

No post census

ELY

G 1988

9- AML - prove data -  
non-viable herd

who on CRMP allowed?  
Stocking #'s in that HMA?

other methods looked at around  
Caliente?

Delamater HMA

4700  
(NV-057.7)

**DRAFT**

FY88 CALIENTE R. A.

WILD HORSE

GATHERING PLAN

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phillip C. Seegmiller  
Range Con/Wild Horse & Burro Spec.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Bureau of Land Management  
Las Vegas District

Caliente Resource Area  
Caliente, Nevada

## PROPOSAL

The purpose of this removal (gathering) plan is to outline the methods and procedures to be used in removing excess wild horses from the Caliente Resource Area. This may be accomplished by removing horses that exist outside of Herd Management Areas (HMA's), and those horses from HMA's where the Appropriate Management Level (AML) is being exceeded. This plan also identifies removal of horses that are causing damage to the communities of Caliente and Caselton. This removal will affect the status (no longer wild and free) of approximately 100 wild horses. In addition three head of wild horses with collars on will be captured, collars removed, and wild horses and associated band members released back into area where they were captured.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Gather Area

Excess wild horses are to be removed from the following areas as follows:

Horses outside of HMAs boundaries:

Removal of excess wild horses from outside of designated Herd Management Areas will take place in the Delamar, Boulder Springs, Pioche, Highland Peak, Crossroads, Barclay, and Simpson Grazing Allotments located in the Caliente Resource Area (map attached).

(Horses in the Pioche and Highland Peak grazing Allotments are also causing problems in and around the community of Caselton).

HMAs where AML is being exceeded:

Excess wild horses will be removed from the Miller Flat Area (map attached). Excess wild horses will be removed down to the initial management level as identified in the Miller Flat Herd Management Area Plan.

Excess wild horses will also be removed from the Clover Creek, and Cottonwood HMA's bringing the population of wild horses down to the initial Appropriate Management Level identified through the Coordinated Resource Management and Planning process using the guidance established in the Caliente Resource Land Use Plan for determining desirable numbers for HMA's (map attached).

Within the Cottonwood HMA lies the Clover Mountain Wilderness Study Area.

HMA's where there are problem animals:

Horses that are causing problems around the community of Caliente will also be removed during this removal process. This will affect the clover Creek and Little Mountain HMA's (map attached).

The terrain in the removal area varies from flat but rocky to precipitous bushy and forested areas.

Existing Situation

Horses either have established home ranges outside of existing Herd Management Areas and/or have exceeded the Appropriate Management Level established (Through public involvement) for specific HMA's. Thus they are competing with other ungulates for Forage, Water, Space and Cover, etc., or they are causing problems in local communities. For current numbers and numbers to be removed see table 1 below.

Table 1

<u>Gather Area</u>	<u>AML</u>	<u>Last Census #</u>	<u>Number in excess of AML</u>
Delamar/Boulder springs Allotments	0	N/A	20
Pioche/ Highland Peak Allotment	0	N/A	15
Crossroads/Barclay Allotments	0	N/A	10
Simpson Allotment	0	N/A	5
Caliente Problem animals (Little Mtn HMA)	*	54	10
Miller Flat HMA	50	71	21
Clover Creek HMA	9	26	17
Clover Mountain HMA	55	84	29
Total Number of Animals that needs to be removed			127

\*AML to be established through monitoring, last census conducted during July, 1983 resulted in 54 head of horses counted.

Hence approximately 50 excess wild horses need to be removed from areas outside existing HMA's. Also 10 head of horses need to be removed that are causing problems around the community of Caliente. Approximately 67 head of excess wild horses need to be removed from within HMAs to bring wild horses numbers down to the AML for that HMA. However, the number of horses to be removed under this removal plan is approximately 100 head of excess horses.

Justification

The decision to remove these animals from this area is based on concerns of State Agencies, Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Committee Members, other public comments, and Bureau planning documents, and wild horse activities plans.

Justification for removal is based on the Final MFP Step III Decisions approved by the State Director on November 12, 1981 and confirmed by the Director, BLM, on February 26, 1982, and 43 C.F.R. 4710.4 "which states that wild horse management shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting the animals distribution to herd areas. . .", and is supported by Public Law 92-195. Also Herd Management Area Plans, through public involvement, have established an Appropriate Management Level (AML) for wild horse numbers with in each HMA. This AML number should be managed for until monitoring indicates a need to change the population Levels.

#### REMOVAL PROCESS

Under this gathering plan the BLM will be responsible for the capture, care, temporary holding of approximately 100 wild horses from the gather area, and their transportation to the adoption preparation facility through issuance of gathering contract.

Prior to any gathering operation the Bureau will provide for a pre-capture analysis to determine the condition of the animals, prevailing temperatures, animal distribution in relation to potential trap location, condition of the soils, condition of the roads, drought conditions, etc. The information from the pre-capture analysis will develop conclusions as to whether the level of activity is likely to cause undue stress to animals and whether such stress would be acceptable to animals if a veterinarian expertise were present, or whether a delay in capture activity is warranted. If it is determined that the capture can proceed with a veterinarian present, the services of a veterinarian will be obtained prior to proceeding with the capture.

The Bureau of Land Management will provide a COR/PI(s) as needed for the capture operation from site selection, corral design, to capture and transportation of animals to Palomino Valley Center.

The capture operation will utilize helicopter capture methods.

The Bureau of Land Management will also provide supervision of the project helicopter during the gathering operation. This will be accomplished by use of an additional helicopter on site to monitor all aspects of the wild horse round-up. In the event an additional helicopter cannot be obtained, other methods will be used to observe the removal operations, including but not limited to, using observers on horseback, observing the helicopter from vehicles and placing stationary observers in strategic locations. The observers will have direct communication with the project helicopter for contract supervision. Observers will be monitoring the rate of movement of horses, distance to be traveled, type of terrain, fences etc.

All equipment used in the capture operation will be inspected by COR and determined adequate prior to issuing the **Notice to Proceed** to Contractor.

**Bidders Tour** will be scheduled and conducted by the BLM to make the contractors more aware of type of terrain, condition of animals, condition of roads, trap locations in relation to animal distribution, where fences are located as well as other dangerous barriers.

The contract will be terminated for convenience of the Government when Contract disputes cannot be resolved. In the event the contractor does not perform properly the contractor will be defaulted.

Veterinary services are available in Caliente, Nevada. The Bureau of Land Management's authorized representative or his designee will summon a veterinarian if, in his judgement, veterinary services are required to alleviate suffering of one or more horses, to ensure their well being, or to diagnose and/or treat disease, sickness or injury.

The services of the state brand inspector will be obtained and all inspections will comply with the procedures set forth in Instruction Memorandum NV-85-416, which outlines the procedure for processing private horses captured during removal operations.

As specified in the Delamar and Miller Flat HMAP horses of the dun color, if possible, would not be removed during a removal process. Also no pinto horses will be removed from gather areas nor will any of the collared horses be removed.

This plan will remain in effect until all animals identified in this removal plan are removed and placed in adoption centers. (Anticipated to take place during August and September 1988).

#### REMOVAL METHODS

All capture attempts shall be accomplished through the use of a helicopter. Wing riders may be used if necessary. Roping will not be allowed except to capture orphan foals and wet mares, and this will be done only when necessary, with prior approval by the COR. Under no circumstances shall animals be tied down for more than one hour. Mare and foal are to be captured together, if both cannot be captured then one or the other will be released to allow them to be reunited at no cost to the government.

The helicopter shall be used in such a manner that bands or herds will remain together as much as possible.

The rate of movement and distance the animals travel shall not exceed limitations set by the COR who will consider terrain, physical barriers, weather, condition of the animals and other factors.

It is estimated that 15 trap locations will be required to accomplish the work. General trap locations and holding facilities will be selected by the COR, specific trap sites (within the general trap location area) will be selected by the contractor. All trap locations and holding facilities must be approved by the COR prior to construction. The contractor may also be required to change or move trap locations as determined by the COR. All traps and holding facilities not located on public land must have prior written approval of the landowner.

All traps, wings, and holding facilities shall be constructed, maintained and operated to handle the animals in a safe and humane manner. Traps and holding facilities shall be constructed of portable panels, the top of which shall not be less than 72 inches high, and the bottom rail of which shall not be more than 12 inches from ground level. All traps and holding facilities shall be oval or round in design. All loading chute sides shall be fully covered with plywood or like material. The loading chute shall also be a minimum of 6 feet high. All runways shall be a minimum of 20 feet long and a minimum of 6 feet high and shall be covered with plywood or like material a minimum of 1 foot to 5 feet above ground level. Wings shall not be constructed out of barbed wire or other materials injurious to animals and must be approved by the COR. All crowding pens including the gates leading to the runways shall be covered with a material which prevents the animals from seeing out (plywood, burlap, etc.) and shall be covered a minimum of 1 foot to 5 feet above ground level.

No fence modification will be made without authorization from the COR. The contractor shall be responsible for restoration of any fence modification which he has made.

When excessive dust conditions occur within or adjacent to the trap or holding facility, the contractor shall be required to wet down the ground with water at such location as directed by the COR.

It is the responsibility of the contractor to provide security to prevent loss, injury or death of captured animals until delivery to final destination.

The COR will determine general roundup areas and number of animals within general contract areas as animal concentrations and weather conditions dictate. All traps shall be located at the most advantageous sites for helicopter driving. The specific locations of traps need to be approved by the COR prior to construction.

Helicopter gathering will not be allowed between March 1 and June 30, due to foaling period.

#### HELICOPTER, PILOT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The contractor must operate in compliance with Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 91. Pilots provided by the contractor shall comply with the Contractors Federal Aviation Certificates, applicable regulations of the State of Nevada and shall follow what are recognized as safe flying practices.

When refueling, the helicopter shall remain a distance of at least a 1,000 feet or more from animals, vehicles (other than fuel truck), and personnel not involved in refueling.

The COR shall have the means to communicate with the pilot and be able to direct the use of the gather helicopter at all times. The frequency(s) used for this contract will be assigned by the COR when the government furnished "slip-in" VHF/FM portable radio is used. When a VHF/AM radio is used, the frequency will be 122.925 MHz.

The contractor shall obtain the necessary FCC licenses for the radio system.

The proper operation, service and maintenance of all contractor furnished helicopters is the responsibility of the contractor. The BLM reserves the right to remove from service pilots and helicopters which, in the opinion of the contracting officer or COR violate contract rules, are unsafe or otherwise unsatisfactory. In this event, the contractor will be notified in writing to furnish replacement pilots or helicopters within 48 hours of notification. All such replacements must be approved in advance of operation by the contracting officer or his/her representatives.

#### DISPOSITION AND HUMANE TREATMENT OF HORSES

As soon as practical after entering the capture corral, each group of horses will be inspected and a written log kept identifying condition of animals at time of capture and specific location from which animals came from. Alternate pens, within the holding facility shall be furnished by the contractor to separate mares with small foals, sick and injured animals, and stray animals from the other horses. Where required by the COR, animals shall be sorted as to age, number, size, temperament, sex, and condition when in the holding facility so as to minimize, to the extent possible, injury due to fighting and trampling.

Of primary importance while handling wild horses is their welfare and humane treatment. The COR shall be responsible for determining the need and providing for the treatment of sick or injured animals. The contractor shall restrain sick or injured animals so that they may be provided treatment by the COR. The COR shall also determine if an injured animal must be destroyed and provide for destruction of the animals.

Animals shall be transported to final destination from temporary holding facilities within 24 hours after capture unless prior approval is granted by the COR for unusual circumstances. Animals shall not be held in traps and/or temporary holding facilities on days when there is no work being conducted except as specified by the COR.

Animals held for 10 hours or more in the traps and/or holding facilities shall be provided fresh clean water by the contractor, in an amount of a minimum of 10 gallons per animal per day. Animals held for 10 hours or more in the traps or holding facilities shall be provided good quality hay at the rate of not less than two pounds of hay per 100 pounds of estimated body weight per day.

Branded animals, those suspected of being branded, or those are known to be private, will be separated out and handled as outlined in IM 85-416, which is in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

### DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS

Wild horses which are seriously injured, obviously sick or lame, or very old, whose condition is such that it is obvious they will not recover will be humanely destroyed at the site by the Bureau of Land Management's Authorized Officer only, or by a veterinarian if authorized by the Bureau's representative. BLM's Authorized Officers have been trained by a licensed veterinarian in the state for humane euthanasia of wild horses. No other individual will be allowed to destroy any captured horse unless the representative has specifically stated (and made reference to in writing) that he will be away from the job site for an extended period of time. During this time, the representative will appoint a qualified individual to take over his responsibilities. The Contractor shall dispose of carcasses as directed by the COR.

### DISPOSAL OF ANIMALS WHICH ARE DESTROYED DURING THE REMOVAL OPERATION

Carcasses will be disposed of by burial, consumed by fire or left to the environment as outlined by Instruction Memorandum NV-83-84. This will satisfy State and County sanitary requirements.

Prior to disposal, data which includes the date of death, apparent reason for death, sex, color, age, and freeze mark number (if assigned), will be collected.

### TRANSPORT OF CAPTURED ANIMALS

All motorized equipment employed in the transportation of captured animals shall adhere to the provisions of 43 CFR Part 4700 and be subject to the following reservations and/or restrictions:

All motorized equipment employed in the transportation of captured animals shall be in compliance with appropriate State and Federal laws and regulations applicable to the humane transportation of animals.

