23, 1998, Lincoln County Public Lands Commission through letter dated August 29, 1997, Bryant Robinson (potential buyer of Olson base property and privileges) through letter dated September 15, 1997, Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) through letters dated September 19, 1997 and April 3, 1998, Nevada Division of Water Resources (DWR) through letters dated August 5, 1997 and March 16, 1998, Nevada Division of Agriculture through letter dated August 18, 1997, and Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses through letters dated August 11, 1997 and February 24, 1998.

## B. ANALYSIS OF MONITORING DATA

Based on the identified issues of the evaluation, none of the three Standards for Rangeland Health (see Appendix I) are being met under current management and four of the five land use plan objectives for the allotment are not being met under the existing management practices; therefore, implementation of management actions and/or adjustments to livestock and wild horse numbers are necessary to meet these objectives. Allowable use levels for key management areas #5-7 have been exceeded and use pattern mapping indicates large areas of severe use and poor distribution of livestock and wild horses. The documented livestock and wild horse actual use levels are not achieving the identified multiple use objectives. Grazing use by livestock and wild horses has concentrated on the principal use areas which make up approximately 8% of the allotment. This concentrated use has contributed to overutilization and decreased range condition. This allotment's forage base is made up of 80 percent blackbrush communities that produce little or no perennial grasses and generally, only small amounts of annual forage. Ecological condition data shows that 6 out of 7 key areas are at early seral stage due to lack of key perennial species. The riparian area and floodplain associated with Meadow Valley Wash is in a degraded condition and receiving severe use on a continual basis. Vegetative community trend is shown to be downward or static at key areas #1-4 within the allotment.

Wildlife use on the allotment has not contributed to the non-attainment of the multiple use objectives. Desired use levels within desert tortoise habitat have been continually exceeded due to livestock and wild horses based on use pattern mapping.

Wild horse use on a yearlong basis within the allotment has contributed to the non-attainment of the multiple use objectives. Severe use has been documented within the principal use areas with as few as 30 wild horses (1995).

## C. SELECTED MANAGEMENT ACTION

The selected management actions are a combination of the options listed under Section VI of the Henrie Complex Allotment Evaluation and input from the present permittees and affected interests. The short-term and long-term management actions implement the Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health to meet the multiple use objectives and standards for grazing administration. Short term management actions for livestock and wild horses will be implemented the first year. The long term management actions are necessary to make progress towards attainment of multiple use objectives. Implementation of long-term management actions such as range improvement projects are dependent on staff and funding availability.

The selected management actions for the Henrie Complex Allotment are as follows:

1. Short Term Management Actions

- a. Change the season of use on the allotment from year-round to November 01 to April 30. The current year-round season of use is inappropriate for the allotment which occurs in the Mojave desert ecotype. Hot season and yearlong grazing has contributed greatly to the severe use patterns observed on the allotment. In addition, warm season plants which complete their growing cycle in the summer months need adequate rest from grazing pressure to allow for seed dissemination. Without the rest, range condition will continue to degrade as plants are not afforded the opportunity to reproduce and store root reserves. Big galleta, one of the main forage species, is a warm season perennial.

The season of use is also consistent with the Caliente Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which recommended a season of use for this area of 11/01-04/30.

Yearlong use is also contributing to degradation of desert tortoise habitat by exceeding use levels identified in the 1992 Full Force and Effect Grazing Decision which limits available forage for the desert tortoise during critical periods of the year.

This management action does not change the established period of use within Prescription 1 desert tortoise habitat as identified within the 1/31/92 Full Force and Effect Grazing Decision. The southeast corner of the allotment (south of Paint Mine Canyon) is closed to grazing from March 1 to June 14,

Guideline: This management action is related to Guidelines 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6. These guidelines will be applied to achieve the standards for multiple use (See Appendix I for Standards and Guidelines).

- b. Adjust the livestock stocking level for the allotment from the existing 4160 AUMs to 1373 AUMs to be divided proportionately to the affected permittees (See Appendix IV for Stocking Rate Calculations). Livestock grazing will be made in-common over the allotment. This level of use should meet the multiple use objectives for the allotment.

Based on the identified issues of the evaluation, none of the three Standards for Rangeland Health are being met under current management and four of the five land use plan objectives for the



allotment are not being met under the existing management practices; therefore, implementation of management actions and/or adjustments to livestock and wild horse numbers are necessary to meet these objectives.

Guideline: This management action is related to Guidelines 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6. These guidelines will be applied to achieve the standards for multiple use.

c. Water hauling

The hauling of water will be stipulated to any authorization of use within the eastern half of the allotment. Water distribution within the allotment will be improved through the placement of a minimum of two new water haul locations. At least one of these locations will be established along the Lyman Crossing Road near the White Rock Allotment boundary to facilitate the authorization of livestock use. At least one location will also be established in the northwest portion of the allotment in the vicinity of the Meadow and Pass fires to make use of available forage on these areas.

Guideline: This management action is related to Guideline 3.3. This guideline will be applied to achieve the standards for multiple use.

d. Exchange of use will no longer be authorized as part of the permitted use for Kevin Olson's permit. Billings will be issued as 100% public land.

Currently the permit is 85% public land use indicating the livestock can freely graze 15% of the time on private land. Mr. Olson's private property is not in agricultural production, nor does it offer any substantial amount of perennial forage.

e. Salting will occur at least 1/2 mile from all water sources. Salting away from these areas will improve livestock distribution.

Guideline: This management action is related to Guideline 3.3. This guideline will be applied to achieve the standards for multiple use.

f. Establish a wild horse appropriate management level (AML) for the Henrie Complex portion of the Meadow Valley Mountains HMA at zero (0) horses. The Meadow Valley Mountains HMA would lose its status as a HMA, but will retain Herd Area status for future consideration for management, should conditions change.

The current year-round grazing by wild horses is inappropriate for the allotment which occurs in the Mojave desert ecotype. Current water distribution does not support use during periods of high summer temperatures. Hot season grazing by wild horses has contributed greatly to the severe use patterns observed on the allotment and the non-attainment of the multiple use objectives.

Guideline: This management action is related to Guidelines 1.1, 2.3, and 3.4. These guidelines will be applied to achieve the standards for multiple use.

- g. Establish a wild horse appropriate management level (AML) for the Henrie Complex portion of the Mormon Mountains HMA at zero (0) animals. This portion of the HMA will be set at zero (0) due to no use by horses in this portion of the allotment.

