

9/24/90



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4403.3 (NV-047)

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

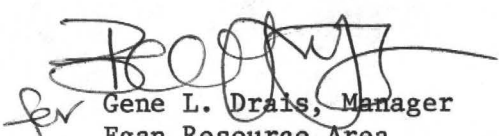
Dear Participant:

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,


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
BECKY CREEK ALLOTMENT (0404), EGAN RESOURCE AREA

Intermountain Ranches (George Swallow), permittee
Lyman Rosenlund, lessee

A. INTRODUCTION

The Becky Creek Allotment evaluation was conducted in accordance with the direction set forth in Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 86-706, and is based primarily on monitoring data collected in 1989/90.

A limited amount of public comment was received pertaining to this allotment evaluation. Copies of the comment letters are located in the Becky Creek allotment evaluation file in the Ely District office. All allotment-specific comments were considered for incorporation into the final evaluation. The only major issue raised was the concern of the Nevada Department of Wildlife that the evaluation did not adequately address the importance of this allotment for deer and antelope. These comments also stressed the dietary overlap between deer, antelope, and sheep as direct competition. Dietary overlap indicates a potential for direct competition, but does not necessarily result in competition if resources are not limiting. Utilization levels are not being exceeded, and as noted in the comment letter, no conflicts are occurring at this time. These concerns, while important, do not change the conclusions of this evaluation. Improved wildlife census information will be included in subsequent re-evaluations of this allotment.

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

1. Range, wildlife, wild horse, and riparian monitoring study files compiled by the Egan Resource Area and Division of Resources. The primary source was a task force monitoring session on 4/17/90.
2. Input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Reno Field Station, in letters dated 12/14/89 and 8/8/90.
3. Input from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Region II, in a letter dated 8/8/89.
4. Input from the N-4 Grazing Board via a letter from Resource Concepts Inc. dated 8/27/90.
5. Input from the permittee, George Swallow in a phone conversation on 9/24/90.

B. ANALYSIS OF MONITORING DATA

Based on analysis of monitoring studies, all of the land use plan objectives (ROD/RMP) identified for this allotment have been met with current management practices. Therefore, additional management actions and/or adjustments in use are not necessary. Allowable use levels have not been exceeded, and forage conditions are acceptable. There are no major resource conflicts on this allotment at this time.

C. SUMMARY OF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Livestock:

Since all objectives are being met, no stocking rate adjustments or management changes are necessary. Therefore, the recommendation is to continue existing management, document the files, and continue periodic monitoring. Management suggestions which may improve conditions would include :

- a. Improve herding practices so as to obtain more uniform utilization patterns, i.e. eliminate any heavy use zones. Camps should be moved on a regular basis and water hauled if necessary. Bedgrounds should also be rotated.
- b. Alternate use in the allotment every other year with one year beginning sheep grazing from south to north and the following year from north to south. This will allow for spring rest every other year on each end of the allotment.

Wild Horses:

Since all objectives are being met at the current levels of use by horses, the Appropriate Management Level for the portion of the Antelope HMA within the Becky Creek Allotment should be set at 8 horses yearlong (100 AUMs). This is based on current monitoring and estimated existing use by horses.

D. SELECTED MANAGEMENT ACTION

The selected management action was the only option considered, since all objectives are being met (see C.).

E. GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

No adjustments in livestock numbers are proposed. A decision will be issued to set the Appropriate Management Level for wild horse on that portion of the Antelope HMA within Becky Creek Allotment at current levels - 8 horses yearlong (100 AUM).

F. FUTURE MONITORING

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.

