

Ely Info.

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6/8/00

June 8, 2000

Ely Field Office
Wild Horse Herd Management Area Proposal

The Ely Field Office is continuing to establish AML in several HMAs. This is associated with two areas. One is with those HMAs where the AML has been set over the majority of the HMA but an AML has yet to be set on the smaller fringe areas or smaller allotments. The other is associated with HMAs located throughout the district but primarily in Lincoln County where the AML will be set for the entire HMA at one time.

For those areas of HMAs where we have determined that there is temporary wild horse use we are proposing to not set aside forage AUMs for wild horses at this time. In these cases, the temporary animals are considered to be residents to other HMAs and are transients traveling through the area. For all areas associated with this effort, census and field observations indicate few or no wild horse inhabiting the areas. This action is based on our best available data which includes wild horse census data and field observations. This is based on population numbers and not wild horse habitat. This is also an administrative process. Under current procedure, in order to gather within HMAs, the AML must be established for the entire HMA.

Not setting aside forage for wild horses at this time does not exclude wild horses from using those portions of the HMAs. We will continue to monitor and census these areas. We will evaluate the need to adjust AML based on the future use or expansion of wild horses into these currently unoccupied portions of the HMAs.

Attached is the Fringe Areas table.

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Ely Field Office
Wild Horse Herd Management Area Proposal For Fringe Areas

Herd Management Area & Number	Established AML	Allotment	Situation Analysis
Buck & Bald #403	340	Ruby Valley	<p>Livestock: Livestock numbers adjusted through transfer in 1996. Therefore, a proposed multiple use decision was not issued. The allotment evaluation and management action selection report (MASR) were completed in 1996. The transfer carried forward the stocking levels identified in the MASR.</p> <p>Wild horses: The MASR set "0" AML for wild horses. The census counts completed since the transfer continue to show no wild horse use.</p> <p>Proposed Action: Forage will not be apportioned to wild horses within the Ruby Valley portion of the Buck and Bald HMA at this time. No changes to livestock use.</p>
Buck & Bald #403 Butte #407	340 74	North Butte	<p>Livestock: Livestock numbers adjusted through transfer completed in 1995. Permitted use was adjusted from 698 AUMs to 180 AUMs. No evaluation initiated. Stocking levels were calculated for the transfer. 1993 & 1995 data was used to set livestock numbers. Wild horses were not included in the transfer calculations. Allotment has not been grazed the last 4 years. No monitoring data from 1996-2000.</p> <p>Wild horses: Census data for the Butte HMA indicates: 12/93-5 animals, 2/94- 3 animals, 5/94-1 animal. No wild horses have been counted in Buck & Bald HMA.</p> <p>Proposed Action: Forage will not be apportioned to wild horses for the Buck and Bald HMA or Butte HMA at this time. No changes to livestock use.</p>
Wilson Creek	160	Hamblin Valley	<p>The Wilson Creek HMA includes a small fenced portion of the Hamblin Valley Allotment. Census data shows "0" horses. Monitoring data indicates no need for changes to stocking levels, but improve distribution. An evaluation has not been completed for Hamblin Valley Allotment.</p> <p>Proposed Action: Forage will not be apportioned for the Hamblin Valley Allotment portion of the Wilson Creek HMA at this time. No changes to livestock use.</p>
Dry Lake	94	Sunnyside	<p>The Sunnyside Allotment FMUD was issued in 1996. The FMUD set the AML west of the highway and failed to include the eastside of the highway. The MASR set "0" AML for the eastside of the highway.</p> <p><i>WERE HORSES PRESENT AT ANY TIME DURING THE MUD PROCESS?</i></p> <p>Proposed Action: Forage will not be apportioned for the Sunnyside Allotment portion of the Dry Lake HMA at this time. No changes to livestock use.</p>

Herd Management Area & Number	Established AML	Allotment	Situation Analysis
Dry Lake	94	Fox Mountain	<p>The Fox Mountain Allotment was included in the Seaman Herd Management Area FMUD issued October 18, 1996. AML was not set for the Fox Mountain portion of the HMA at that time. Very little of allotment is within the HMA and no wild horses observed in the area.</p> <p>Proposed Action: Forage will not be apportioned for the Fox Mountain Allotment portion of the Dry Lake HMA at this time. No changes to livestock use.</p>
Antelope	233	Schellbourne	<p>Only 1 year of monitoring data collected during 1998 and shows slight use. Have been running 300 AUMs active of the 600 AUMs total permitted. Livestock use has not been recently adjusted (no eval no transfer adjustment). Some cattle use probably being made in Cherry Creek. Three years census data 7/1998 - 0, 6/1997 - 0, 12/94 - 21ses counted. Other census show horses to be near allotment.</p> <p>Action: Forage will not be apportioned for the Schellbourne Allotment portion of the Antelope HMA at this time. Not a lot of monitoring data, but not needed since census shows "0" counts. Possibly set AML at 7 animals as an average from the three years (21horses/3 years = 7 horses). Make no changes to livestock.</p>
Meadow Valley Mountain		Schlarman	Add to this effort.

