

m 7/19/02

# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Ely Field Office  
HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)  
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/Ely>

In Reply Refer To:  
4130 (NV-045)  
**JUL 19 2002**

*McGuffey*  
**DROUGHT  
ISSUES**

Dear Interested Party:

The Ely Field Office has begun assessing resource conditions on all potential drought-stricken areas, primarily in southern Lincoln County. We are assessing resource conditions on livestock allotments and wild horse herd management areas (HMAs) to determine forage and water availability, forage condition, and the physical condition of livestock, wild horses and wildlife located within those areas. Current year's growth on key forage species is extremely limited in some areas. The below normal precipitation has resulted in decreased soil moisture, decreased plant vigor and growth while some locations have little or no current year's growth. Water availability is very limited.

As a result of the initial assessments, the following allotments or portions of allotments will be closed to livestock grazing: Barclay, Crossroads, McGuffey Spring and Mahogany Peak. These allotments are being closed due to current resource conditions. Wild horses will also be removed from these allotments.

Crossroads and Barclay Allotments are identified as horse free according to the Caliente Management Framework Plan (MFP). The Crossroads Allotment is adjacent to the Miller Flat HMA. Approximately 30 wild horses reside in the area. The primary forage areas show no annual growth on the perennial grasses (primarily crested wheatgrass) and has over 60-80 percent utilization on last year's growth. Horses in the area are reliant upon one spring source for water, and the associated riparian area is severely degraded due to year-long use by horses and seasonal use by livestock. The Barclay Allotment borders the eastern boundary of the Clover Mountain HMA. Approximately 20-30 wild horses exist within this area. These horses are currently moving into new areas of the Barclay Allotment in an attempt to find adequate water and feed. Cattle were not turned out on the Crossroads Allotment this spring due to poor forage condition. Cattle have been removed from those areas of the Barclay Allotment where wild horses will be gathered.

The McGuffey Spring Allotment is located in the southeast corner of the Deer Lodge Canyon HMA and contains approximately 25% of the HMA. There are approximately 30 wild horses in the area. The primary forage areas shows no annual growth on the perennial grasses (primarily Indian ricegrass, small galleta, bottlebrush squirreltail grass, and western wheatgrass). These areas have received over 60 % utilization on last year's growth with some areas showing over 80 % use. Wild horses and cattle are making significantly higher use than normal and are impacting the overall condition of the Two Kiln seeding within the allotment. The wild horses and cattle are reliant upon three small spring sources for water, and associated riparian areas are being degraded due to year-long use by horses and livestock. These sources are beginning to dry up due to the drought conditions. The grazing operator (Orren Nash) is currently grazing 25 head of cattle year-long on the allotment. Mr. Nash has been notified that the allotment is being closed due to the existing conditions.

Mahogany Peak Allotment borders the McGuffey Spring Allotment and contains approximately 25 % of the Deer Lodge Canyon HMA. Approximately 20-30 wild horses exist within this area. Drought conditions and heavy utilization levels by wild horses have essentially removed all available feed within two crested wheatgrass seedings, which are the primary forage areas for the allotment. Utilization on last year's forage

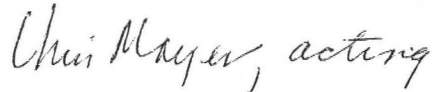
is over 80% in most accessible areas. These horses are reliant upon one small spring source in the southern portion of the allotment and a small stream channel in the central part. A well in the southern part serves as a location for water when cattle are on the allotment. Both the spring source and small stream are drying up due to the drought conditions. Wild horses in the central portion of the allotment are using several private land pastures, removing all available forage and damaging fences surrounding these areas in several places. Based upon visible horse trails, it appears that the area is also being impacted by wild horses coming across the state line from Utah. The permittees (Brad and Leon Bowler) have agreed to close the allotment prior to turning out livestock onto the allotment.

Due to drought conditions emergency removal of wild horses will occur on the Barclay, Crossroads, McGuffy Spring and Mahogany Peak Allotments. The Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact (DR/FONSI) for Caliente Non-Emergency Gather has been completed and has been sent to the interested public. An estimated 50-60 wild horses are proposed to be removed from the Barclay and Crossroads Allotments. The overall concern is that the horses would not have sufficient feed to survive the summer, and they would severely impact the perennial grasses within the allotment. The Emergency Gather Plan and Environmental Assessment is currently being completed for the McGuffy Spring and Mahogany Peak Allotments portion of the Deer Lodge Canyon HMA and will propose that 50-60 wild horses to be removed due to existing conditions.

Due to emergency conditions, the emergency removal of wild horses has begun on the Crossroads Allotment. The emergency removal of wild horses is expected to begin by late July on the Barclay, McGuffy Spring and Mahogany Peak Allotments. The Barclay, Crossroads, McGuffy Spring and Mahogany Peak Allotments will be closed to livestock grazing through closure agreements or decision. Enclosed are Notice of Closure Agreements for the Barclay, Crossroads, McGuffy Spring and Mahogany Peak Allotments. Due to the emergency conditions, these are provided for your information.

If you have any questions or would prefer to discuss this matter with us, please contact Chris Mayer, Lead Rangeland Management Specialist at 775-289-1844 or Alan Shepherd, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist at 775-726-8121.

Sincerely,



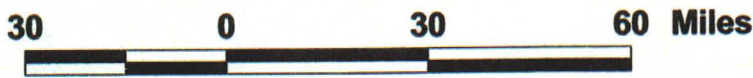
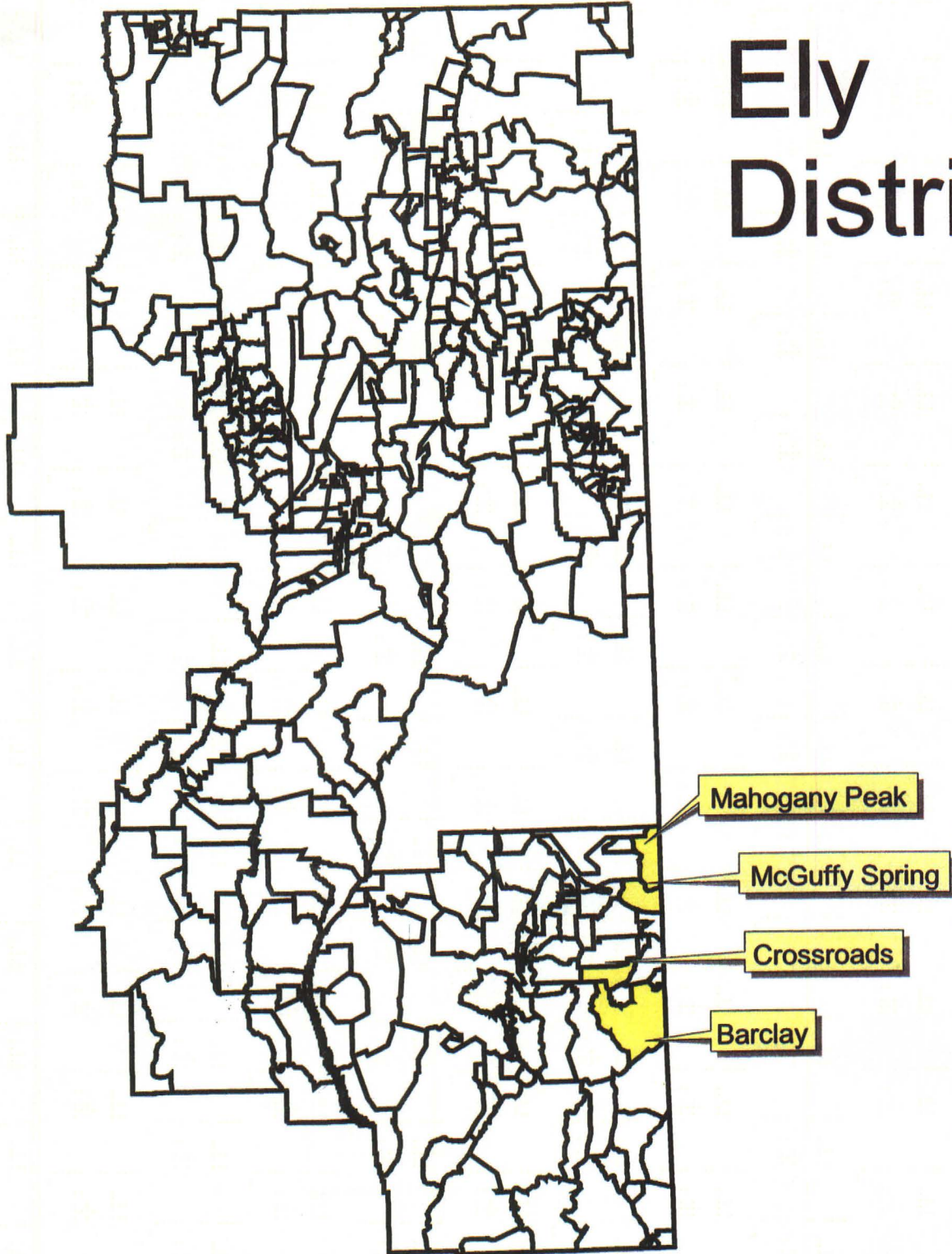
James M. Perkins  
Assistant Field Manager  
Renewable Resources

