Diamond Hills S. 5-15-97

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: 4400/4700 (NV-04200)

MAY 15 1997

Dear Interested Public:

The Battle Mountain, Elko and Ely Districts are jointly conducting an evaluation of the Diamond Mountain Complex to evaluate the nature of grazing that has occurred on the project area and to measure the effectiveness in meeting Land Use Plan (LUP) objectives for the three districts. Included are recommendations to make specific changes in current management where these LUP objectives are not being met. Once the comment period is over for the draft evaluation and gather plan, the wild horses will be gathered down to an appropriate management level and livestock use agreements will be implemented. The Diamond Mountain Complex encompasses three wild horse herd management areas (HMAs) established by the respective land use plans and in accordance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (PL92-195). The three HMAs are the Diamond HMA in the Battle Mountain District, the Diamond Hills North HMA in the Elko District and the Diamond Hills South HMA in the Ely District.

As a result of this project, three separate documents are enclosed for your review and comment. Please submit your comments by June 15, 1997 to Alfred W. Coulloudon at the above address.

On June 30, 1997, public comments will have been addressed and incorporated into the Draft Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation and the Gather Plan. On or about July 1, 1997 a final full force and effect decison will be issued for the removal of wild horses. The wild horse removal contract is scheduled to commence on August 1, 1997.

Sincerely,

Alfred W. Coulloudon

Alfred W. Coulloudon
Project Team Leader

Enclosures:

1. Diamond Complex Evaluation.
2. Diamond Complex Gather Plan.
3. Livestock Use Agreements (attachments 1 thru 4).

DIAMOND MOUNTAIN COMPLEX EVALUATION

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DIAMOND MOUNTAIN COMPLEX EVALUATION

I. INTRODUCTION

Background Information

The Battle Mountain, Elko and Ely Districts are jointly conducting an evaluation of the Diamond Mountain Range to determine if the current grazing practices are consistent with the objectives of the Land Use Plans (LUP) for the three districts and the Standards for the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council area. This Diamond Mountain Complex evaluation is a comprehensive assessment of existing monitoring data to determine the appropriate management levels (AML) for the three wild horse herd management areas and short term changes needed in livestock management. Additional monitoring data will be collected as identified in Section D of the Technical Recommendations Section. This data will be incorporated into the final evaluation that will result in multiple use decisions that will set appropriate management levels for the herd management areas (HMAs) and establish terms and conditions for the livestock grazing permits.

The Diamond Mountain Complex wild horse herd population is comprised of wild horses from three herd management areas (HMAs): the Diamond Hills North (Elko District), Diamond Hills South (Ely District), and the Diamond (Battle Mountain District). In accordance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (Public Law 92-195), each district determined that wild horses ranged within their respective portion of the Diamond Mountain Complex area and three HMAs were thus established. When viewed from an ecosystem perspective, there is only one wild horse herd, although fences separate portions of the herd management areas. Wild horses are able to move among Herd management areas.

The Diamond Mountain Complex evaluation area includes all or a portion of nine allotments. All nine allotments and three Herd management areas will be evaluated through an ecosystem approach to improve rangeland health. This draft evaluation will establish an appropriate management level for wild horses. However, this appropriate management level will be analyzed and may be modified based on the results of the Final Evaluation and issuance of the Multiple Use Decisions. This is necessary in order to achieve a thriving natural ecological balance. Railroad Pass Allotment has already undergone an allotment evaluation and a Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) was issued November 9, 1995. This evaluation, in part, established an appropriate management level (AML) for the Diamond Hills South herd management areas. The Railroad Pass Allotment/Diamond Hills South Herd management areas will be re-evaluated during the Diamond Mountain Complex evaluation process. The following background information is a

chronology of events that have taken place since the project began:

On August 27 and 28, 1996 a range tour of the Diamond Mountain Complex was conducted in preparation for the planned allotment evaluations and decisions. The goal of the tour was to identify vegetative, wildlife, livestock and wild horse issues. A letter was sent to several affected parties and interested publics encouraging their participation in the tour. At the completion of the tour an interim plan for the evaluation of the range condition and needed wild horse data was established. The agreement was to complete a comprehensive census of the three Herd management areas and to gather additional monitoring data to establish an initial number of wild horses within the area based on the data. A working group was also established after the first field tour. This working group included the Nevada Division of Wildlife, Eureka County Commission, the livestock permittees, wild horse interest groups, public land interest groups, general interested publics and the three affected Bureau of Land Management Districts.

On October 2nd through the 4th, 1996 a census of the entire Diamond Mountain Complex was conducted. This census flight was done through a cooperative effort by Eureka County and the various BLM district specialists. This census identified over 1,250 wild horses within the Diamond Mountain Complex.

The first meeting of the Diamond Mountain Working Group was held on October 10, 1996. The objectives of the meeting were to look at existing monitoring data, including the census data from the October 2-4 flight, set an appropriate management level for wild horses within the three Herd management areas and develop interim agreements with the various livestock permittees. This interim management plan would be implemented to mitigate wild horse impacts until the Diamond Mountain Complex evaluation is completed and final multiple use decisions to reach stated objectives are issued.

