



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

9-2-93  
SEP - 2 1993

TAKE  
PRIDE IN  
AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4400 (NV-046)

Dear Participant:

Enclosed for your information is the Management Action Selection Report (MASR) for the Cottonwood Allotment. This report is included with the Proposed Multiple Use Decision.

The Management Action Selection Report is the final section of the allotment evaluation, and completes the monitoring evaluation process. It addresses the primary concerns received from involved interests, lists the options considered during the evaluation, and describes the rationale as to why those actions were selected or not selected. The MASR identifies selected changes in management by use area or pasture required to meet or make progress towards allotment specific objectives. In addition, the MASR includes the specific terms and conditions for the grazing permit held by the permittee on the Cottonwood Allotment. Finally, the MASR addresses changes to livestock management to be included in the Proposed Multiple Use Decision for the allotment.

The Management Action Selection Report is provided for your information only. The Proposed Multiple Use Decision initiates the selected management actions on the ground, and specifies the procedures for protest.

Sincerely,

15 DAYS PROTEST

9/17

Gerald M. Smith, Manager  
Schell Resource Area

## 2 Enclosures

1. Management Action Selection Report (9 pp) (1 map)
2. Proposed Multiple Use Decision (10 pp)

MANAGEMENT ACTION SELECTION REPORTCOTTONWOOD ALLOTMENTSHELL RESOURCE AREA**Kay Wright, Permittee****A. INTRODUCTION**

The Cottonwood Allotment evaluation was conducted in accordance with the direction set forth in Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 86-706, and is based on monitoring data collected between 1983 and 1991.

Management of wild horses and burros in the Cottonwood Allotment shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting animals' distribution to herd areas. Since the Cottonwood Allotment is not within a Wild Horse Management Area, the allotment has an appropriate management level (AML) of 0 AUMs. Management shall be at the minimum level necessary to attain the objectives identified in approved land use plans and herd management area plans.

A modest amount of public comment was received pertaining to the Cottonwood Allotment Evaluation conducted in the Schell Resource Area. Copies of the comment letters pertaining to this allotment can be found in Section VII of the allotment evaluation summary, located in the Ely District files. All allotment-specific comments were carefully considered for incorporation into the final evaluation. Some of the primary concerns are addressed as follows:

The permittee had several questions concerning the following: range improvements, suspended AUMs, water hauling, and season of use. The permittee is concerned about the possibility of additional water sources, and a seeding for spring use. A seeding has been identified as a proposed project in the evaluation. A pipeline from Barton Spring was also identified for additional water. However, additional water in the Putback Spring area is not feasible to develop further. This is the area identified for water to be hauled until the proposed grazing system is implemented. Then water would be hauled for a short time period when cattle are in that use area. This would be in accordance with the proposed grazing system. The suspended AUMs would remain in suspension indefinitely, unless monitoring data indicates a change in active preference. When the identified seeding is established, additional AUMs will be adjudicated for the seeding after it is evaluated for production. The permittee was also concerned about changing the season of use on his permit from year round to spring and fall grazing. This would limit flexibility for

annual livestock fluctuation. The proposed spring and fall grazing currently meets the permittee's needs.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) stated that the proposed vegetation conversions will have to be closely coordinated to insure that wildlife resources of the area are not adversely affected. The BLM will continue to coordinate with NDOW concerning proposed vegetation conversions.

Additional specific information concerning comments are located in Section VII Consultation of the allotment evaluation summary.

Conclusions of the evaluation were based on the data collected from the following sources:

Range, wildlife, and wild horse monitoring files compiled by the Schell Resource Area office.

Input from Kay Wright (permittee) at a meeting on June 10, 1993; letter received June 7, 1993; telephone conversation on June 4, 1993.

Input from NDOW in letters received May 10, 1993; June 1, 1993; and June 7, 1993.

#### B. ANALYSIS OF MONITORING DATA

Based on identified issues of the evaluation, one of the three land use plan objectives for the allotment is not being achieved with current management practices. Therefore, additional actions and/or adjustments in management actions will be necessary. Poor livestock distribution is evident as indicated by the small areas of past heavy and severe use around the water sources. Also in key management area #2 there is a high shrub composition compared to the potential natural community (PNC) site description. The aforementioned, are the primary problems that need to be corrected in order to make progress towards the multiple use objectives for the allotment.