The Mormon Mountains HMA is bordered on three sides by a proposed Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA) as identified in the Recovery Plan for the Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) (June 1994). The Recovery Plan states that domestic livestock grazing and grazing by feral ("wild") burros and horses should be prohibited throughout all Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs) because they are generally incompatible with desert tortoise recovery. Though the Henrie Complex portion of the HMA is outside of the proposed DWMA, there is no physical barrier to prohibit the movement of horses into the DWMA area. Due to available water within the DWMA (Meadow Valley Wash), this movement by horses will be a perpetual management problem. The Caliente Field Station is currently amending the Caliente MFP to incorporate the management of desert tortoise habitat as identified within the Recovery Plan.

Guideline: This management action is related to Guidelines 1.1, 2.3, and 3.4. These guidelines will be applied to achieve the standards for multiple use.

- h. Establish a wild horse appropriate management level (AML) for the Henrie Complex portion of the Blue Nose Peak HMA at zero (0) horses. Manage the Blue Nose Peak HMA in conjunction with the Clover Mountain HMA. This portion of the Blue Nose Peak HMA may have small numbers of wild horses as long as there is wild horses within the remaining portions of the HMA as well as the adjacent Clover Mountain HMA. Wild horses may potentially use the area as identified but will not be managed for wild horses and any wild horses will be removed during the next gather operation within the area.

Based on observations and census numbers, it is believed that less than 10 wild horses exist within this portion of the Blue Nose Peak HMA. These horses are spending a portion of their time within the portions of the HMA contained in the Garden Springs and White Rock allotments as well as within the Clover Mountain HMA, which borders the HMA to the north. The mobility of the Blue Nose Peak and Clover Mountain herds suggests that this area should be managed with the Clover Mountain HMA instead of being identified as a separate HMA. Due to this fact, management goals and objectives need to be consistent for both areas.

Guideline: This management action is related to Guidelines 1.1, 2.3, and 3.4. These guidelines will be applied to achieve the standards for multiple use.

## 2. Long Term Management Actions

- a. Increase water distribution by installing water hauls, pipeline extensions, etc., where feasible, given constraints due to wilderness consideration, desert tortoise, slope and distance, etc.

Without increased water distribution, the grazing patterns observed will not change as grazing animals will continue to be dependent on the historical areas of Hackberry Spring, Vigo Canyon, and Meadow Valley Wash.

- b. Construction of 2 to 6 slickrock catchments in the Meadow Valley Range to improve the habitat for desert bighorn sheep.

The construction of these catchments will improve approximately 27,500 acres of habitat by supplying water sources in areas that are suitable for bighorn sheep use but currently lack reliable water sources.

- c. With the cooperation of the water right holder, complete a spring source improvement project at the Hackberry Springs to allow for water availability at the source for desert bighorn sheep.

Completion of this project would improve approximately 6,800 acres around Hackberry Springs by supplying water at the source for bighorn sheep. Currently, no improvements have been proposed or completed at the Hackberry Spring sources.

Guideline: The above management actions are related to Guidelines 1.3, 2.5, and 3.7. These guidelines will be applied to achieve the standards for multiple use.

- d. Change the selective management category from Maintenance (M) to Improve (I).

The Maintenance category, by definition, means the range condition is satisfactory. The Improve category means the present range condition is unsatisfactory. Resource conflicts and controversy also exist within the allotment. This evaluation has clearly shown that the latter is true for the Henrie Complex. Constraints on livestock grazing are required to protect desert tortoise habitat.

Guideline: This management action is related to Guideline 3.9. This guideline will be applied to achieve the standards for multiple use.

#### D. OBJECTIVES

The allotment objectives under which grazing use, as stated above will be monitored and evaluated are as follows (Appendix III for site specific objectives):

1. Allotment Specific Objectives

The Henrie Complex objectives are a quantification of LUP, Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards and Guidelines, Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) objectives, activity plan objectives (HMP), and down to site specific objectives. The Henrie Complex multiple-use objectives are clearly consistent and in conformance with the Caliente MFP and Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area RAC Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health.

- a. Livestock

The short term objective will be accomplished through managing for allowable use levels (AULs) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community as established in the 1984 Grazing Decision which addresses monitoring and the 1992 Full Force and Effect Grazing Decision, which set forth specific terms and conditions to the grazing permits to facilitate grazing in desert tortoise habitat. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

The long term objective will be accomplished by managing for those ecological seral stages which maximize the sustained yield of livestock

forage production. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

b. Wild Horses

The short term objective will be accomplished through managing for allowable use levels (AULs) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community. All wild horses will be removed from the allotment. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

The long term objective will be accomplished by managing for the appropriate ecological seral stage and by ensuring that the wild horse AMLs are maintained through future removals as necessary. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

c. Wildlife Resources

(1) Bighorn Sheep:

The short term objective is to manage for allowable use levels (AULs) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

The long term objective is to maintain key desert bighorn habitat in the fair to good condition. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

(2) Mule Deer:

The short term objective is to manage for allowable use levels (AULs) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

The long term objective is to maintain key mule deer habitat in the fair to good condition. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

(3) Desert Tortoise:

The short term objective is to manage for allowable use levels (AULs) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

The long term objective is to maintain or improve the existing habitat conditions for desert tortoise habitat to stabilize desert tortoise populations at existing trend levels. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)



E. GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

AUMs of permitted use will be adjusted as follows (See Appendix IV for Stocking Rate Calculations) and will be effective March 1, 2000:

From:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Suspended</u>	<u>Active Preference</u>
	4,160	0	4,160
To:	<u>Permitted Use</u>		
	1,373*		

\*represents the total number of AUMs calculated in the Desired Stocking Rate Calculation

AUMs of permitted livestock use effective March 1, 2000 will be as follows:

Kevin Olson:

<u>Livestock No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Use</u>	<u>% Public Land</u>
176	Cow	11/01 - 4/30	1,056	100%

Robert Lewis:

<u>Livestock No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Use</u>	<u>% Public Land</u>
54	Cow	11/01 - 4/30	324	100%

In accordance with 43 CFR 4130.3-2, the following terms and conditions will be included in the grazing permit for the Henrie Complex Allotment:

1. Improve livestock distribution through placement of salt and/or mineral block a minimum of 1/2 mile from water and by herding of livestock. (Guideline 3.3)
2. The hauling of water will be stipulated to any authorization of use within the eastern half of the allotment. Water distribution within the allotment will be improved through the placement of a minimum of two new water haul locations. At least one of these locations will be established along the Lyman Crossing Road near the White Rock Allotment boundary to facilitate the authorization of livestock use. At least one location will also be established in the northwest portion of the allotment in the vicinity of the Meadow and Pass fires to make use of available forage on these areas.

