

# United States Department of the Interior

# BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4130 (NV-04200)

#### OCT 18 1996 NOTICE OF FINAL MULTIPLE USE DECISION FOR THOSE ALLOTMENTS LOCATED WITHIN THE SEAMAN HERD MANAGEMENT EVALUATION AREA

Thomas Steele P.O. Box 505

Alamo, Nevada 89001

Charles & Clayton Wadsworth P.O. Box 271

Alamo, Nevada 89001

Nolan Shumway P.O. Box 175 Alamo, Nevada 89001

Higbee Brothers P.O. Box 545 Alamo, Nevada 89001

Varlin Higbee P.O. Box 354 Alamo, Nevada 89001

Stuart Twitchell 458 East 10600 South Sandy, Utah 84070

Gracian Uhalde P.O. Box 88 Ely, Nevada 89301

Bertrand Paris and Sons 260 Fay Avenue Ely, Nevada 89301

Orren Nash General Delivery Hiko, Nevada 89017

Wayne Stevens Box J Eden, Texas 76837

Gary Sprouse P.O. Box 150432 East Ely, Nevada 89315 CERTIFIED MAIL NO. P 313 268 038 Return Receipt Requested

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. P 313 268 039 Return Receipt Requested

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. P 313 268 040 Return Receipt Requested

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#### 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 for those allotments within the Seaman Herd Management Area. 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 (e.g., 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..."

Monitoring studies were initially established in 1983. 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 Seaman Herd Management Area Allotments. Input was received from the permittees, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, and other interested publics. See Appendix I for the multiple use objectives.

Appendix II shows the management objectives for livestock and wild horses on the allotments. 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 for those allotments located in the Seaman Herd Management Area.

Two comment letters expressing concern over the multiple use objectives shown in Appendix I and II of the Proposed Multiple Use Decision (PMUD) were received. One comment letter was from a range consultant representing one of the permittee's, and one letter was received from an affected interest. Gracian Uhalde indicated that he would like have the flexibility to incorporate all of his allotments (see appendix IV) into a coordinated management plan (CRM) in the future as time permits. It was explained to Mr. Uhalde that this decision does

not detract or inhibit a future CRM effort. During a phone consultation in reguards to the PMUD it was decided to rotate the spring use to coincide with spring shipping of Varlin Higbee's cattle to another allotment outside the Ely District. After further consideration it was decided that continuous spring use by one operator (Nolan Shumway) would not meet the fundamentals of rangeland health, therefore each operator will be required to be in the same spring rotation schedule. No interested public or permittee protested the PMUD.

THEREFORE, BASED UPON THE EVALUATION OF MONITORING DATA FOR THE SEAMAN HERD MANAGEMENT AREA ALLOTMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DISTRICT STAFF, INPUT RECEIVED THROUGH CONSULTATION, COOPERATION, AND COORDINATION WITH THE PERMITTEES, AND PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS, THE FINAL DECISION IS AS FOLLOWS:

The analysis of monitoring data has revealed that two of the six long-term land use plan objectives for those allotments located in the Seaman Herd Management Area are not being met under the existing management practices; therefore, implementation of management actions and adjustments to livestock and wild horses are necessary to meet these objectives. Short-term allowable use level objectives for livestock and wild horses have not been exceeded except for a few small areas of heavy use. The present seral stage at ten of twelve key areas (four of five which are in the HMA) are lower than desired because of the lack of key grasses and forbs. Continued grazing during the critical spring growing season has contributed to the decline of the percentage of grasses and forbs in the plant communities. Continuous spring grazing does not allow plants to complete their growth cycle and increase carbohydrate reserves; therefore, plant vigor and reproduction decreases. 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 4110.2-4, 4130.2 (a) & (b), 4130.3-2, and 4130.3-1(a) the level of authorized active use shall remain the same, except allotment boundaries will be changed for the proper and efficient management of public rangelands. In addition, periods of use will be changed to achieve management objectives. Future monitoring data will be evaluated to determine if livestock management practices as specified in this decision for each allotment are meeting the allotment specific objectives (Appendix II).

The allotment boundaries for the following allotments shall be adjusted resulting in the establishment of new allotments and/or the realignment of allotment boundaries in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.2-4 for the proper and efficient management of public rangelands:

East Water Gap Bird Springs Coal Valley Crescent Oreana Springs Irish Mountain Seaman Springs Timber Mountain Middle Coal Valley Uhalde Coal Valley Needles Fox Mountain North Hiko-Six Mile Dry Farm Worthington Mountain Wilson Creek White River

Map 1 and Appendix III describe the new allotment boundaries. Authorized livestock use for each permittee is identified in Appendix IV.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4130.3-2, the following terms and conditions are hereby made a part of the respective grazing permits effective March 1, 1997:

- [1] The permittees will haul water to designated locations during the time their livestock are on the allotments. Permanent storage tanks with troughs may be installed at these sites.
- [2] To improve livestock distribution, mineral block and/or salt block will be placed a minimum distance of 1/2 mile from water.
- [3] Certified actual use report by use area and pasture is due 15 days after the end of the authorized grazing period.
- [4] Cattle will be turned into the Coal Valley Lake Allotment in the fall of each year as early as 9/1. Use within the allotment will be controlled by providing water at designated locations. On even numbered years cattle will begin grazing at the north end of the allotment and will be moved south through the winter. On odd years this pattern will be reversed. Spring use (4/1 to 5/15) on the Coal Valley Lake Allotment will be rotated between three use areas (i.e., West Bench, East Bench, and Weepah Wash). Again, use in these areas will be controlled by providing water at designated locations. Beginning in the spring of 1997 cattle will graze the West Bench of Coal Valley. The next year (1998) cattle will use the East Bench. The third year (1999) cattle will graze the Weepah Wash area. In the fourth year this cycle will begin over.
- [5] Spring livestock use will be rotated between the Black Bluff Allotment, the South Coal Valley Allotment, and the White River Allotment. Beginning in the spring of 1997 the Black Bluff Allotment will be rested from 4/1 to 5/15. In the spring of 1998 the South Coal Valley Allotment will be rested from 4/1 to 5/15. In the spring of 1999 the White River Allotment will be rested from 4/1 to 5/15. In the fourth year

this cycle will begin over.

