



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ELY DISTRICT OFFICE  
HC33 BOX 150  
ELY, NEVADA 89301-9408



1/1991

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4403.3 (NV-047)

Commission for the Preservation  
of Wild Horses  
Stewart Facility  
Capitol Complex  
Carson City, NV 89710

Dear Participant:

Enclosed for your information are the Management Action Selection Reports for the Six Mile, South Pancake, Becky Creek, and Fort Ruby Allotments. These reports are the final section of the allotment evaluation, and completes the monitoring evaluation process.

The Management Action Selection Reports address the primary concerns received from involved interests, lists the options considered during the evaluation, and identifies the management actions selected. The reports also describes the rationale as to why those actions were selected.

These reports are provided for your information only, and will be followed at a later date by a proposed multiple-use decision if indicated in the report. This decision will be issued to actually initiate the chosen actions on the ground, and will specify the procedures for protest and appeal. A copy of the decision will be provided to those individuals and/or organizations that have participated in the monitoring evaluation process. If no decision is required, the Management Action Selection Report will serve as documentation to the grazing file that current management is appropriate.

Sincerely,

  
for Gene L. Drais, Manager  
Egan Resource Area

Enclosures

1. Six Mile (5 pp)
2. South Pancake (4 pp)
3. Becky Creek (4 pp)
4. Fort Ruby (3 pp)

MANAGEMENT ACTION SELECTION REPORT  
FORT RUBY ALLOTMENT (0605), EGAN RESOURCE AREA  
Alfred Anderson, Permittee

A. INTRODUCTION

The Fort Ruby 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 primarily in 1989.

A limited amount of public comment was received pertaining to this allotment evaluation. Copies of the comment letters are located in the Fort Ruby allotment evaluation files in the Ely District office. All allotment-specific comments were considered for incorporation into the final evaluation. Some of the primary concerns expressed for Fort Ruby are addressed as follows:

One reviewer recommended that the permit be restricted to fall use to avoid soil and vegetation damage, and concluded that this must be the current season of use, since a wide variety of forbs are present and soil damage has not occurred. This assumption is incorrect. Cattle have grazed this allotment at virtually any time of year in the past, including spring use, with no evidence of detrimental effects. Spring cattle grazing, particularly at this limited level, does not preclude good range conditions. No evidence exists at this time that would support limiting this particular permit.

Another concern was that mule deer and antelope are excluded from this allotment by a restrictive 6-wire fence, and it was recommended that this be modified by the permittee. Unfortunately, this fence is a private fence on private land which virtually surrounds the public parcel. If the permittee volunteers to cooperate with this request, the BLM will be most willing to assist in this alteration, but the issue can not be forced via allotment evaluation.

Conclusions of the evaluation were based on data collection and comments from the following sources:

1. Range, wildlife, wild horse, and riparian monitoring studies files compiled by the Egan Resource Area and Division of Resources.
2. Input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno Field Station, in letters dated 12/14/89 and 6/27/90.
3. Input from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Region II, in a letter dated 7/2/90.
4. Input from the N-4 Grazing Board, via letters from Resource Concepts Inc., dated 5/7/90 and 7/16/90.

5. Input from the permittee, Mr. Alfred Anderson during a phone conversation on 8/27/90.

#### B. ANALYSIS OF MONITORING DATA

Based on analysis of monitoring studies, all of the land use plan objectives identified for this allotment are being met with current management practices.

#### C. SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

There are no major resource conflicts/problems on the Fort Ruby allotment at this time. All Land Use Plan and Egan Resource Area RPS objectives are being met. Therefore, the recommendation is to continue current management practices, document the files, and continue periodic monitoring. The permittee will be required to provide yearly actual use records for the entire allotment, including private lands with access to public parcels, to provide a more accurate estimate of percent use on public land. The following condition will be added to the permit/license: Use on public lands, made concurrently with use on private lands, is authorized so long as this use is consistent with attainment of multiple use objectives.