The second meeting of the Diamond Mountain Working group was held on November 19, 1996. The focus of this meeting were to finalize the initial wild horse and livestock stocking levels for the Herd management areas based on the evaluation of horse census and livestock monitoring data, and to look at time frames for the implementation of the livestock use agreements and the completion of the evaluation and subsequent decisions. A Monitoring Plan Committee was formed with representatives from the Working Group.

A meeting of the Monitoring Plan Committee was held in Eureka on December 4, 1996. The objectives were to identify what monitoring was needed to measure the effectiveness of the horse gather and livestock use agreements, and to identify what long term monitoring should be initiated to evaluate the need for future management adjustments.

On December 10, 1996, a draft gather plan was prepared for the removal of wild horses in excess of the identified initial level. Based on concerns with the adequacy of the gather plan, the gather was not conducted.

On January 9, 1997, a core team from the participants of the working group was formed to pull together all of the available monitoring data and prepare a new document that evaluates all existing data, identifies an initial level for the three Herd management areas, includes interim livestock management agreements, and includes a wild horse gather plan that covers the three Herd management areas.

The North Diamond Allotment will not be evaluated in the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation. This is a "C" category allotment, with approximately 3% of the allotment within the Diamond Herd management areas (2,829 acres out of 81,952 acres). The portion of the allotment within the Herd management areas lies entirely on a dry lake bed. Wild horses from the three Herd management areas can also be found on allotments outside of the three herd management areas. These allotments are not being evaluated at this time since they are considered horse free areas.

The evaluation covers the period from 1980 to 1996. Map 3 shows the three Herd management areas and grazing allotments. General information for each allotment is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. General Information for Allotments within the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation Area.

Allotment Name and Number	Selective Management Category	Acres of Public Land	
		Total Acres	Acres within HMA[1]
Black Point (10032)	Improve (I)	53,352	53,352
Browne (05450)	Improve (I)	19,113	17,213
Corta (10033)	Custodial (C) [3]	1,130	1,130
Diamond Springs (10035)	Improve (I)	69,679	45,943
Red Rock (05452)	Improve (I)	65,230	53,722
Shannon Station [2] (10051)	Improve (I)	32,888	10,104
Spanish Gulch [2] (10054)	Improve (I)	5,985	0
Three Mile (10056)	Improve (I)	26,635	20,210
Railroad Pass (00601)	Improve (I)	28,840	10,500
Total		302,852	212,174

[1] Approximate acres within Herd management areas.
[2] Acres and animal unit months (AUMs) within the Shannon Station and Spanish Gulch Allotments are combined in the land use plan documents.
[3] Recategorization of Allotments as of November 1986, Draft Shoshone-Eureka Resource Management Plan Amendment.

II. INITIAL STOCKING LEVEL

A. Livestock Use

Table 2 shows the initial levels of livestock use by allotment as identified by its respective Land Use Plan. The total authorized use by livestock kind, identified in Table 2, for the Diamond Mountain Complex is 17,608 AUMs for cattle, 4,685 animal unit months (AUMs) for sheep and 540 AUMs for dual use for a total of 22,833. Period of use, kind of livestock, and percent federal range are also shown.

Table 2. Authorized Use, Historical Suspended Use (HSU), Voluntary Non Use (VNU), Periods of Use, Kind of Livestock, and Percent Federal Range.

Allotment and Permittee	Authorized Use (AUMs)[1]	HSU	VNU	Period of Use	Kind of Livestock	% Fed Range
RAILROAD PASS;			[2]			
Paris Livestock	691	0		04/05-11/15	Sheep	100
Paris Livestock	540	0		04/05-11/15	Sheep/ Cattle	100
Harold Rother Farms Inc.	1,064	0	736	06/01-09/30	Cattle	100
Pete Goicoechea	300	0	211	06/01-09/30	Cattle	100
BLACK POINT;						
Consolidated Land & Livestock	1,769	1,481	0	05/01-10/31	Cattle	91
Larralde Sheep Company	1,834	1,535	0	05/01-10/31	Sheep	91
BROWNE;						
Rother Farms	1,307	673	0	05/16-09/15	Cattle	100
CORTA;						
Paris Livestock	128	72	0	05/01-05/30	Sheep	100
DIAMOND SPRINGS;						
William & Reese Marshall	3,680	1,607	0	03/01-12/31	Cattle	100
RED ROCK;						
Paris Livestock	1,385	405	0	04/25-11/15	Sheep	100
Merkley Ranches	4,618	943	0	04/18-11/17	Cattle	100
Wilfred Bailey	1,500	0	0	04/15-11/01	Cattle	100
SHANNON STATION;						
James Baumann	2,520	691	0	04/01-02/28	Cattle	97
SPANISH GULCH;						
Larralde Sheep Company	647	0	0	05/01-09/30	Sheep	100
THREE MILE;						
Andrew Anderson	850	1,237	0	03/01-02/28	Cattle	100
TOTAL	22,833	8,644	947	N/A		

[1] Authorized use refers to "the total number of animal unit months of specified livestock grazing", under a permit or lease (IM No. 96-138).

[2] Under the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Railroad Pass Allotment the permittees agreed to place a portion of their permits in non-use for a period of five years, beginning March 1, 1996, in order to improve rangeland health.