- [6] Sheep use during the spring will be rotated between West Timber Mountain, South Coal Valley, Murphy Gap, and Worthington Mountain Allotments so that lambing does not occur on any one allotment more than one year out of three.
- [7] Prior approval for dual use (cattle/sheep) is required by the authorized officer. Cattle and sheep use levels will be in accordance with Appendix V.

<u>RATIONALE</u>: Analysis of monitoring data indicates that management practices must be modified to meet multiple use management objectives as identified in Appendices I & II. The designation of new allotments and boundaries to conform with natural barriers and existing fences will provide for better permit administration, and allow the operators to manage their livestock better. Implementing grazing systems will provide for spring rest at least one year out of two on most allotments which will allow grasses and forbs to increase in the plant communities. Water hauling will enhance livestock distribution patterns.

<u>AUTHORITY</u>: The authority for this Final 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 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)."

4110.2-4: "After consultation with the affected grazing permittees or lessees, the State having lands or responsible for managing resources within the area, and the interested public, the authorized officer may designate and adjust grazing allotment boundaries. The authorized officer may combine or divide allotments, through an agreement or by decision, when necessary for the proper and efficient management of public rangelands."

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 to 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 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..."

#### APPEAL:

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final livestock grazing portion of this decision may file an appeal and petition for stay of the decision pending final determination on appeal. The appeal and petition for stay must be

filed in the office of the authorized officer as noted above, within 30 days following receipt of the final decision.

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final decision is in error.

Should you wish to file a motion for stay, the appellant shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer.

#### WILD HORSE AND BURRO MANAGEMENT DECISION

Manage the wild horses on the allotments within the Seaman Herd Management Area Evaluation at 126 horses for twelve months (1,512 AUMs) ± 15% which has been determined to be the optimum level to maintain the thriving natural ecological balance in this portion of the Seaman HMA. This figure will be added to the AML established previously through the evaluation/decision process for the other five allotments within the HMA. Those five allotments and the AML established are Batterman Wash - 0, Dry Farm - 0, Wilson Creek - 1, Forest Moon - 15, and Sunnyside - 17. Therefore, the AML for the entire Seaman HMA will be 159 wild horses ±15 percent. The ±15 percent range allows the wild horse population to fluctuate resulting in fewer removals and less stress to the animals.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4700.0-6(a), wild horse use on the Seaman Herd Management Area Allotments shall be managed at 1,512 AUMs or 126 horses yearlong.

In accordance with 43 CFR 4720.1, all wild horses in excess of the appropriate management

level for the HMA will be removed.

Achieving and maintaining AML will be done by conducting wild horse gathers in the Seaman HMA. Monitoring will continue to ensure that the AML is maintaining a thriving natural ecological balance.

RATIONALE: The analysis and evaluation of available monitoring data indicates that 126 wild horses for 12 months will meet multiple use management objectives for this portion of the Seaman Herd Management Area within the various allotments as identified in Appendices I & II. Based on numbers of horses counted during aerial censuses, those wild horses above the total AML for the Seaman HMA, which have been determined to be the optimum levels to maintain the thriving ecological balance, will be considered excess animals and will be removed in subsequent removals. Numbers within each allotment may very with seasonal movements. Wild horses will only be considered excess if the total AML for the HMA is exceeded.

<u>AUTHORITY</u>: 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..."

#### APPEAL:

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right of appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, Office of Secretary, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.4. If an appeal is taken, you must follow the procedures outlined in the enclosed form 1842-1, Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals. Within 30 days after you appeal, you are required to provide a Statement of Reasons to the Board of Land Appeals and a copy to the Regional Solicitors Office listed in Item 3 on the form. In addition, please provide this office with a copy of your Statement of Reasons. Copies of your appeal and the Statement of

Reasons must also be served upon any parties adversely affected by this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

In addition, within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to file a petition for a stay (suspension) of the decision together with your appeal, in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.21. The petition must be served upon the parties specified above. The appellant has the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Hal M. Bybee

ADM - Renewable Resources

# APPENDIX I

Seaman Herd Management Area Allotment Specific Objectives

#### a. Livestock

- (1) The short-term objective will be accomplished through managing the allowable use levels (AUL) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetation community (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 (Appendix I).

#### b. Wild Horses

- (1) The short-term objective will be accomplished through managing the allowable use level (AUL) to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community (Appendix I).
- (2) The long-term objective is to manage for the appropriate seral stage to provide desired quantity, quality, and variety of forage in order to meet the requirements of the wild horses (Appendix I)

#### c. 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.

# d. Pronghorn Antelope

- (1) The short-term objective is to limit use on key species listed for pronghorn antelope to 55 percent for forbs and 45 percent for shrubs yearlong.
- (2) The long-term objective is to maintain antelope range in at least fair habitat condition by providing appropriate vegetation quantity and quality.

# e. Ferruginous Hawks

- (1) The short-term objective is to limit use on winterfat near occupied ferruginous hawk nests to 45 percent yearlong.
- (2) The long-term objectives are to manage winterfat stands near occupied ferruginous hawk nests in mid to late seral stage, and to maintain integrity of existing pinyon-juniper "stringers" near these winterfat stands.

