



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

9-10-92
TAKE
PRIDE IN
AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4403.3 (NV-047)

SEP 10 1992

Wild Horse Organized Assistance
Attn: Dawn Lappin
P.O. Box 555
Reno, NV 89504

Dear Ms. Lappin:

Enclosed for your information is the Management Action Selection Report for the Badger Spring Allotment. This report is the final section of the allotment evaluation, and completes the monitoring evaluation process.

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

This report is 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,

Gene L. Drais

Gene L. Drais, Manager
Egan Resource Area

1 Enclosure

1. Badger Spring Allotment Section 8 Report

MANAGEMENT ACTION SELECTION REPORT
BADGER SPRING ALLOTMENT
EGAN RESOURCE AREA
Gracian Uhalde, Permittee

A. INTRODUCTION

The Badger Spring 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 in 1991.

A limited amount of public comment was received pertaining to this allotment evaluation. Copies of the correspondence pertaining specifically to this allotment can be found in the Badger Spring allotment evaluation file located in the Ely District office. All allotment-specific comments were considered for incorporation into the final evaluation. Some of the concerns expressed on Badger Spring are addressed as follows:

A comment letter was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listing the threatened and endangered species as well as the candidate species pursuant to section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 that may occur in the Badger Spring Allotment. No threatened and endangered species were listed for this allotment. However, candidate species listed include the pygmy rabbit, spotted bat, ferruginous hawk, loggerhead shrike and Welsh's cryptantha. Actions proposed in the Badger Spring Allotment Evaluation Summary will not adversely affect any of the listed species, jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

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

1. Range, wild horse, wildlife, water inventory, and riparian monitoring and studies files compiled by the Egan Resource Area and Division of Resources.
2. Input from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Region II, in a letter dated January 10, 1992.
3. Input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a letter dated June 29, 1992.
4. Input from the N-4 Grazing Board, via Resource Concepts, Inc. in a letter dated June 12, 1992.
5. Input from the permittee, Gracian Uhalde, on numerous occasions and via actual use data submitted for the grazing years evaluated.

B. ANALYSIS OF MONITORING DATA

Based on the identified issues of the evaluation, all nine land use plan objectives are being met with current management practices.

C. SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Since all monitoring data to date indicates that livestock, wild horse and wildlife use is consistent with the resource management objectives, no changes in management are required. In addition, the wild horse appropriate management level (AML) is established at 72 AUMs, or 6 horses yearlong, for that portion of the Jakes Wash Herd Management Area (HMA) within the Badger Spring allotment.

D. SELECTED MANAGEMENT ACTION

The selected management action is as follows:

Existing livestock use will remain unchanged at 1412 AUMs of sheep use with no AUMs in suspension. Season-of-use will remain from 4/15 to 11/30. A wild horse AML of 72 AUMs, or 6 horses yearlong, is established for that portion of the Jakes Wash Herd Management Area (HMA) within the Badger Spring allotment.

Rationale:

Monitoring studies and other existing information support the conclusion that, as currently permitted, sheep use does not exceed proper utilization levels on the allotment. Also, existing numbers of wildlife and wild horses are meeting objectives at this time.

E. GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

No adjustment to the grazing permit is required at the present time. However, a multiple use decision will be issued to set the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for the portion of the Jake's Wash Herd Management Area (HMA) within the Badger Spring Allotment at 72 AUMs, or 6 horses yearlong.

F. FUTURE MONITORING AND GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

The BLM will continue to monitor the allotment to determine if allotment objectives are being met, and if not, the data will be used in future re-evaluations leading towards new or adjusted management actions to correct problems. Use pattern mapping and/or utilization spot checks (key area utilization) will be performed every 1-3 years. Actual use will continue to be collected from the livestock permittee and wildlife use estimates from the NDOW. Ecological site inventory based on the completed third order soil survey and ecological site information will be completed as funding allows. Wild horse aerial census will continue, as funding allows, once every 2-3 years.