There was no reduction identified for Paris Livestock in Final Multiple Use Decision.

The 540 sheep/cattle AUMs identified in the above table for Paris Livestock are a result of the adjudication of the Corta Seeding located in the Railroad Pass Allotment, in which Paris Livestock has exclusive grazing privileges.

B. Wild Horse Use

1. Appropriate Management Level

Under the preferred alternative of the Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), wild horses are to be managed at existing numbers (March 11, 1981) as a starting point for monitoring purposes (50 wild horses in the Diamond Hills North Herd management areas). The Shoshone/Eureka Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision objective is to initially manage wild horse populations at existing numbers based on 1982 aerial counts and determine if this level of use can be maintained (205 wild horses in the Diamond Herd management areas). The Egan Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision set the initial stocking level for wild horses at the 1982-83 levels (36 wild horses in the Diamond Hills South Herd management areas). The Rangeland Program Summaries (RPS) for the three resource areas recognized the initial stocking levels identified by herd management areas in the Resource Management Plans and further divided them into appropriate management levels (AMLs) for each allotment as shown in Table 3, with the exception of the Railroad Pass Allotment. The appropriate management level identified in Table 3 for the Railroad Pass Allotment is based on reliable monitoring data and an allotment evaluation completed since the Egan Rangeland Program Summary was developed. The November 9, 1995 Final Multiple Use Decision for Railroad Pass established the appropriate management level of 260 AUMs or 22 wild horses yearlong. The resource areas combined appropriate management level of 3,272 AUMs or 273 wild horses yearlong, as depicted in Table 3, is the initial stocking level used in the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation. However, this evaluation will adjust this figure based upon current baseline inventory, reliable vegetative monitoring studies, consultation and coordination. In accordance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (Public Law 92-195), BLM "shall manage wild free-roaming horses and burros in a manner that is designed to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands" in implementing the land use plans.

Table 3. Wild Horse Initial Management Level (AUMs) for each Allotment as Specified in the Rangeland Program Summary. [1]	
Allotment	Initial Management Level
Black Point	972
Browne	156
Corta	48
Diamond Springs	840
Red Rock	444
Shannon Station	180
Spanish Gulch	0 [2]
Three Mile	372
SUBTOTAL	3,012
Railroad Pass	260 [3]
TOTAL	3,272

[1] The Shoshone-Eureka Rangeland Program Summary specified 48 AUMs (4 wild horses) for the North Diamond Allotment which is not part of this evaluation.

[2] Spanish Gulch is located outside of the Diamond Herd Management Area.

[3] November 9, 1995 Final Multiple Use Decision for the Railroad Pass Allotment identified 22 wild horses yearlong.

2. Herd Management Areas

Refer to Maps 2 and 3 for the location of each allotment in relation to the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation Area, which includes Diamond Herd Management Area, Diamond Hills South Herd Management Area, and Diamond Hills North Herd Management Area.

C. Wildlife Use (Map 4 A-C)

1. Mule Deer

a. Reasonable Numbers: 5,926 AUMs.

Table 4. Reasonable Numbers of Mule Deer (AUMs) for each Allotment as Specified in the Rangeland Program Summary.	
Allotment	Reasonable Number
Black Point	1,979 [1]
Browne	83
Corta	0 [1]
Diamond Springs	1,158 [1]
Red Rock	488
Shannon Station	1,135 [1]
Spanish Gulch	
Three Mile	401 [1]
Railroad Pass	682
TOTAL	5,926
[1] The Shoshone-Eureka Rangeland Program Summary identifies reasonable numbers of big game by the amount of forage available in AUMs. Mule deer are the only big game species utilizing the Diamond Mountain Complex area at this time. Big horn sheep and antelope have used the area in the past.	

b. Diamond Mountain Complex Key/Crucial Areas:

There is crucial spring, summer and winter mule deer habitat on the Diamond Mountain Complex. In addition, yearlong mule deer habitat occurs on the Diamond Mountain Complex evaluation area (see Maps 4 A-C).

The Diamond Mountain Complex is located within two Nevada Division of Wildlife mule deer management units, management areas 14 and 6. The majority of the complex is located in the Diamond Mountains in management area 14, unit 144.

Mule deer populations in this area of Nevada have experienced recent population declines due to the drought in this area of Nevada. Persistent drought effects browse species condition as well as availability of grasses and forbs for lactating females.

No other big game species are known to inhabit the area. An occasional pioneering elk has been observed in the Diamond Mountain Complex.

2. Sage grouse

Scattered sage grouse populations inhabit the Diamond Mountain Complex area. Populations of sage grouse throughout Nevada and several other Western States have steadily declined during the past 20 years. The BLM listed the sage grouse as a Sensitive Species in April of 1997. BLM's policy is to provide those species, listed as sensitive, with the same level of protection as is provided for Federally listed candidate species.

Brooding sage grouse habitat can be found adjacent to perennial waters within the Diamond Mountain Complex.

3. Other Wildlife

For a complete list of other wildlife species which may be found in the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation Area see Appendix VI.

4. Threatened and Endangered Species

Bald eagles, a threatened species, occur during the fall\winter\spring migration periods in the complex area. The peregrine falcon, endangered, can be observed any month of the year passing through the Diamond Mountain Complex Area.