# f. Wilderness Study Area

- (1) The short-term objective will be accomplished through managing the allowable use level (AUL) to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community.
- (2) The long-term objective is to improve or maintain the current vegetation within the Weepah Spring WSA to provide future wilderness values and biodiversity.

APPENDIX II SEAMAN HERD MANAGEMENT AREA - LIVESTOCK AND WILD HORSE OBJECTIVES

				PRESENT SITUAT	ION		LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES **		SHORT-TERM OBJE	CTIVES
Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological Site No.	Key Species	Key Species % Comp. by Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)*	Maintain or Improve	Key Species % Comp. by Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Allowable Use Level ***	Livestock Period of Use
BB-1	T. 2 S., R. 62 E., Sec. 7	029XY020NV	EULA5 ORHY	EULA5 22% ORHY Trace Grasses 1% Forbs 73%	Early * (30%)	Improve	EULA5 >30% ORHY >5%	MID	45% 30%(by 5/31) 50%(yearlong)	9/1 - 5/15
BB-2	T. 2 S., R. 61 E., Sec. 27	029XY020NV	EULA5 ORHY	EULA5 79% ORHY Trace Grasses 1% Forbs 10% Shrubs 89%	Mid * (82%)	Improve	EULA5 <79% ORHY 2-5%	MID	45% 30%(by 5/31) 50%(yearlong)	9/1 - 5/15
TM-1 ****	T. 3 N., R. 62 E., Sec. 33	029XY008NV	ARARN ORHY	ARARN 84% ORHY 1% Grasses 3% Forbs 9% Shrubs 87%	Early * (43%)	Improve	ARARN <84% ORHY 3-5%	MID	45% 30%(by 5/31) 50%(yearlong)	11/1 - 4/10
TM-2	T. 3 N., R. 62 E., Sec. 27	029XY020NV	EULA5 ORHY	EULA5 87% ORHY Trace  Grasses T Forbs 9% Shrubs 91%	Mid * (77%)	Improve	EULA5 <87% ORHY 3- 5%	MID	45% 30%(by 5/31) 50%(yearlong)	11/1 - 4/10
FM-1 ***	T. 4 N., R. 62 E., Sec. 7	029XY008NV	ARARN ORHY	ARARN 63% ORHY Trace Grasses 19% Forbs 6% Shrubs 75%	Mid * (52%)	Improve	EULA5 <63% ORHY 3-5%	MID	45% 30%(by 5/31) 50%(yearlong)	11/1 - 4/10

\* Seral stage is based on plant community composition as well as percentage of PNC. These key areas lack key forage species so seral stage is lower than the percentage of PNC indicates.

<sup>\*\*</sup> This is the percent composition and seral stage that would have the desired vegetative characteristics to optimize production, quantity, quality, and variety to provide the greatest forage value for all users.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Allowable use levels for utilization are the short-term objectives established to meet the long-term composition objectives.

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> Key Areas within the Seaman HMA.

#### SEAMAN HERD MANAGEMENT AREA - LIVESTOCK AND WILD HORSE OBJECTIVES

				PRESENT SITUAT	PRESENT SITUATION			LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES **		SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES	
Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological Site No.	Key Species	Key Species % Comp. by Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Maintain or Improve	Key Species % Comp. by Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Allowable Use Level ***	Livestock Period of Use	
CVL-1	T. 1 N., R. 59 E., Sec. 9	029XY020NV	EULA5 ORHY	EULAS 73% ORHY 2% Grasses 2% Forbs 6% Shrubs 92%	Late * (80%)	Maintain	EULA5 <73% ORHY 3-5%	LATE	45% 40%(by 5/31) 55%(yearlong)	9/1 - 5/15	
ĆVL-2	T. 1 N., R. 60 E., Sec. 17	029XY046NV	ATCA2 ORHY HIJA	ATCA2 Trace ORHY 2% HIJA 3% Grasses 6% Forbs 2% Shrubs 92%	Early (13%)	Improve	ATCA2 1-2% ORHY 3-5% HIJA 3-5%	MID	45% 30%(by 5/31) 50%(yearlong)	9/1 - 5/15	
CVL-3	T. 2 N., R. 60 E., Sec. 22	029XY046NV	ATCA2 ORHY HIJA	ATCA2 6% ORHY 1% HIJA 1% Grasses 3% Forbs 15% Shrubs 82%	Early (25%)	Improve	ATCA2 8-10% ORHY 3-5% HIJA 3-5%	MID	45% 30%(by 5/31) 50%(yearlong)	9/1 - 5/15	
CVL-4 ****	T. 1 N., R. 61 E., Sec. 36	029XY008NV	ARARN ORHY	ARARN 81% ORHY 1% Grasses 8% Forbs 10% Shrubs 82%	Early * (41%)	Improve	ARARN <81% ORHY 3-5%	MID	45% 30%(by 5/31) 50%(yearlong)	9/1 - 5/15	

<sup>\*</sup> Seral stage is based on plant community composition as well as percentage of PNC. These key areas lack key forage species so seral stage is lower than the percentage of PNC indicates.

<sup>\*\*</sup> This is the percent composition and seral stage that would have the desired vegetative characteristics to optimize production, quantity, quality, and variety to provide the greatest forage value for all users.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Allowable use levels for utilization are the short-term objectives established to meet the long-term composition objectives.

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> Key Areas within the Seaman HMA.