#### F. FUTURE MONITORING AND GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

The Caliente Field Station will continue to monitor existing studies and establish additional studies as identified in Section VI of the Allotment Evaluation. This monitoring data will continue to be collected in the future to determine if the allotment specific objectives and standards are being met under the new grazing management strategies. Upon issuance of the grazing term permits, if assessment results in a determination that changes to livestock grazing use are necessary, terms and conditions may be changed and a revised term permit issued.

As funding becomes available, aerial census will be conducted to document additional wild horse gather needs within the allotment.

## APPENDIX I

### MOJAVE-SOUTHERN GREAT BASIN AREA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)

#### STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

##### STANDARD 1. SOILS:

Watershed soils and stream banks should have adequate stability to resist accelerated erosion, maintain soil productivity, and sustain the hydrologic cycle.

##### Soil indicators:

- Ground cover (vegetation, litter, rock, bare ground);
- Surfaces (e.g., biological crusts, pavement); and
- Compaction/infiltration.

##### Riparian soil indicators:

- Stream bank stability.

All of the above indicators are appropriate to the potential of the ecological site.

##### Guidelines:

- 1.1 Upland management practices should maintain or promote adequate vegetative ground cover to achieve the standard.
- 1.2 Riparian-wetland management practices should maintain or promote sufficient residual vegetation to maintain, improve, or restore functions such as stream flow energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge, and streambank stability.
- 1.3 When proper grazing practices alone are not likely to restore areas, land management practices may be designed and implemented where appropriate.
- 1.4 Rangeland management practices should address improvement beyond this standard, significant progress toward achieving standards, time necessary for recovery, and time necessary for predicting trends.

## STANDARD 2. ECOSYSTEM COMPONENTS;

Watersheds should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses.

Riparian and wetlands vegetation should have structural and species diversity characteristic of the stage of stream channel succession in order to provide forage and cover, capture sediment, and capture, retain, and safely release water (watershed function).

### Upland indicators:

- Canopy and ground cover, including litter, live vegetation, biological crust, and rock appropriate to the potential of the ecological site.
- Ecological processes are adequate for the vegetative communities.

### Riparian indicators:

- Stream side riparian areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, large woody debris, or rock is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows.
- Elements indicating proper functioning condition such as avoiding acceleration erosion, capturing sediment, and providing for groundwater recharge and release are determined by the following measurements as appropriate to the site characteristics:

Width/Depth ratio;

Channel roughness;

Sinuosity of stream channel;

Bank stability;

Vegetative cover (amount, spacing, life form); and

Other cover (large woody debris, rock).

- Natural springs, seeps, and marsh areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation is present to facilitate water retention, filtering, and release as indicated by plant species and cover appropriate to the site characteristics.

Water quality indicators:

- Chemical, physical and biological constituents do not exceed the state water quality standards.

The above indicators shall be applied to the potential of the ecological site.

Guidelines:

- 2.1 Management practices should maintain or promote appropriate stream channel morphology and structure consistent with the watershed.
- 2.2 Watershed management practices should maintain, restore or enhance water quality and flow rate to support desired ecological conditions.
- 2.3 Management practices should maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions necessary for achieving surface characteristics and desired natural plant community.
- 2.4 Grazing management practices will consider both the economic and physical environment, and will address all multiple uses including, but not limited to, (i) recreation, (ii) minerals, (iii) cultural resources and values, and (iv) designated wilderness and wilderness study areas.
- 2.5 New livestock facilities will be located away from riparian and wetland areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian and wetland functions. Existing facilities will be used in a way that does not conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian and wetland functions, or they will be relocated or modified when necessary to mitigate adverse impacts on riparian and wetland functions. The location, relocation, design and use of livestock facilities will consider economic feasibility and benefits to be gained for management of lands outside the riparian area along with the effects on riparian functions.
- 2.6 Subject to all valid existing rights, the design of spring and seep developments shall include provisions to protect ecological functions and processes.
- 2.7 When proper grazing practices alone are not likely to restore areas of low infiltration or permeability, land management practices may be designed and implemented where appropriate. Grazing on designated ephemeral rangeland watersheds should be allowed only if (i) reliable estimates of production have been made, (ii) an identified level of annual growth or residue to remain on site at the end of the grazing season has been established, and (iii) adverse effects on perennial species and ecosystem processes are avoided.



- 2.8 Rangeland management practices should address improvement beyond these standards, significant progress toward achieving standards, time necessary for recovery, and time necessary for predicting trends.

### STANDARD 3. HABITAT AND BIOTA:

Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species.

#### Habitat indicators:

- Vegetation composition (relative abundance of species);
- Vegetation structure (life forms, cover, height, and age classes);
- Vegetation distribution (patchiness, corridors);
- Vegetation productivity; and
- Vegetation nutritional value.

#### Wildlife indicators:

- Escape terrain;
- Relative abundance;
- Composition;
- Distribution;
- Nutritional value; and
- Edge-patch snags.

The above indicators shall be applied to the potential of the ecological site.

#### Guidelines:

- 3.1 Mosaics of plant and animal communities that foster diverse and productive ecosystems should be maintained or achieved.
- 3.2 Management practices should emphasize native species except when others would