Enclosures:

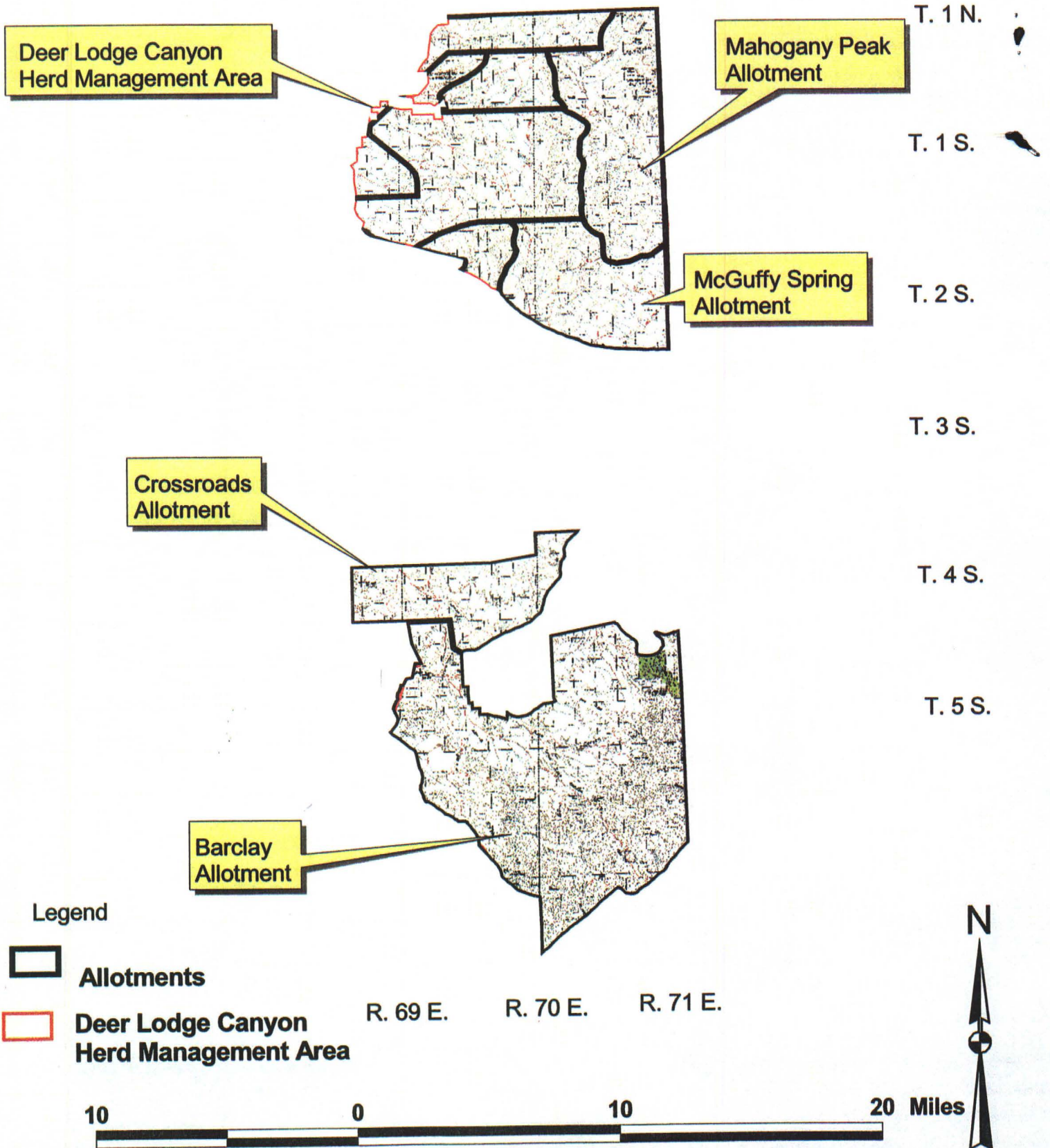
1. Notice of Closure Agreements
2. Drought Closure Maps