#### SEAMAN HERD MANAGEMENT AREA - LIVESTOCK AND WILD HORSE OBJECTIVES

				PRESENT SITUAT	ION		LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES **		SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES	
Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological Site No.	Key Species	Key Species % Comp. by Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Maintain or Improve	Key Species % Comp. by Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Allowable Use Level ***	Livestock Period of Use
WTM-1 ***	T. 2 N., R. 61 E., Sec. 20	029XY008NV	ARARN ORHY	ARARN 60% ORHY 8% Grasses 11% Forbs 20% Shrubs 69%	Late (62%)	Maintain	ARARN <60% ORHY >8%	LATE	45% 40%(by 5/31) 55%(yearlong)	12/1 - 2/28
scv-1	T. 1 S., R. 60 E., Sec. 10	029XY042NV	EULA5 ORHY	EULA5 65% ORHY Trace Grasses 5% Forbs 5% Shrubs 90%	Mid * (56%)	Improve	EULA5 <65% ORHY 3-5%	MID	45% 30%(by 5/31) 50%(yearlong)	9/1 - 5/15
scv-2	T. 2 S., R. 59 E., Sec. 2	029XY042NV	EULA5 ORHY	EULA5 91% ORHY 1% Grasses 2% Forbs 3% Shrubs 95%	Early * (37%)	Improve	EULA5 <91% ORHY 3-5%	MID	45% 30%(by 5/31) 50%(yearlong)	9/1 - 5/15

<sup>\*</sup> Seral stage is based on plant community composition as well as percentage of PNC. These key areas lack key forage species so seral stage is lower than the percentage of PNC indicates.

<sup>\*\*</sup> This is the percent composition and seral stage that would have the desired vegetative characteristics to optimize production, quantity, quality, and variety to provide the greatest forage value for all users.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Allowable use levels for utilization are the short-term objectives established to meet the long-term composition objectives.

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> Key Areas within the Seaman HMA.

#### APPENDIX III

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS FOR NEW ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES

1. Create one allotment which will include the East Water Gap and Middle Coal Valley Allotments, and the northern portion of Oreana Springs Allotment. This new allotment will be called the Coal Valley Lake Allotment and will be described as follows:

# **Coal Valley Lake Allotment**

Commencing at the State Highway 318 right-of-way fence near the quarter corner between sections 28 & 29, T. 1 S., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed) this point being the point of beginning; thence northwesterly to a point in the northeast quarter of section 18, T. 1 S., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence westerly to the quarter corner between sections 9 & 10, T. 1 S., R. 61 E. (unsurveyed); thence northwesterly along high point of ridge to the north quarter corner section 6, T. 1 S., R. 61 E.; thence westerly to the east end of the Coal Valley Division Fence; thence westerly along the Coal Valley Division Fence to the fence corner on the south line of section 33, T. 1 N., R. 60 E. thence northeasterly along the Coal Valley Division Fence to the center of section 27, T. 1 N., R. 61 E. (unsurveyed); thence westerly along the same fence to a natural barrier in section 29, T. 1 N., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence northerly along the natural barrier and ridge of the Golden Gate Mountain Range to the Water Gap; thence easterly along the Timber Mountain Road Fence to a point in the southeast quarter of section 35, T. 3 N., R. 60 E. (unsurveyed); thence south along the same fence to a fence corner in the south east quarter of section 23, T. 2 N., R. 60 E.; thence east along same fence to the end of the fence and natural barrier in the northwest quarter in section 29, T. 2 N., R. 61 E.; thence east to quarter corner between sections 19 & 30, T. 2 N., R. 62 E.; thence south to the center of section 6, T. 1 N., R. 62 E.; thence southerly along the ridge of Timber Mountain to the natural barrier in the White River Narrows; thence southwesterly along the Nevada State Highway 318 right-of-way fence to the point of beginning.

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS FOR NEW ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES

2. Combine the southern portion of Oreana Springs Allotment, the portion of the Seaman Springs Allotment east of Seaman Narrows, and the portion of the North Hiko-Six Mile Allotment west of Highway 318 into one allotment. The new allotment will be called the Black Bluff Allotment and will be described as follows:

# **Black Bluff Allotment**

Commencing at Nevada State Highway 318 right-of-way fence in section 18, T. 3 S., R. 61 E.; thence northwesterly to a ridge and natural barrier in section 6, T. 3 S., R. 61 E., thence northerly along the ridge and natural barrier to Fossil Peak in section 31, T. 2 S., R. 61 E., thence northeasterly along ridge and natural barrier to the Seaman Wash Road in the southwest quarter of section 16, T. 2 S., R. 61 E., thence northeasterly to a ridge top in section 9, T. 2 S., R. 61 E.; thence northerly along the western escarpment and natural barrier of the Seaman Mountain Range to a point near the north quarter corner of section 6, T. 1 S., R. 61 E.; thence southeasterly to the quarter corner between sections 9 & 10, T. 1 S. R. 61 E. (unsurveyed); thence easterly to a point in the northeast quarter of section 18, T. 1 S., R. 62 E.; thence southeasterly to the State Highway 318 right-of-way fence near the quarter corner between sections 28 & 29, T. 1 S., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence southwesterly along the Nevada State Highway 318 right-of-way fence to the point of beginning.

3. The remainder of North Hiko-Six Mile Allotment (east of Highway 318) will be added to the White River Allotment. New allotment boundary will be described as follows:

# White River Allotment

Commencing at a point where US Highway 318 intersects the north section line of section 6, T. 2 S., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence east along section lines to the northeast corner of section 4, T. 2 S., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence south along section lines to the southeast corner of section 16, T. 2 S., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence west to the southwest corner of section 13, T. 2 S., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence southwest following the tops of the low hills just above the white sage to the south end of the Hiko Narrows, thence northwest to US Highway 318; thence northeast along the east side of US Highway 318 to the point of beginning.