Vehicles shall be in good repair, of adequate rated capacity, and operated so as to insure that captured animals are transported without undue risk or injury.

Only stocktrailers shall be allowed for transporting animals from traps to temporary holding facilities. Only Bobtail trucks, stocktrailers, or single deck trucks shall be used to haul animals from temporary holding facilities to final destination. Sides or stockracks of transporting vehicles shall be a minimum height of 6 feet 6 inches from vehicle floor and have no openings from the floor to four feet above the floor wider than 2 and 1/2 inches. Single deck trucks with trailers 40 feet or longer shall have two partition gates to separate animals. Trailers less than 40 feet shall have at least one partition gate to separate the animals. The use of double deck trailers is unacceptable and shall not be allowed, unless converted to a single deck.



All vehicles used to transport animals to final destination shall be equipped with doors at the rear end of the vehicle. At least one of these rear doors shall be capable of sliding either horizontally or vertically.

Floors of vehicles and loading chute shall be covered and maintained with a non-skid surface such as sand, mineral soil or wood shavings (no fecal material allowed), to prevent the animals from slipping.

The number of animals to be loaded and transported in any vehicle shall be as directed by the COR and may include limitations on numbers according to age, size, sex, temperament and animal condition.

The COR shall consider the condition of the animals, weather conditions, type of vehicles, distance to be transported, or other factors when planning for the movement of captured animals. The COR shall provide for any brand and/or inspection services required for the captured animals.

If the COR determines that dust conditions are such that the animals could be endangered during transportation, the contractor will be instructed to adjust speed. The maximum distance over which animals may have to be transported on dirt road is approximately 35 miles per load.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

In general, all publicity, formal public contact, and inquiries will be handled through the Public Affairs Officer, Las Vegas District BLM Office.

COORDINATION

The Caliente Resource Area will coordinate with the adoption preparation facility to assure that there is space available in the corrals for the captured horses and that they can be handled humanely and efficiently.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area Manager, ELM, Caliente R. A. Caliente, NV

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

CONCURRENCE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Manager, ELM, Las Vegas District Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPROVED BY:

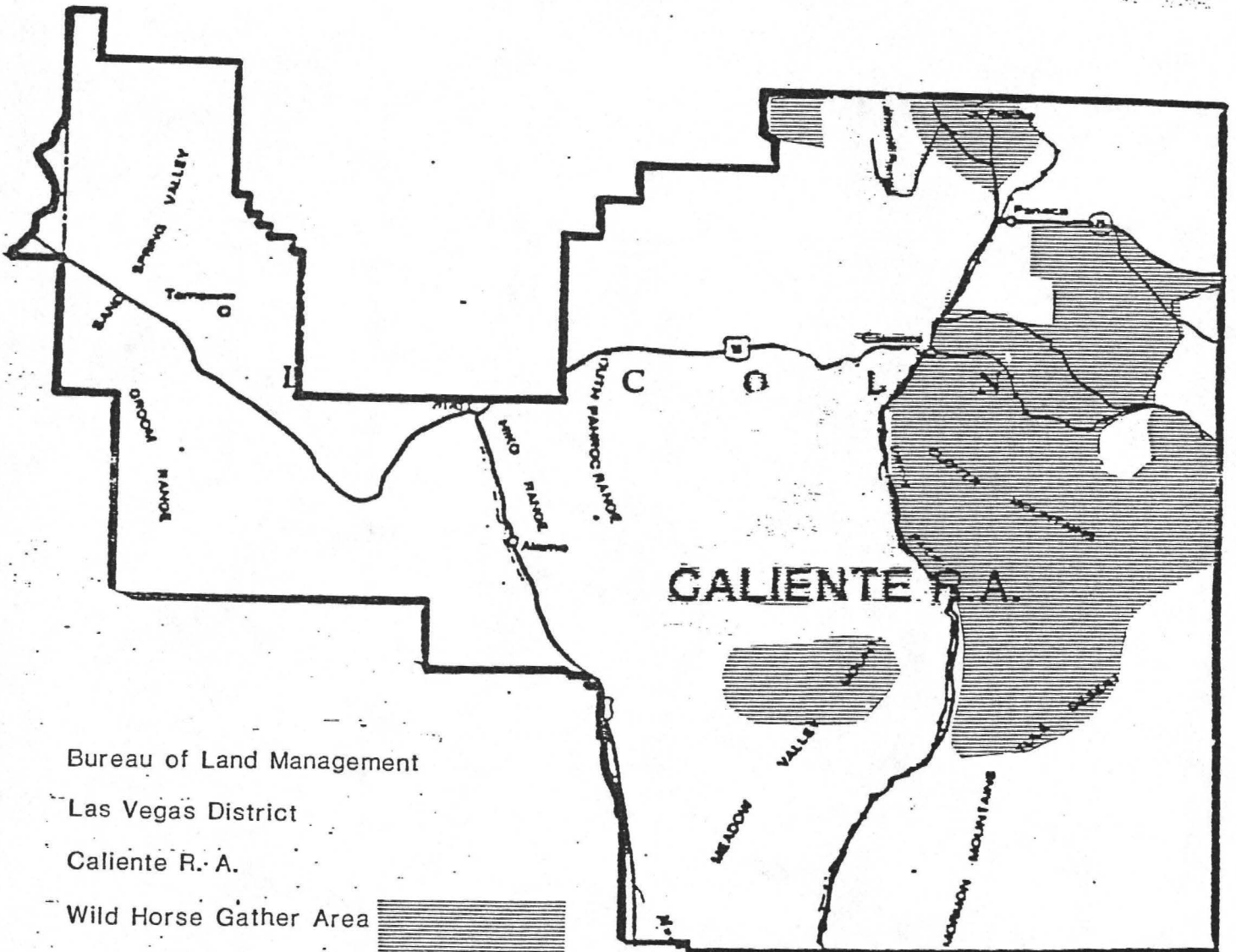
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State Director, ELM, Nevada State Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

INDEX TO MAPS

1. State Map of Nevada
2. Resource Area Map
3. Outside HMA boundaries
  - a. Delamar HMA, Boulder Springs & Delamar Grazing Allotments
  - b. Highland Peak HMA, Pioche & Highland Peak Grazing Allotments
  - c. Crossroads Grazing Allotment
  - d. Barclay Grazing Allotment
  - c. Simpson Grazing Allotment
4. HMAs where AML is being exceeded
  - a. Miller Flat HMA
  - b. Clover Creek and Clover Mountain
4. HMAs where there are problem animals
  - a. Caliente wild horse Problem area (Little Mountain HMA)




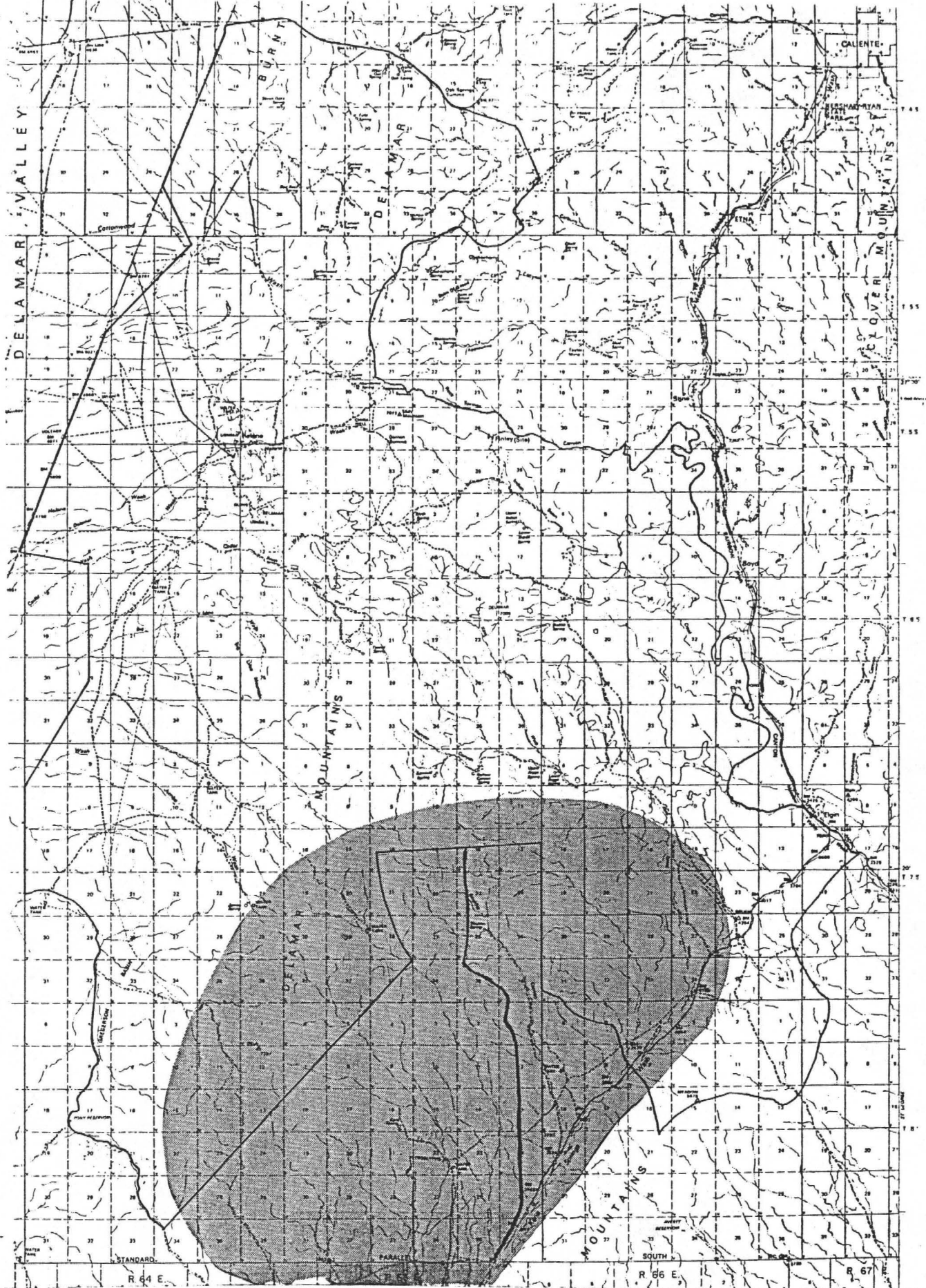


Bureau of Land Management

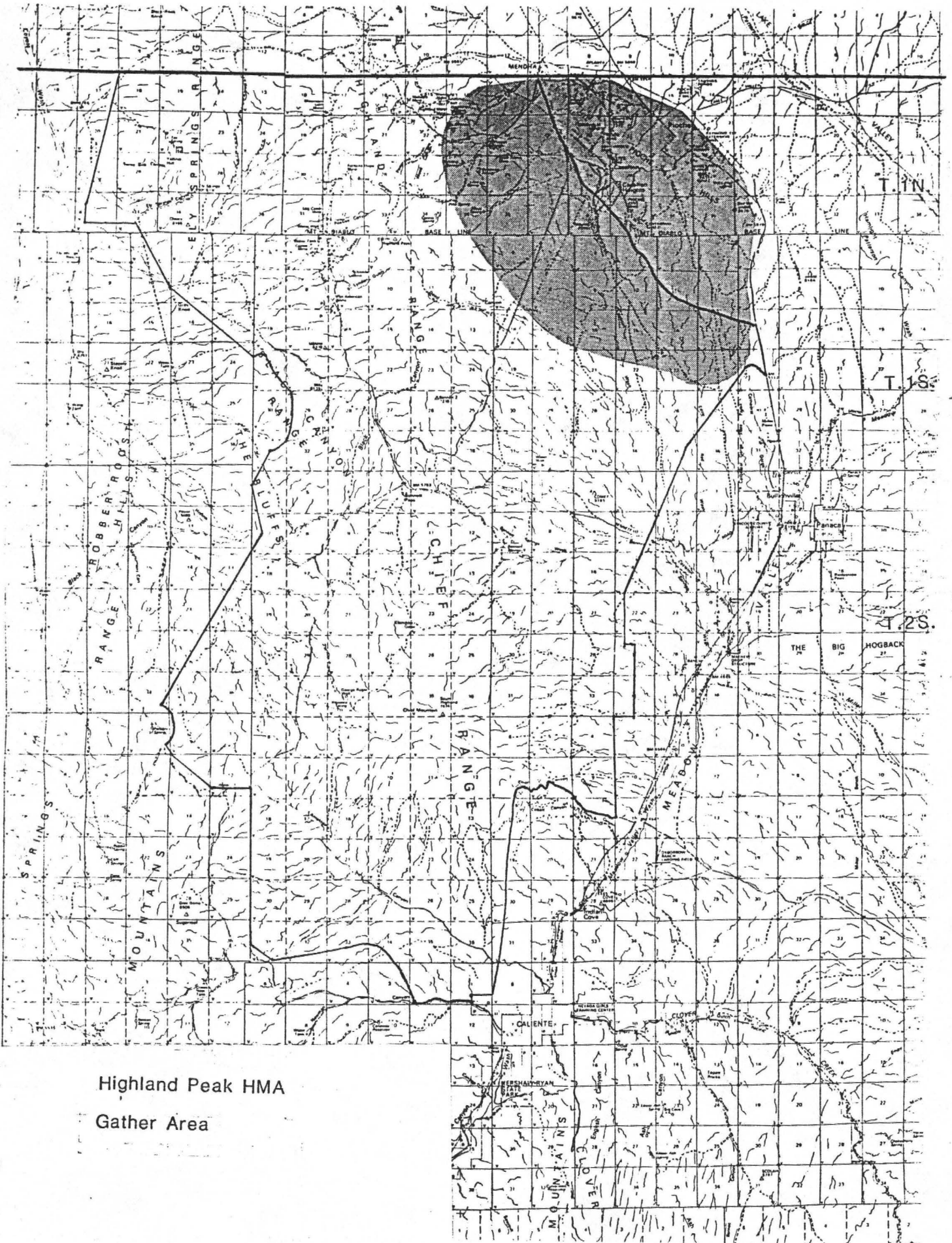
Las Vegas District

Caliente R. A.