# Drought Closure Allotments

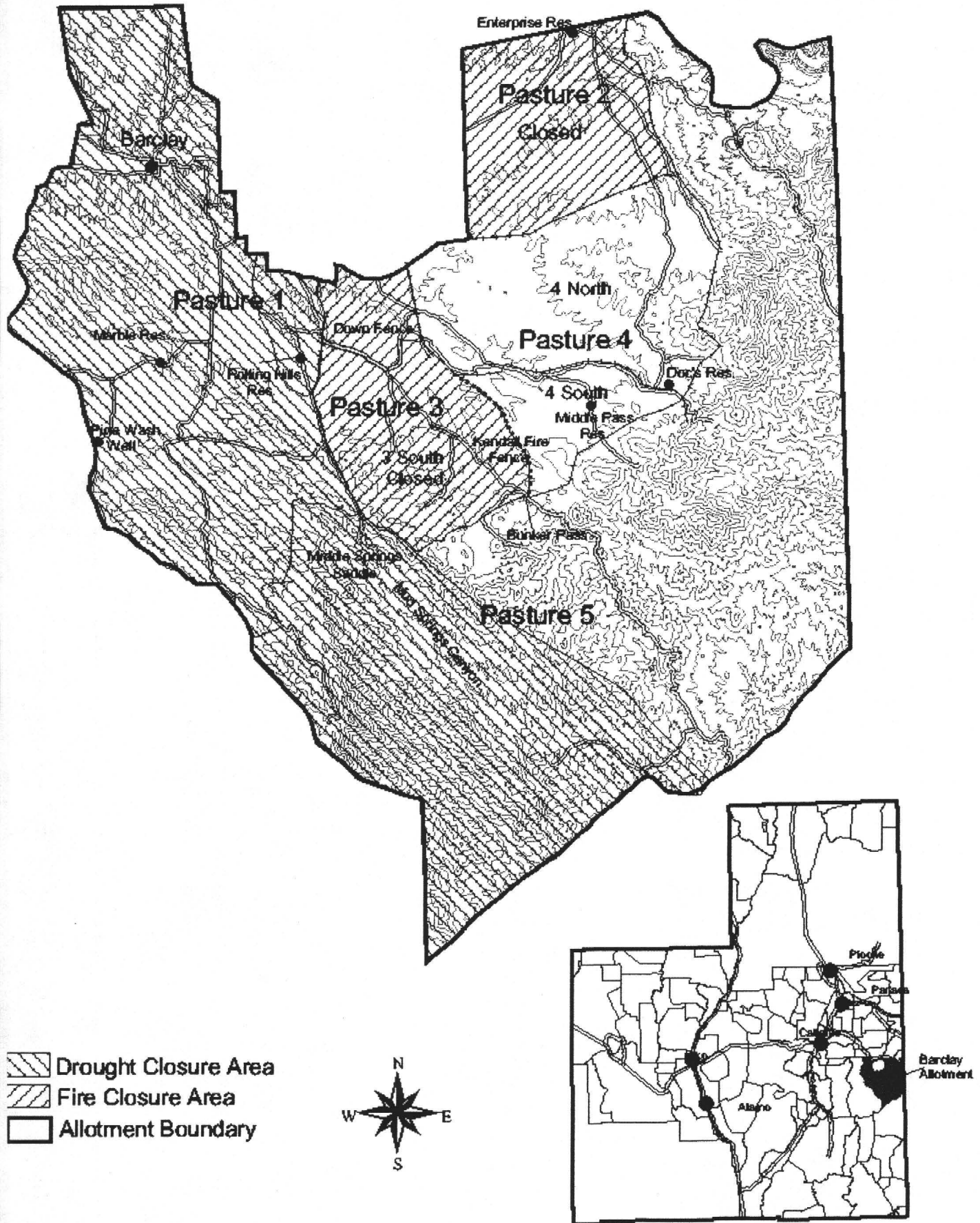
## Ely District






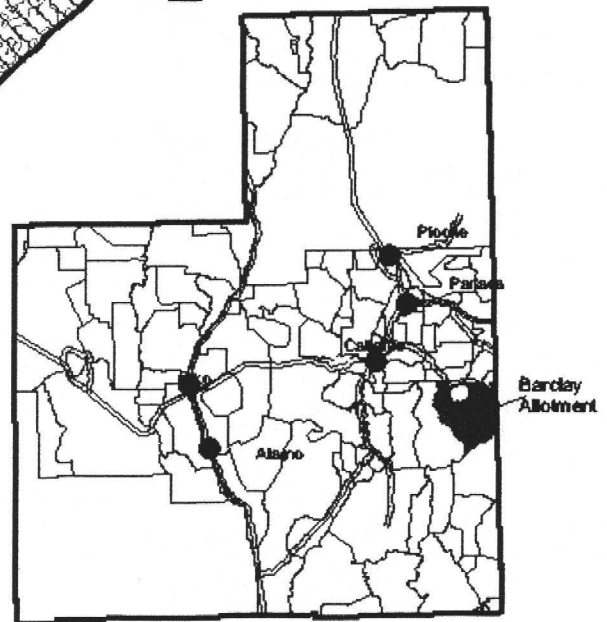
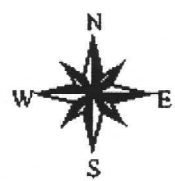
# Drought Closure Allotments Ely District



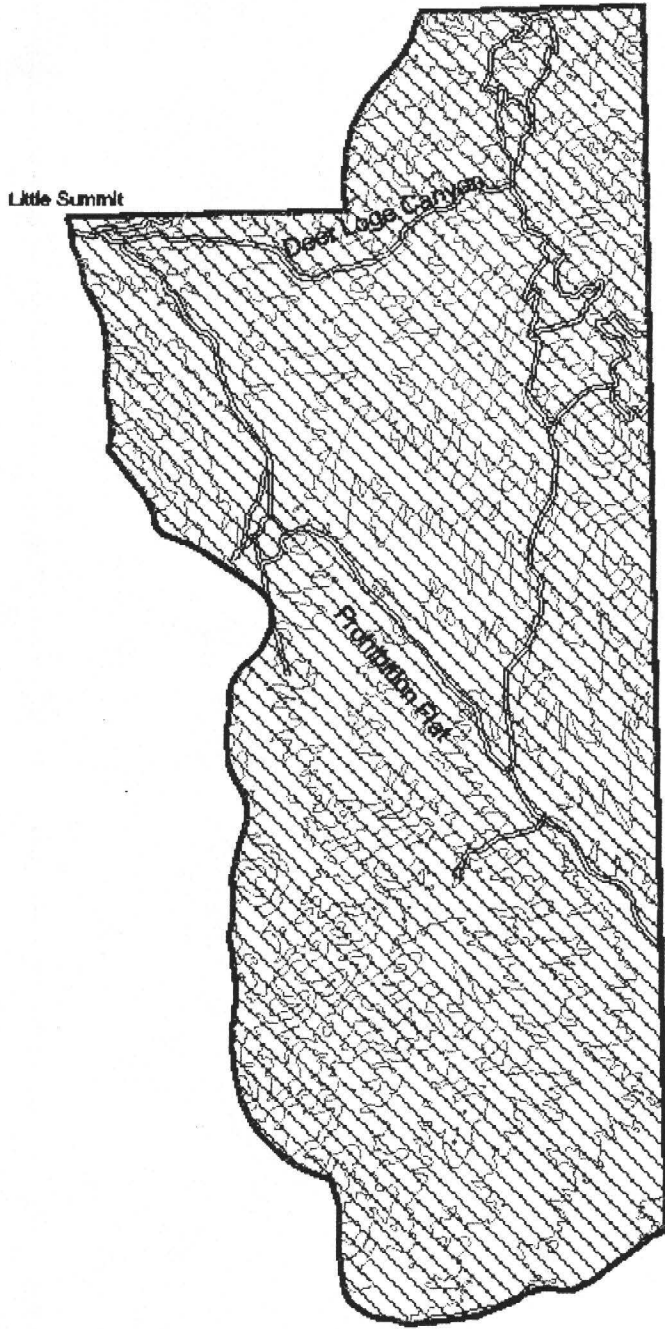
# Barclay Allotment Drought Closure Map




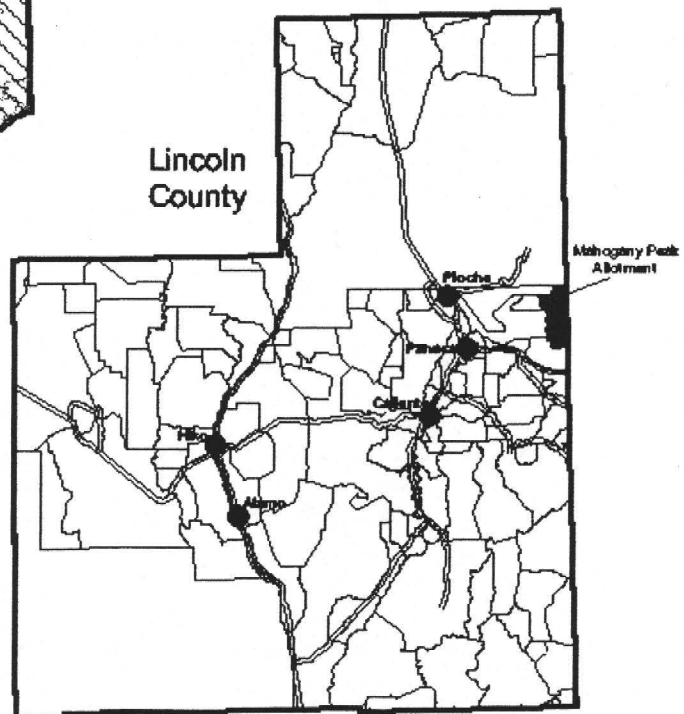
-  Drought Closure Area
-  Fire Closure Area
-  Allotment Boundary