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS FOR NEW ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES

4. Combine the Coal Valley Allotment, the western portion of the Seaman Springs Allotment, and the east half of the Uhalde Coal Valley Allotment into one allotment. In addition, combine the west half of the Uhalde Coal Valley Allotment, the northeast portion of Crescent Allotment, and that part of Worthington Allotment east of the Golden Gate Range into a second allotment. The two allotments will be called the South Coal Valley Allotment and the Murphy Gap Allotment, respectively. All livestock permittees will run in common until the two allotments are separated by the construction of a fence. The new allotments will be described as follows:

# **South Coal Valley Allotment**

Commencing at a point on the Coal Valley Division Fence located in the west half of section 27, T. 1 N., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed) this point being the point of beginning: thence south to the road junction of the road going to Murphy Gap Reservoir and the Mail Summit Road in section 26, T. 1 S., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence southeasterly along the Mail Summit Road to a point in the northwest quarter of Section 2, T. 2 S., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence east to the section line between sections 4 and 5 T. 2 S., R. 60 E. (unsurveyed); thence east to the Seaman Wash Road section 1, T. 2 S., R. 60 E. (unsurveyed); thence southeasterly along the Seaman Wash Road to the southwest quarter of section 16, T. 2 S., R. 61 E. (unsurveyed); thence north to the ridge line; thence northwesterly along ridge and natural barrier to the Coal Valley Division Fence; thence west along the Coal Valley Division Fence to its end point at the point of beginning.

# **Murphy Gap Allotment**

Commencing at a point on the Coal Valley Division Fence located in the west half of section 27, T. 1 N., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed) this point being the point of beginning: thence south to the road junction of the road going to Murphy Gap Reservoir and the Mail Summit Road in section 26, T. 1 S., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence southeasterly along the Mail Summit Road to a point in the northwest quarter of Section 2, T. 2 S., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence east to the section line between sections 4 and 5 T. 2 S., R. 60 E. (unsurveyed); thence south along the section line to the middle of sections 8 and 9, T. 2 S., R. 60 E. (unsurveyed); thence west to and along the Crescent/Mt. Irish fence; thence south and southwesterly along the fence to the end point of the fence; thence northerly along ridge and natural barrier to the Coal Valley Division Fence; thence east along the Coal Valley Division Fence to the point of beginning.

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS FOR NEW ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES

5. Combine the northwest portion of the Needles Allotment, west of the Golden Gate Range, with the Dry Farm Allotment. The new allotments will be described as follows:

# **Dry Farm**

Commencing at a point at the southwest corner of section 32, T. 4 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed) this point being the point of beginning: thence north along the section line to the northwest corner of section 32, T. 4 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence east along section line to the southeast corner of section 28, T. 4 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence north along section line to the southwest corner of section 3, T. 4 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence east along section line to the quarter corner between sections 3 and 10, T. 4 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence north to the center of section 3, T. 4 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence east to the quarter corner between sections 2 and 3, T. 4 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence north to the northeast corner of section 3, T. 4 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence east to southwest corner of section 36, T. 5 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence north to the northwest corner of section 36, T. 5 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence east along section lines to the ridge that intersects section 36, T. 5 N., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence south along the ridge line to the north section line of section 24, T. 4 N., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence southwest to the peak in section 28, T. 4 N., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence southwest to the well in section 36, T. 4 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence southwest to the southwest corner of section 36, T. 4 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence west along section line to the point of beginning.

# **Needles**

Commencing at a point on the ridge where it intersects the north section line of section 36, T. 5 N., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence east to the north east corner of section 36, T. 5 N., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence south along section line to the northwest corner of section 31, T. 5 N., R. 60 E.; thence east along section line to the northeast corner of section 31, T. 5 N., R. 60 E.; thence northeast to the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 29, T. 5 N., R. 60 E.; thence south along the section lines to the southwest corner of section 9, T. 5 N., R. 60 E.; thence east along the section lines to the southeast corner of section 10, T. 5 N., R. 60 E; thence southeast to the center of section 31, T. 4 N., R. 61 E.; thence southerly to the ridge in the southwest corner of section 17, T. 3 N., R. 61 E. (unsurveyed); thence southeast along ridge to the quarter corner between sections 27, and 28, T. 3 N., R. 61 E. (unsurveyed); thence west along section lines to the Timber Mountain Road Fence; thence north along the fence; thence southwest along the same fence to the Water Gap;

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS FOR NEW ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES

thence northwesterly following a natural barrier section line between sections 6, T. 2 N., R. 59 E, and section 31 T. 3 N., R. 59 E., thence northwest to the northwest corner of section 31, T. 3 N., R. 59 E.; thence north along section lines to the quarter corner between sections 31, T. 4 N., R. 59 E., and section 36 T. 4 N., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence northeasterly to ridgeline wher it intersects the section line between sections 13, and 24, T. 4 N., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence northerly along ridge line to the point of beginning.

6. Combine the south half of the Bird Springs Allotment with the Irish Mountain Allotment. Keep the north half of the Bird Springs Allotment as a separate allotment, and change the boundary to include the area south of the Seaman Wash road. The north half of the Bird Springs Allotment will now be called the Black Horse Allotment. The new allotment boundaries will be described as follows:

# Irish Mountain

Commencing at a point at the northwest corner of section 6, T. 3 S., R. 59 E.; thence southerly following the ridge tops to the drainage in section 12, T. 4 S., R. 58 E. (unsurveyed); thence easterly following the drainage to the main Mt. Irish/Logan Pass Road; thence easterly following the Mt. Irish/Logan Pass Road to State Highway 318; thence northeasterly along State Highway 318 to the southwest side of the Hiko Narrows in section 8, T. 3 S., R. 61 E. (unsurveyed); thence northerly to Fossil Peak; thence westerly following the natural barrier to the ridgeline intersecting sections 32, and 33, T. 2 S., R. 60 E. (unsurveyed); thence north along the section lines to the quarter corner between sections 8, and 9, T. 2 S., R. 60 E. (unsurveyed); thence west to the east end of the east end of the Crescent/Mt. Irish fence; thence west along the fence to the center of section 9, T. 2 S., R. 59 E. (unsurveyed); thence southwesterly along the Crescent/Mt. Irish fence to the point of begining.