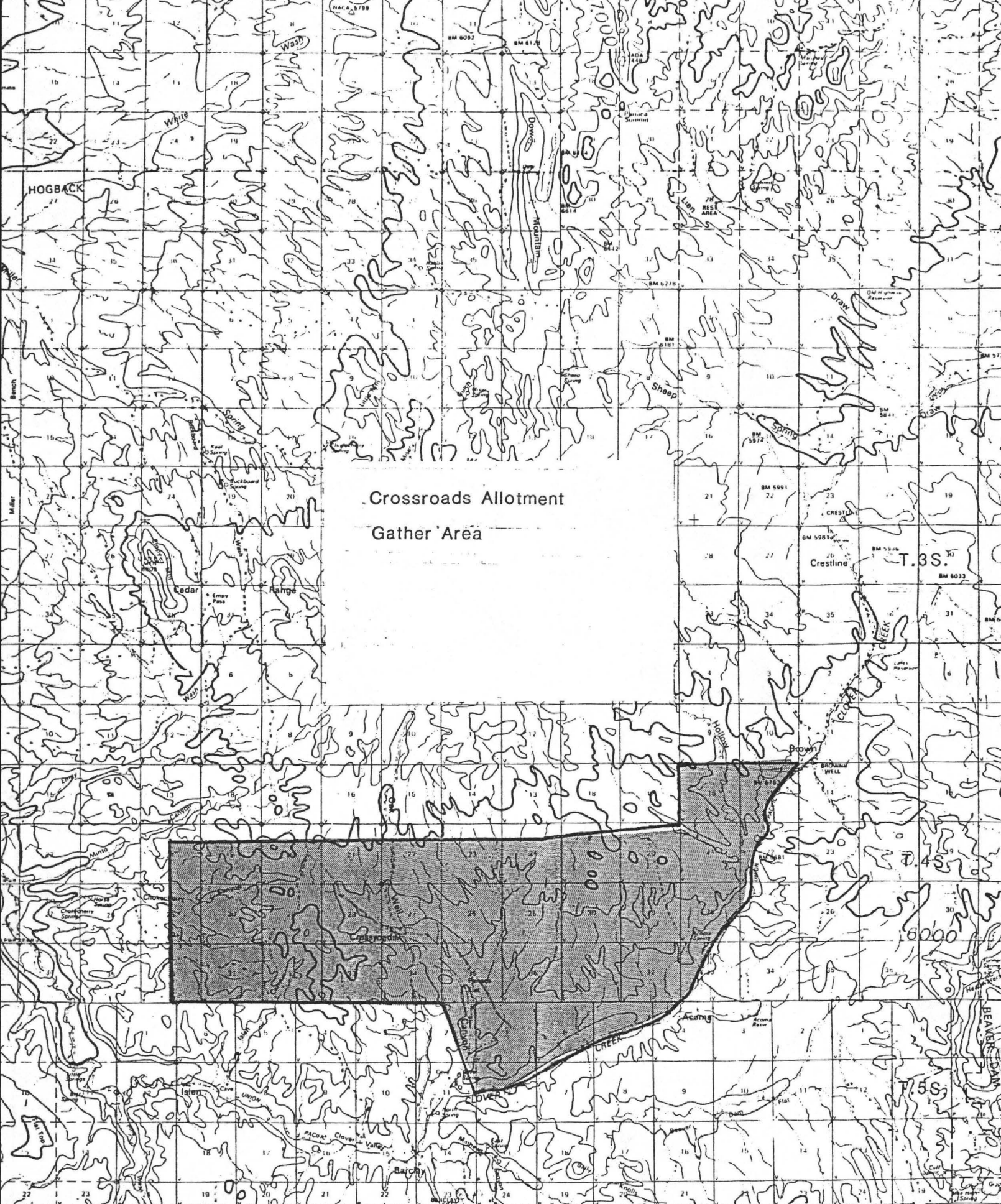
Wild Horse Gather Area 



Delamar HMA  
&  
Boulder Spring & Delamar Allotments  
Gather Area



Highland Peak HMA  
Gather Area



Crossroads Allotment  
Gather Area

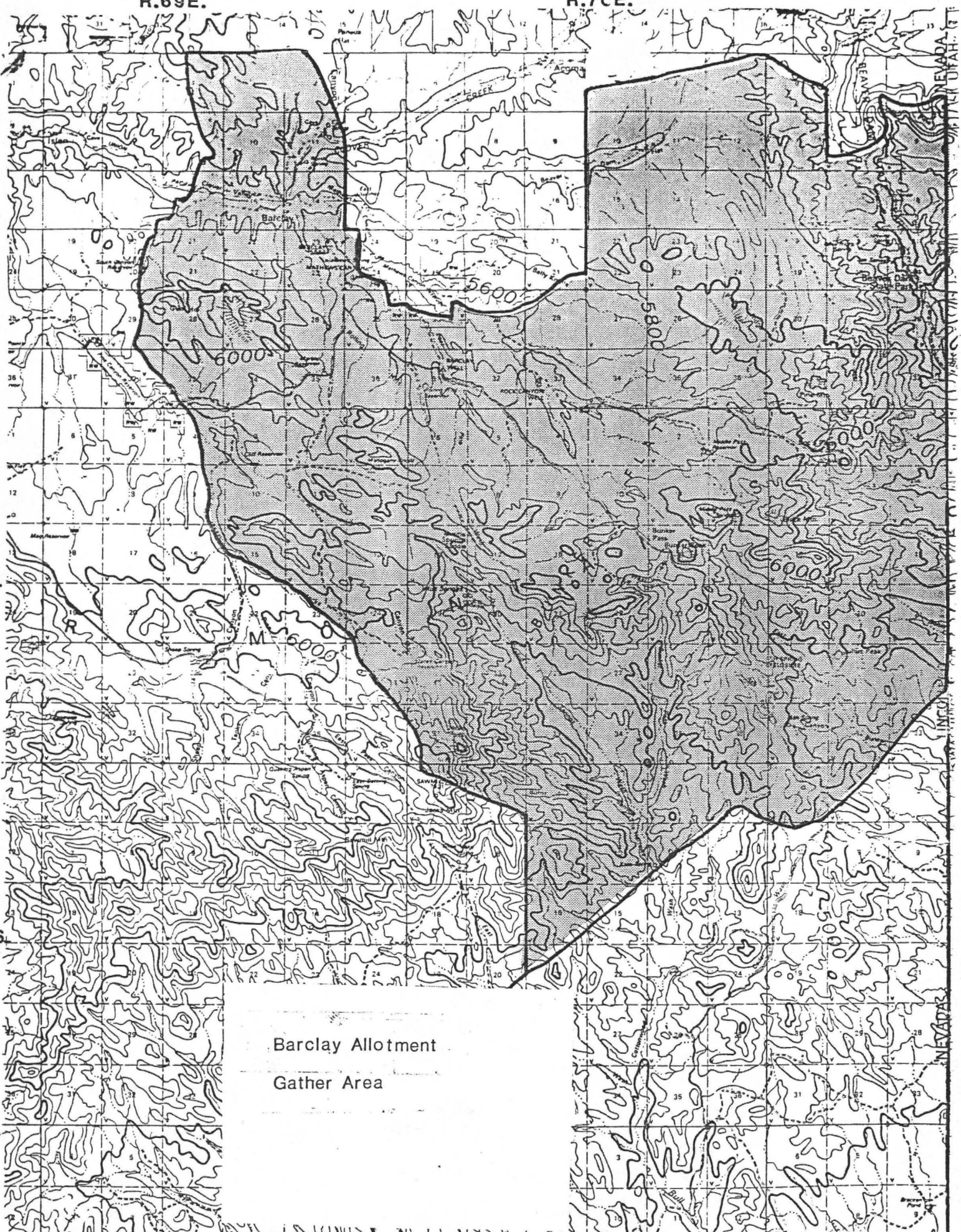
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R.7CE.

5S.

6S.

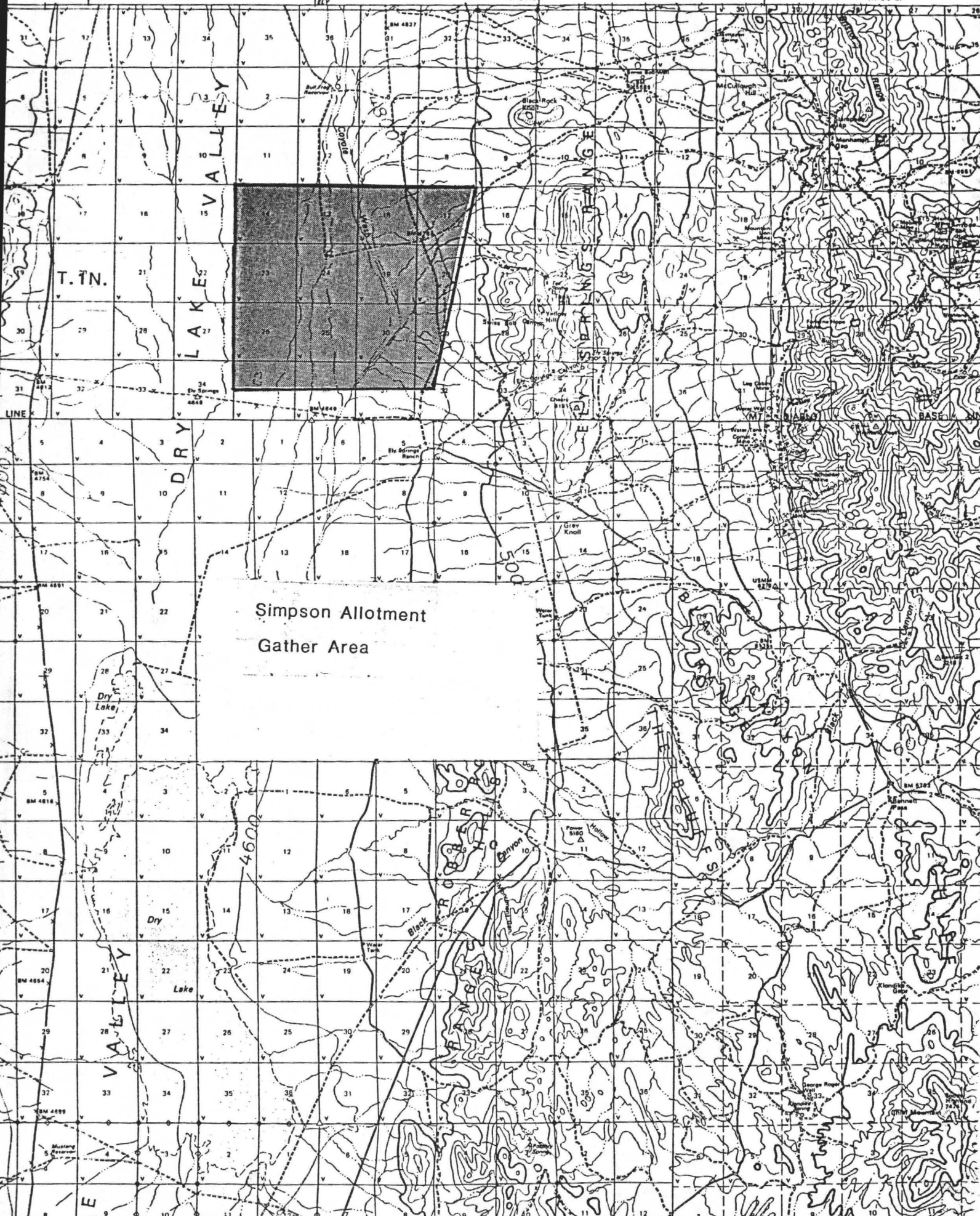
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Barclay Allotment