Presently there is minimal conflict with other users. Wild horse use is minimal within the allotment. Very few wild horses have been observed during a census and sign (i.e., fecal matter) is minimal. Deer utilize the winter range identified, more so in harsher winters.

C. SELECTED MANAGEMENT ACTION

The selected management action is as follows:

1. Short Term Management Actions

- a. Change the season of use from year round to March 1 through May 31 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31.
- b. Based on desired stocking level, Active Preference would be adjusted as follows:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Suspended</u>	<u>Active Preference</u>
From:	3,016	0	3,016
To:	1,177	1,839	1,177

- c. Salt at least 1/2 mile away from all water sources. Herding and holding cattle at new salt and water locations will be necessary.
- d. Haul water to a location off the road running North\South, at least 1.5 miles from the north allotment fenceline boundary. But, water should not be more than 2 miles from the said fenceline. This water haul site is located in T. 1 N., R. 58 E., Sec. 11. Salt will be placed at least 1/2 mile away from the water site.

2. Long Term Management Actions

- a. Construct a drift fence along the road that enters the Cottonwood Allotment at T. 2 N. R. 57 E. Sec. 16 SW $\frac{1}{4}$  and proceeds south to T. 1 N. R. 57 E. Sec. 5, then across the intersection and ending at an impassable point on the mountainside. This will separate the West Pasture and the Valley Pasture (See Map 1).
- b. Construct a drift fence that will run North\South through T. 1 N., R. 57 E. sections 6,7, and 18. Also construct a fence around the South Garden Valley Reservoir, with gates facing east and west. The main drift fence would tie into the fence around the reservoir. This would provide a watering point for both the Valley and East Pasture (See Map 1).
- c. Establish a New Grazing System, after the two identified drift fences are installed. Implement a spring/fall rotation grazing system for cattle.

Salt will be moved after grazing use is made on each use area, to a new location nearby. The allowable use level will remain at 55 percent on Key Area CWR1, and 45 percent on Key Area CWR2. The three use areas will be known as the West Pasture, Valley Pasture, and the East Pasture (See Map 1). The following recommended treatment levels (AUMs) take into account the disproportionate carrying capacities between use areas and seasons of use. These use areas would have the following grazing prescriptions.

**SPRING-FALL DEFERRED ROTATION SYSTEM FOR COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT  
AFTER 5 YEAR REDUCTION**

**Year 1      194 CATTLE      1,176 AUMs**

<u>USE AREA</u>	<u>DATES OF USE</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
WEST	03/01 TO 03/31	198
VALLEY	04/01 TO 05/31 THEN 10/01 TO 11/05	620
EAST	11/06 TO 12/31	358

**Year 2      194 CATTLE      1,175 AUMs**

<u>USE AREA</u>	<u>DATES OF USE</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
VALLEY	03/01 TO 05/31	587
EAST	10/01 TO 11/25	358
WEST	11/26 TO 12/31	230

**Year 3      194 CATTLE      1,174 AUMs**

<u>USE AREA</u>	<u>DATES OF USE</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
EAST	03/01 TO 04/24	351
WEST	04/25 TO 05/31	236
VALLEY	10/01 TO 12/31	587

**\* ON YEAR 4 THE SYSTEM IS REPEATED STARTING WITH YEAR ONE.**

- d. Salt will be placed at least 1/2 mile away from all water sites. This salting practice will enhance livestock distribution. Salt would not be located in the same place two consecutive years.
- e. Redevelop Barton Spring in T. 2 N., R. 56 E., Sec. 23 to meet BLM standards (i.e., low trough accessible to wildlife and an overflow pond). Presently, the water is just flowing out of the trough and onto the ground which wastes water. Extend Barton Spring Pipeline (JDR# 2895) from T. 2 N., R. 56 E., Sec. 23 through Sec. 24 and Sec.



25 ending in T. 2 N., R. 57 E. Sec. 31.