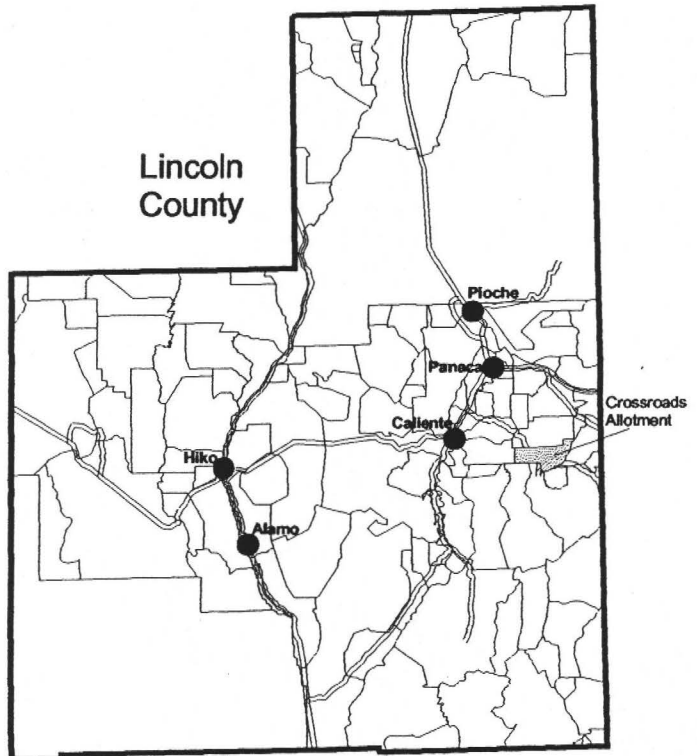
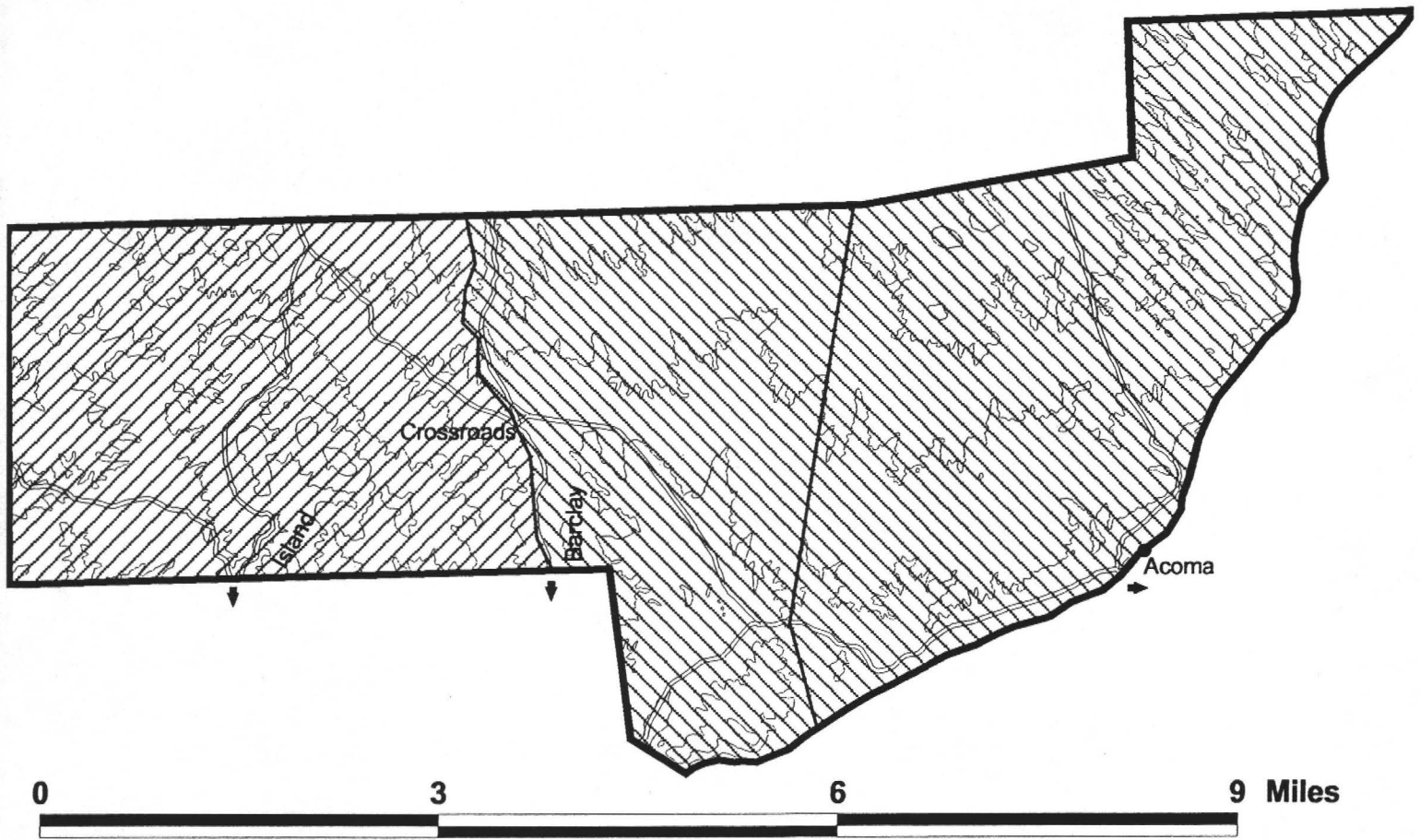
# Mahogany Peak Allotment Drought Closure Map






-  Allotment Boundary
-  Drought Closure area



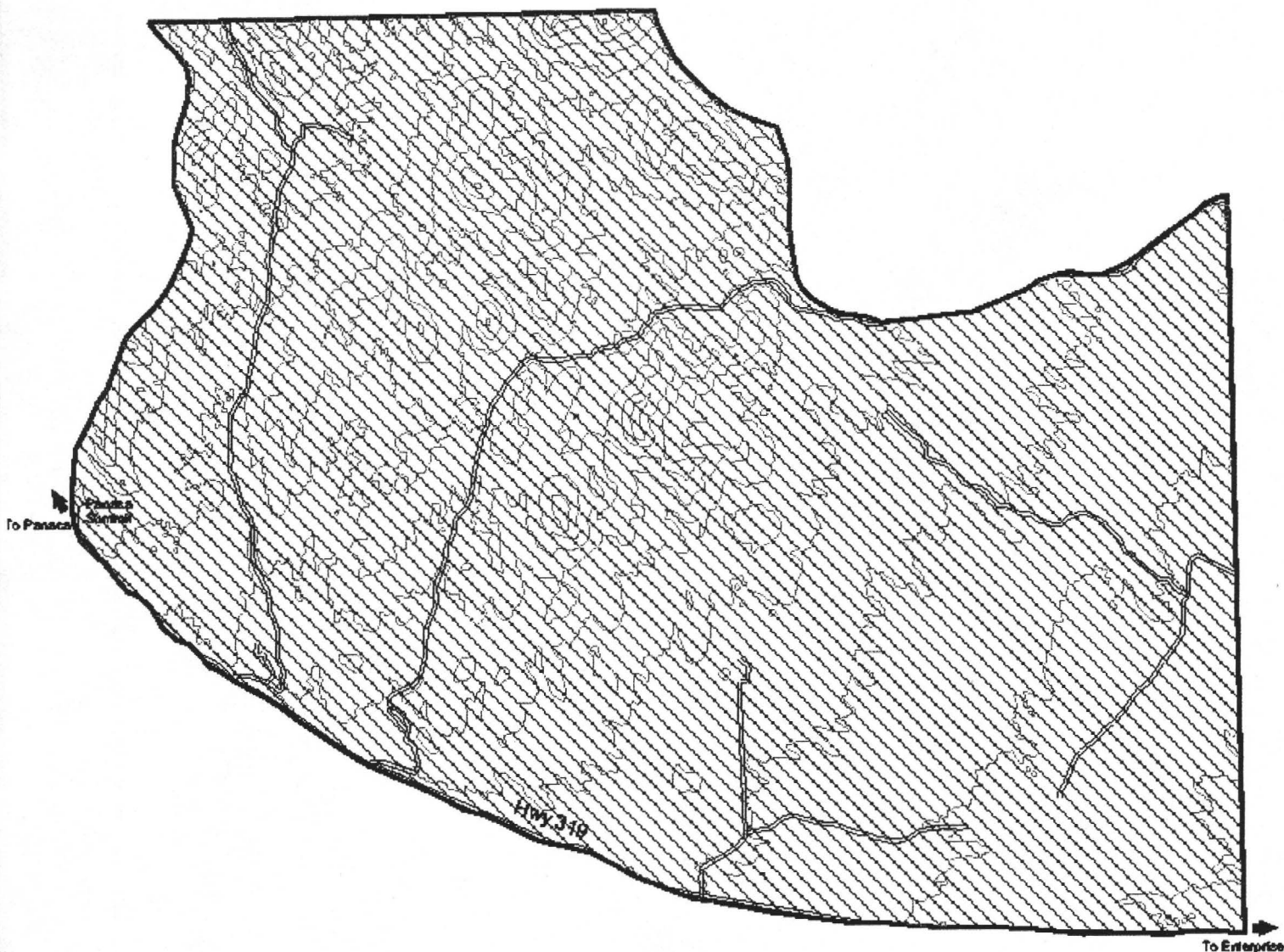
# Crossroads Allotment Drought Closure Map