Gather Area





Simpson Allotment  
Gather Area

T. 7N.

LAKES VALLEY

SIMPSON VALLEY

DRY VALLEY

VALLEY

4600

Black River

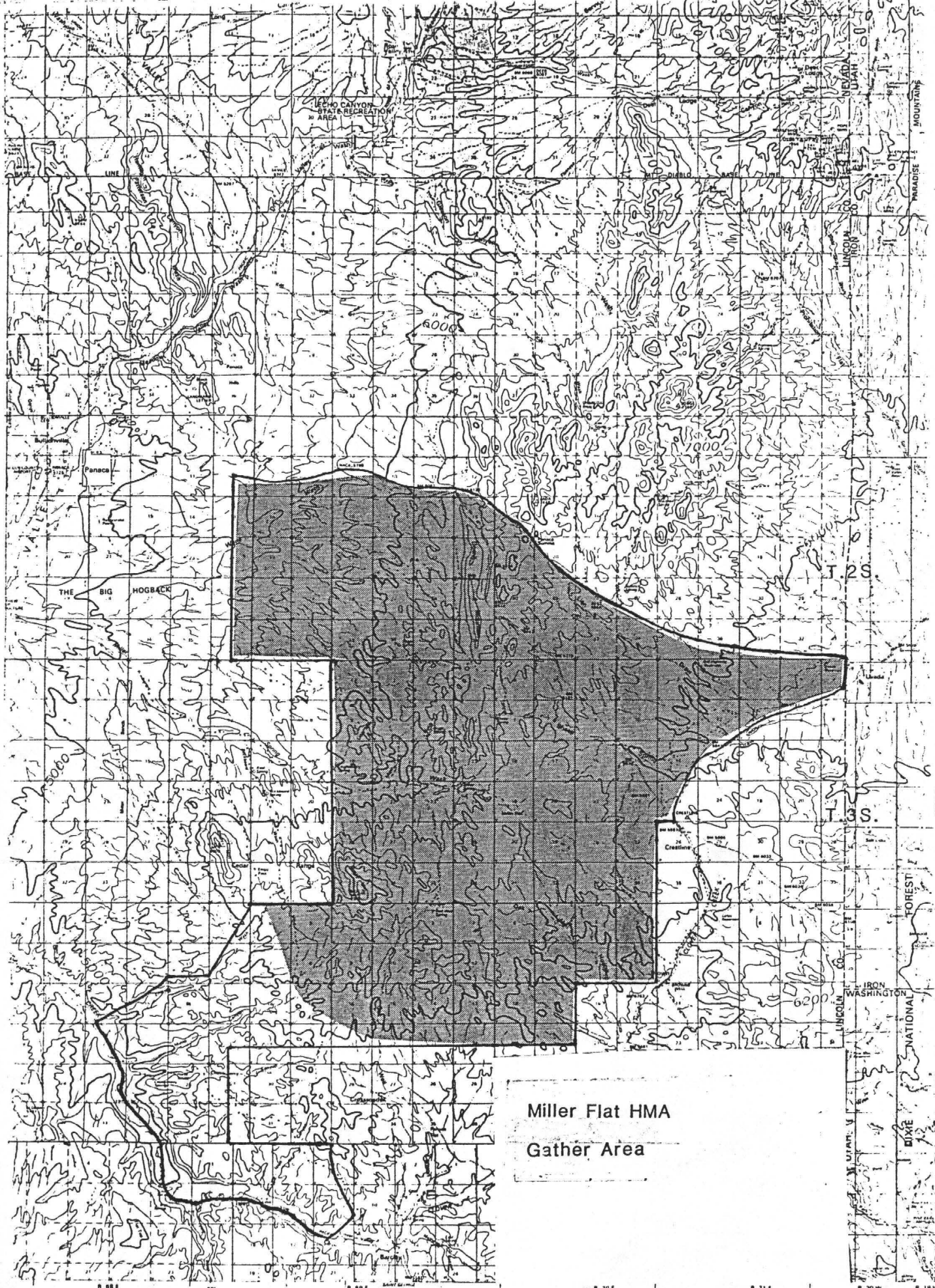
George River

LINE

BASELINE

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Miller Flat HMA  
Gather Area

R. 67E

R. 68E

Wild Horse Gather Area

R. 69E

T. 4S.

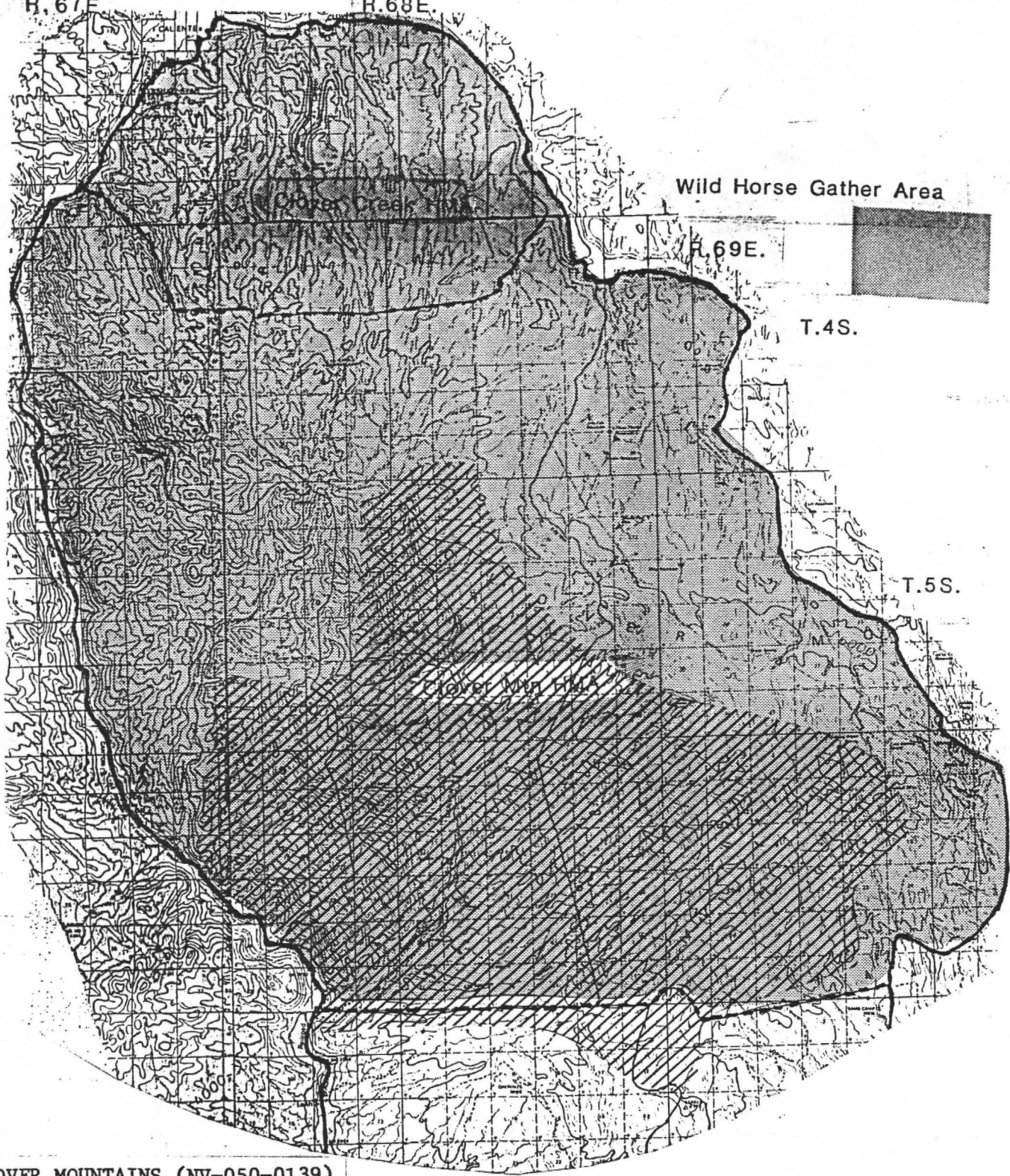
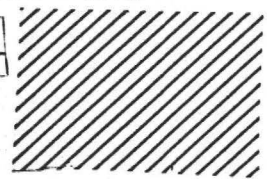
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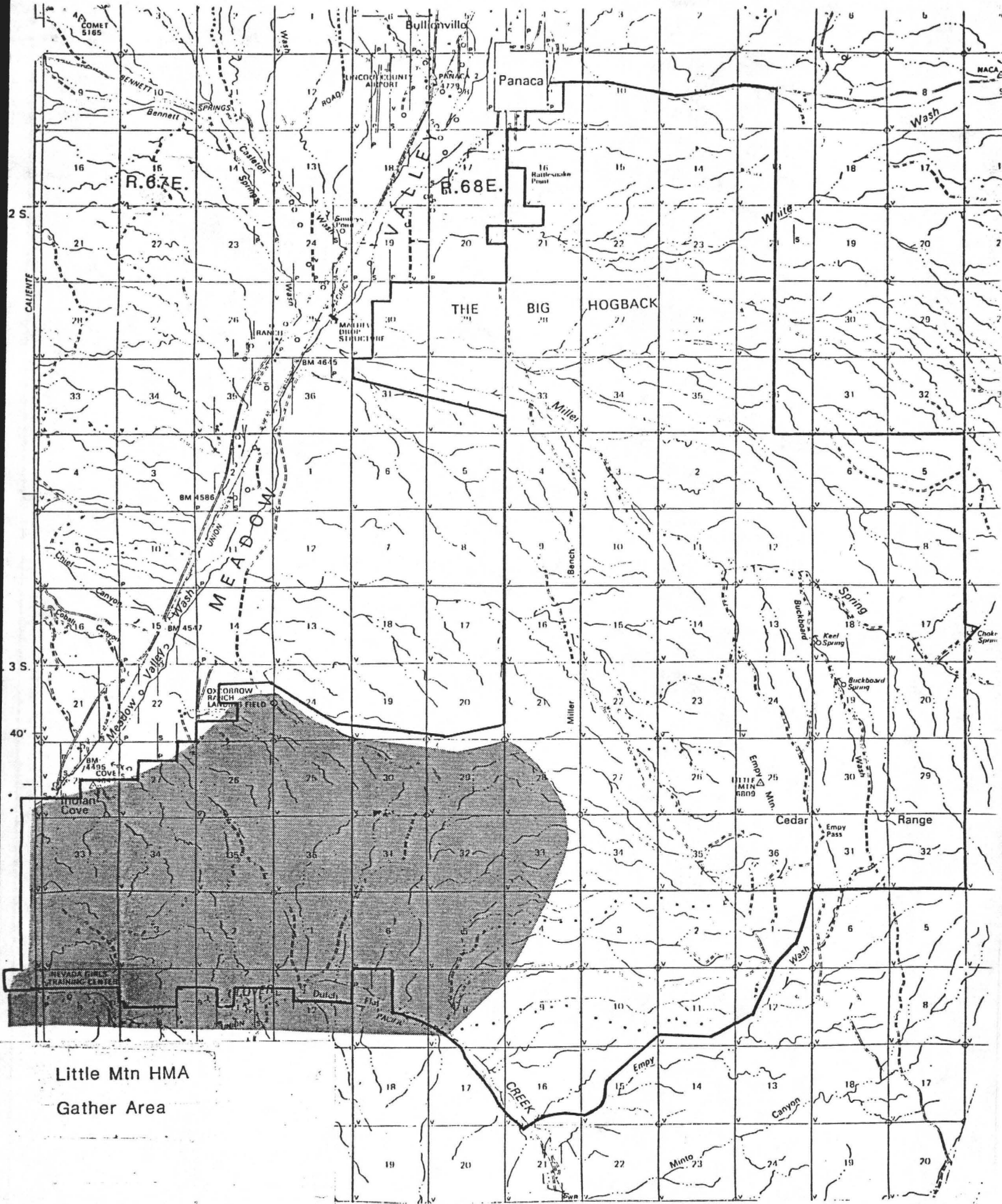
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Clover Mt Hills

CLOVER MOUNTAINS (NV-050-0139)

Wilderness Study Area





Little Mtn HMA  
Gather Area

EH

Delamar HMA

4700  
(NV-057.7)

**DRAFT**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for the

FY88 CALIENTE R. A. WILD HORSE

GATHERING PLAN

EA# NV-055-08-14

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phillip C. Seegmiller  
Range Con/Wild Horse & Burro Spec.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Bureau of Land Management  
Las Vegas District  
Caliente Resource Area  
Caliente, Nevada

## I. INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

### A. Purpose and Need

The purpose of this Environmental Assessment (EA) is to assess the environmental consequences of the proposed action and alternatives in relation to the human environment.

Horses either have established home ranges outside of existing Herd Management Areas (HMA) and/or have exceeded the Appropriate Management Level (AML) established (Through public involvement) for specific HMA's. Thus they are competing with other ungulates for forage, water, space and cover, etc., or they are causing problems in local communities.

The decision to remove animals from these areas are based on concerns of State Agencies, Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Committee Members, other public comments, and Bureau planning documents, and wild horse activities plans.

Justification for removal is based on the Final MFP Step III Decisions approved by the State Director on November 12, 1981 and confirmed by the Director, BLM, on February 26, 1982, and 43 C.F.R. 4710.4 "which states that wild horse management shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting the animals distribution to herd areas. . .", and is supported by Public Law 92-195. Also Herd Management Area Plans, through public involvement, have established an Appropriate Management Level (AML) for wild horse numbers with in each HMA. This AML number should be managed for until monitoring indicates a need to change the population Levels.

## II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

This section of the environmental assessment identifies one alternative and the proposed action considered in meeting the Caliente Resource Area objective of maintaining wild horse use at appropriate management levels (until monitoring indicates a need for change) and maintaining wild horse use in designated HMA's, and solving problems around populated areas.

### A. No Action Alternative

Management would remain the same, wild horse populations would be allowed to increase unchecked.

B. Proposed Action/Mitigation

The proposed action is to remove excess wild horses from the Caliente Resource Area. This may be accomplished by removing horses that exist outside of Herd Management Areas (HMA's), and those horses from HMA's where the Appropriate Management Level is being exceeded, and those horses that are causing damage to the community of Caliente and Caselton. This removal will affect the status (no longer wild and free) of approximately 100 wild horses. For current numbers and numbers to be removed see table 1 below.