- f. Implement a vegetation conversion project on approximately 2,500 acres in T. 2 N., R. 56 E., Secs. 25 and 36, T. 2 N., R. 57 E., Secs. 30 and 31 (See Map 1). This would provide additional forage during the spring and could be incorporated into the grazing system. Proposed seeded areas will be evaluated towards potential and/or suitability.
- g. Reduce rabbitbrush and sagebrush on approximately 800 acres in the East Pasture to allow native grasses to increase. This would improve the seral stage on Key Area 2. This would also increase available forage.

#### RATIONALE:

The desired stocking level for the Cottonwood Allotment is 1,177 AUMS, and was based on analysis of monitoring data. Grazing use adjustments are being made to establish proper carrying capacities based on sustained yield, to improve vigor and production of key forage plants, and to allow for attainment of allotment objectives. The allowable use levels were exceeded on small portions of the allotment due to livestock distribution problems. Utilization objectives for the key species at the key areas were met except at key area CWR2. The percent composition of shrubs at key area CWR2 is high. The grass component at CWR2 will slowly return with the management actions selected above, however, a vegetation manipulation project to reduce the shrub component would improve the vegetative composition over the short term.

The change in season of use is very similar to what the permittee has run voluntarily in the past, except for a marginal amount of winter use.

When the two identified division fences are constructed, they will divide the allotment into three separate use areas. This will enable a spring rest rotation grazing system to be implemented. The rotation system will allow better livestock distribution in the Cottonwood allotment, and ease the grazing pressure on CWR2. This system will also give the vegetation in each use area rest during different seasonal time periods. With rest from grazing the plants will have a chance to produce seed and enhance the plant community for future production and use.

The other identified range improvements, such as the seeding and pipeline would provide the means for resting the majority of the allotment during the critical spring growth period. The seeding

would provide spring forage and the area would be incorporated into the grazing system after it is evaluated for production potential.

Placing salt at least 1/2 of a mile from water sources will encourage better livestock distribution.

Hauling water to the location identified will allow livestock to utilize the eastern portion of the allotment. This will in turn enhance better livestock distribution, and take grazing pressure off of the areas receiving heavy and severe use.

#### D. OBJECTIVES

1. The allotment objectives under which grazing use, as stated above will be monitored and evaluated are as follows: See appendix I for site specific objectives.

##### a. Livestock

1. The short term objective will be accomplished through managing the allowable use level (AUL) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetation community (see Appendix I).
2. The long term objective is to improve those acres in poor or fair livestock forage condition and maintain all acres presently in good livestock forage condition by managing for those seral stages which optimize livestock forage production (see Appendix I).

##### b. Mule Deer

1. The short term objective is to limit use on key browse species listed for mule deer to 45 percent yearlong.
2. The long term objective is to maintain mule deer range in at least fair habitat condition by providing diversity of forage species.

##### c. Pronghorn Antelope

1. The short term objective is to limit yearlong use on key forb species listed for pronghorn antelope to 55 percent for perennial grasses, grass-like plants, and forbs and to 45 percent for key browse species.

2. The long term objective is to maintain pronghorn antelope range in at least fair habitat condition by providing appropriate vegetation quantity and quality.

d. Riparian Areas

1. The short term objective is to limit yearlong use along stream riparian areas to 50 percent for grass and grass-like species and to 45 percent for shrubs and trees. (Appendix II).
2. The long term objective is to maintain the off-bank stream riparian area along Cottonwood Creek in good or excellent condition.

e. Wilderness Areas

1. Since the portion of the WSA is so small, and the fact that monitoring studies will not be established, no objectives have been identified.

E. GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

Livestock use will be authorized as follows:

Active Preference will be adjusted over a 5 year time frame as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Preference</u>	<u>Suspended Nonuse</u>	<u>Active Preference</u>
1994	3,016	613	2,403
1997	3,016	1,226	1,790
1999	3,016	1,839	1,177

Terms and conditions of the grazing permit will include:

1. Once the division fences are completed the following grazing system will be implemented:

TREATMENTS

A. 03/01-03/31	E. 11/26-12/31	H. 04/25-05/31
B. 04/01-05/31	F. 03/01-05/31	I. 10/01-12/31
C. 10/01-11/25	G. 10/01-11/25	J. 03/01-04/24
D. 11/06-12/31		



<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>VALLEY</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1	A	B and C	D
2	E	F	G
3	H	I	J

ON YEAR 4 THE SYSTEM IS REPEATED STARTING WITH YEAR ONE.

