



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

nm 6-6-95
TAKE
PRIDE IN
AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4400 (NV-046)

JUN 6 1995

Cathy Barcomb
255 W. Moana Suite 207A
Reno, Nevada 89509

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

We would like to hold a second consultation meeting concerning the Seaman Evaluation area on June 20, 1995 at the Ely District Office at 10:00 a.m.

The last time we met we discussed several management proposals during the scoping meeting held last January. In addition, follow up meetings were held with the various permittees to discuss future management proposals and recommendations for boundary adjustments. This meeting is scheduled to further discuss livestock administrative remedies with the grazing permittees. Therefore, my staff would like to meet with all of the permittees within the Seaman Evaluation area to share information and receive input before beginning the Draft Allotment Evaluation process.

My staff prepared a summary of issues and recommendations for each permittee and affected interest's consideration. Please take time to review the briefing paper before our next scheduled meeting. This meeting will focus on management issues outlined in the enclosed Seaman Evaluation Briefing Paper. Please read the briefing, and make some notes for an in depth discussion.

If you cannot attend please write down your comments and mail them to the Ely District Office by June 20, 1995. If you have any questions call Jay D'Ewart or Bill Coulloudon of my Range staff at (702) 289-1800.

Sincerely,

Gerald M. Smith, Manager
Schell Resource Area

Enclosure

1. Seaman Briefing Paper

SEAMAN HERD MANAGEMENT AREA EVALUATION BRIEFING PAPER 6/5/95

The following is a summary of some of the issues involved in the Seaman Herd Management Area (HMA) Evaluation, and some of the proposed solutions.

ISSUE: UNFENCED ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES/ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS

There are unfenced boundaries between several allotments which lead to use being made in areas where that use is not licensed. The location of livestock waters results in cattle drifting from one allotment to another. There are three fences across Coal Valley, and the opportunity to put in other fences to control livestock is limited by presence of the wild horse HMA. Allotment boundaries currently do not follow natural barriers which also allows for livestock drift. In addition, some allotments are divided by natural barriers that create different use areas. Actual use has been reported by an allotment basis, therefore, licensed use in addition to actual use will be relied upon for each area.

Specific boundary problems: (refer to attached map)

1. The Needles Allotment is unfenced from the surrounding allotments (i.e., Forest Moon, Sunnyside, Batterman Wash, West Timber Mountain and Dry Farm). Needles is a sheep allotment. Cattle from adjacent allotments drift onto or through the Needles Allotment, especially from the Dry Farm Allotment.

Solution: Combine the NW portion of the Needles Allotment, west of the Golden Gate Range, with Dry Farm Allotment. Fence the southern and northern boundaries of Dry Farm Allotment, and construct a 2-3 mile drift fence through a gap in the Golden Gate Range. Any AUMs from that portion of Needles Allotment could then be converted to cattle, and used by Bert Paris in this new Dry Farm Allotment.

2. Cattle use on the Fox Mountain, Timber Mountain, and Wilson Creek Allotments are controlled by Wayne Stevens. There is no control over cattle use along the whole White River bottom, so that cows licensed in one allotment may actually be using another. (Cattle use has not been licensed for the past three years so monitoring data has not been collected to document past livestock distribution.)

Solution: Change boundary between Fox Mountain and Timber Mountain so all cattle AUMs in the White River bottom are within Timber Mountain. Construct a fence between Timber Mountain and Wilson Creek across the bottom and west side of White River Valley (2-3 miles and open ended). A rotation grazing system may then be developed for the White River bottom.

3. Due to lack of fencing and range riding, there is no control over cattle licensed on East Water Gap, Middle Coal Valley and Oreana Spring Allotments within Coal Valley. Cattle licensed on any of the allotments can drift onto any of the adjoining allotments.

Solution: Create one allotment which will include East Water Gap and Middle Coal Valley Allotments, and the NW portion of Oreana Spring Allotment. AUMs will be traded so Stuart Twitchell and Joe and Varlin Higbee will not run on this new (Coal Valley Lake) allotment. Currently, 5 permittees run in this area, and with this solution there would only be two: Tom Steele & Charles Wadsworth.

4. The east portion of Oreana Spring, the North Hiko-Six Mile, and the east portion of Seaman Spring allotment boundaries are unfenced. Cattle licensed on North Hiko-Six Mile and Oreana Spring Allotments can mix together or drift and use that portion of Seaman Spring Allotment which is authorized for sheep use. Gracian Uhalde, the sheep operator on Seaman Spring Allotment, wants to keep this portion of the allotment for use when there is heavy snow in Coal Valley.

Solution: Combine remainder of Oreana Spring, North Hiko-Six Mile Allotment west of Highway 318, and the SE portion of Seaman Spring Allotment east of Seaman Narrows into one allotment (Weepah). Joe and Varlin Higbee, Stuart Twitchell, Charles Wadsworth, and Gracian Uhalde (sheep AUMs) will use the new Weepah allotment. Tom Steele will no longer operate in this area.