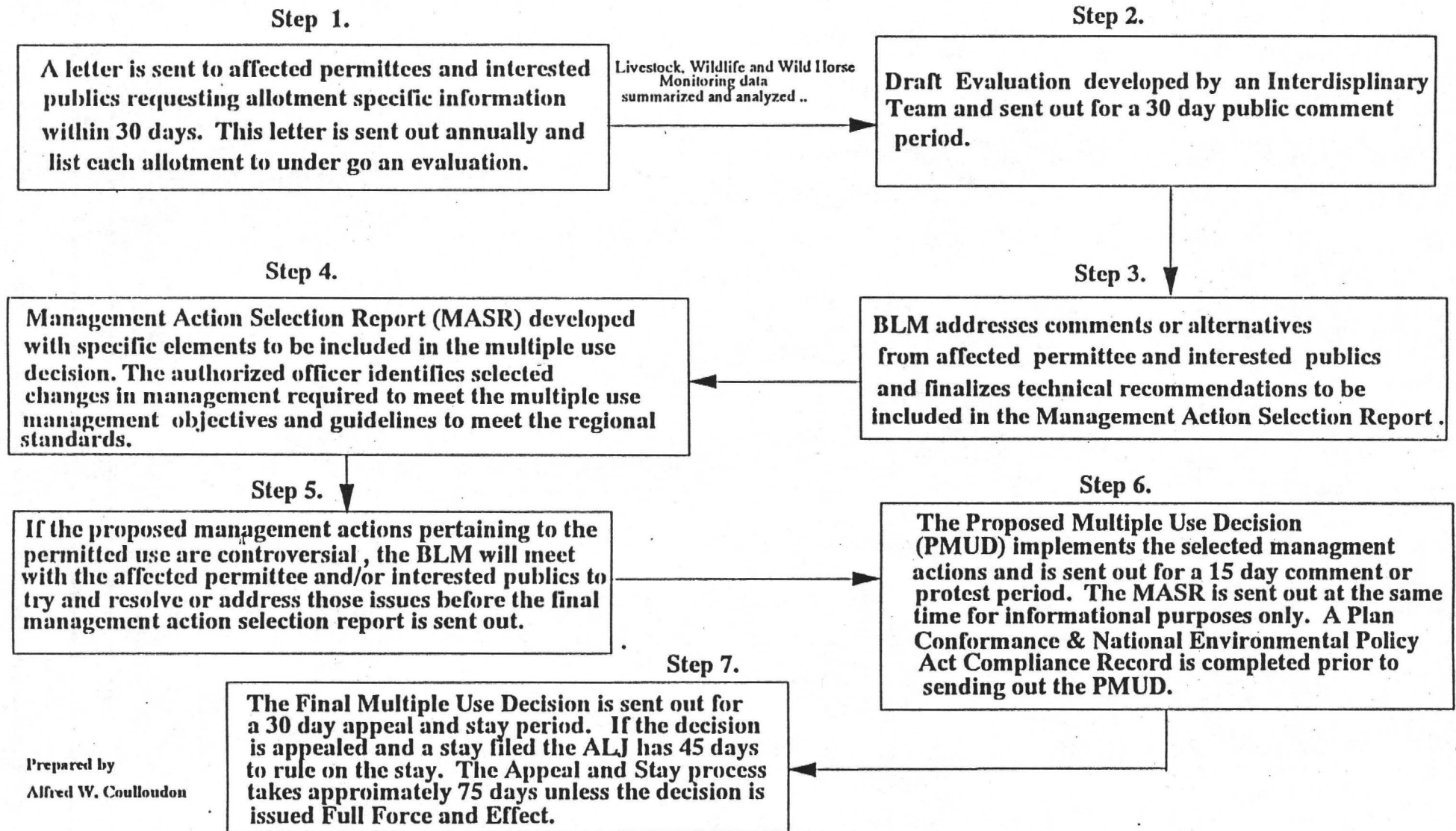
serve better, for attaining desired communities.

- 3.3 Intensity, frequency, season of use and distribution of grazing use should provide for growth, reproduction, and, when environmental conditions permit, seedling establishment of those plant species needed to reach long-term land use plan objectives. Measurements of ecological condition, trend, and utilization will be in accordance with techniques identified in the Nevada Rangeland Handbook.
- 3.4 Grazing management practices should be planned and implemented to provide for integrated use by domestic livestock and wildlife, as well as wild horses and burros inside Herd Management Areas.
- 3.5 Management practices will promote the conservation, restoration and maintenance of habitat for special status species.
- 3.6 Livestock grazing practices will be designed to protect fragile ecosystems of limited distribution and size that support unique sensitive/endemic species or communities. Where these practices are not successful, grazing will be excluded from these areas.
- 3.7 Where grazing practices alone are not likely to achieve habitat objectives, land management practices may be designed and implemented as appropriate.
- 3.8 Vegetation manipulation treatments may be implemented to improve native plant communities, consistent with appropriate land use plans, in areas where identified Standards cannot be achieved through proper grazing management practices alone. Fire is the preferred vegetation manipulation practice on areas historically adapted to fire; treatment of native vegetation with herbicides or through mechanical means will be used only when other management techniques are not effective.
- 3.9 Rangeland management practices should address improvement beyond this standard, significant progress toward achieving standards, time necessary for recovery, and time necessary for predicting trends.

APPENDIX II

Public Consultation Process

## Public Consultation Process For Ely District Allotment Evaluations



APPENDIX III Upland Studies Summary

ALLOTMENT: HENRIE COMPLEX				PRESENT STATUS		LONG TERM OBJECTIVES			SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES				
STUDY AREA	KEY AREA LOCATION	ECOLOGICAL SITE NO.	KEY SPP.	KEY SPP % COMP. BY WT	SERAL STAGE (%PNC)	MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE	KEY SPP % COMP BY WT.	SERAL STAGE (% PNC)	ALLOWABLE USE LEVEL				SEASON OF USE *LHW
									SP	S	F	W	
KA1 Hackberry Flat	T.10 S R.66 E SEC 6	030XB029NV CORA-HIRI Blackbrush burn	EPNE	trace	Early Seral <sup>1</sup> 10% [1]	IMPROVE	3%	Mid Seral >26%	40	40	45	45	YL L, H [2]
			HIRI	4%					40	40	50	50	
KA2 Averett Reservoir	T.9 S R.66 E SEC 11	030XB029NV CORA-HIRI Blackbrush burn	ORHY	trace	Early Seral <sup>1</sup> 12% [1]	Maintain	3%	Mid Seral >26%	50	50	60	60	YL L, H
			SPAM2	1%					50	50	60	60	
			EPNE	trace		IMPROVE	3%	30	50	50	50		
			ARPU9	27%								27%	
KA3 Carp Pass burn	T.8 S R.67 E SEC 19	030XB029NV CORA-HIRI Blackbrush burn	EPNE	1%	Early Seral <sup>1</sup> 7% [1]	Maintain or IMPROVE	3%	Mid Seral >26%	30	50	50	50	YL L, H
			ARPU9	39%					39%	50	50	60	
KA4 North Lyman Crossing	T.9 S R.68 E SEC 17	030XB028NV Valley Wash 5-8 LATR2 - AMBRO/HIRI	EPNE	6%	Early Seral <sup>1</sup> 24%	Maintain or IMPROVE	6%	Mid Seral >26%	30	50	50	50	YL L, H
			ORHY	1%					50	50	60	60	
			HIRI	6%					10%	50	50	60	
KA5 ** Meadow Valley Wash	T.8 S R.67 E SEC 14		ORHY	ND		IMPROVE	ND		50	50	60	60	YL L, H
			SPCR	ND					ND	50	50	60	
KA6 *** South Lyman Crossing	T.9 S R.68 E SEC 19	030XB005NV Limy 5-8 LATR2 - AMDU2/HIRI	HIRI	6%	Mid Seral <sup>1</sup> 33%	Maintain	8%	Mid Seral >33%	40	40	50	50	YL L, H [2]
KA7 *** North Vigo Canyon	T.9 S R.68 E SEC 20	030XB028NV Valley Wash 5-8 LATR2 - AMBRO/HIRI	HIRI	trace	Early Seral <sup>1</sup> [1]	IMPROVE	10%	Mid Seral >26%	40	40	50	50	YL L, H [2]
			ORHY	trace					5%	40	40	50	

\* L = Livestock; H = Wild Horses; W = Wildlife; [1] = Ecological data and frequency data indicates that the present seral stage of these sites is not meeting the desired plant community objectives for livestock and wild horses. [2] = PRESCRIPTION 2 Desert Tortoise Habitat

\*\* ESI was not completed on KA5, \*\*\* KA6 & KA7 were established in June 1997, ND = No Data

<sup>1</sup> The identified seral stage for each area could be down-graded one seral stage, where possible, due to lack of perennial grasses and dominance of introduced annual grasses and forbs.