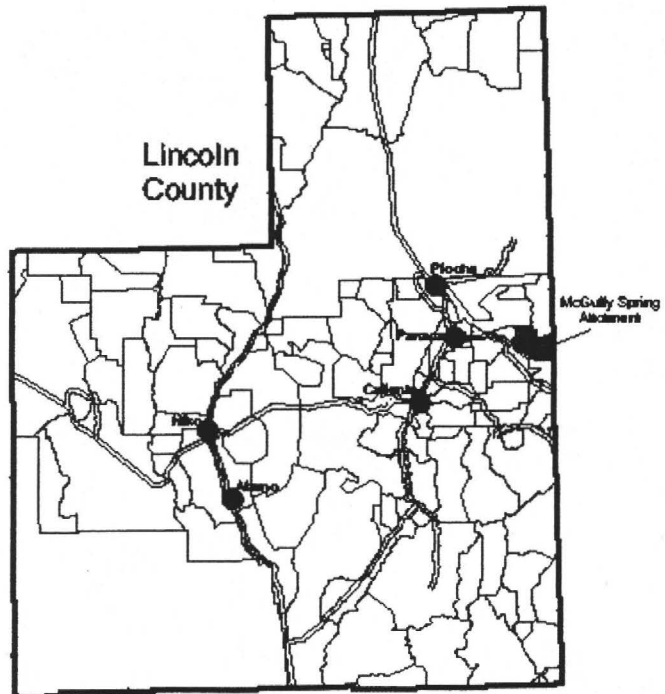
-  Allotment Boundary
-  Fire closure area
-  Drought Closure area