1. Gather Area

a. Horses outside of HMA's boundaries

Removal of excess horses from outside of designated Herd Management Areas will take place in the Delamar, Boulder Springs, Pioche, Highland Peak, Crossroads, Barclay, and Simpson Grazing Allotments located in the Caliente Resource Area (map attached).

(Horses in the Pioche and Highland Peak grazing Allotments are also causing problems in and around the community of Caselton).

b. HMA's where AML is being exceeded:

Excess wild horses will be removed from the Miller Flat Area (map attached). Excess wild horses will be removed down to the initial Appropriate Management Level as identified in the Miller Flat Herd Management Area Plan.

Excess wild horses will also be removed from the Clover Creek and Cottonwood HMA's bringing the population of wild horses down to the initial Appropriate Management Level identified through the Coordinated Resource Management and Planning process using the guidance established in the Caliente Resource Land Use Plan for determining desirable numbers for HMA's (map attached).

Within the Cottonwood HMA lies the Clover Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Gathering operations may take place within the WSA. The impacts from the proposed action would be very minimal because capture corrals would be temporary, less than two weeks. The removal area that is disturbed would be substantially unnoticeable. There wouldn't be a need for reclamation because all corral structures and vehicle access would be in the bottom of major drainage (sand and gravel areas) that are annually disturbed.

c. HMA's where there are problem animals:

Horses that are causing problems around the community of Caliente will also be removed during this removal process. This will affect the clover Creek and Little Mountain HMA's (map attached).

Table 1

<u>Gather Area</u>	<u>AML</u>	<u>Census #</u>	<u>Removal Number</u>
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As specified in the Delamar and Miller Flat HMAP horses of the dun color, (if possible), would not be removed during a removal process. *— all dun colored horses will be released*

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The rate of movement and distance the animals travel shall not exceed limitations set by the COR who will consider terrain, physical barriers, weather, condition of the animals and other factors.

It is estimated that 15 trap locations will be required to accomplish the work. General trap locations and holding facilities will be selected by the COR, specific trap sites (with in the general trap location area) will be selected by the contractor. All trap locations and holding facilities must be approved by the COR prior to construction. The contractor may also be required to change or move trap locations as determined by the COR. All traps and holding facilities not located on public land must have prior written approval of the landowner.

All traps, wings, and holding facilities shall be constructed, maintained and operated to handle the animals in a safe and humane manner. Traps and holding facilities shall be constructed of portable panels, the top of which shall not be less than 72 inches high, and the bottom rail of which shall not be more than 12 inches from ground level. All traps and holding facilities shall be oval or round in design. All loading chute sides shall be fully covered with plywood or like material. The loading chute shall also be a minimum of 6 feet high. All runways shall be a minimum of 20 feet long and a minimum of 6 feet high and shall be covered with plywood or like material a minimum of 1 foot to 5 feet above ground level. Wings shall not be constructed out of barbed wire or other materials injurious to animals and must be approved by the COR. All crowding pens including the gates leading to the runways shall be covered with a material which prevents the animals from seeing out (plywood, burlap, etc.) and shall be covered a minimum of 1 foot to 5 feet above ground level.

No fence modification will be made without authorization from the COR. The contractor shall be responsible for restoration of any fence modification which he has made.

When excessive dust conditions occur within or adjacent to the trap or holding facility, the contractor shall be required to wet down the ground with water at such location as directed by the COR.

It is the responsibility of the contractor to provide security to prevent loss, injury or death of captured animals until delivery to final destination.

The COR will determine general roundup areas and number of animals within general contract areas as animal concentrations and weather conditions dictate. All traps shall be located at the most advantageous sites for helicopter driving. The specific locations of traps need to be approved by the COR prior to construction.

#### 4. HELICOPTER, PILOT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The contractor must operate in compliance with Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 91. Pilots provided by the contractor shall comply with the Contractors Federal Aviation Certificates, applicable regulations of the State of Nevada and shall follow what are recognized as safe flying practices.

When refueling, the helicopter shall remain a distance of at least a 1,000 feet or more from animals, vehicles (other than fuel truck), and personnel not involved in refueling.

The COR shall have the means to communicate with the pilot and be able to direct the use of the gather helicopter at all times. The frequency(s) used for this contract will be assigned by the COR when the government furnished "slip-in" VHF/FM portable radio is used. When a VHF/AM radio is used, the frequency will be 122.925 MHz.

The contractor shall obtain the necessary FCC licenses for the radio system.

The proper operation, service and maintenance of all contractor furnished helicopters is the responsibility of the contractor. The BLM reserves the right to remove from service pilots and helicopters which, in the opinion of the contracting officer or COR violate contract rules, are unsafe or otherwise unsatisfactory. In this event, the contractor will be notified in writing to furnish replacement pilots or helicopters within 48 hours of notification. All such replacements must be approved in advance of operation by the contracting officer or his/her representatives.

5. DISPOSITION AND HUMANE TREATMENT OF HORSES

As soon as practical after entering the capture corral, each group of horses will be inspected and a written log kept identifying condition of animals at time of capture and specific location from which animals came from. Alternate pens, within the holding facility shall be furnished by the contractor to separate mares with small foals, sick and injured animals, and stray animals from the other horses. Where required by the COR, animals shall be sorted as to age, number, size, temperament, sex, and condition when in the holding facility so as to minimize, to the extent possible, injury due to fighting and trampling.

Of primary importance while handling wild horses is their welfare and humane treatment. The COR shall be responsible for determining the need and providing for the treatment of sick or injured animals. The contractor shall restrain sick or injured animals so that they may be provided treatment by the COR. The COR shall also determine if an injured animal must be destroyed and provide for destruction of the animals.

Animals shall be transported to final destination from temporary holding facilities within 24 hours after capture unless prior approval is granted by the COR for unusual circumstances. Animals shall not be held in traps and/or temporary holding facilities on days when there is no work being conducted except as specified by the COR.

Animals held for 10 hours or more in the traps and/or holding facilities shall be provided fresh clean water by the contractor, in an amount of a minimum of 10 gallons per animal per day. Animals held for 10 hours or more in the traps or holding facilities shall be provided good quality hay at the rate of not less than two pounds of hay per 100 pounds of estimated body weight per day.

Branded animals, those suspected of being branded, or those are known to be private, will be separated out and handled as outlined in IM 85-416, which is in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

6. DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS

Wild horses which are seriously injured, obviously sick or lame, or very old, whose condition is such that it is obvious they will not recover will be humanely destroyed at the site by the Bureau of Land Management's Authorized Officer only, or by a veterinarian if authorized by the Bureau's representative. BLM's Authorized Officers have been trained by a licensed veterinarian in the state for humane euthanasia of wild horses. No other individual will be allowed to destroy any captured horse unless the representative has specifically stated (and made reference to in writing) that he will be away from the job site for an extended period of time. During this time, the representative will appoint a qualified individual to take over his responsibilities. The Contractor shall dispose of carcasses as directed by the COR.

7. DISPOSAL OF ANIMALS WHICH ARE DESTROYED DURING THE REMOVAL OPERATION

Carcasses will be disposed of by burial, consumed by fire or left to the environment as outlined by Instruction Memorandum NV-83-84. This will satisfy State and County sanitary requirements.

Prior to disposal, data which includes the date of death, apparent reason for death, sex, color, age, and freeze mark number (if assigned), will be collected.

8. TRANSPORT OF CAPTURED ANIMALS

All motorized equipment employed in the transportation of captured animals shall adhere to the provisions of 43 CFR Part 4700 and be subject to the following reservations and/or restrictions:

All motorized equipment employed in the transportation of captured animals shall be in compliance with appropriate State and Federal laws and regulations applicable to the humane transportation of animals.

Vehicles shall be in good repair, of adequate rated capacity, and operated so as to insure that captured animals are transported without undue risk or injury.

Only stocktrailers shall be allowed for transporting animals from traps to temporary holding facilities. Only Bobtail trucks, stocktrailers, or single deck trucks shall be used to haul animals from temporary holding facilities to final destination. Sides or stockracks of transporting vehicles shall be a minimum height of 6 feet 6 inches from vehicle floor and have no openings from the floor to four feet above the floor wider than 2 and 1/2 inches. Single deck trucks with trailers 40 feet or longer shall have two partition gates to separate animals. Trailers less than 40 feet shall have at least one partition gate to separate the animals. The use of double deck trailers is unacceptable and shall not be allowed, unless converted to single deck.

All vehicles used to transport animals to final destination shall be equipped with doors at the rear end of the vehicle. At least one of these rear doors shall be capable of sliding either horizontally or vertically.

Floors of vehicles and loading chute shall be covered and maintained with a non-skid surface such as sand, mineral soil or wood shavings (no fecal material allowed), to prevent the animals from slipping.

The number of animals to be loaded and transported in any vehicle shall be as directed by the COR and may include limitations on numbers according to age, size, sex, temperament and animal condition.

The COR shall consider the condition of the animals, weather conditions, type of vehicles, distance to be transported, or other factors when planning for the movement of captured animals. The COR shall provide for any brand and/or inspection services required for the captured animals.

If the COR determines that dust conditions are such that the animals could be endangered during transportation, the contractor will be instructed to adjust speed. The maximum distance over which animals may have to be transported on dirt road is approximately 35 miles per load.

— too far

### III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The gather area varies from flat but rocky to precipitous bushy and forested. Vegetation Varies from Creosotebush to pinyon-juniper with major vegetation zones of blackbrush sagebrush and mountain brush species.

No Cultural, historical sites and endangered or threatened species have been identified in roundup area. Each capture site location will have a Cultural and botanical (T&E) clearance completed prior to the temporary construction of corral panels etc.

The following environmental assessment mandatory elements would not be affected by the proposed action and alternative as previously described:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Air Quality   | 6. Flood Plain                     |
| 2. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern             | 7. Wastes, Hazardous or Solid      |
| 3. Cultural, Historical, and Paleontological Resources | 8. Water, Drinking/ Ground/Quality |
| 4. Endangered or Threatened Species                    | 9. Wetlands                        |
| 5. Farm Lands  | 10. Wild and Scenic Rivers         |
|  | 11. Wilderness                     |

The Caliente Final Environmental Statement (INT-FES 79-44) discusses in greater detail the affected environment as it relates to wild horse management.

### IV. IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

- A. Livestock Grazing: Under the proposed action, in the short-term as well as the long-term, livestock would realize a beneficial impact as a result of reduced ungulate competition around waters and throughout the grazing allotments as a whole. In time this reduced competition would result in an increase in available forage. There may be short-term impacts as a result of the capture operation where water may not be as accessible to the livestock because of the capture crew's presence.

The impacts from the no action alternative during the short-term would be the same as what occurs now. During the long-term as the wild horse population increases the areas would degrade, available forage would decrease, competition would increase.

- B. Wildlife: Impacts from the proposed action as well as the no action alternative are the same as impacts to livestock.

- C. Wild horses: The impacts from the proposed action would be that a portion and/or all wild horses would be removed from the gather areas. There would be unavoidable impacts in the form of injuries (less than 2% of animals removed) as well as a change in lifestyle for the animals captured. Animals remaining would have to adjust to changes in their environment, i.e. fewer numbers of wild horses in area, possibly new use area to adjust to, etc.

The impacts from the no action alternative would be the same for wild horses as for livestock. (In addition, because horses depend upon the range year-round their physical condition would in time be affected, as a result of lack of sufficient water and a deteriorating forage resource.)

*Negative change it.*

- D. Minerals: No impacts from proposed action or alternative.
- E. Wilderness: The impacts from the proposed action would be very minimal because capture corrals would be temporary. The removal area that is disturbed would be substantially unnoticeable. There wouldn't be a need for reclamation because all corral structures and vehicle access would be in the bottom of major drainage (sand and gravel areas) that are annually disturbed.

There would be no impacts from the no action alternative.

- F. Realty: No impacts from proposed action or alternative.
- G. Forestry: Under the proposed action reduced ungulate competition would benefit seedling establishment during the short and long-term.

*Caliente*

In the long-term the impacts under the no action alternative would tend to result in a general degrading of forage condition which might benefit Forestry as a result of reduced species competition for water and nutrients etc.

- H. Recreation: Under the proposed action the recreation experience might be considered lower for not being able to see as many wild horses within the area. There are no impacts under the no action alternative.
- I. Cultural Resources: Under the proposed action previously undiscovered artifacts may be disturbed during the implementation process. There are no impacts under the no action alternative.
- J. Visual Resources: There are no impacts from the proposed action or no action alternative.



- K. Soils: Under the proposed action soils would be disturbed at capture locations. In the long-term as available forage increase, soils should become more stable.

The impacts under the alternative would result in greater erosion in the long-term.