The remainder of North Hiko-Six Mile Allotment will be added to the White River Allotment. In addition, a small portion of the Narrows Allotment south of the White River Narrows will be combined with White River Allotment. Sheep from Sam Etchegary and Wayne Stevens (Narrow Allotment permittees) do not use the area south of the Narrows.

5. All the allotments south of the Coal Valley Fence are unfenced and cattle can drift throughout the area.

Solution: Joe and Varlin Higbee, Stuart Twitchell and Tom Steele use the north half of the Bird Springs Allotment. Only Orren Nash uses the south half. The north half of Bird Springs Allotment will be combined with the Seaman Spring, Uhalde Coal Valley and Coal Valley Allotments along with the NE portion of the Crescent Allotment and the east portion of Worthington Allotment (east of the Golden Gate Range). This will be called the South Coal Valley Allotment. The users for the new allotment will be Joe and Varlin Higbee, Stuart Twitchell, Gracian Uhalde, Charles Wadsworth, and Bert Paris. Conversion of sheep to cows can be allowed on that portion of the Crescent Allotment in Coal Valley. Cattle

from adjacent allotments are already using this area which will all become part of the South Coal Valley Allotment. Tom Steele's AUMs from Bird Springs Allotment will be traded for Joe and Varlin Higbee's, and Stuart Twichell's AUMs in the Coal Valley Lake Allotment.

ISSUE: FORAGE ALLOCATION

1. Changing allotment boundaries will result in having to change existing preferences to conform with new allotment boundaries.

Solution: Use the 1946 adjudication maps to administratively determine preference based on the new allotment boundaries. Permittees' preference within these new allotments will be based on their percentage of the current preference in the old allotments.

2. Use is not always made where it's licensed due to lack of fencing. Therefore, it may be difficult to calculate a desired stocking rate for all the allotments.

Solution: Licensed/actual use from several allotments will be combined and applied to where the use was actually being made to determine the desired stocking rate. For example: licensed use in East Water Gap, Middle Coal Valley and the NW portion of Oreana Spring Allotments was all being made in the same area so licensed AUMs will be combined and a stocking level will be calculated for the new Coal Valley Lake Allotment.

Wild horse forage allocation will be based on the number of horses using each "use area" or new allotment. Numbers of horses using those areas will be applied to the stocking rate formula along with the livestock data. Forage allocation will be based on the Land Use Plan proportions between all users (i.e. wild horses, and livestock).

3. Minimal monitoring data is available for some allotments.

Solution: Additional monitoring data will be collected again during the summer of 1995. Forage allocations will be determined after additional data is collected and analyzed.

ISSUE: RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

1. The fence along the south and west boundary of the West Timber Mountain Allotment is in poor condition because of wild horses.

Solution: Permittees need to maintain fence. May need to clarify or change maintenance agreement on fence. Also need to look at maintenance agreement on fence between East Water Gap and Needles Allotments. If Joe and Varlin Higbee, and Stuart Twichell have maintenance, it needs to be reassigned.

2. Coal Valley Fence has two acute angles which creates livestock traps and causes overuse in those corners.

Solution: Realign fence along main road though Coal Valley.

3. Possible drift from the south end of the new Weepah Allotment (North Hiko-Six Mile) into the Irish Mountain Allotment (old Bird Springs Allotment).

Solution: Build drift fence through Hiko Narrows which is outside the Seaman HMA.

4. Livestock drift through Murphy Gap.

Solution: Fence the Murphy Gap which is outside the Seaman HMA.

5. The Oreana Spring Pipeline below the first trough is not working.

Solution: Have permittees fix and maintain the entire pipeline.

ISSUE: SHEEP TO CATTLE CONVERSION

Bert Paris has asked the BLM to consider converting sheep AUMs to cattle AUMs in the Needles and Crescent Allotment.

Solution: Conversion from sheep to cattle in the Needles Allotment could create distribution problems (i.e., cows would drift to Murphy Meadows on the Sunnyside Allotment). Fences are not feasible because of wild horse movements. It may be possible to convert a small number of AUMs near Bert Paris' headquarters and hold the cows there with water. If season of use was limited to winter, cows would not tend to go to Murphy Meadows.