# McGuffy Spring Allotment Drought Closure Map

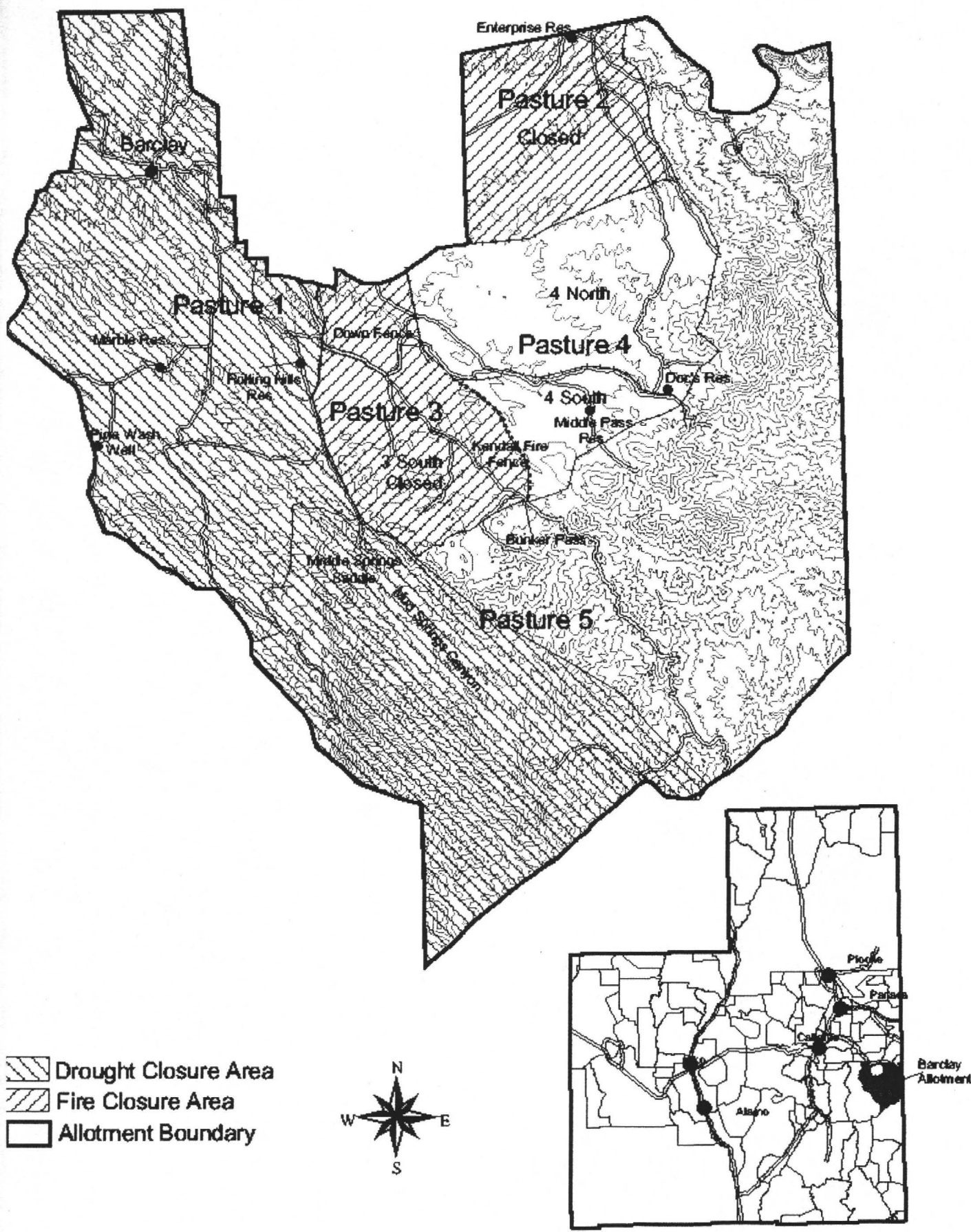


-  Allotment Boundary
-  Drought Closure area

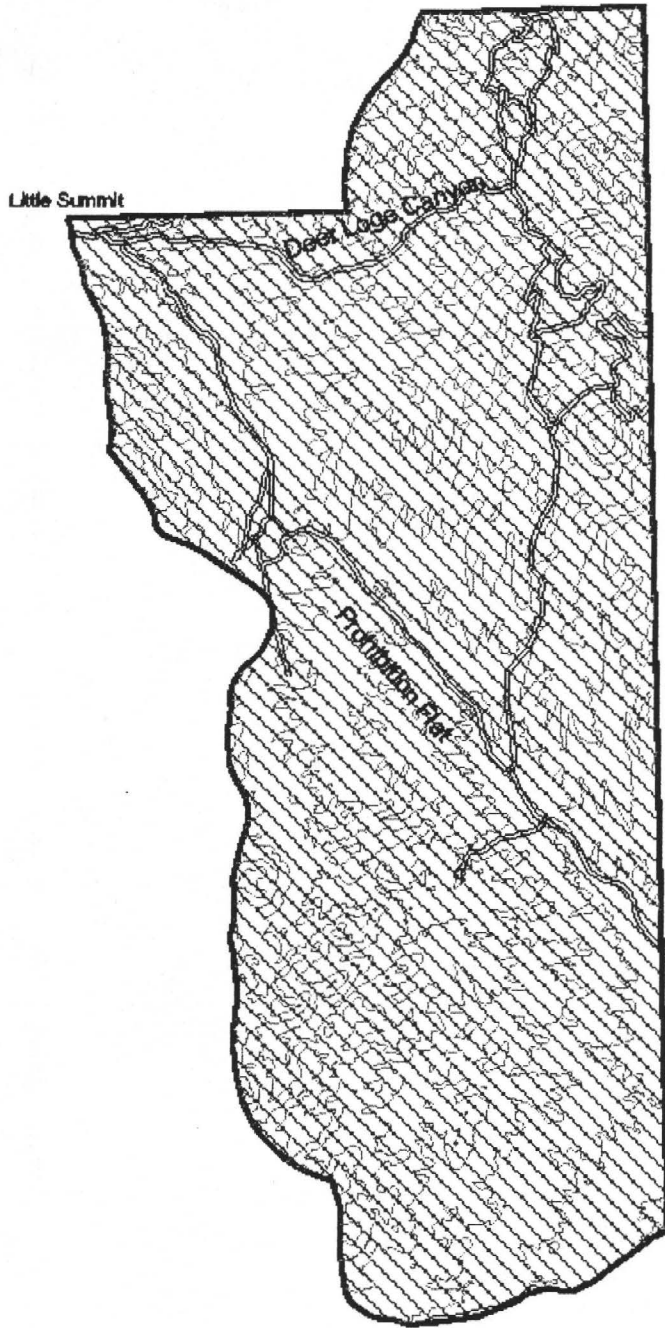




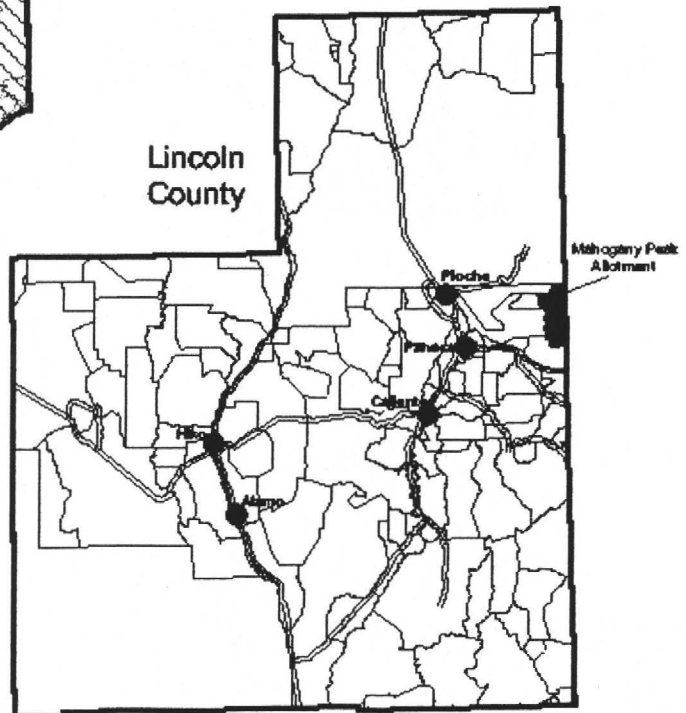
# Barclay Allotment Drought Closure Map



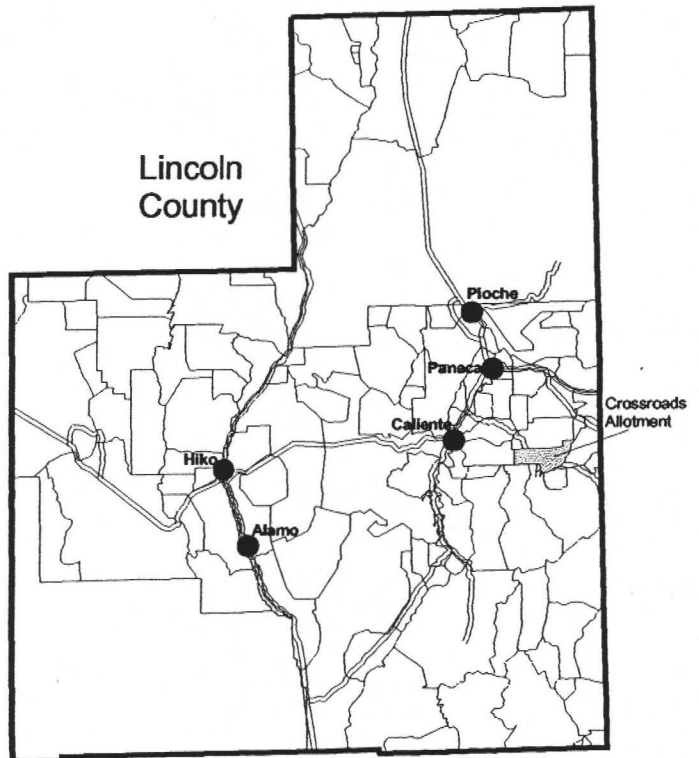
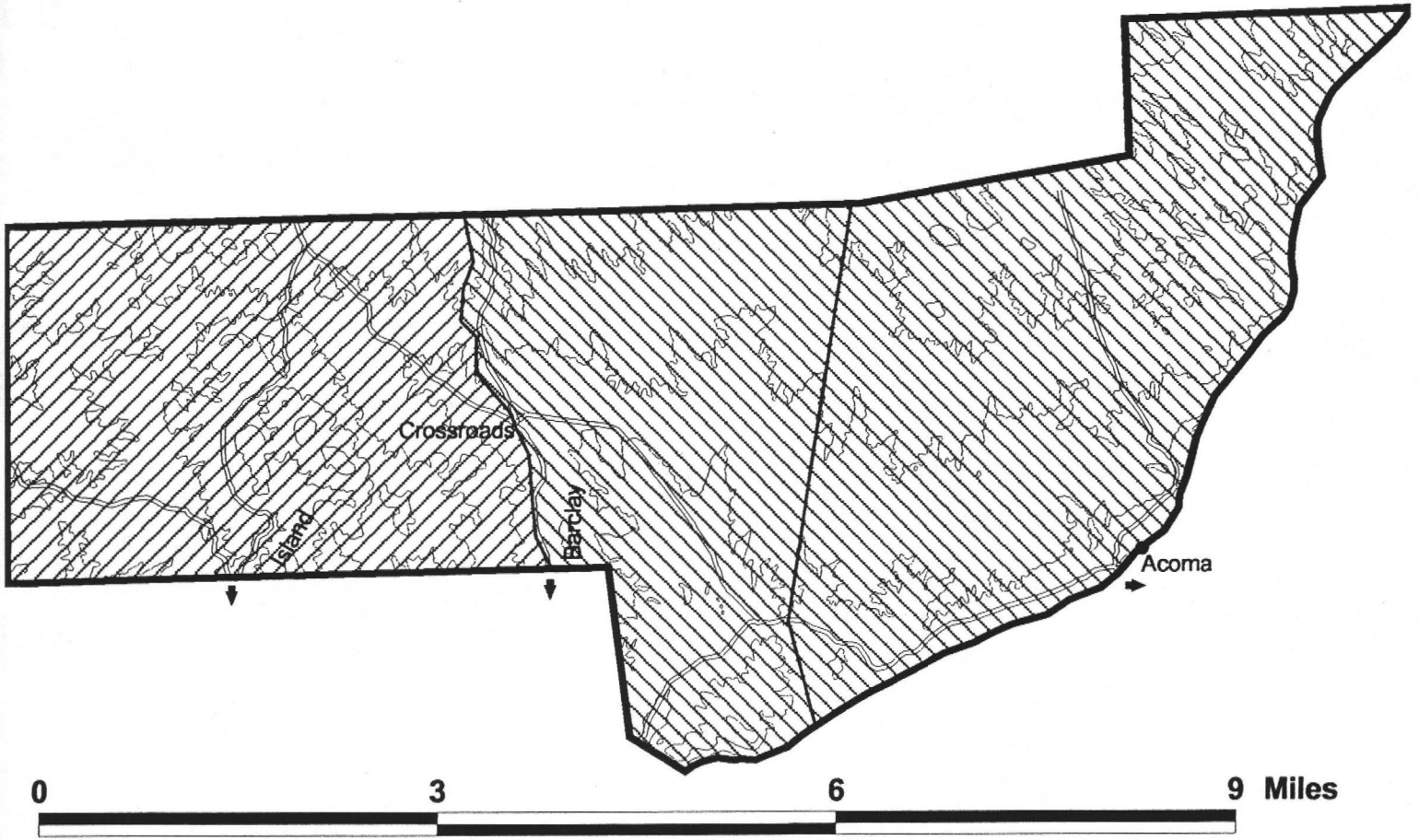
# Mahogany Peak Allotment Drought Closure Map