2. Water will be hauled to a location off the road running North\South, at least 1.5 miles from the north allotment fenceline boundary. But water should not be more than 2 miles from the said fenceline. This is located in T. 1 N., R. 58 E., Section 11. This is necessary until a permanent water source is available.
3. Salt will be placed at least 1/2 of a mile away from water.

F. FUTURE MONITORING AND GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

The Schell Resource Area will continue to monitor all 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 provide the necessary information for subsequent evaluations in the third and fifth years following the decision. These re-evaluations are necessary to determine if the allotment specific objectives are being met under the new grazing management strategies. In addition adjustments are required to meet the established allotment specific objectives.

APPENDIX I  
KEY MANAGEMENT AREA OBJECTIVES

ALLOTMENT: (Livestock)

Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological site No. 1/	Key Species	PRESENT SITUATION			LONG TERM OBJECTIVE			SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE	
				Key Spp. % Comp. By Weight <sup>2/</sup>	Livestock Forage Condition	Maintain or Improve	Key Spp. % Comp. By Weight	Serial Stage (% of PNC) <sup>3/</sup>	Allowable Use Level <sup>4/</sup>	Season of Use	
CWR1	T1N, R57E, Sec.14, NESW	028BY013NV	ORHY EULA5 Grasses Forbs Shrubs	1% 98% 1% 1% 99%	MID 52%	Maintain	1-5% >90% 1-5% 1-2% >90%	MID >52%	55% 45% 45% 35% 55%	Fall, Spring	
CWR2	T1N, R58E, Sec.5, SESW	029X046NV	ORHY EULA5 Grasses Forbs Shrubs	6% 7% 14% 1% 86%	EARLY MID 27%	Improve	6-10% 7-11% 14-20% 1-2% >85%	EARLY MID	45% 35% 35% 40% 40%	Fall, Spring	

1/ Ecological sites listed here can be referenced to SCS Ecological Site Descriptions.

2/ This is determined using the SCS double-sampling production and composition method.

3/ This is the seral stage that would have the greatest value for all resource users (livestock, wild horses, wildlife).

4/ Allowable use levels are the objectives established for utilization.

# COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT

Proposed Range Improvements

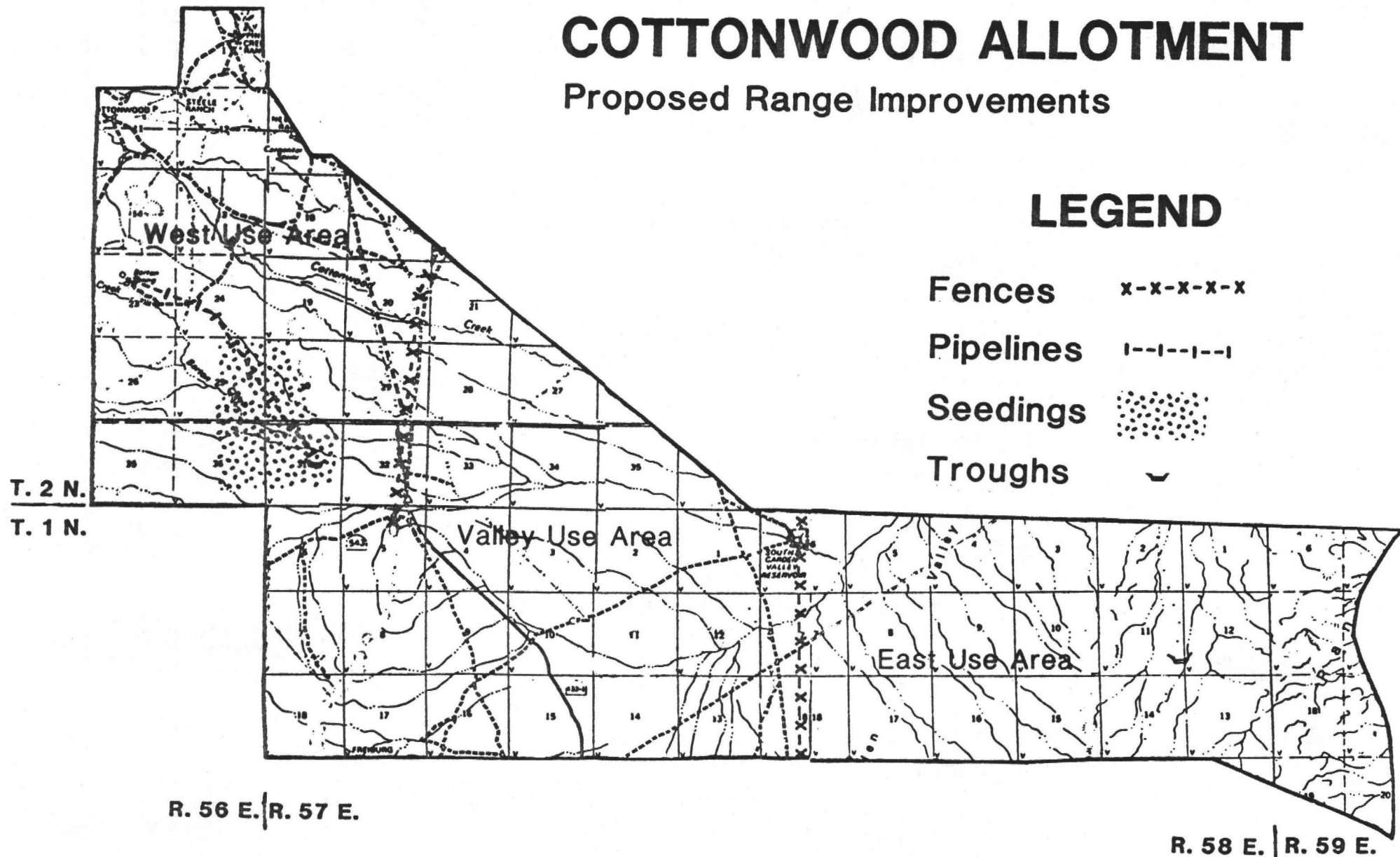
## LEGEND

Fences x-x-x-x-x

Pipelines - - - - -

Seedings 

Troughs 



MAP 1



# United States Department of the Interior

TAKE  
PRIDE IN  
AMERICA

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4160 (NV-046)

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. P 910 148 994  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Kay & Connie Wright  
P. O. Box 315  
Hiko, NV 89017

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED MULTIPLE USE DECISION FOR THE COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Management Framework Plan and the Record of Decision for the Schell Grazing Environmental Impact Statement were issued in June and July of 1983, respectively. These documents guide the management of public lands within the Cottonwood Allotment. The Schell Resource Area Record of Decision dated July 1983 states in pertinent part:

"When adequate monitoring data becomes available adjustments to the grazing capacity will be made that are compatible with the multiple use objectives...

Implementation of the range management program will take place through monitoring and consultation and coordination with all interests concerned with the management of resources in a given local area; landowners, land management agencies, wildlife groups, wild horse groups, conservation organizations, etc. Grazing adjustments, if required, will be based upon reliable vegetation monitoring studies, consultation and coordination, baseline inventory, or a combination of these...

Prior to initiating grazing adjustments, the Bureau, within the guidance of the Management Framework Plan and consultation and coordination, will consider the specific management objectives for an allotment and other resource values (i.e., riparian habitat, water quality, wildlife, recreation, wild horses and livestock) to be evaluated in determining progress in meeting these objectives. Changes in the resource values may warrant a modification of the scheduled adjustments and thus indicate the intensity and types of monitoring that will be required in each allotment..."

According to CFR 4710.4, management of wild horses and burros shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting animals' distribution to herd areas. The Cottonwood Allotment is not within a Horse Herd Management Area, therefore, no management objectives are necessary.