No threatened, endangered or candidate species of plants or animals are known to exist in the Diamond Mountain Complex; however, a number of State of Nevada BLM sensitive species may be present. It is BLM policy to ensure its management actions conserve and enhance sensitive species and their habitats. For a complete list of species refer to the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation Folder located at the District BLM offices.

III. DIAMOND MOUNTAIN COMPLEX PROFILE

A. Description

The Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation Area encompasses approximately 302,852 acres of public land

in three counties; Eureka, Elko and White Pine. The northern end of the area is approximately 40 miles south of Elko, Nevada. The southern end of the area is adjacent to the town of Eureka, Nevada. The core of the Herd management areas is the Diamond Mountain Range where most of the wild horses spend the summer. The Herd management areas extend out from the mountains north and east into the Diamond Hills and Huntington Valley, and west into Diamond Valley. Elevation extends from approximately 5,800 feet in the valley bottoms to approximately 10,600 feet on Diamond Peak.

Most of the allotments within or adjacent to the Herd management areas are unfenced. There are only a few developed waters in the area, and some of these water sources are seasonal.

An allotment management plan was developed for Diamond Springs Allotment in 1982. This plan was not signed by the permittee and was not implemented by the Bureau of Land Management. No allotment management plans have been developed to date for any of the other allotments.

For a detailed description of individual allotments see Appendix VII.

B. Acreage

Table 5. Allotment and Pasture acreage by public land, private land and total acres

Allotment; Pasture	Public Acres	Private Acres	Total Acres
Black Point	53,352	11,008	64,360
Browne	19,113	461	19,574
Corta	1,130	0	1,130
Diamond Springs	69,679	2,760	72,439
Red Rock	65,230	966	66,196
Shannon Station	32,888	8,015	40,903
Spanish Gulch	5,985	110	6,095
Three Mile	26,635	5,960	32,595
Railroad Pass	28,840	160	29,000
TOTAL	302,852	29,440	332,292

C. Diamond Mountain Complex Objectives

The Egan, Elko and Shoshone/Eureka Resource Management Plans are Land Use Plans (LUPs) that provide BLM direction to manage its resources on a planning area basis. These Land Use Plans provide guidance for making sound decisions for the variety of land uses within the planning area. The Diamond Mountain Complex objectives are a quantification of Land Use Plans, Northeastern Great Basin Area Standards (as developed with input from the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council), Rangeland Program Summary, down to site specific objectives (see appendices I, II and III). The Diamond Mountain Complex quantified objectives are clearly consistent and in conformance with the Land Use Plans and Northeastern Great Basin Area Standards (See flow chart page 17 and appendix VIII).

1. Livestock (Appendix I)

   a. The short-term objective will be accomplished through managing the allowable use levels by season of use and/or stocking levels to improve or maintain the desired vegetation community throughout the Diamond Mountain Complex.

   b. The long-term objective is to manage for the most appropriate seral stage to provide desired quantity, quality and variety of forage in order to meet the requirements for livestock forage production.

2. Wild Horses (Appendix I)

   a. The short-term objective will be accomplished through managing the allowable use level to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community.

   b. The long-term objective is to manage for the most appropriate seral stage to provide desired quantity, quality and variety of forage in order to meet the requirements of the wild horses.

3. Mule Deer (See Appendix II)

   a. The short-term objective is to limit use on key browse species listed for mule deer to 50

percent or less yearlong.

b. The long-term objective is to maintain mule deer range in at least good habitat condition by providing diversity of forage species.

4. Sage grouse

a. The short term objective is to manage the allowable use level by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community.