-  Allotment Boundary
-  Drought Closure area



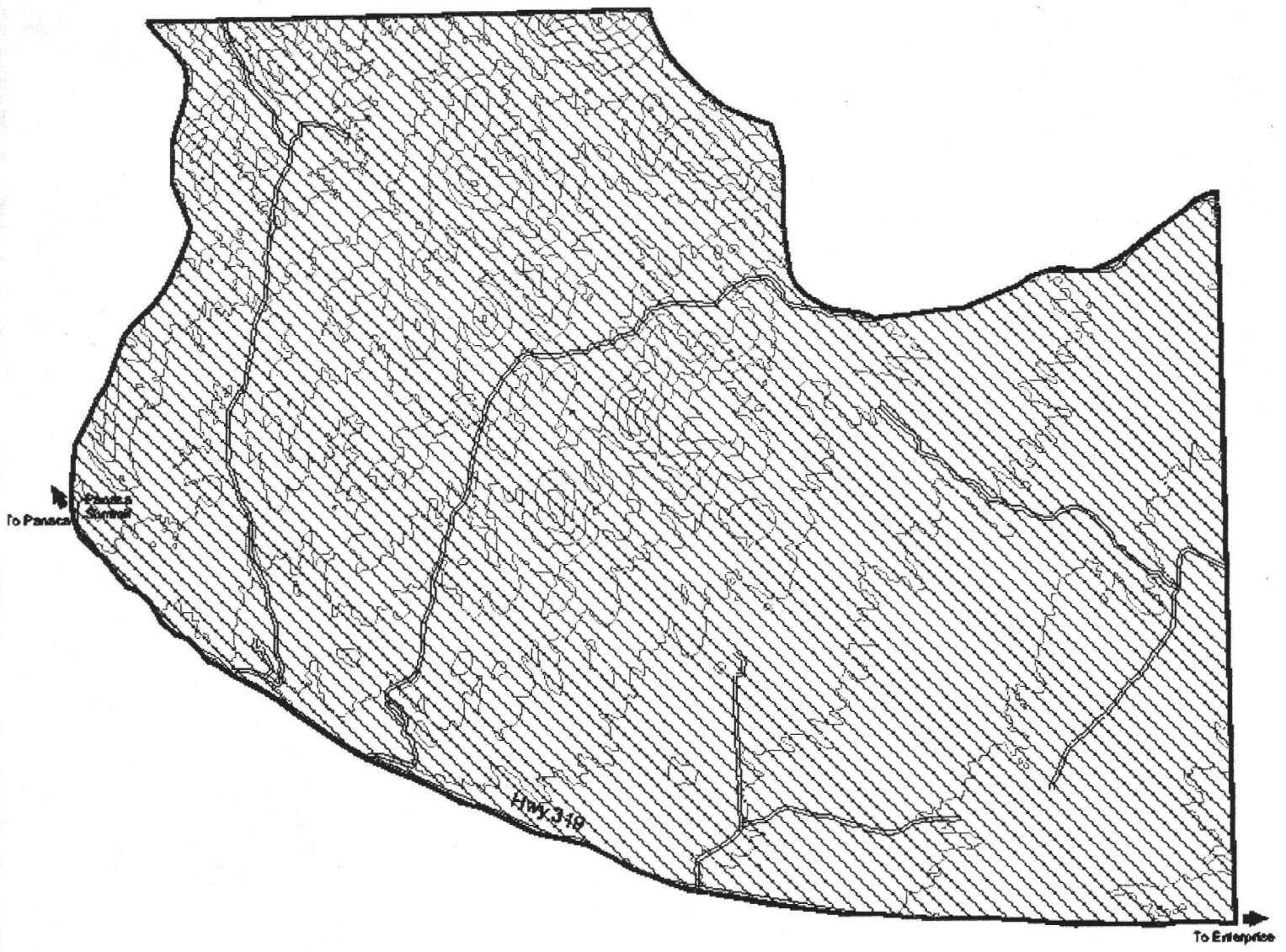
# Crossroads Allotment Drought Closure Map





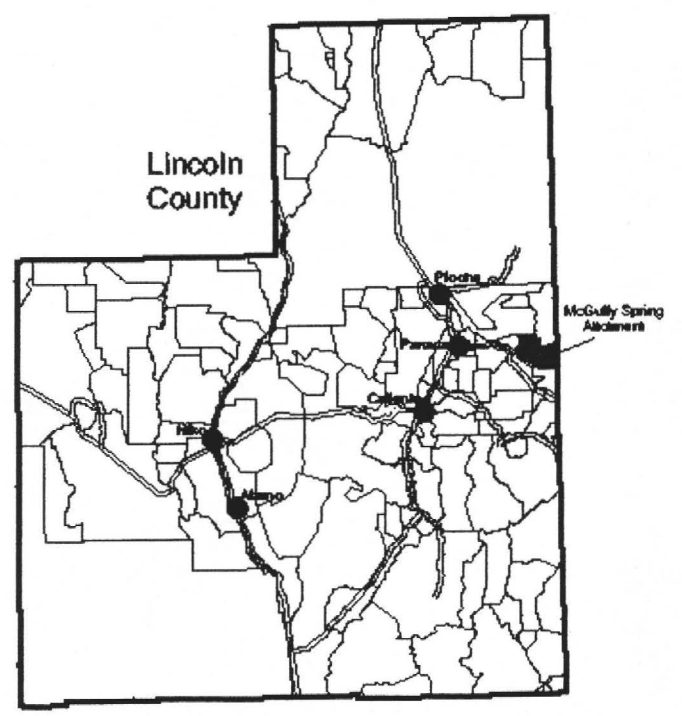
-  Allotment Boundary
-  Fire closure area
-  Drought Closure area



# McGuffy Spring Allotment Drought Closure Map



-  Allotment Boundary
-  Drought Closure area





# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely Field Office  
702 North Industrial Way  
HC 33 Box 33500  
Ely, NV 89301-9408  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/Ely>

In Reply Refer To:  
4110  
Leon Bowler Grazing Case File  
Mahogany Peak Allotment File  
(NV-045.02)

## Notice of Closure Agreement

Severe drought conditions exist within the **Mahogany Peak Allotment** (see attached map). The allotment was visited on June 19, 2002 by an interdisciplinary team of Bureau of Land Management employees and the grazing permit holder. The team evaluated drought conditions. Field observations indicated that available forage is limited and water availability is reduced. Precipitation for the normal growing season of April, May, and June is 25% of normal. This below normal precipitation has resulted in little or no annual plant production over many portions of the allotment, decreased soil moisture, and reduced plant vigor. As a result, heavy utilization of the key perennial species has occurred over portions of the allotment. Water availability is limited.

Therefore, for the protection of the vegetation and watershed, the **Mahogany Peak Allotment** is hereby temporarily closed to livestock grazing. This Notice of Closure is effective immediately

The closure will be in effect until the following criteria have been met:

1. Vegetative growth occurs and can sufficiently support livestock grazing; *and*
2. The key forage species all show good vigor; *and*
3. Soils are sufficiently protected from potential erosion; *and*
4. Key perennial forage species reach seed maturity (seed set).

Upon determination that the perennial vegetation has been re-established, authorized grazing use will resume. We will ask for the permittee's participation when evaluating forage conditions associated with lifting this closure. A map of the closure area is attached. This closure is issued as an agreement pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 4110.3-3 (b).

This Notice is to inform you that any unauthorized livestock grazing upon public lands within the **Mahogany Peak Allotment** (Legal description T. S., R. E.) under Bureau of Land Management's control will be in violation of 43 CFR 4140.1 (b) (1) and may be impounded. The unauthorized livestock may be impounded at any time after five (5) days from delivery of this notice or after five (5) days from the publishing and posting of this notice. This notice is issued in accordance with 43 CFR 4150.4; any impoundment of unauthorized livestock in connection with this notice will be done in accordance with 43 CFR 4150.4-2.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Bowler, Authorized Representative for Leon Bowler, Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Field Manager, Renewable Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Ely District Office  
HC 33 Box 33500  
Ely, NV 89301-9408

In Reply Refer To:

4110

Newby, Hughes, F. Bowler  
Grazing Case Files  
Barclay Allotment File  
(NV-045.09)

## Notice of Closure Agreement

Severe drought conditions exist within the **Barclay Allotment**. The allotment was recently visited to evaluate drought conditions. Field observations indicate that available forage and water availability are extremely limited and that severe drought conditions exist. Precipitation for the normal growing season of April, May, and June is 25% of normal. The below normal precipitation has resulted in decreased soil moisture, decreased plant vigor and growth while some locations have little or no current year's growth. As a result, heavy utilization of the key perennial species has occurred over portions of the allotment. Water availability is very limited. This closure affects the west portion of the allotment including the following areas: Marble Reservoir, Pine Wash, Mahogany Knoll, Jack's Canyon Reservoir (Jack's Pond), Mud Springs Canyon, and Rolling Hills Reservoir. See attached map for more detailed description of the closure area. Grazing can continue in other open areas of the allotment until use limits have been met or until November 15, 2002, whichever comes first.

Therefore, for the protection of the vegetation and watershed due to severe drought conditions, portions of the **Barclay Allotment** are hereby temporarily closed to livestock grazing. This Notice of Closure is effective immediately.