**CALIENTE AML SETTING AND ALLOTMENT MONITORING SCHEDULE
APRIL 27, 2000**

HMA's with sufficient data collected and ready for analysis:

1. Blue Nose Peak HMA - Garden Spring, White Rock, and Summit Spring - **Shirley is lead in this effort**
 - data has been compiled and placed into template
 - Operator meetings will be set up following development of Agreement language and approval of final numbers based on analysis

2. Highland Peak HMA - Highland Peak, Bennett Spring, Klondike, Black Canyon, Pioche, and Ely Springs Sheep - **Domenic is lead in this effort**
 - Sufficient data has been collected
 - Domenic will begin placing into template - has **due date of May 10** for all analysis and calculations to be completed
 - Operator meetings will be set up following development of Agreement language and approval of final numbers based on analysis

3. Clover Creek and Clover Mountain HMA's - Clover Creek, Mustang Flat, Sawmill Canyon, Sheep Flat, Cottonwood, Pennsylvania, and Sand Hills - **Shirley is lead in this effort**
 - Sufficient data has been collected
 - Shirley will begin placing into template - has **due date of May 10** for all analysis and calculations to be completed
 - Operator meetings will be set up following development of Agreement language and approval of final numbers based on analysis

HMA's where data is needed in order to do calculations:

4. Delamar Mountain and Applewhite HMA's - Lower Riggs, Rainbow, Delamar, Oak Springs, and Applewhite - **Craig is lead in this effort**
 - Existing data needs to be compiled to determine amount data to be collected
 - Ecological Condition, Use Pattern Mapping, Frequency/Trend, and Proper Functioning Condition are definitely needed for recent use
 - **UPM** will be completed during the weeks of **May 8-12 and 15-19**
 - **Frequency and Ecological Condition** to be collected **June 5-9 and 12-16** (based on most favorable conditions and plant growth)

5. Deer Lodge Canyon HMA - Deer Lodge, Mahogany Peak, McGuffy, N4/5, and Condor Canyon - **Domenic is lead in this effort**

- Existing data needs to be compiled to determine amount data to be collected
- Ecological Condition, Use Pattern Mapping, Frequency/Trend, and Proper Functioning Condition are definitely needed for recent use
- **UPM** will be completed during the weeks of **May 8-12 and 15-19**
- **Frequency and Ecological Condition** to be collected **June 5-9 and 12-16** (based on most favorable conditions and plant growth)

6. Little Mountain HMA - Little Mountain, Buckboard, Panaca Cattle, White Hills, Roadside and Peck - **Craig is lead in this effort**

- Existing data needs to be compiled to determine amount data to be collected
- Ecological Condition, Use Pattern Mapping, Frequency/Trend, and Proper Functioning Condition are definitely needed for recent use
- **UPM** will be completed during the week of **May 8-12**
- **Frequency and Ecological Condition** to be collected **June 5-9 and 12-16** (based on most favorable conditions and plant growth)

7. Rattlesnake HMA - Rattlesnake and Oak Springs - **To be determined is lead in this effort (Collection of this data will be completed as soon as possible once the HMAs listed above are completed)**

- Existing data needs to be compiled to determine amount data to be collected
- Ecological Condition, Use Pattern Mapping, Frequency/Trend, and Proper Functioning Condition are definitely needed for recent use
- **UPM** will be completed during the weeks of **May 8-12 and 15-19**
- **Frequency and Ecological Condition** to be collected **June 5-9 and 12-16** (based on most favorable conditions and plant growth)

HMAs where AML has been set or in process of setting through MUD or MFP Amendment:

8. Meadow Valley Mountains HMA - Henrie Complex and Schlarman - 1999
 - Henrie Complex Eval and FMUD set AML, stocking rates, and season of use on 95% of the Meadow Valley Mountains HMA, 40% of the Blue Nose Peak HMA, and 30% of the Mormon Mountains HMA
 - Schlarman Allotment portion of the Meadow Valley Mountains HMA needs to be set through an agreement but should be simple

9. Mormon Mountains HMA - Henrie Complex, Mormon Peak, and White Rock -
 - 30% of HMA was set at zero AML through the Henrie Complex FMUD
 - Remaining portion of the HMA will be set at zero AML through the Caliente MFP Amendment for Grazing Management within Desert Tortoise Habitat - ROD to be written this summer

10. Miller Flat HMA - Rabbit Spring, Sheep Spring, Uvada, Sheep Flat, Clover Creek, and Oak Wells - April 2000
 - PMUD sent to operators and interested publics in April 2000