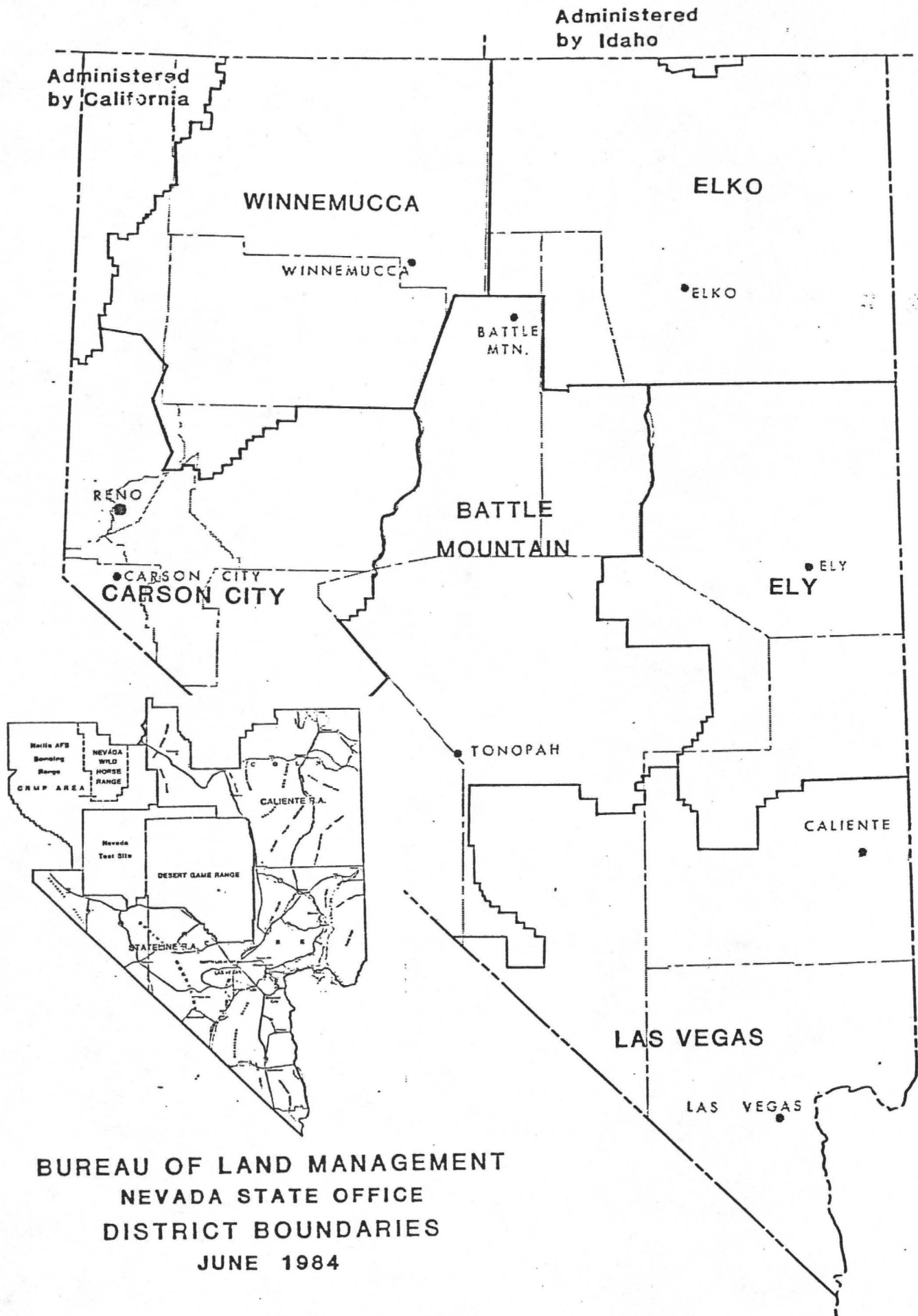
- L. Threatened/Endangered Flora and Fauna: According to a literature search conducted in the Caliente Resource Area Office and review of Federal and State updates, there are no Federally listed or candidate threatened and/or endangered flora or fauna in the capture area.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

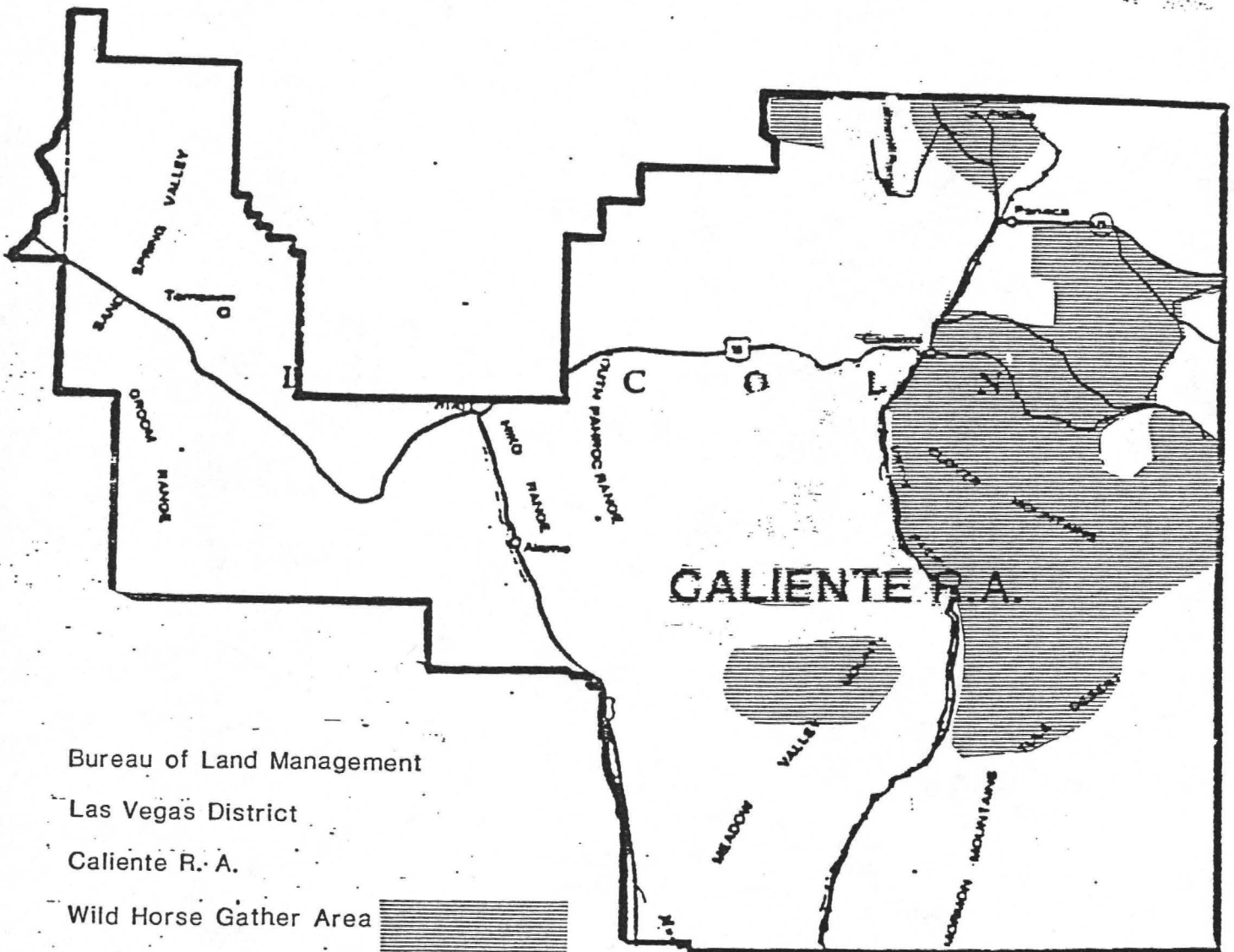
The FY88 Caliente Resource Area Wild Horse Gathering and this EA are available for review by all interested persons, groups, etc. for a period of 30 days. Comments will be reviewed for consideration into the Gathering Plan. These documents also are going through intensive internal review (Nevada State Office, Las Vegas District Office, and Caliente Resource Area Office) with comments being incorporated into the plans as appropriate.

INDEX TO MAPS

1. State Map of Nevada
2. Resource Area Map
3. Outside HMA boundaries
  - a. Delamar HMA, Boulder Springs & Delamar Grazing Allotments
  - b. Highland Peak HMA, Pioche & Highland Peak Grazing Allotments
  - c. Crossroads Grazing Allotment
  - d. Barclay Grazing Allotment
  - c. Simpson Grazing Allotment
4. HMAs where AML is being exceeded
  - a. Miller Flat HMA
  - b. Clover Creek and Clover Mountain
4. HMAs where there are problem animals
  - a. Caliente wild horse Problem area (Little Mountain HMA)




BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
 NEVADA STATE OFFICE  
 DISTRICT BOUNDARIES  
 JUNE 1984

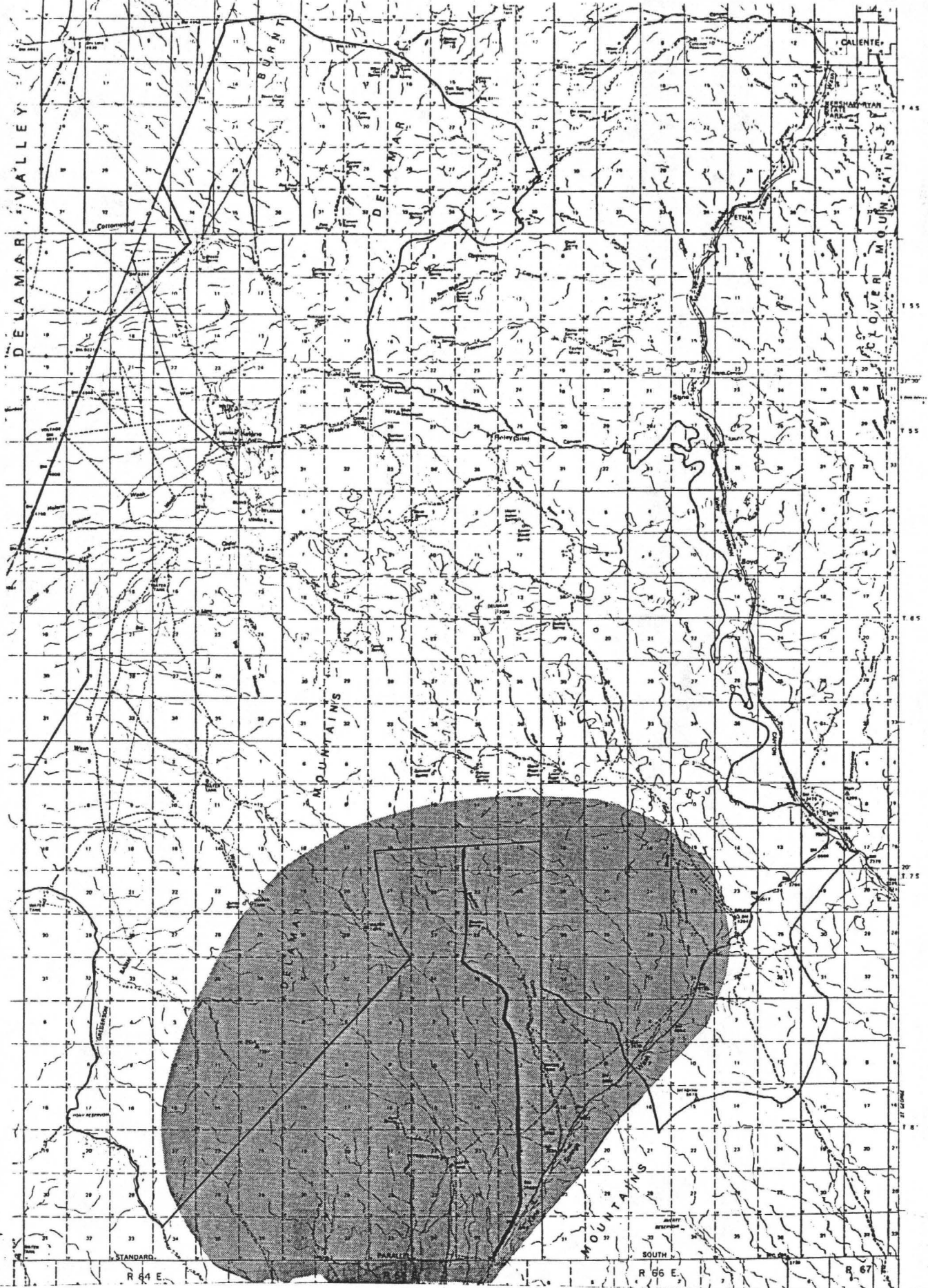


Bureau of Land Management

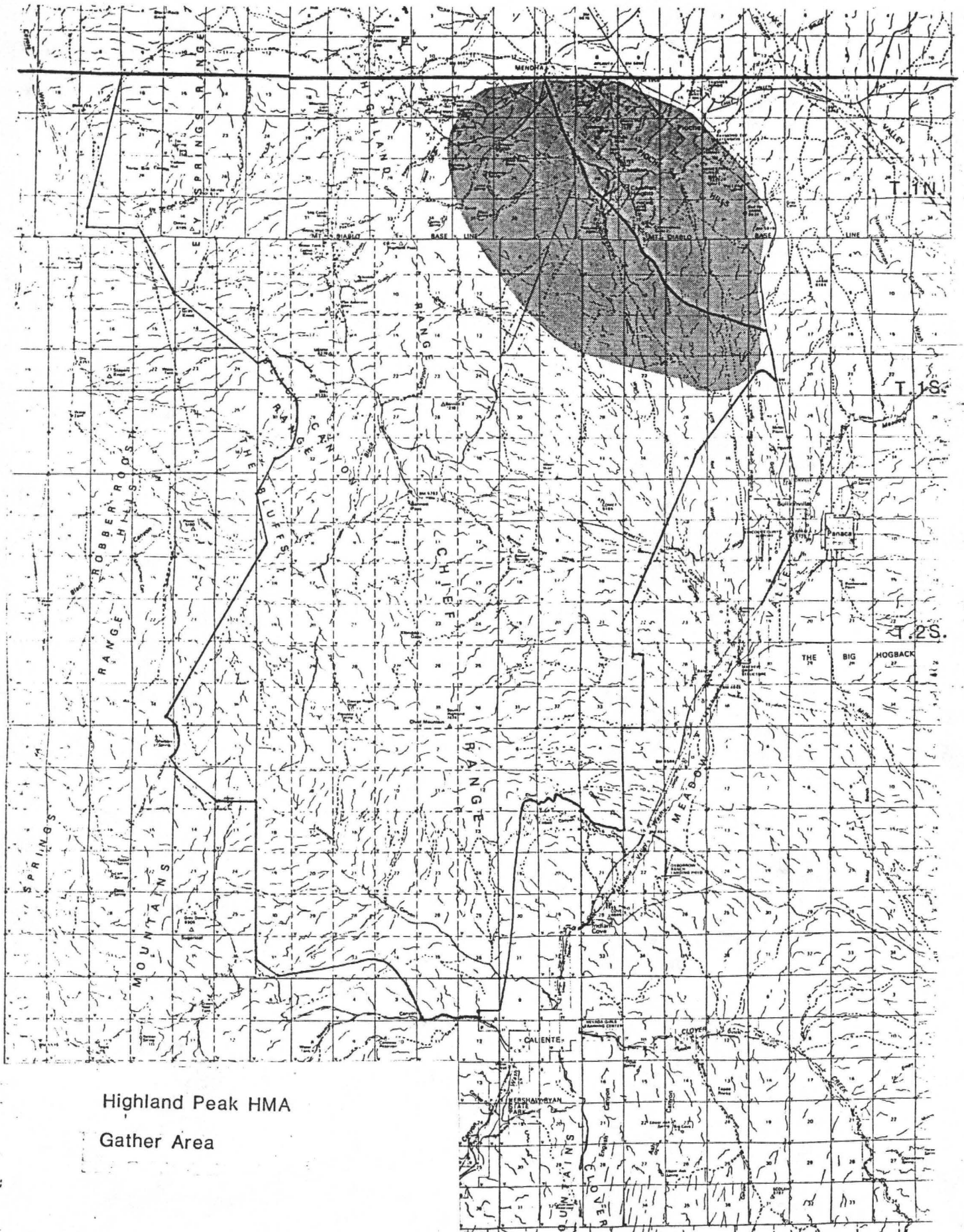
Las Vegas District

Caliente R. A.

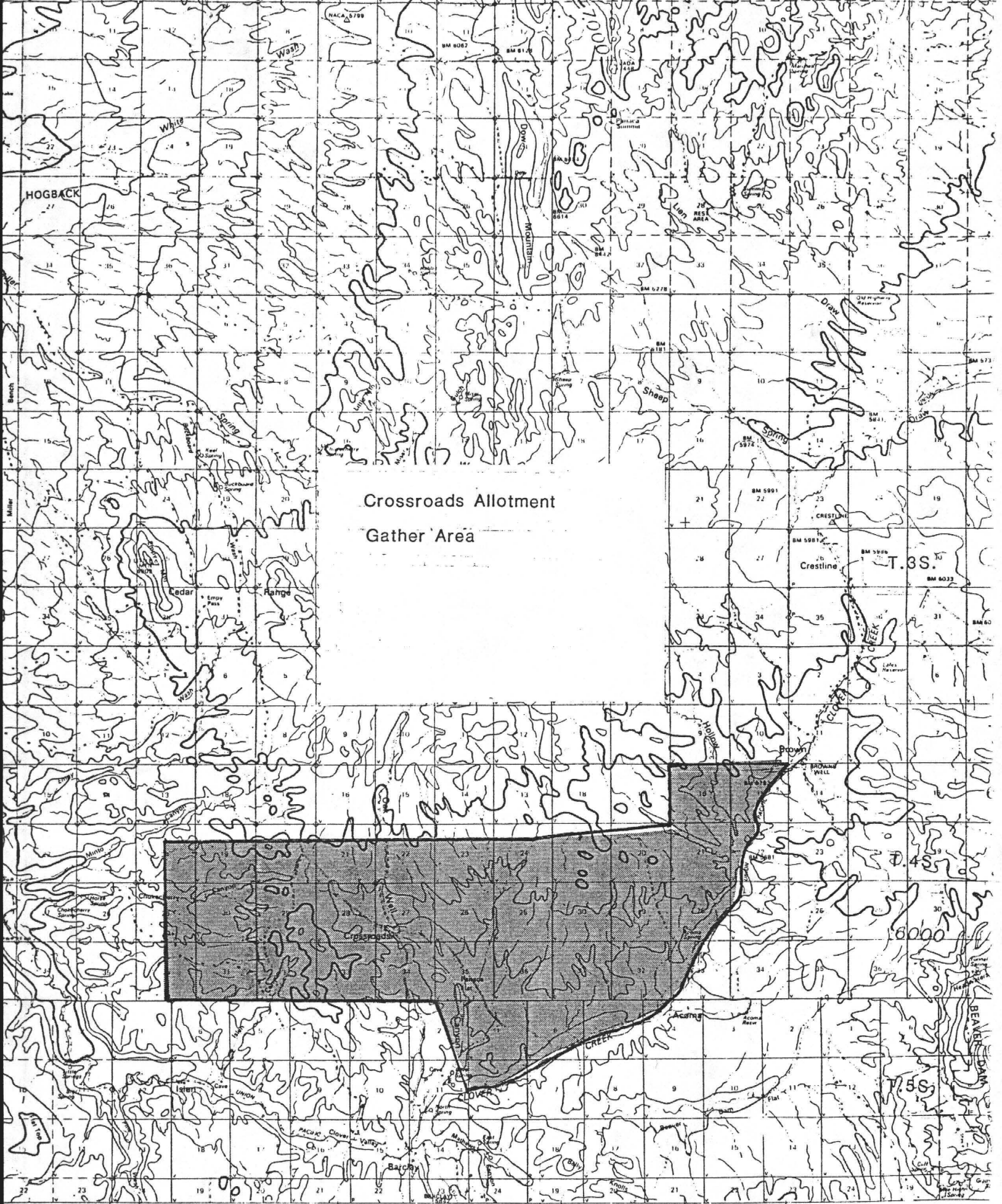
Wild Horse Gather Area 



Delamar HMA  
&  
Boulder Spring & Delamar Allotments  
Gather Area



Highland Peak HMA  
Gather Area



Crossroads Allotment  
Gather Area

HOGBACK

Down Mountain

Crestline

Cedar Range

T. 3 S.

T. 4 S.

T. 5 S.

20'

R. 69 E.

SAINT GEORGE

10' R. 70 E.

R. 71 E.

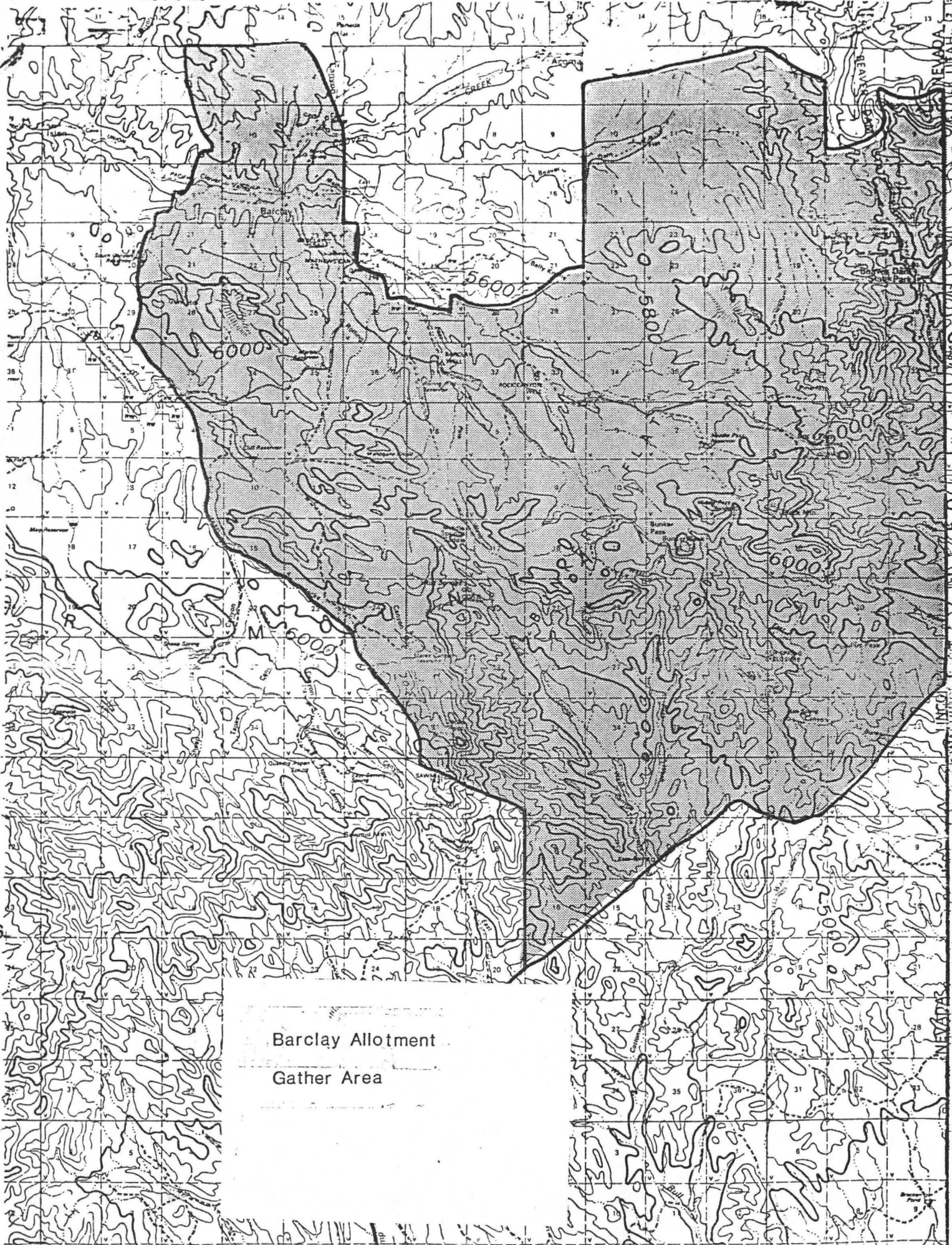
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R.7CE.

T.5S.

T.6S.

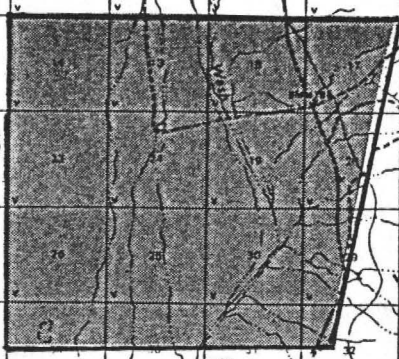
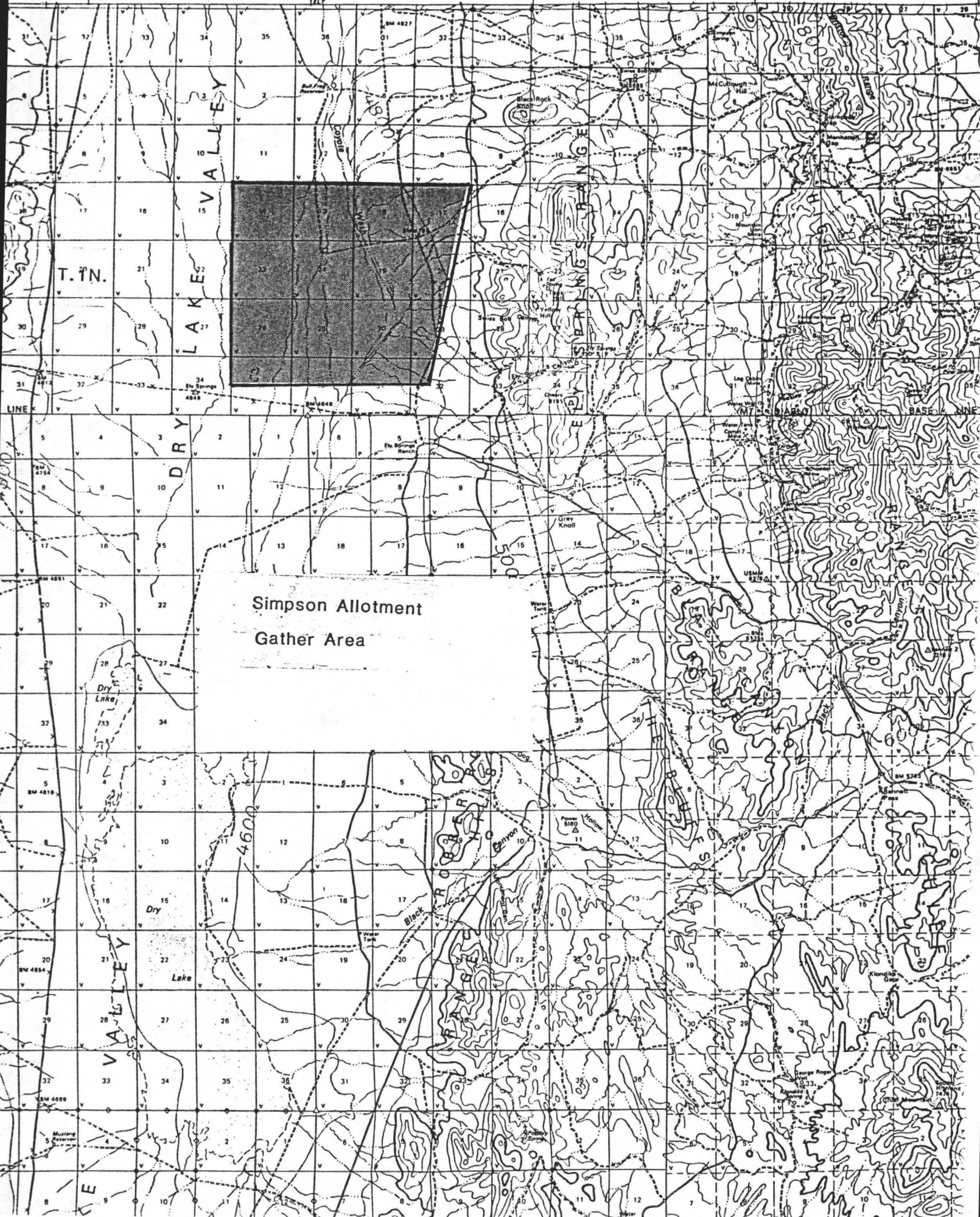
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Barclay Allotment

Gather Area





Simpson Allotment  
Gather Area

DRY LAKES VALLEY

MOUNTAIN RANGE

T.N.