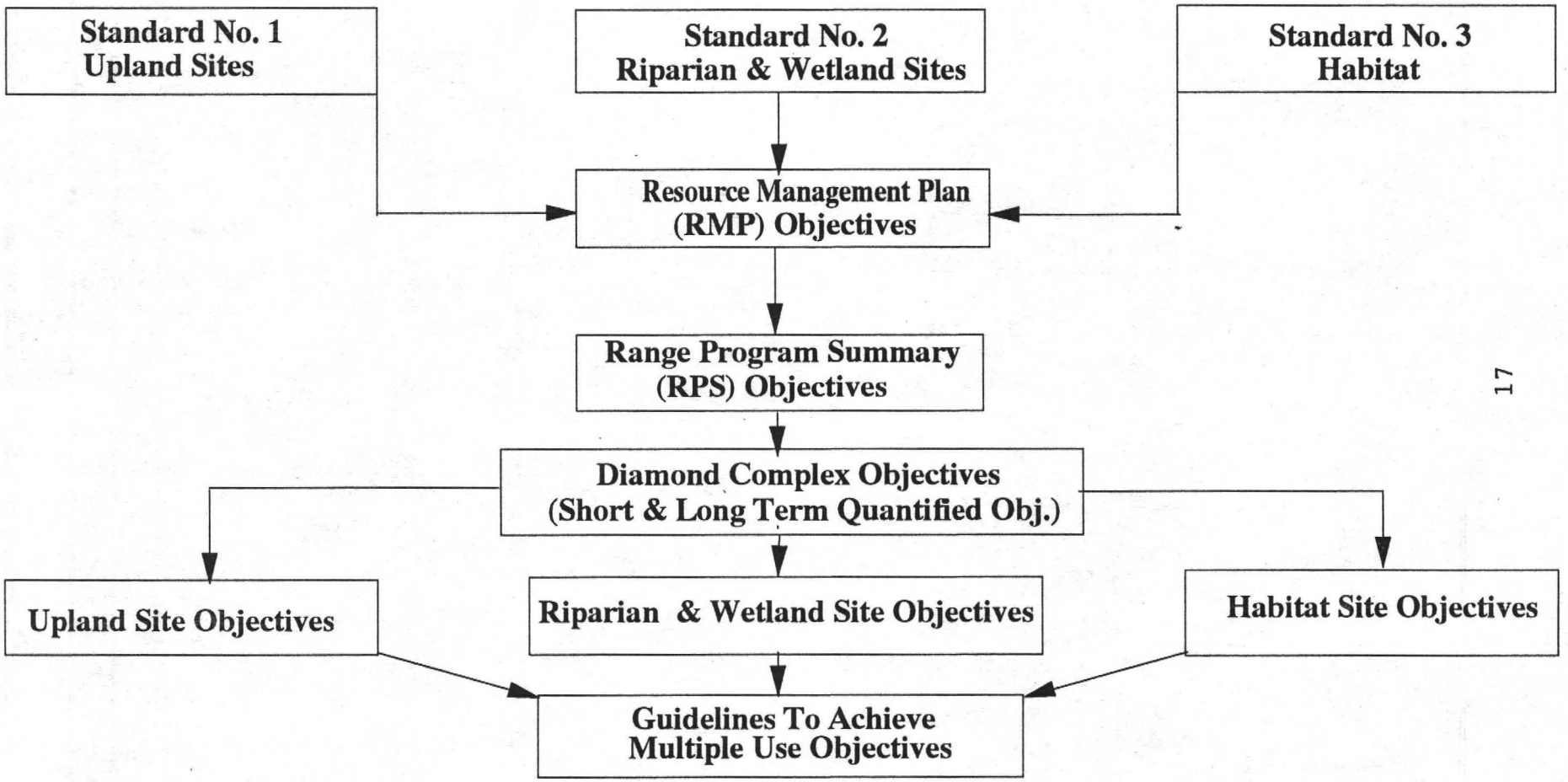
b. The long term objective is to provide perennial herbaceous nesting cover for sage grouse and 15 percent or less shrub canopy cover in the Wyoming big sagebrush vegetation type, 20 percent or less shrub canopy cover in the basin or mountain big sagebrush vegetation type and 30 percent or less shrub canopy cover in the big sagebrush-bitterbrush vegetation type.

5. Riparian Areas (See Appendix III)

a. The short-term objective is to limit use on lotic and lentic riparian areas and waterfowl habitat to 30 - 50 percent of current years growth for grass and grass-like species, herbaceous and woody species.

b. The long-term objective is to manage all lotic, lentic areas and waterfowl habitat for proper functioning condition.

DIAMOND COMPLEX OBJECTIVE FLOW CHART



Standards: Northeastern Great Basin

RMP: **Resource Management Plans for Elko Resource Area (RA) (Elko District) Egan RA (Ely District), Shoshone/Eureka RA (Battle Mtn. District).**

RPS: **Rangeland Program Summaries for all three Resource Areas.**

Prepared by
Alfred W. Coulloudon

C. Key Species Identification for the Diamond Mountain Complex (See Appendices I,II,III for site specific key species)

1. Livestock and Wild Horses (Appendix I)

bluebunch wheatgrass, *Agropyron spicatum* (AGSP)
bottlebrush squirreltail, *Sitanion hystrix* (SIHY)
basin wildrye, *Elymus cinereus* (ELCI)
crested wheatgrass, *Agropyron cristatum* (AGCR)
Indian ricegrass, *Oryzopsis hymenoides* (ORHY)
Idaho fescue, *Festuca idahoensis* (FEID)
Sandberg bluegrass, *Poa secunda* (POSE)
needleandthread, *Stipa comata* (STCO4)
Nevada bluegrass, *Poa nevadensis* (PONE3)
mountain brome, *Bromus carinatus* (BRCA5)
Thurber needlegrass, *Stipa thurberiana* (STTH2)
Webber needlegrass, *Stipa webberi* (STWE)

2. Wildlife (Appendix II)

antelope bitterbrush, *Purshia tridentata* (PUTR2)
Wyoming big sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis* (ARTRW)
mountain big sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata vaseyana* (ARVA2)
black sagebrush, *Artemesia nova* (ARARN)
serviceberry, *Amelanchier alnifolia* (AMAL)
snowberry, *Symphoricarpos albus* (SYAL)
curlleaf mountain mahogany, *Cercocarpus ledifolius*(CELE3)
chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana* (PRVI)
Douglas rabbitbrush, *Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus* (CHVI8)
shadscale, *Atriplex confertifolia* (ATCO)
Perennial/annual grasses and forbs

3. Stream Bank/Riparian Areas (Appendix III)

wild rose, *Rosa woodsii* (ROWO)
cottonwood, *Populus spp.* (POPUL)
willow, *Salix spp.* (SALIX)

quaking aspen, *Populus tremula tremuloides* (POTTR)
sedge *Carex spp.* (CAREX)
other riparian herbaceous species

IV. MANAGEMENT EVALUATION

A. Purpose

This evaluation will address nine allotments within the Diamond, Diamond Hills North and Diamond Hills South Herd Management Areas. The purpose of this document is to evaluate the nature of all types of grazing that has occurred on the Diamond Mountain Complex area, and to measure effectiveness in meeting specific management objectives. Included will be recommendations to make specific changes in current management where Diamond Mountain Complex objectives are not being met.