Monitoring studies were initially established in 1983 and have been conducted since that time. In accordance with Bureau policy and regulations, this data has been analyzed and evaluated in order to determine progress in meeting management objectives for the Cottonwood Allotment. Input was received from the permittee and two regional wildlife agency offices. See Appendices I and II for the multiple use objectives.

Appendices I and II show the management objectives for wildlife, and livestock, on the allotment. These objectives are in conformance with and formulated to accomplish the Schell Land Use Plan multiple use objectives as they relate to all grazing use on the Cottonwood Allotment.

THEREFORE, BASED UPON THE EVALUATION OF MONITORING DATA FOR THE COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT, RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DISTRICT STAFF, INPUT RECEIVED THROUGH CONSULTATION, COOPERATION, AND COORDINATION WITH THE PERMITTEE, NDOW AND PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS, THE PROPOSED DECISION IS AS FOLLOWS:

The analysis of monitoring data has revealed that one of the three multiple use objectives for the Cottonwood Allotment are not being met under the existing management practices; therefore, implementation of management actions and adjustments to livestock are necessary to meet these objectives. Allowable use levels for the key species selected for specific use areas on the allotment have been exceeded; use pattern data indicates poor distribution of livestock, and long term studies data show a static trend of range sites. Livestock grazing contributed to the high use levels recorded on the Cottonwood Allotment. Grazing use is adjusted to allow for short term (allowable use level) objectives and associated long term objectives to be met. These adjustments would initiate the required improvement of rangeland conditions. Wildlife use is not contributing to the non attainment of multiple use objectives.

#### LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT DECISION

In accordance with 43 CFR 4110.3 and 4110.3-2(b) and (c) and 4130.6-1(a), the current authorized livestock active use shall be reduced by 1839 AUMs.



Reduce active preference a total of 1,839 AUMs from 3,016 AUMs to 1,177 AUMs. This reduction is based on evaluation of monitoring data towards the accomplishment of multiple use objectives. The difference between active preference and the recommended stocking rate for the Cottonwood Allotment will be held in suspension in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.3-2(b)(c), and 4110.3-3(a)(b) and will be implemented as follows:

Adjustment in Year 1 - 613 AUMs  
 Adjustment in Year 3 - 613 AUMs  
 Adjustment in Year 5 - 613 AUMs

Future monitoring data will be evaluated to determine if livestock management practices as specified in this decision for the Cottonwood Allotment are meeting the allotment specific objectives. A decision by the Bureau will then be made to either increase, maintain or reduce the active use as identified for these use areas and/or modify the terms and conditions of the grazing permits.

Active preference will be adjusted as follows:

			Active Preference
From:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Suspended</u>	
	3,016	0	3,016

			Active Preference
To:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Suspended</u>	
	3,016	1,839	1,177

			Active Preference
Year One	<u>Total</u>	<u>Suspended</u>	
	3,016	613	2,403

			Active Preference
Year Three	<u>Total</u>	<u>Suspended</u>	
	3,016	1,226	1,790

			Active Preference
Year Five	<u>Total</u>	<u>Suspended</u>	
	3,016	1,839	1,177

Authorized livestock use effective in Year 1 (March 1, 1994) will be as follows:

Cottonwood Allotment	No.	Kind	Period of Use	%PL	Active
	397	Cattle	03/01 to 05/31	100	1,201
	397	Cattle	10/01 to 12/31	100	1,201
				Total	2,402

Authorized livestock use effective in Year 3 (March 1, 1997) will be as follows:

<u>Cottonwood Allotment</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%PL</u>	<u>Active</u>
	295	Cattle	03/01 to 05/31	100	893
	295	Cattle	10/01 to 12/31	100	893
				Total	1,786

Authorized livestock use effective in Year 5 (March 1, 1999) will be as follows:

<u>Cottonwood Allotment</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period of Use</u>	<u>%PL</u>	<u>Active</u>
	194	Cattle	03/01 to 03/31	100	587
	194	Cattle	10/01 to 12/31	100	587
				Total	1,174

In accordance with 43 CFR 4130.6-2, the following terms and conditions are hereby made a part of the grazing permit, for the Cottonwood Allotment effective March 1, 1994:

Terms and conditions of the grazing permit will include:

1. Cattle will follow the following grazing system once the division fences are completed.

**TREATMENTS**

A. 03/01-03/31	E. 11/26-12/31	H. 04/25-05/31
B. 04/01-05/31	F. 03/01-05/31	I. 10/01-12/31
C. 10/01-11/25	G. 10/01-11/25	J. 03/01-04/24
D. 11/06-12/31		

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>VALLEY</u>	<u>EAST</u>
1	A	B and C	D
2	E	F	G
3	H	I	J

ON YEAR 4 THE SYSTEM IS REPEATED STARTING WITH YEAR ONE.

2. Water will be hauled to a location off the road running North\South, at least 1.5 miles from the north allotment boundary fence. But water should not be more than 2 miles from the said fenceline. This water haul site is located in T. 1 N., R. 58 E., Sec. 11. Salt will be placed at least 1/2 mile away from the water site.
3. Salt will be placed at least 1/2 of a mile away from all water sources throughout the allotment.

4. Actual use information for each pasture will be submitted within 15 days of completing grazing use as specified on the grazing permit and grazing licenses.

Prior to the phased in adjustments, existing and future monitoring data will be evaluated to determine if modifications of the planned adjustments are necessary.

RATIONALE: The analysis and evaluation of available monitoring data indicates that the current stocking rate and management practices must be modified to meet the multiple use management objectives for the Cottonwood Allotment as identified in Appendices I and II. The data indicates that 1,177 AUMs are available for livestock, and that active preference is 1,839 AUMs in excess of the livestock carrying capacity. Since livestock are contributing to the non attainment of multiple use objectives on the allotment, livestock are being reduced. To mitigate economic hardship to the permittee, reductions on the allotment will be phased in over five years. The difference between active preference and the recommended stocking rate for the Cottonwood Allotment will be held in suspension in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.3-2(b) & (c), and 4110.3-3(a) & (b). The prescribed adjustments in stocking rates, grazing practices and increased intensity of management will initiate the accomplishment of the multiple use objectives. These actions are necessary to improve the natural ecological balance of the area's vegetative resources for all users by improving plant diversity in plant communities. In addition these actions will increase desirable plant species in the area.

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

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 singularly 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 grazing preference specified in a grazing permit or grazing lease and may make changes in the grazing preference status. These changes shall be supported by monitoring, as

evidenced by rangeland studies conducted over time, unless the change is either specified in an applicable land use plan or necessary to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity."

4110.3-2(b): "When monitoring shows active use is causing an unacceptable level or pattern of utilization or exceeds the livestock carrying capacity as determined through monitoring, the authorized officer shall reduce active use if necessary to maintain or improve rangeland productivity..."

4110.3-2(c): "Where active use is reduced it shall be held in suspension or in nonuse for conservation/protection purposes, until the authorized officer determines that active use may resume."

4110.3-3(a): "Changes in active use in excess of 10 percent shall be implemented over a 5-year period, unless after consultation with the affected permittee or lessees and other affected interests, an agreement is reached to implement the increase or decrease in less than 5 years."

4110.3-3(b): "After consultation, coordination and cooperation, suspensions of preference shall be implemented through a documented agreement or by decision..."

4130.6: "Livestock grazing permits and leases shall contain terms and conditions necessary to achieve the management objectives for the public lands and other lands under Bureau of Land Management administration."

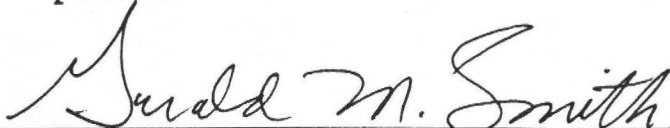
4130.6-1(a): "The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotment(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. The authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity as determined through monitoring and adjusted as necessary under Sections 4110.3, 4110.3-1 and 4110.3-2."

4130.6-2: "The authorized officer may specify in grazing permits or 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: 43 CFR 4160.2 states in part:

"Any applicant, permittee, lessee, or other affected interest may protest the proposed decision under § 4160.1 of this title in person or in writing to the authorized officer within 15 days after receipt of such decision."