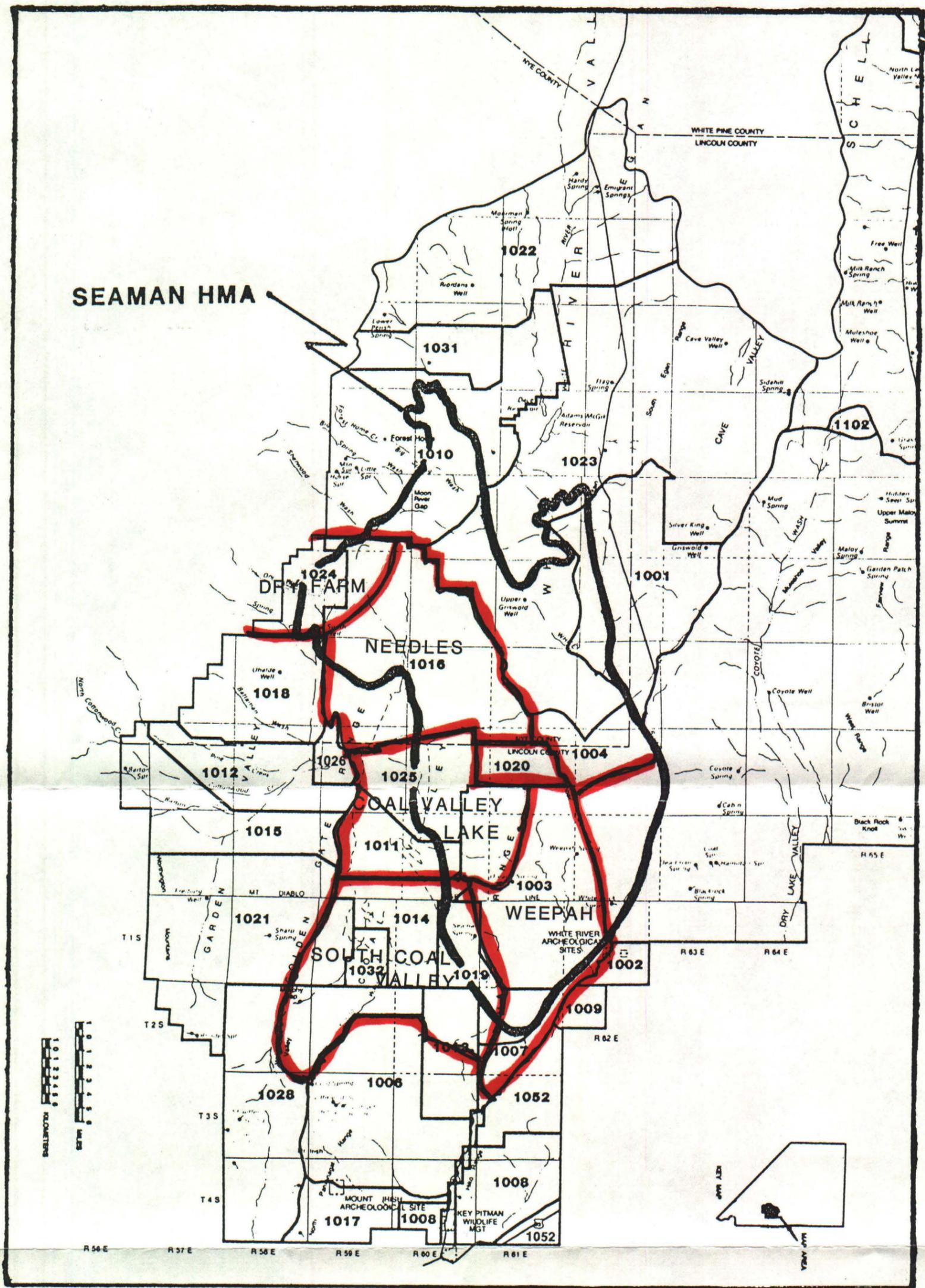
Conversion of sheep to cows can be allowed on that portion of the Crescent Allotment in Coal Valley. Cattle from adjacent allotments are already using this area which will all become part of the South Coal Valley Allotment.

ISSUE: SEASON OF USE / GRAZING SYSTEMS

1. When a grazing system is developed for an allotment, then all permittees in that allotment must follow the system.

2. Season of use will be adjusted to conform with the land use plan if a grazing system is not developed.

3. Common on and off dates for all permittees in each allotment will be established.



SEAMAN HMA

DRY FARM

NEEDLES

COAL VALLEY LAKE

WEEPAH

SOUTH COAL VALLEY

- Existing Allotment Boundaries (with #s)

 Proposed Allotment Boundaries

 Seaman HMA

GRAZING ALLOTMENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1001 FOX MOUNTAIN | 1032 UHALDE COAL VALLEY |
| 1002 NARROWS | 1052 PAHROC |
| 1003 OREANA SPRING | 1101 GEYSER RANCH |
| 1004 TIMBER MOUNTAIN | 1102 GRASSY MOUNTAIN |
| 1006 IRISH MOUNTAIN | 1201 WILSON CREEK |
| 1007 NORTH HIKO-SIX MILE | |
| 1008 SOUTH HIKO-SIX MILE | |
| 1009 WHITE RIVER | |
| 1010 FOREST MOON | |
| 1011 MIDDLE COAL VALLEY | |
| 1012 PINE CREEK | |
| 1013 BIRD SPRINGS | |
| 1014 COAL VALLEY | |
| 1015 COTTONWOOD | |
| 1016 NEEDLES | |
| 1017 WILDHORSE | |
| 1018 BATTERMAN WASH | |
| 1019 SEAMAN SPRING | |
| 1020 WEST TIMBER MOUNTAIN | |
| 1021 WORTHINGTON MOUNTAIN | |
| 1022 HARDY SPRINGS | |
| 1023 SUNNYSIDE | |
| 1024 DRY FARM | |
| 1025 EAST WATER GAP | |
| 1026 WEST WATER GAP | |
| 1028 CRESCENT | |