# **Black Horse Allotment**

Commencing at Fossil Peak in section 31, T. 2 S., R. 61 E. this point being the point of beginning; thence northeasterly along ridge and natural barrier to the Seaman Wash Road in the southwest quarter of section 16, T. 2 S., R. 61 E., thence northwesterly along the Seaman Wash Road to a point in the north half of section 1, T. 2 S., R. 60 E., thence west to the section line between sections 4 & 5, T. 2 S., R. 60 E., thence south to a natural barrier intersecting in sections 32 & 33, T. 2 S., R. 60 E., thence northeasterly along the ridge and

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS FOR NEW ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES

natural barrier to a drift fence in section 27, T. 2 S., R. 60 E., thence easterly along the drift fence to its end point in the same section, thence southeasterly along the ridge tops to the point of beginning. West and southwesterly along the fence to the end point of the fence ending at the point of beginning.

7. Combine the portion of the Wilson Creek Allotment west of Highway 318 with the Timber Mountain Allotment. Change the boundary between the Fox Mountain and Timber Mountain Allotments. The new allotment boundaries will be described as follows:

# **Timber Mountain**

Commencing at the quarter corner between sections 19, and 30, T. 2 N., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence northwesterly to the southeast corner of section 4, T. 2 N., R. 61 E. (unsurveyed); thence north along section lines to the intersection of the two-track road between sections33, and 34, T. 3 N., R. 61 E. (unsurveyed); thence northeasterlyalong the two-track road to the Timber Mountain Road; thence northeasterly along the Timber mountain Road to a two-track road in section 26, T. 3 N., R. 61 E. (unsurveyed); thence southeasterly along two-track road to the Sunnyside/Timber Mountain/Fox Mountain Fence; thence northeasterly along fence to the fence corner in section 22, T. 3 N., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence east to US Highway 318; thence southerly along US Highway 318 to the North end of the White River Narrows located in section 22, T. 1 S., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence northwest along the ridge natural barrier to the center of section 6, T. 1 N., R 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence north to the point of beginning.

# Fox Mountain

Commencing at a point at the intersection of U.S. Highway 318 and Old Highway 318 in section 35, T. 3 N., R 62 E.; thence northwesterly along highway 318 to a point east of the fence corner of the Sunnyside/Timber Mountain/Fox Mountain fence in section 22, T. 3 N. R. 62 E.; thence west to the fence corner of the Sunnyside/Timber Mountain Fence in section 22, T. 3 N., R. 62 E.; thence northwesterly to the fence corner in section 19, T. 4 N., R. 62 E.; thence northwesterly along fence to the end of the fence in section 19 T. 4 N., R. 62 E.; thence northwesterly along ridgeline and low hills to the center of section 22, T. 5 N., R. 61 E.; thence northeast along ridgeline and low hills to Gap Mountain; thence along ridgeline of Gap Mountain to U.S. Highway 318; thence northeast along the ridgeline of the mountains to the quarter corner between sections 26, and 27, T. 6 N., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS FOR NEW ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES

easterly across the drainage to the highest peak in section 25, T. 6 N., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence southeast to the highest peak in section 36, T. 6 N., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence southeasterly to the west quarter corner of section 31, T. 6 N., R. 63 E.; thence west to the northeast corner of section 1, T. 5 N., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence south along section line to the northeast corner of section 36, T. 5 N., R. 62 E. (unsurveyed); thence east along section line until intersecting the ridge in section 34, T. 5 N., R. 63 E. (unsurveyed); thence southerly along ridge line to a two-track road in section 32, T. 4 N., R. 63 E. (unsurveyed); thence southwesterly to an intersection in the road in section 6, T. 3 N., R. 63 E.; thence northwesterly along the road to itsintersection with Old Highway 318.; thence southerly along Old Highway 318 to the point of beginning.

#### APPENDIX IV

# **AUTHORIZED USE BY PERMITTEE**

# TOM STEELE

Authorized use will remain at 5,324 AUMs, and will be as follows:

	NUMBER AND KIND		
<b>ALLOTMENT NAME</b>	OF LIVESTOCK	PERIOD OF USE	<b>AUTHORIZED USE</b>
Coal Valley Lake	314 Cows	09/01 to 05/15	2,657 AUMs
Pine Creek	332 Cows	05/01 to 12/31	2,667 AUMs
			5,324 AUMs

Terms and Conditions from page 4 that apply: [1], [2], [3], and [4].

# CHARLES & CLAYTON WADSWORTH

Authorized use will remain at 2,821 AUMs, and will be as follows:

*	NUMBER AND KIND		<b>`</b>
<b>ALLOTMENT NAME</b>	OF LIVESTOCK	PERIOD OF USE	<b>AUTHORIZED USE</b>
Coal Valley Lake	209 Cows	09/01 to 05/15	1,769 AUMs
Black Bluff	54 Cows	09/01 to 05/15	460 AUMs
Dry Farm	150 Cows	06/01 to 09/30	592 AUMs
	•		2,821 AUMs

Terms and Conditions from page 4 that apply: [1], [2], [3], [4], and [5].