- AML set at 30 horses

Wild Horse Appropriate Management Level and Livestock Management

Herd Management Area	Allotment	Situation Analysis
Buck & Bald	Ruby Valley	<p>Livestock numbers adjusted through transfer. An evaluation and MASR was completed and transfer carried forward the stocking levels identified in the MASR. The MASR set "0" AML for wild horses. The census counts completed since the transfer continue to show no wild horse use.</p> <p>Action: Set AML at "0" as originally set in the MASR.</p>
Buck & Bald	Maverick	<p>Maverick evaluation was initiated has not been completed. Monitoring data includes 1997, 1991, 1992. More current data is needed to supplement existing data. Data in evaluation is not representative of current grazing use.</p> <p>Action: Jay and Mike will monitor May 3-4. Then review data with Bob May 10.</p>
Buck & Bald (and Butte)	North Butte	<p>Livestock numbers adjusted through transfer. Adjusted from 698 AUMs to 180 AUMs. No evaluation was initiated. Stocking levels were calculated for the transfer. 1993 & 1995 data was used to set livestock numbers. Wild horses were not included in the transfer calculations. Allotment has not been grazed the last 4 years. No monitoring data from 1996-2000. Census data indicates: 12/93-5, 2/94-3, 5/94-1 all in Butte HMA. No horses have been counted in Buck & Bald.</p> <p>Action: Set AML at 3 animals for Butte HMA based on the average of the three census counts. Set Buck & Bald AML at "0". AML based on counts only and no monitoring data.</p>
Buck & Bald (and Butte)	Thirty Mile	<p>TRT evaluation. Use wild horse and livestock numbers from TRT evaluation. We are meeting objectives and monitoring shows existing livestock numbers OK. 1996,1997,1998 census shows 3 year average is 48 wild horses.</p> <p>Action: Maintain current stocking levels which are below total permitted. Set AML at 48 wild horses. Use TRT evaluation as basis for numbers. Stocking levels calculations therefore not needed.</p>
Antelope	Schellbourne	<p>Only 1 year of monitoring data collected during 1998 and shows slight use. Have been running 300 AUMs active of the 600 AUMs total permitted. Livestock use has not been recently adjusted (no eval no transfer adjustment). Some cattle use probably being made in Cherry Creek. Three years census data 7/1998 - 0, 6/1997 - 0, 12/94 - 21ses counted. Other census show horses to be near allotment.</p> <p>Action: Not a lot of monitoring data, but not needed since census shows "0" counts. Set AML at 7 animals as an average from the three years (21horses/3 years = 7 horses). Make no changes to livestock.</p>

Herd Management Area	Allotment	Situation Analysis
Antelope	Deep Creek	<p>Livestock agreement for three years for the period March 1, 2000 thru Feb. 28, 2003. Allotment evaluation completed thru PMUD. Agreement included recommendations presented in MASR and PMUD for grazing use.</p> <p>Action: Use wild horse numbers in old evaluation/PMUD to establish AML.</p>
Antelope	Becky Springs & Tippet Pass	<p>No monitoring data collected since 1992. Becky Springs has three permittees, 2 sheep and 1 cattle. Tippet Pass has 1 cattle operator. No adjustments have been made to grazing use in both allotments.</p> <p>Action: Collect monitoring data. Brett and Shane will collect during week of May 8. Then since we are late monitoring due to green-up determine if we have good data and if we do do desired stocking level calculations and see what this indicates .</p>
Butte	North Butte/Thirty Mile	See Above
Wilson Creek	Hamblin	<p>HMA includes a small fenced portion of the allotment. Census data shows "0" horses. Monitoring data indicates no need for changes to stocking levels, but improve distribution.</p> <p>Action: Set AML at "0". This is based on very small portion of HMA in Allotment and "0" horses in this portion. Status Quo for grazing use.</p>
Dry Lake	Sunnyside	<p>FMUD has been issued and set AML west of the highway and failed to include the eastside of the highway. "Y" AML set in MASR for eastside of the highway.</p> <p>Action: Carry AML of "0" forward from MASR and issue as MUD.</p>
Dry Lake	Fox Mountain	<p>Same as Sunnyside, no livestock issues, no waters and very little of allotment inside HMA.</p> <p>Action: Set AML of "0" and issue as MUD.</p>
Moriah	Mill Spring	<p>Upon transfer livestock were reduced. PMUD issued but no FMUD due to transfer. PMUD set AML at 1 horse.</p> <p>Action: Issue MUD to set AML at 1 horse.</p>
	Pleasant Valley	Term permit addressed riparian issues at Gravel Spring. No horses counted in allotment.

Herd Management Area	Allotment	Situation Analysis
	Mallory Springs	<p>We have 3 years UPM for 98, '99', 2000. Have also issued TNR. Very few horses</p> <p>Action: Do desired stocking level calculations.</p>
	Indian George	<p>Heart of the wild horse use. Only sheep use has been made. Sheep and wild horse use do not overlap.</p> <p>Action: Do Desired Stocking Level calculations and set AML for horses.</p>
	Tippett	Need to check with Brett on status.