The closure will be in effect until the following criteria have been met:

1. Vegetative growth occurs and can sufficiently support livestock grazing; *and*
2. The key forage species all show good vigor; and
3. Soils are sufficiently protected from potential erosion; and
4. Key perennial forage species reach seed maturity (seed set).

Upon determination that the perennial vegetation has been re-established, authorized grazing use will resume. We will ask for the permittees' participation when evaluating forage conditions associated with lifting this closure. A map of the closure area is attached. This closure is issued as an agreement pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 4110.3-3 (b).

This Notice is to inform you that any unauthorized livestock grazing upon public lands within the **Barclay Allotment** (Legal description T. 5, 6, S., R. 69, 70 E. under Bureau of Land Management's control will be in violation of 43 CFR 4140.1 (b) (1) and may be impounded. The unauthorized livestock may be impounded at any time after five (5) days from delivery of this notice or after five (5) days from the publishing and posting of this notice. This notice is issued in accordance with 43 CFR 4150.4; any impoundment of unauthorized livestock in connection with this notice will be done in accordance with 43 CFR 4150.4-2.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Newby, Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arlin Hughes, Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fenton Bowler, Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Field Manager,  
Renewable Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

In Reply Refer To:  
4110  
Newby, Hughes  
Grazing Case Files  
Crossroads File  
(NV-045.08)

## Notice of Closure Agreement

Severe drought conditions exist within the **Crossroads Allotment**. The allotment was recently visited to evaluate drought conditions. Field observations indicate that available forage and water availability are extremely limited and that severe drought conditions exist. Precipitation for the normal growing season of April, May, and June is 25% of normal. The below normal precipitation has resulted in decreased soil moisture, decreased plant vigor and growth while some locations have little or no current year's growth. As a result, any utilization of the key perennial species will result in heavy to severe use.

Therefore, for the protection of the vegetation and watershed due to severe drought conditions, the **Crossroads Allotment** is hereby temporarily closed to livestock grazing (See attached map). This Notice of Closure is effective immediately.

The closure will be in effect until the following criteria have been met:

1. Vegetative growth occurs and can sufficiently support livestock grazing; *and*
2. The key forage species all show good vigor; *and*
3. Soils are sufficiently protected from potential erosion; *and*
4. Key perennial forage species reach seed maturity (seed set).

Upon determination that the perennial vegetation has been re-established, authorized grazing use will resume. We will ask for the permittees' participation when evaluating forage conditions associated with lifting this closure. A map of the closure area is attached. This closure is issued as an agreement pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 4110.3-3 (b).

This Notice is to inform you that any unauthorized livestock grazing upon public lands within the **Crossroads Allotment** (Legal description T. 4, 5 S., R. 69,70 E.) under Bureau of Land Management's control will be in violation of 43 CFR 4140.1 (b) (1) and may be impounded. The unauthorized livestock may be impounded at any time after five (5) days from delivery of this notice or after five (5) days from the publishing and posting of this notice. This notice is issued in accordance with 43 CFR 4150.4; any impoundment of unauthorized livestock in connection with this notice will be done in accordance with 43 CFR 4150.4-2.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Newby Cattle Company, permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arlin Hughes, Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Field Manager,  
Renewable Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

In Reply Refer To:

4110

Nash, Orren  
Grazing Case Files  
McGuffy Spring Allotment File  
(NV-045.05)

### Notice of Closure Agreement

Severe drought conditions exist within the **McGuffy Spring Allotment**. The allotment was recently visited June 18, 2002, to evaluate drought conditions. Field observations indicate that forage and water availability are extremely limited and that severe drought conditions exist. Precipitation for the past twelve months is 25 percent of normal. This below normal precipitation has resulted in decreased soil moisture and decreased plant vigor. The majority of the allotment has had little or no current year's growth. As a result, heavy utilization of the key perennial species has occurred over portions of the allotment, especially in and around riparian areas. Water availability is limited.

Therefore, for the protection of the vegetation and watershed due to severe drought conditions, the **McGuffy Spring Allotment** is hereby temporarily closed to livestock grazing. This Notice of Closure is effective July 31, 2002.

After July 31, 2002, the closure will be in effect until the following criteria have been met:

1. Vegetative growth occurs and can sufficiently support livestock grazing; *and*
2. The key forage species all show good vigor; *and*
3. Soils are sufficiently protected from potential erosion; *and*
4. Key perennial forage species reach seed maturity (seed set).

Upon determination that the perennial vegetation has been re-established, authorized grazing use will resume. We will ask for the permittees' participation when evaluating forage conditions associated with lifting this closure. A map of the closure area is attached. This closure is issued as an agreement pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 4110.3-3 (b).

This Notice is to inform you that any unauthorized livestock grazing upon public lands within the **McGuffy Spring Allotment** (Legal description T. 1, 2, S., R. 70, 71 E.) under Bureau of Land Management's control will be in violation of 43 CFR 4140.1 (b) (1) and may be impounded. The unauthorized livestock may be impounded at any time after five (5) days from delivery of this notice or after five (5) days from the publishing and posting of this notice. This notice is issued in accordance with 43 CFR 4150.4; any impoundment of unauthorized livestock in connection with this notice will be done in accordance with 43 CFR 4150.4-2.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Orren Nash, Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Field Manager,  
Renewable Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



6/25/02

# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Ely Field Office  
HC 33 Box 33500 (702 No. Industrial Way)  
Ely, Nevada 89301-9408  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/Ely>

In Reply Refer To:  
4130 (NV-045)

*Scoping*

JUN 25 2002

2002 JUL -1 11:15 AM  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Dear Interested Party:

The entire state of Nevada, BLM Ely District included, is today suffering under drought conditions. As of June 18, 2002, a review of NOAA/USDA data indicates that this particular section of the western United States has received just 25 to 50-percent of an average year's precipitation, which has resulted in severe to extreme drought conditions. Furthermore, NOAA forecasts indicate that the current conditions will persist, if not intensify, during the period from July through September.

The BLM Ely Field Office has begun assessing resource conditions on all potential drought-stricken areas, primarily in southern Lincoln County. We are assessing resource conditions on livestock allotments and wild horse Herd Management Areas (HMAs) to determine forage and water availability, forage condition, and the physical condition of livestock, wild horses and wildlife located within those areas. Current year's growth on key forage species is extremely limited in some areas. Actions have already been initiated by permittees to adjust grazing use. We will more than likely, however, be required to close allotments or portions of allotments to grazing use as well as conduct emergency wild horse gathers.

I am asking our livestock operators to assess the effect of these conditions on their livestock operations, as well as possible short and long-term effects on the range. We will be conducting an interdisciplinary effort to mitigate impacts on livestock operators dependent upon our public lands. We suggest the operators consider such management practices as water hauling and water control management, herding, and early removal and – where needed – reductions in herd size.

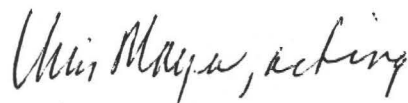
We could be facing possible allotment closure(s) and wild horse removals if the current dry conditions persist into the late summer and fall months. Present conditions could be conducive to more and larger wildland fires. During these drought conditions, if a large wildfire were to occur, the lack of forage could affect any flexibility for livestock and wild horses. I appreciate the early response of those operators who have already taken actions due to the existing range conditions.

We must continue to work together to mitigate economic hardship and assure livestock operation survival as well as to maintain rangeland health and productivity – both short and long-term. If, as a livestock operator, you have concerns about the allotment(s) you utilize, please do not hesitate to contact your rangeland management specialist. I am enclosing "The Grazier," an Oregon State University publication for your reference. Located between pages three and eight are several excellent drought-related articles that I believe will be of benefit to you.

cc - Div. Admin.  
7/1/02 AB

Meantime, allotment tours will continue to be conducted to further assess drought conditions. The procedures for dealing with this year's drought will be very similar to those procedures implemented during the 1996 drought effort. My staff will be contacting individual permittees and interested publics to schedule these tours. If you are interested in attending a tour as an interested public, or have any questions concerning drought, please direct inquiries to Chris Mayer, Lead Rangeland Management Specialist at the above address or call (775) 2891800.

Sincerely,



James M. Perkins  
Assistant Field Manager  
Renewable Resources

Attachment:

The Oregon State University Grazier