# **NOLAN SHUMWAY**

Authorized use will remain at 656 AUMs, and will be as follows:

*	NUMBER AND KIND		
<b>ALLOTMENT NAME</b>	OF LIVESTOCK	PERIOD OF USE	<b>AUTHORIZED USE</b>
South Coal Valley	67 Cows	09/01 to 05/15	572 AUMs
Black Bluff	10 Cows	09/01 to 05/15	84 AUMs
		1	656 AUMs

Terms and Conditions from page 4 that apply: [1], [2], [3], and [5].

#### **AUTHORIZED USE BY PERMITTEE**

#### **HIGBEE BROTHERS**

ALLOTMENT NAME South Coal Valley

Authorized use will remain at 995 AUMs, and will be as follows:

NUMBER AND KIND		* ×
OF LIVESTOCK	PERIOD OF USE	<b>AUTHORIZED USE</b>
15 Cows	09/01 to 05/15	124 AUMs
12 Cows	09/01 to 05/15	103 AUMs
67 Carre	10/01 40 05/15	FOI ATTAG

 Black Bluff
 12 Cows
 09/01 to 05/15
 103 AUMs

 White River
 67 Cows
 10/01 to 05/15
 501 AUMs

 Black Horse
 22 Cows
 03/01 to 02/28
 267 AUMs

995 AUMs

Terms and Conditions from page 4 that apply: [1], [2], [3], and [5].

# **VARLIN HIGBEE**

Authorized use will remain at 577 AUMs, and will be as follows:

#### NUMBER AND KIND

<b>ALLOTMENT NAME</b>	OF LIVESTOCK	PERIOD OF USE	<b>AUTHORIZED USE</b>
South Coal Valley	9 Cows	09/01 to 05/15	76 AUMs
Black Bluff	45 Cows	09/01 to 05/15	379 AUMs
Black Horse	10 Cows	03/01 to 02/28	<b>122 AUMs</b>
			577 AUMs

Terms and Conditions from page 4 that apply: [1], [2], [3], and [5].

# STUART TWITCHELL

Authorized use will remain at 577 AUMs, and will be as follows:

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		V V I I	KIND
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<b>ALLOTMENT NAME</b>	OF LIVESTOCK	PERIOD OF USE	<b>AUTHORIZED USE</b>
South Coal Valley	9 Cows	09/01 to 05/15	76 AUMs
Black Bluff	45 Cows	09/01 to 05/15	380 AUMs
Black Horse	10 Cows	03/01 to 02/28	121 AUMs
			577 AUMs

Terms and Conditions from page 4 that apply: [1], [2], [3], and [5].

#### **AUTHORIZED USE BY PERMITTEE**

# **GRACIAN UHALDE**

Authorized use will remain at 11,345 AUMs, and will be as follows:

	NUMBER AND KIND		
<b>ALLOTMENT NAME</b>	OF LIVESTOCK	PERIOD OF USE	<b>AUTHORIZED USE</b>
West Timber Mtn.	822 Sheep	12/01 to 04/15	735 AUMs
South Coal Valley	1,517 Sheep	12/01 to 04/15	1,357 AUMs
Black Bluff	293 Sheep	12/01 to 04/15	262 AUMs
Murphy Gap	735 Sheep	12/01 to 04/15	657 AUMs
Worthington Mtn.	*	*	5,641 AUMs
Batterman Wash	887 Sheep	12/01 to 04/15	799 AUMs
Batterman Wash	243 Cows	11/15 to 03/31	1,094 AUMs
Batterman Wash	80 Cows	04/01 to 06/15	200 AUMs
White River Trail	4,800 Sheep	11/22 to 11/30	284 AUMs
White River Trail	4,800 Sheep	04/04 to 04/13	<u>316 AUMs</u>
			11,345 AUMs

<sup>\*</sup> Number and Kind of Livestock and Period of Use will be determined in a separate allotment evaluation at a later date.

Terms and Conditions from page 4 that apply: [1], [2], [3], [6], and [7].

# **BERTRAND PARIS & SONS**

Authorized use will remain at 6,104 AUMs, and will be as follows:

		NUMBER AND KIND		
	<b>ALLOTMENT NAME</b>	OF LIVESTOCK	PERIOD OF USE	<b>AUTHORIZED USE</b>
	Needles	2,068 Sheep	10/01 to 04/15	2,679 AUMs
	Dry Farm	724 Sheep	10/01 to 04/15	938 AUMs
	Murphy Gap	998 Sheep	10/01 to 04/15	1,294 AUMs
	Crescent	353 Sheep	10/01 to 02/28	351 AUMs
	Irish Mountain	604 Sheep	10/01 to 02/28	600 AUMs
*	White River Trail	1,180 Sheep	11/10 to 11/20	85 AUMs
	White River Trail	3,980 Sheep	04/15 to 04/20	_157 AUMs
				6,104 AUMs

Terms and Conditions from page 4 that apply: [1], [2], [3], and [7].

# AUTHORIZED USE BY PERMITTEE

# **ORREN NASH**

Authorized use will remain at 3,600 AUMs, and will be as follows:

<b>NUMBER</b>	AND	KIND
HOMDEK	AND	MIND

<b>ALLOTMENT NAME</b>	OF LIVESTOCK	PERIOD OF USE	<b>AUTHORIZED USE</b>
Irish Mountain	211 Cows	03/01 to 02/28	2,541 AUMs
Crescent	50 Cows	03/01 to 02/28	600 AUMs
Wild Horse	26 Cows	03/01 to 02/28	315 AUMs
South Hiko-Six Mile	48 Cows	03/01 to 05/31	144 AUMs
			3,600 AUMs

Terms and Conditions from page 4 that apply: [1], [2], and [3].