EPNE=Nevada Ephedra, HIRI=Big Galleta, ORHY=Indian Ricegrass, SPAM2=Desert Globemallow, ARPU9=Purple three-awn, SPCR=Sand dropseed, CORA=Blackbrush, AMBRO=Bursage spp., LATR2=Creosote bush, AMDU2=White Bursage



APPENDIX IV

STOCKING RATE CALCULATIONS

1. The desired stocking level for the Henrie Complex was determined using the following formula (BLM Technical Reference 4400-7):

$$\frac{\text{Actual Use (AUMs)}}{\% \text{ Utilization}} = \frac{\text{Desired Actual Use (AUMs)}}{\text{Desired Utilization}}$$

Actual Use data for livestock and wild horses for the 1992, 1995, and 1996 grazing years was used in the desired stocking rate equation. Wild horse use was estimated from aerial census data and field observations. A desired stocking rate was calculated for each year that had use pattern mapping data. The stocking rates were then averaged to come up with the desired stocking level for the allotment (1,373 AUMs). The 1,373 AUMs were allocated to the livestock based upon the initial management levels identified for each user in the land use plan.

Grazing Year	CATTLE AUMs	WILD HORSE AUMs <sup>1</sup>	TOTAL AUMs	DESIRED UTIL. %	ACTUAL UTIL.%	DESIRED AUMs
1992	4037	756	4793	.45	.90	2,397
1995	1963	360 <sup>2</sup>	2323	.45	.90	1,162
1996	647	468	1115	.45	.90	558

<sup>1</sup> Wild horse AUMs are derived from number of wild horses identified for each corresponding year in Table 2 based on 12 months.

<sup>2</sup> 1995 wild horse numbers are derived from the 1994 census number times an 18% rate of increase based on 12 months.

Average AUMs for the Henrie Complex = 1373 AUMs

2. AUMs apportioned to each permittee based on their percent of permitted use:

Kevin Olson (76.6%): 1,056 AUMs = 176 cows for 6 months.

Robert Lewis (23.4%): 324 AUMs = 54 cows for 6 months.



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely Field Office

HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)

Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

<http://www.nv.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:  
4130 (NV-045)

JUN - 4 1999

Kevin D. Olson  
P.O. Box 97  
Panaca, NV 89042

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. P 310 373 392  
Return Receipt Requested

Robert C. Lewis  
P.O. Box 520  
Moapa, NV 89025

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. P 310 373 393  
Return Receipt Requested

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED MULTIPLE USE DECISION FOR THE HENRIE COMPLEX ALLOTMENT

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Management Framework Plan (MFP) for the Caliente Field Station (formerly the Caliente Resource Area) was issued in February 1982. The Caliente Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) was issued in June 1985. The Caliente Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was issued in September 1979. These documents guide the management of public lands within the Henrie Complex Allotment (formerly the Henrie and Morrison-Wengert allotments). The Caliente MFP, dated February 1982, states in pertinent part:

"Establish periods-of-use on all perennial and ephemeral-perennial allotments through Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP) and subsequent development of allotment management plans or in conjunction with development of grazing systems." (MFP, Range Management 1.1 and 1.7)

"Determine proper stocking rates of domestic livestock on perennial and ephemeral-perennial allotments through a range monitoring system and the CRMP process. Where it becomes necessary to take immediate action to effectively implement management, appropriate survey, utilization, actual use, etc., data can be obtained to initiate a beginning point in the number of animals on the public lands." (MFP, Range Management 1.2)

The proposed action includes an evaluation and monitoring system to determine the effectiveness of current management and proposed management. If evaluation procedures determine that the specific management objectives are not being achieved, modification of the proposed action would occur. Such modifications could include changes in the grazing system, management intensity, livestock numbers, period-of-use, or any combination of revisions in order to attain management objectives.

Monitoring studies were initially established in 1981 and data has been collected for this allotment periodically since that time. In accordance with Bureau policy and regulations, this data has been analyzed and evaluated in order to determine progress in meeting Standards and Guides for grazing administration (Appendix I) and management objectives for the Henrie Complex Allotment. Allotment specific input was received from the permittees, Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW), Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, Nevada Division of Agriculture, Lincoln County Commissioners, Lincoln County Public Lands Commission, and a prospective buyer of a portion of the permit. See Appendix II for the allotment specific objectives covering livestock, wild horses, and wildlife. These objectives are in conformance with and formulated to accomplish the Caliente MFP multiple use objectives as they relate to all grazing use on the Henrie Complex Allotment.

**BASED UPON THE EVALUATION OF MONITORING DATA FOR THE HENRIE COMPLEX ALLOTMENT, RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DISTRICT STAFF, AND INPUT RECEIVED THROUGH CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND COOPERATION FROM THE PERMITTEES AND PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS, THE PROPOSED DECISION IS AS FOLLOWS:**

The analysis of monitoring data has revealed that the majority of the multiple use objectives for the Henrie Complex Allotment are not being met with the existing use by livestock and wild horses. This analysis also shows that the existing management of wildlife does not contribute to the failure in meeting these multiple use objectives. Therefore, this decision proposes changes in the management practices for livestock and wild horses and not to wildlife use. This decision also establishes the appropriate management levels for wild horses for those portions of the Meadow Valley Mountains Herd Management Area (HMA), Mormon Mountains HMA, and Blue Nose Peak HMA within the Henrie Complex Allotment.

**LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT DECISION**

In accordance with 43 CFR 4110.3, 4110.3-2(b), and 4130.3-1(a), permitted use shall be changed as follows and will be effective March 1, 2000:

From:	<u>Total AUMs</u>	<u>Suspended AUMs</u>	<u>Active Preference AUMs</u>
	4,160	0	4,160
To:	<u>AUMs of Permitted Use</u>		
	1,373		

Based on adjustments in season-of-use and adjustments in livestock numbers, the following permitted use will become effective March 1, 2000:

Kevin Olson:

<u>Livestock No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Use AUMs</u>	<u>% Public Land</u>
176	Cow	11/01 - 4/30	1,056	100%

Robert Lewis:

<u>Livestock No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>Permitted Use AUMs</u>	<u>% Public Land</u>
54	Cow	11/01 - 4/30	324	100%

In accordance with 43 CFR 4130.3-2, the following terms and conditions will be included in the grazing permit for the Henrie Complex Allotment:

1. Improve livestock distribution through placement of salt and/or mineral block a minimum of 1/2 mile from water and by herding of livestock. (Guideline 3.3)
2. The hauling of water will be stipulated to any authorization of use within the eastern half of the allotment. Water distribution within the allotment will be improved through the placement of a minimum of two new water haul locations. At least one of these locations will be established along the Lyman Crossing Road near the White Rock Allotment boundary to facilitate the authorization of livestock use. At least one location will also be established in the northwest portion of the allotment in the vicinity of the Meadow and Pass fires to make use of available forage on these areas.

### Rationale

Based on the identified issues of the evaluation, all three Standards and Guides for grazing administration are not being achieved and four of the five land use plan objectives for the allotment are not being met under the existing management practices; therefore, implementation of management actions and/or adjustments to livestock and wild horse numbers are necessary to result in significant progress towards achieving the Standards for Rangeland Health. Allowable use levels for key management areas #5-7 have been exceeded and use pattern mapping indicates large areas of severe use and poor distribution of livestock and wild horses. The documented livestock and wild horse actual use levels are not achieving the identified multiple use objectives. Grazing use by livestock and wild horses has concentrated on the principal use areas which make up approximately 8% of the allotment. This concentrated use has contributed to overutilization and decreased range condition. This allotment's forage base is made up of 80 percent blackbrush communities that produce little or no perennial grasses and generally, only small amounts of annual forage. Ecological condition data shows that 6 out of 7 key areas are at early seral stage due to lack of key perennial species. The riparian area and floodplain associated with Meadow

Valley Wash is in a degraded condition and receives severe use on a continual basis. Vegetative community trend is showing downward or static trends at key areas #1-4 within the allotment. Desired use levels within desert tortoise habitat have been exceeded based on use pattern mapping.

The current year-round season of use is inappropriate for the allotment which occurs in the Mojave desert ecotype. Hot season and yearlong grazing has contributed greatly to the severe use patterns and poor animal distribution observed on the allotment. In addition, warm season plants which complete their growing cycle in the summer months need adequate rest from grazing pressure to allow for seed dissemination. Without the rest, range condition could continue to degrade as plants are not afforded the opportunity to reproduce and store root reserves. Big galleta (*Hilaria rigida*), one of the main forage species, is a warm season perennial grass.

### Standards and Guidelines

Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration will be implemented through the terms and conditions of the grazing permit. A term permit will be issued to the permittees at the end of the 30 day appeal period to the final multiple use decision (FMUD), at which time the FMUD becomes final.

The grazing management practices identified in the terms and conditions are designed to ensure significant progress towards fulfillment of the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Standards and toward conformance with the guidelines. The management actions implement the guidelines to meet the multiple use objectives and standards.

Grazing use will be accordance with the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area standards and guidelines for grazing administration as developed by the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Grazing use will also be in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4180- Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.

AUTHORITY: The authority for this decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent part:

4100.0-8: "The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principle of multiple use and sustained yield, and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use, and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plans also set forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5(b)."



4110.3: "The authorized officer shall periodically review the permitted use specified in a grazing permit or lease and shall make changes in the permitted use as needed to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity, to assist in restoring ecosystems to properly functioning condition, to conform with land use plans or activity plans, or to comply with the provisions of subpart 4180 of this part. These changes must be supported by monitoring, field observations, ecological site inventory or other data acceptable to the authorized officer."

4110.3-2(b): "When monitoring or field observations show grazing use or patterns of use are not consistent with the provisions of subpart 4180, or grazing use is otherwise causing an unacceptable level or pattern of utilization, or when use exceeds the livestock carrying capacity as determined through monitoring, ecological site inventory or other acceptable methods, the authorized officer shall reduce permitted grazing use or otherwise modify management practices."

4120.3-1(c): "The authorized officer may require a permittee or lessee to maintain and/or modify range improvements on the public lands under 4130.3-2 of this title."

4130.3: "Livestock grazing permits and leases shall contain terms and conditions determined by the authorized officer to be appropriate to achieve the management and resource condition objectives for the public lands and other lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and ensure conformance with the provisions of subpart 4180 of this part."

4130.3-1(a): "The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotment(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. The authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity of the allotment."

4130.3-2: "The authorized officer may specify in grazing permits and leases other terms and conditions which will assist in achieving management objectives, provide for proper range management or assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands."

### PROTEST

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interest may protest the livestock grazing portion of this proposed multiple use decision under Sec. 43 CFR 4160.1, in person or in writing to James M. Perkins, Assistant Field Manager - Renewable Resources, Ely Field Office Bureau of Land Management, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301-9408 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the proposed decision is in error.

Subsequent to the protest period, a final multiple use decision will be issued, regardless of whether or not any protests were received. The final multiple use decision may be modified in light of pertinent information brought forth during the protest period. The final multiple use decision will specify appeal procedures.

## WILD HORSE AND BURRO MANAGEMENT DECISION

Establish a wild horse appropriate management level (AML) for the Henrie Complex portion of the Meadow Valley Mountains HMA at zero (0) horses. The Meadow Valley Mountains HMA would lose its status as a HMA, but will retain Herd Area status for future consideration for management, should conditions change. All AUMs identified within the desired stocking rate calculations will be allocated for livestock use based on the establishment of the zero (0) AML for this HMA.

Establish a wild horse AML for the Henrie Complex portion of the Mormon Mountains HMA at zero (0) animals. This portion of the HMA will be set at zero (0) due to no use by horses in this portion of the allotment.

Establish a wild horse AML for the Henrie Complex portion of the Blue Nose Peak HMA at zero (0) horses. Manage the Blue Nose Peak HMA in conjunction with the Clover Mountain HMA.

It has been determined through monitoring that a thriving natural ecological balance within the Henrie Complex Allotment will be obtained by maintaining wild horse use at the following levels:

<u>Use Area</u>	<u>Herd Management Area</u>	<u># Animals</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
NE 1/4 Henrie Complex	Blue Nose Peak	0 yearlong	0
SE 1/4 Henrie Complex	Mormon Mountains	0 yearlong	0
W 1/2 Henrie Complex	Meadow Valley Mountains	0 yearlong	0

The setting of wild horse numbers by allotment will eventually provide for an overall herd management area wild horse AML. Removals will occur on an HMA basis and numbers will be maintained at or near the total AML. Numbers within use areas and/or allotments may be higher or lower than the numbers identified above because of seasonal movements but the total AML for the HMA will be maintained. In accordance with 43 CFR 4700.0-6(a), wild horse use on the Henrie Complex Allotment shall be managed at 0 AUMs. In accordance with 43 CFR 4720.1, in the future, all wild horses in excess of the appropriate management levels of 0 animals will be removed.