B. Summary of Studies Data

1. Key Management Area Evaluation Summary

Key areas and various study sites or multiple use studies for wildlife, livestock and wild horses have been established in the Diamond Mountain Complex allotments over the last two decades. Utilization, actual use, trend and ecological status have been collected, and is summarized in Appendix I, II and III.

Photo Trend Plots, Utilization Plots and Frequency Trend Plots have been established on various allotments. Key Areas were established several years ago in Diamond Springs, Three Mile, Black Point and Shannon Station Allotments. Those sites will be visited by an interdisciplinary team to determine if they meet the minimum Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook criteria for key areas.

2. Actual Use (see appendix IV, V and X)

a. Livestock

Livestock use was determined from past actual use reports or licensed use and has varied from year to year. Permittees have taken nonuse at different times because of the annual fluctuation of their operations,

increase in wild horses, or for conservation and protection of the public lands. Use in the Diamond Mountain Complex has varied from a low of 58 percent of active grazing privileges in 1992 to a high of 80 percent of active grazing privileges in 1991. Amount of use by allotment and permittee is displayed in Appendix IV, V and X.

b. Wild Horses

Management of the wild horses in the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation Area is based on all three herd areas, and each allotment within the herd management areas. It is recognized that wild horses roam freely throughout the whole area. As stated on page 9, the wild horse initial stocking level for the Diamond Mountain Complex was set at 273 wild horses through the three districts Land Use Planning Documents. A coordinated census for all three herd management areas was completed in 1991 and 1996 (Table 6). Since 1983, aerial censuses have been conducted which show the number of wild horses counted by allotment. These census counts were not coordinated among the three districts for a complete census. Wild horse numbers have increased significantly since the initial management levels were established between 1981 and 1983. A major die off of wild horses in the Diamond Mountain Complex occurred in the winter of 1993 due to extremely deep snows. Table 7 shows the number of wild horses counted by allotment for the independent censuses.

Table 6. Coordinated Wild Horse Census		
Allotment	Date of Aerial Census	
	7/91	10/96
Black Point	70	160
Browne	28	99
Corta	0	0
Diamond Springs	107	325
Red Rock	66	93
Shannon Station	5	37
Spanish Gulch	0	0
Railroad Pass [1]	208	233
Three Mile	11	129
Elko (outside of HMA) [3]	[2]	40
Ely (outside of HMA) [3]	206	142
TOTAL	701	1,258

[1] This allotment has already been evaluated, and is included for re-evaluation purposes only.

[2] Area outside of herd management areas was not censused.

[3] The census outside of the herd management areas is provided for informational purposes only.

Table 7. Number of Wild Horses Counted during Aerial Censuses by Allotment [1]

Allotment	Date of Aerial Census																		
	6/85	8/86	6/87	6/88	8/89	9/89	2/92	5/92	8/92	9/92	1/93	5/93	8/93	1/94	3/94	7/94	8/94	3/95	9/95
Black Point				80									134		80				
Browne	0	0		0		21	37	7		74	61	45	24	71			58	52	56
Corta				8															
Diamond Springs				146									154		224				
Red Rock	0	21		22		27	69	95		91	20	42	49	54			57	0	54
Shannon Station				8									1		4				
Spanish Gulch				2									0		0				
Railroad Pass [2]			95		176				133			58				140			135
Three Mile				19									10		45				
Elko (outside of HMA) [4]	0	10		7		[3]	32	61		9	29	44	22	35			58	2	66
Ely (outside of HMA) [4]			65		109				140			87				178			12

[1] Census data was not coordinated among districts.

[2] This allotment has already been evaluated, and is included for re-evaluation purposes only.

[3] Area outside of herd management areas was not censused.

[4] The census outside of the herd management areas is provided for informational purposes only.

c. Wildlife

Use was extrapolated from the Nevada Division of Wildlife's estimates of mule deer herd numbers. The estimated use is based on the amount of deer and the season the animals are on the Diamond Mountain Complex.

3. Precipitation (see appendix IX)

Data for this evaluation was obtained from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather stations located at Elko Airport, Ely Yelland Field and Diamond Valley. These weather stations have complete data and best represent the climatic conditions of the area.

The average annual precipitation from 1966 to 1996 (30 years, one year had missing data) is 9.59 inches for Elko Airport Reporting Station. The yearly precipitation for the past 30 years ranged from 4.77 inches in 1974 to 18.34 inches in 1983.

The average annual precipitation from 1966 to 1996 (30 years, three years had missing data) is 9.96 inches for Ely Yelland Field Reporting Station. The yearly precipitation for this period ranged from 4.22 inches in 1974 to 18.84 inches in 1983 and 1984.