# WAYNE STEVENS

Authorized use will remain at 12,074 AUMs, and will be as follows:

NUMBER	AND	KIND
NUMBER	AINI	NINI

<b>ALLOTMENT NAME</b>	OF LIVESTOCK	PERIOD OF USE	<b>AUTHORIZED USE</b>
Fox Mountain	5,972 Sheep	11/01 to 04/10	6,322 AUMs
Timber Mountain	2,242 Sheep	11/01 to 04/10	2,373 AUMs
Coal Valley Lake	373 Sheep	11/01 to 04/10	395 AUMs
Wilson Creek	1,391 Sheep	11/01 to 04/10	1,473 AUMs
Wilson Creek	106 Cows	01/01 to 03/31	313 AUMs
Narrows	904 Sheep	12/01 to 02/28	535 AUMs
White River Trail	626 Sheep	03/01 to 04/10	168 AUMs
White River Trail	626 Sheep	11/01 to 02/28	495 AUMs
			12,074 AUMs

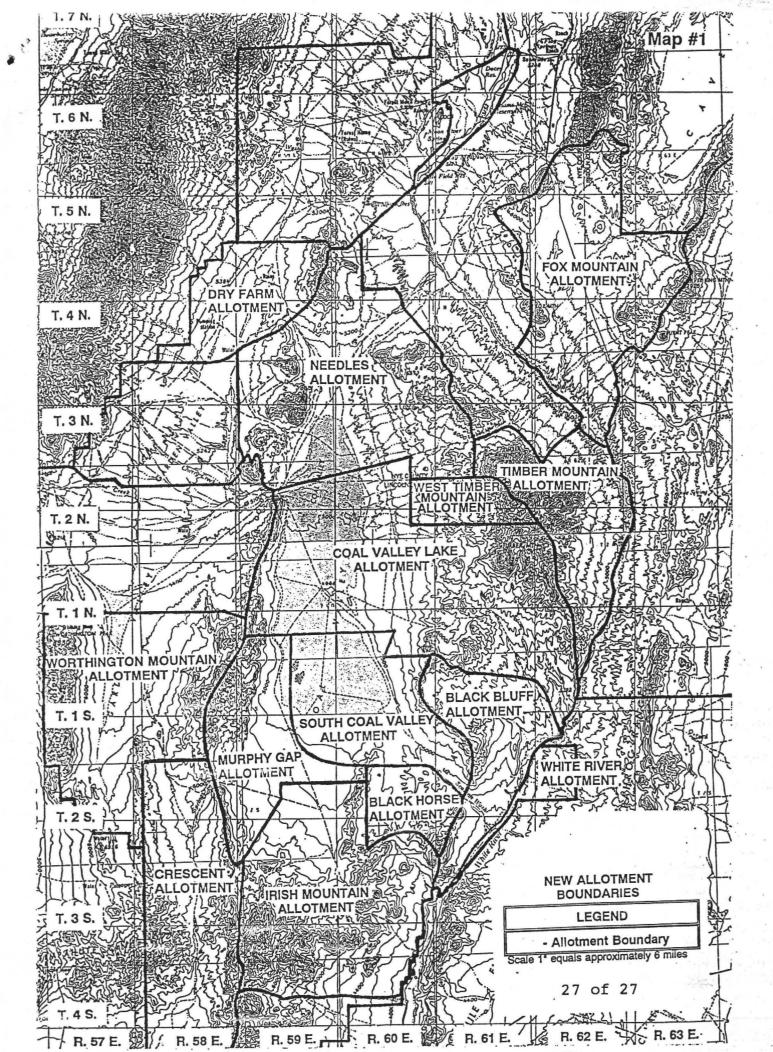
Terms and Conditions from page 4 that apply: [1], [2], [3], and [7].

# APPENDIX V SHEEP TO CATTLE CONVERSION

BERTRAND PARIS & SONS			
Sheep Use Only			
Allotment	Sheep AUMs	Cattle AUMs	
Needles	2,679 AUMs	0	
Murphy Gap	1,294 AUMs	. 0	
Dual Use			
Needles	1,635 AUMs	1,044 AUMs	
Murphy Gap	850 AUMs	444 AUMs	

GRACIAN UHALDE		
Sheep Use Only		
Allotment	Sheep AUMs	Cattle AUMs
Мугрһу Сар	657 AUMS	0
Dual Use		
Murphy Gap	448 AUMs	209 AUMs

WAYNE STEVENS		
Sheep Use Only		
Allotment	Sheep AUMs	Cattle AUMs
Fox Mountain (East of Highway 318)	3,732 AUMs	0 AUMs
Fox Mountain (West of Highway 318)	2,590 AUMS	0 AUMs
Timber Mountain	2,373 AUMS	0 AUMs
	Dual Use	h
Fox Mountain (East of Highway 318)	3,732 AUMs	0 AUMs
Fox Mountain (West of Highway 318)	2,187 AUMs	403 AUMs
Timber Mountain	2,156 AUMs	217 AUMs





# COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

1105 Terminal Way Suite 209 Reno, Nevada 89502 (702) 688-2626

November 7,1996

Mr. Gene A. Kolkman Ely District Bureau of Land Management HC 33 Box 33500 Ely, Nevada 89301-9408

Subject: FMUDs - Seaman Herd Management Area

Dear Mr. Kolkman:

Thank you for consulting the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses concerning the Final Multiple Use Decisions for Allotments within the Seaman Herd. The planning processes to evaluate all allotments and determine an appropriate management level for wild horses is commendable.

Horses were removed under emergency authority to levels established in these multiple use decisions. Emergency measures are often implemented with closures concurrently. This was not the case in the affected allotments.

We support the re-alignment of allotments to best serve the livestock operations to achieve the allowable use levels established in the Final Decisions. It is our expectation that for any reason these short term objectives are not met, immediate action will be taken to protect the resource.

We appreciate your efforts to accomplish habitat protection for the Seaman Herd Management Area.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE BARCOMB Executive Director