Adjustments in wild horse numbers will be made by future Blue Nose Peak, Mormon Mountains, and Meadow Valley Mountains HMA gathers based on continued monitoring, in order to achieve and maintain the established AML.

### RATIONALE:

Based on the identified issues of the evaluation, all three Standards and Guides for grazing administration are not being achieved and four of the five land use plan objectives for the allotment are not being met under the existing management practices; therefore, implementation of management actions and/or adjustments to livestock and wild horse numbers are necessary to

result in significant progress towards achieving the Standards. Allowable use levels for key management areas #5-7 have been exceeded and use pattern mapping indicates large areas of severe use and poor distribution of livestock and wild horses. The documented livestock and wild horse actual use levels are not achieving the identified multiple use objectives. Grazing use by livestock and wild horses has concentrated on the principal use areas which make up approximately 8% of the allotment. This concentrated use has contributed to overutilization and decreased range condition. This allotment's forage base is made up of 80 percent blackbrush communities that produce little or no perennial grasses and generally, only small amounts of annual forage. Ecological condition data shows that 6 out of 7 key areas are at early seral stage due to lack of key perennial species. The riparian area and floodplain associated with Meadow Valley Wash is in a degraded condition and receives severe use on a continual basis. Vegetative community trend is showing downward or static trend at key areas #1-4 within the allotment. Desired use levels within desert tortoise habitat have been exceeded based on use pattern mapping.

The current year-round season of use is inappropriate for the allotment which occurs in the Mojave desert ecotype. Hot season and yearlong grazing has contributed greatly to the severe use patterns observed on the allotment. In addition, warm season plants which complete their growing cycle in the summer months need adequate rest from grazing pressure to allow for seed dissemination. Without the rest, range condition could continue to degrade as plants are not afforded the opportunity to reproduce and store root reserves. Big galleta (*Hilaria rigida*), one of the main forage species, is a warm season perennial grass.

Wild horse use on a yearlong basis within the allotment has contributed to the non-attainment of the multiple use objectives. Severe use has been documented within the principal use areas with as few as 30 wild horses (1995).

Based on observations and census numbers, it is believed that less than 10 wild horses exist within this portion of the Blue Nose Peak HMA. These horses are also residing within the portions of the HMA contained in the Garden Springs and White Rock allotments as well as within the Clover Mountain HMA, which borders the HMA to the north. The mobility of the Blue Nose Peak and Clover Mountain herds suggests that this area should be managed with the Clover Mountain HMA instead of being identified as a separate HMA. Due to this fact, management goals and objectives need to be consistent for both areas.

The Mormon Mountains HMA is bordered on three sides by a proposed Desert Wildlife Management Area (DWMA) as identified in the Recovery Plan for the Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) (June 1994). The Recovery Plan states that domestic livestock grazing and grazing by feral ("wild") burros and horses should be prohibited throughout all Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs) because they are generally incompatible with desert tortoise recovery. Though the Henrie Complex portion of the HMA is outside of the proposed DWMA, there is no physical barrier to prohibit the movement of horses into the DWMA area. Due to available water within the DWMA (Meadow Valley Wash), this movement by horses will be a perpetual management problem. The Caliente Field Station is currently amending the Caliente

MFP to incorporate the management of desert tortoise habitat as identified within the Recovery Plan.

**AUTHORITY:** The authority for this decision is contained in Sec. 3(a) and (b) of the Wild-Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (P.L. 92-195) as amended and in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

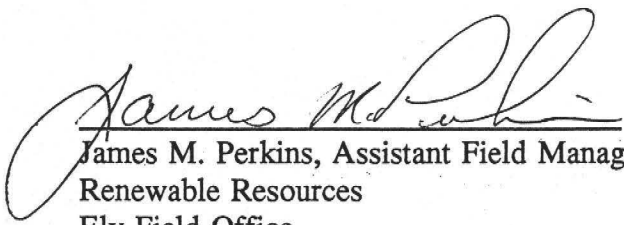
4700.0-6(a): "Wild horses and burros shall be managed as self-sustaining populations of healthy animals in balance with other uses and the productive capacity of their habitat."

4710.4: "Management of wild horses and burros shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting the animals' distribution to herd areas. Management shall be at the minimum level necessary to attain the objectives identified in approved land use plans and herd management area plans."

4720.1: "Upon examination of current information and a determination by the authorized officer that an excess of wild horses or burros exists, the authorized officer shall remove the excess animals immediately..."

**PROTEST:**

Although the 4700 regulations allow for an appeal with no mention of a protest, for the purpose of consistency with the livestock management portion of this decision, the entire multiple use decision is initially being sent as a "Proposed" decision. If you wish to protest this decision, in whole or in part, you are allowed fifteen (15) days from receipt of this notice within which to file a protest with James M. Perkins, Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources, Ely Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301-9408. Subsequent to the protest period, a final decision will be issued, regardless of whether or not any protests were received. The final decision may be modified in light of pertinent information brought forth during the protest period.

  
James M. Perkins, Assistant Field Manager  
Renewable Resources  
Ely Field Office

## APPENDIX I

### MOJAVE-SOUTHERN GREAT BASIN AREA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)

#### STANDARDS and GUIDELINES:

##### STANDARD 1. SOILS:

Watershed soils and stream banks should have adequate stability to resist accelerated erosion, maintain soil productivity, and sustain the hydrologic cycle.

##### Soil indicators:

- Ground cover (vegetation, litter, rock, bare ground);
- Surfaces (e.g., biological crusts, pavement); and
- Compaction/infiltration.

##### Riparian soil indicators:

- Stream bank stability.

All of the above indicators are appropriate to the potential of the ecological site.

##### Guidelines:

- 1.1 Upland management practices should maintain or promote adequate vegetative ground cover to achieve the standard.
- 1.2 Riparian-wetland management practices should maintain or promote sufficient residual vegetation to maintain, improve, or restore functions such as stream flow energy dissipation, sediment capture, groundwater recharge, and streambank stability.
- 1.3 When proper grazing practices alone are not likely to restore areas, land management practices may be designed and implemented where appropriate.
- 1.4 Rangeland management practices should address improvement beyond this standard, significant progress toward achieving standards, time necessary for recovery, and time necessary for predicting trends.



## STANDARD 2. ECOSYSTEM COMPONENTS;

Watersheds should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses.