The average annual precipitation from 1980 to 1996 (sixteen years, nine years had missing data) is 12.08 inches for Diamond Valley USDA Reporting Station. The yearly precipitation for this period ranged from 6.82 inches in 1992 to 16.93 inches in 1983.

4. Utilization

a. Key Area (see appendicies I, II, III, X and maps 13-19)

Key areas to monitor utilization levels have been established in the Diamond Mountain Complex. Utilization transects have been read at the various key areas on Railroad Pass, Red Rock, Browne.

Utilization study sites have also been read at Three Mile, Black Point, Spanish Gulch and Shannon Station allotments.

b. Use Pattern Mapping (See maps 5 A-F, 6, 7 A-C, 8 A-E, 9 A-G, 10 A-E, 11 A-H and 12 A-H)

A review of use pattern mapping data for the Diamond Mountain Complex allotments appear to have similar patterns of livestock and wild horse use, especially when considering the terrain traversed and grazed by livestock and wild horses. The use patterns appear to conform to the Diamond Mountain Complex topography when considering livestock and wild horses spend more time along the valley bottoms, lower slopes, ridge tops and canyons nearest water while the steeper slopes and areas farthest from water receive slight to no use. Use pattern maps also appear to reflect and/or detect fluctuations in precipitation, forage production, livestock use authorizations, wild horse use and water availability.

Use pattern mapping (UPM) has been completed on the following allotments within the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation Area: (See maps 5 A-F, 6, 7 A-C, 8 A-D, 9 A-F, 10 A-E, 11 A-G and 12 A-H)

Railroad Pass; 1988 - 1990, 1992, 1996.
Corta; 1996
Red Rock; 1987.
Browne; 1987, 1990, 1996.
Diamond Springs; 1989 - 1993, 1996.
Black Point; 1988 - 1992, 1995.
Three Mile; 1989, 1990 -1993 (spring & fall).
Shannon Station; 1989 - 1995.
Spanish Gulch; 1989 - 1995.

Eureka County Department of Natural Resources collected utilization data and completed use pattern maps for Shannon Station, Spanish Gulch and Diamond Springs Allotments in 1996 (see Maps 8E, 9G and 11H).

5. Trend

a. Summaries of Frequency Data

Red Rock and Browne Allotments established frequency trend studies in 1985. Studies were reread in 1990 and 1995 on Browne and 1991 and 1995 on Red Rock Allotments.

s established Frequency trend studies were established on the Diamond Springs Allotment in 1982 and on the Three Mile Allotment in 1981. Diamond Springs was reread in 1996 by Eureka County Department of Natural Resources.

Photo plots are established on Diamond Springs, Three Mile, Black Point and Shannon Station Allotments.

6. Ecological Status (Appendix I)

An ecological site inventory was completed for the Red Rock, and Browne Allotments in 1984. The allotments were stratified and mapped by range site. Since range site guides do not rate seedings, percent composition by weight of seeded species were used in determining forage value rating [i.e. poor (0% - 25%), fair (26% - 50%), good (51% - 75%) and excellent (76% - 100%)].

Ecological status was completed on the key areas in 1988, 1991, and 1995 using the double sampling method for the Red Rock Allotment (1988, 1991 and 1995) and Browne Allotment (1985 and 1995). Ecological Status was also determined at the key areas for Railroad Pass Allotment. The most recent data was used to establish long term objectives at the various key areas (see appendix I and maps 13 - 19)

7. Wildlife Habitat (see appendix II, maps 4 A-C)

Key Areas to monitor mule deer habitat have been established throughout the Diamond Mountain Complex and have been read over the last several years. Mule deer habitat condition and trend studies (BLM Manual 1630-Big Game Studies) were completed at thirteen key areas in the Diamond Mountain Range on the following allotments. Refer to monitoring files and appendix II for the habitat condition summaries. Vegetative and overall habitat condition and trend ratings are as follows: excellent 81 - 100; good 61 - 80; fair 51 - 60; and poor 10 - 50.

Mule deer crucial summer range was rated good (77%) in 1991 and excellent (90%) in 1995 on the Red Rock Allotment. Deer yearlong range was rated

poor (49%) in 1991 and fair (56%) in 1995.

On the Browne Allotment, deer yearlong was rated fair (51%) at key area 90-03 in 1990 and good (77%) in 1995. At key area 90-04, yearlong habitat was rated at fair (52%) in 1990 and good (70%) in 1995.

A key area was established in 1991 on Spanish Gulch Allotment.

One key area was established on Shannon Station Allotment for condition and trend in 1987.

Three key areas were established for condition and trend on the Black Point Allotment. Two were established in 1987 and one in 1989. The Bold Bluff study was read in 1987 and 1993. The Cottonwood Creek study was read in 1987 and 1993. The Minoletti Creek study was read in 1989 and 1991.

One key area was established for condition and trend on Three Mile Allotment in 1987 and reread in 1993.

Three key areas were established on Diamond Springs Allotment for condition and trend on the allotment. The upper Judd canyon was read in 1983 only. The site could not be located in 1989 so a new site was established in 1989 and reread in 1991. The Four Mile study was read in 1983 and 1991.

8. Stream/Riparian Habitat

Stream

Indian Creek occurs in the Red Rock Allotment.