If you wish to protest the livestock management portion of this proposed decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.2, you are allowed fifteen (15) days from receipt of this notice to file such a protest with the Schell Resource Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, HC 33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301. 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.



Gerald M. Smith, Manager  
Schell Resource Area

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.

cc: Nevada Department of Wildlife, Region II	(P 910 148 995)
Nevada Department of Wildlife, Region III	(P 910 148 996)
Resource Concepts, Inc.	(P 910 148 997)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	(P 910 148 998)
Nevada State Grazing Board, N-4	(P 910 148 999)
Natural Resources Defense Council	(P 910 149 000)
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association	(P 910 149 001)
Animal Protection Institute of America	(P 910 149 002)
Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter	(P 910 149 003)
Nevada Cattlemen's Association	(P 910 149 004)
Nevada Department of Agriculture	(P 910 149 005)
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses	(P 910 149 006)
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation	(P 910 149 007)
Kay & Connie Wright	(P 910 148 994)



APPENDIX I  
KEY MANAGEMENT AREA OBJECTIVES

ALLOTMENT: (Livestock)

Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological site No. 1/	Key Species	PRESENT SITUATION		LONG TERM OBJECTIVE			SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE	
				Key Spp. % Comp. By Weight <sup>2/</sup>	Livestock Forage Condition	Maintain or Improve	Key Spp. % Comp. By Weight	Serial Stage (% of PNC) <sup>3/</sup>	Allowable Use Level <sup>4/</sup>	Season of Use
CWR1	T1N, R57E, Sec.14, NESW	028BY013NV	ORHY EULA5 Grasses Forbs Shrubs	1% 98% 1% 1% 99%	MID 52%	Maintain	1-5% >90% 1-5% 1-2% >90%	MID >52%	55% 45% 45% 35% 55%	Fall, Spring
CWR2	T1N, R58E, Sec.5, SESW	029X046NV	ORHY EULA5 Grasses Forbs Shrubs	6% 7% 14% 1% 86%	EARLY MID 27%	Improve	6-10% 7-11% 14-20% 1-2% >85%	EARLY MID	45% 35% 35% 40% 40%	Fall, Spring

1/ Ecological sites listed here can be referenced to SCS Ecological Site Descriptions.

2/ This is determined using the SCS double-sampling production and composition method.

3/ This is the seral stage that would have the greatest value for all resource users (livestock, wild horses, wildlife).

4/ Allowable use levels are the objectives established for utilization.

## APPENDIX II: Land Use Plan/Activity Plan Objectives

### A. Land Use Plan/ Rangeland Program Summary Objectives

The allotment objectives under which grazing use, as stated above will be monitored and evaluated are as follows:

#### 1. Allotment Specific Objectives

##### a. Livestock

1. The short term objective will be accomplished through managing the allowable use level (AUL) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetation community (see Appendix I).
2. The long term objective is to improve those acres in poor or fair livestock forage condition and maintain all acres presently in good livestock forage condition by managing for those seral stages which optimize livestock forage production (see Appendix I).

##### b. Mule Deer

1. The short term objective is to limit use on key browse species listed for mule deer to 45 percent yearlong.
2. The long term objective is to maintain mule deer range in at least fair habitat condition by providing diversity of forage species.

##### c. Pronghorn Antelope

1. The short term objective is to limit yearlong use on key forb species listed for pronghorn antelope to 55 percent for perennial grasses, grass-like plants, and forbs and to 45 percent for key browse species.
2. The long term objective is to maintain pronghorn antelope range in at least fair habitat condition by providing appropriate vegetation quantity and quality.

d. Riparian Areas

1. The short term objective is to limit yearlong use along stream riparian areas to 50 percent for grass and grass-like species and to 45 percent for shrubs and trees. (Appendix II).
2. The long term objective is to maintain the off-bank stream riparian area along Cottonwood Creek in good or excellent condition.

e. Wilderness Areas

1. Since the portion of the WSA is so small, and the fact that monitoring studies will not be established, no objectives have been identified.