Riparian and wetlands vegetation should have structural and species diversity characteristic of the stage of stream channel succession in order to provide forage and cover, capture sediment, and capture, retain, and safely release water (watershed function).

### Upland indicators:

- Canopy and ground cover, including litter, live vegetation, biological crust, and rock appropriate to the potential of the ecological site.
- Ecological processes are adequate for the vegetative communities.

### Riparian indicators:

- Stream side riparian areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, large woody debris, or rock is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows.
- Elements indicating proper functioning condition such as avoiding accelerating erosion, capturing sediment, and providing for groundwater recharge and release are determined by the following measurements as appropriate to the site characteristics:

Width/Depth ratio;

Channel roughness;

Sinuosity of stream channel;

Bank stability;

Vegetative cover (amount, spacing, life form); and

Other cover (large woody debris, rock).

- Natural springs, seeps, and marsh areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation is present to facilitate water retention, filtering, and release as indicated by plant species and cover appropriate to the site characteristics.



Water quality indicators:

- Chemical, physical and biological constituents do not exceed the state water quality standards.

The above indicators shall be applied to the potential of the ecological site.

Guidelines:

- 2.1 Management practices should maintain or promote appropriate stream channel morphology and structure consistent with the watershed.
- 2.2 Watershed management practices should maintain, restore or enhance water quality and flow rate to support desired ecological conditions.
- 2.3 Management practices should maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions necessary for achieving surface characteristics and desired natural plant community.
- 2.4 Grazing management practices will consider both the economic and physical environment, and will address all multiple uses including, but not limited to, (i) recreation, (ii) minerals, (iii) cultural resources and values, and (iv) designated wilderness and wilderness study areas.
- 2.5 New livestock facilities will be located away from riparian and wetland areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian and wetland functions. Existing facilities will be used in a way that does not conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian and wetland functions, or they will be relocated or modified when necessary to mitigate adverse impacts on riparian and wetland functions. The location, relocation, design and use of livestock facilities will consider economic feasibility and benefits to be gained for management of lands outside the riparian area along with the effects on riparian functions.
- 2.6 Subject to all valid existing rights, the design of spring and seep developments shall include provisions to protect ecological functions and processes.
- 2.7 When proper grazing practices alone are not likely to restore areas of low infiltration or permeability, land management practices may be designed and implemented where appropriate. Grazing on designated ephemeral rangeland watersheds should be allowed only if (i) reliable estimates of production have been made, (ii) an identified level of annual growth or residue to remain on site at the end of the grazing season has been established, and (iii) adverse effects on perennial species and ecosystem processes are avoided.
- 2.8 Rangeland management practices should address improvement beyond these standards,

significant progress toward achieving standards, time necessary for recovery, and time necessary for predicting trends.

### STANDARD 3. HABITAT AND BIOTA:

Habitats and watersheds should sustain a level of biodiversity appropriate for the area and conducive to appropriate uses. Habitats of special status species should be able to sustain viable populations of those species.

#### Habitat indicators:

- Vegetation composition (relative abundance of species);
- Vegetation structure (life forms, cover, height, and age classes);
- Vegetation distribution (patchiness, corridors);
- Vegetation productivity; and
- Vegetation nutritional value.

#### Wildlife indicators:

- Escape terrain;
- Relative abundance;
- Composition;
- Distribution;
- Nutritional value; and
- Edge-patch snags.

The above indicators shall be applied to the potential of the ecological site.

#### Guidelines:

- 3.1 Mosaics of plant and animal communities that foster diverse and productive ecosystems should be maintained or achieved.
- 3.2 Management practices should emphasize native species except when others would serve better, for attaining desired communities.

- 3.3 Intensity, frequency, season of use and distribution of grazing use should provide for growth, reproduction, and, when environmental conditions permit, seedling establishment of those plant species needed to reach long-term land use plan objectives. Measurements of ecological condition, trend, and utilization will be in accordance with techniques identified in the Nevada Rangeland Handbook.
- 3.4 Grazing management practices should be planned and implemented to provide for integrated use by domestic livestock and wildlife, as well as wild horses and burros inside Herd Management Areas.
- 3.5 Management practices will promote the conservation, restoration and maintenance of habitat for special status species.
- 3.6 Livestock grazing practices will be designed to protect fragile ecosystems of limited distribution and size that support unique sensitive/endemic species or communities. Where these practices are not successful, grazing will be excluded from these areas.
- 3.7 Where grazing practices alone are not likely to achieve habitat objectives, land management practices may be designed and implemented as appropriate.
- 3.8 Vegetation manipulation treatments may be implemented to improve native plant communities, consistent with appropriate land use plans, in areas where identified Standards cannot be achieved through proper grazing management practices alone. Fire is the preferred vegetation manipulation practice on areas historically adapted to fire; treatment of native vegetation with herbicides or through mechanical means will be used only when other management techniques are not effective.
- 3.9 Rangeland management practices should address improvement beyond this standard, significant progress toward achieving standards, time necessary for recovery, and time necessary for predicting trends.

## APPENDIX II

### Allotment Specific Objectives

The Henrie Complex objectives are a quantification of LUP, Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Standards and Guidelines, Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) objectives, activity plan objectives (HMP), and down to site specific objectives. The Henrie Complex multiple-use objectives are clearly consistent and in conformance with the Caliente MFP and Mojave-Southern Great Basin Area RAC Standards.

#### a. Livestock

The short term objective will be accomplished through managing for allowable use levels (AULs) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community as established in the 1984 Grazing Decision which addresses monitoring and the 1992 Full Force and Effect Grazing Decision, which set forth specific terms and conditions to the grazing permits to facilitate grazing in desert tortoise habitat. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

The long term objective will be accomplished by managing for those ecological seral stages which maximize the sustained yield of livestock forage production. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

#### b. Wild Horses

The short term objective will be accomplished through managing for allowable use levels (AULs) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community. All wild horses will be removed from the allotment. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

The long term objective will be accomplished by managing for the appropriate ecological seral stage and be ensuring that the wild horse AMLs are maintained through future removals as necessary. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

#### c. Wildlife Resources

##### (1) Bighorn Sheep:

The short term objective is to manage for allowable use levels (AULs) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

The long term objective is to maintain key desert bighorn habitat in the fair to good condition. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

(2) Mule Deer:

The short term objective is to manage for allowable use levels (AULs) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

The long term objective is to maintain key mule deer habitat in the fair to good condition. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

(3) Desert Tortoise:

The short term objective is to manage for allowable use levels (AULs) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)

The long term objective is to maintain or improve the existing habitat conditions for desert tortoise habitat to stabilize desert tortoise populations at existing trend levels. (Refer to Standard #1, 2, & 3)