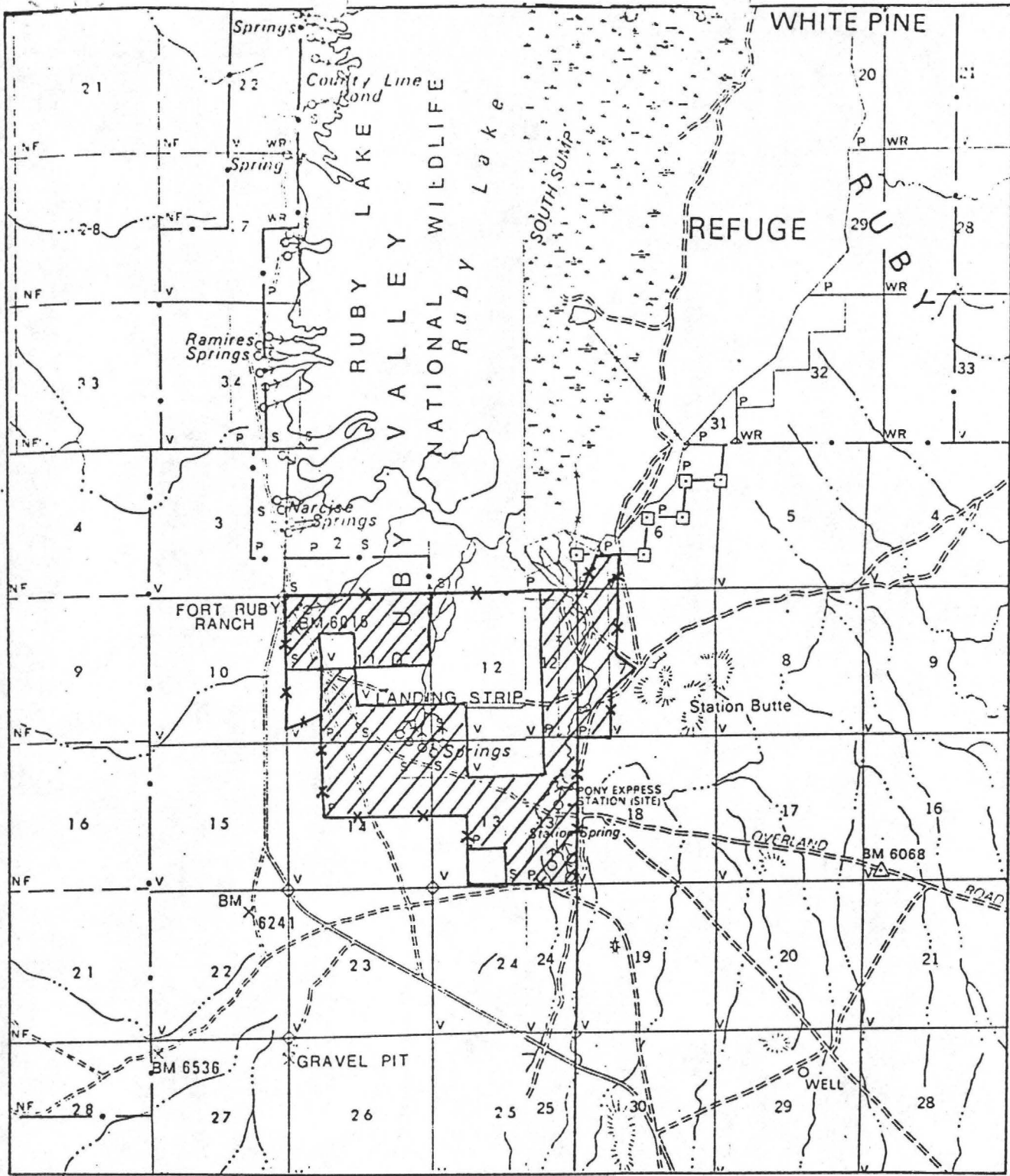
Since wild horses do not have access to this allotment, a decision will be issued to set the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the portion of the Buck and Bald HMA within the Fort Ruby Allotment at zero.

#### D. SELECTED MANAGEMENT ACTION

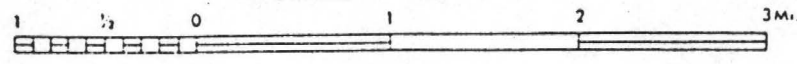
The selected management action is the only one considered (see C.).

#### E. FUTURE MONITORING AND GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

The Egan 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 necessary information for subsequent re-evaluations in the third and fifth years following the decision. These re-evaluations are necessary to determine if the allotment objectives are being met under the current grazing management strategies. In addition, these subsequent evaluations will determine if adjustments are needed to meet allotment objectives.



SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE



FORT RUBY ALLOTMENT (0605)

- Public land
- Private land
- Fenced boundary