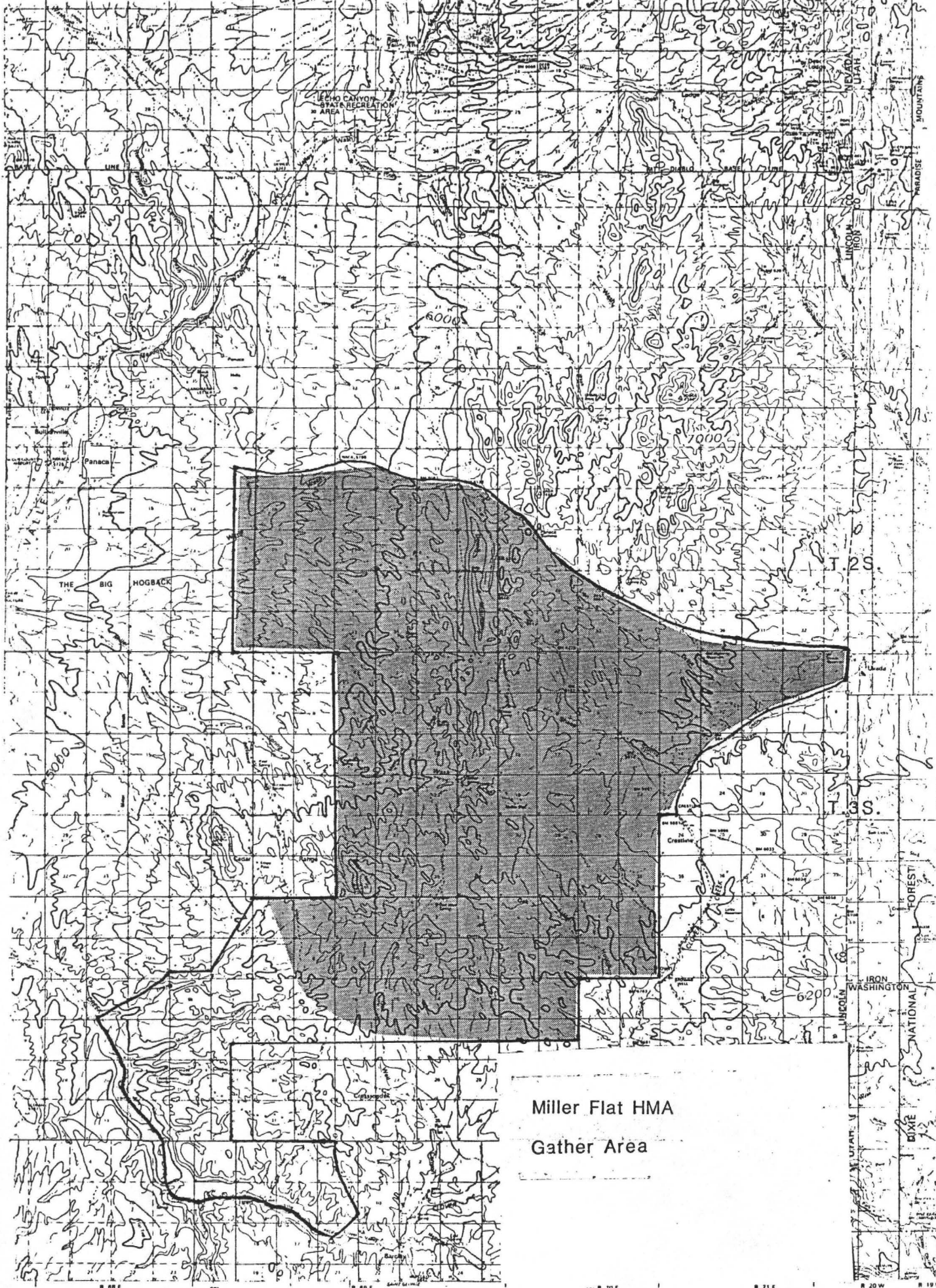
LINE

BASE LINE

4600

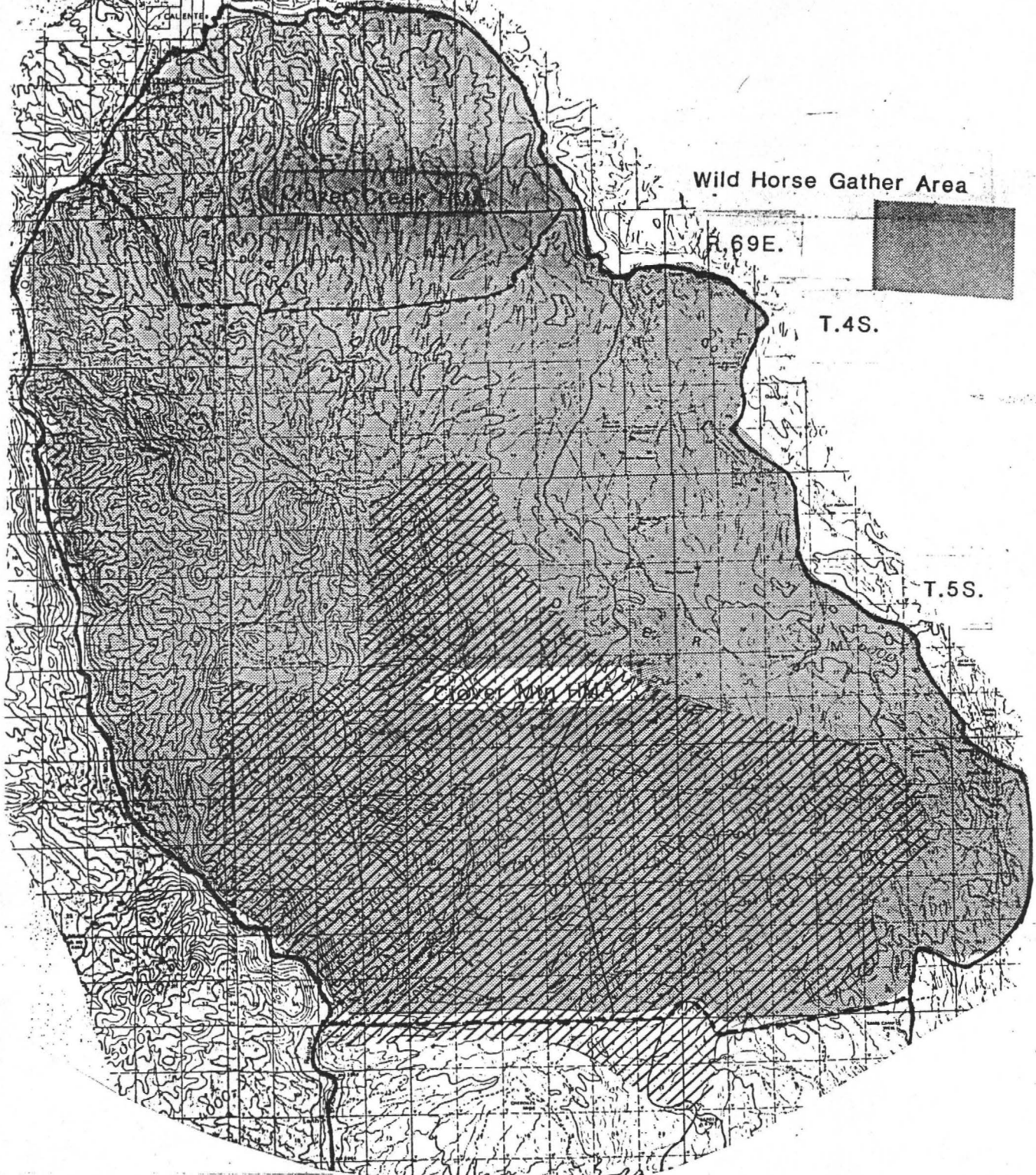
DRY LAKES VALLEY

E



Miller Flat HMA  
Gather Area

R. 67E R. 68E



Wild Horse Gather Area

R. 69E.

T. 4S.

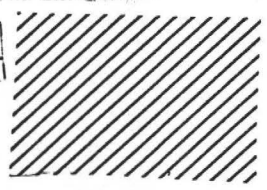
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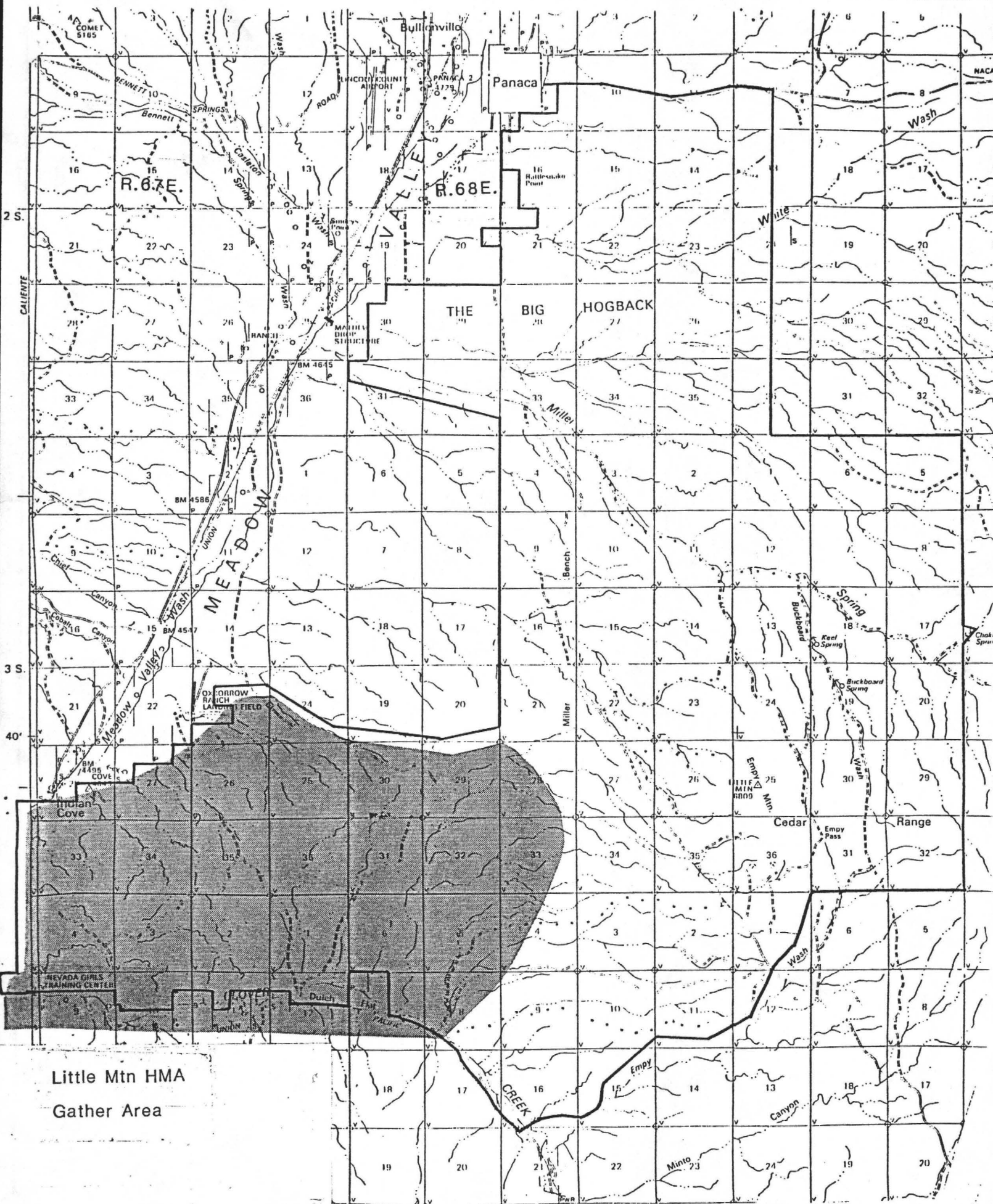
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Clover Mtn HMA

CLOVER MOUNTAINS (NV-050-0139)

Wilderness Study Area





Little Mtn HMA  
Gather Area