Hildebrand Creek and Cottonwood Creek occur in the Black Point Allotment.

Huntington Creek

A small portion of Huntington Creek occurs in Railroad Pass, Browne and Red Rock Allotments. Huntington Creek supports a limited population of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) based on electroshocking studies conducted by the Nevada Division of

Wildlife (NDOW) in 1980. Although historically Huntington Creek was probably an important Lahontan Cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarke henshawi*) fisheries, introduction of nonnative salmonids and deteriorated habitat conditions have led to the loss of native trout. Huntington Creek is almost exclusively privately owned.

A stream survey was established on Huntington Creek in 1980 by BLM in conjunction with Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW). At the time of the survey, habitat conditions were found to be poor. Problems included unstable streambanks, a lack of quality pools, minimal development of the riparian zone, a high suspended sediment load, excessive sedimentation of the streambottom, and warm summer water temperatures. Impacts from livestock and wild horses in the form of bank trampling and heavy utilization of riparian vegetation were documented over much of the stream's length.

Huntington Creek is a significant stream riparian complex that originates from springs located at T. 25 N, R. 55 E, Sec. 34. It extends approximately 9.25 miles within the Railroad Pass Allotment; only a small portion (approx 1/4 miles) is located on public lands. Two offbank riparian condition surveys have been conducted on the public portion of Huntington Creek; the first in 1989 rated this section in excellent condition and the second conducted in 1993 rated this section in fair condition.

Other Riparian Habitats

Browne and Red Rock Allotments support wet and dry meadow habitat in association with seeps and springs. Riparian habitat is more limited in the Browne Allotment and occurs primarily as a large meadow complex in the eastern portion of the allotment, in addition to several scattered springs. Significant numbers of seeps and springs, as well as aspen stands, are present in the vicinity of Bailey Mountain in the Red Rock Allotment.

The large wet meadow complex located in the southeastern corner of the Browne Allotment was rated as functioning at risk, downward trend by BLM in 1996. Although the meadow is well watered, fairly stable, and supports a dense community of sedges and rushes (Juncus spp.), indicators of downward trend, including trampling and subsequent alteration of flow patterns,

invasion of plant species associated with disturbance and "hummocking" (abnormal hydrologic heaving), are present. Use of the meadow by both wild horses and cattle was observed by BLM to be heavy in 1995 and 1996.

Although few other riparian habitats are present in the Browne Allotment, the Browne Spring located in the Sader Field of the Browne Allotment was judged to be in good condition in 1982 based on Elko District water inventory photographs. The spring source was well vegetated with no evidence of erosion. No information is available on current habitat conditions at this site.

Functioning condition assessments were completed by BLM on 5 stream and spring habitats within the Red Rock Allotment in 1996. All sites evaluated were found to be nonfunctional or in poor condition with downward trend (Refer to monitoring files). Impacts in the form of trampling, heavy use of riparian vegetation and accelerated erosion were felt to be primarily the result of cattle and wild horse grazing occurring between mid to late summer and fall. Several sites evaluated had salt blocks within close proximity to spring sources.
Information on habitat conditions at remaining springs or stream channels within the Red Rock Allotment is available through an Elko District water inventory completed for the area in 1982. Although the primary purpose of the inventory was to evaluate flow rates, associated notes and photographs provide insight into habitat conditions at seeps, springs and aspen stands located on public lands within the allotment. A total of 94 seeps and springs located on public land were inventoried in 1982 in the Red Rock Allotment.

In general, the majority of inventoried seeps and springs on the allotment were characterized by limited flows and narrow riparian zones comprised of wet and dry meadow vegetation. Some large aspen stands were also evaluated; however, flows tended to be limited for these habitats as well. Condition of nonstream riparian habitats was found to be mostly poor in areas accessible to livestock and wild horses. Problems included trampling, abnormal frost heaving (hummocking), lowered water tables, soil erosion, presence of plant species associated with disturbance and heavy use of riparian vegetation. Regeneration of aspen was found to be limited for those stands occurring at the lower elevations. However, Wilkinson (1997) observed that aspen stands at higher elevations

(particularly the north side of Bailey Mountain) are generally in good condition and support adequate regeneration.

9. Wild Horse Habitat

In general, there appears to be adequate cover for wild horses. Water availability is limited resulting in concentration of wild horses around the few existing waters. Living space and forage are inadequate for the large population presently occupying the Diamond Mountains.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Refer to by number from III.B., Allotment Specific Objectives and Appendicies I, II and III for objectives analysis.

A. Livestock

1. Short and Long Term Objective Attainment Determination:

Not Met

2. Rationale:

Allowable use levels were exceeded; use pattern mapping data indicated poor distribution of livestock and wild horses; long term studies data show a downward trend on some allotments within the Diamond Mountain Complex.

This objective was not met because allowable use levels have been exceeded on Red Rock, Browne, Railroad Pass, Diamond Springs, Black Point, Shannon Station, Three Miles and Spanish Gulch Allotments.

Red Rock ecological status has decreased, forage value ratings have decreased on the seedings, and frequency trend has remained static. Ecological status at Key Area #3 in the Native Pasture went from 50 (mid/late seral) in 1988 to 37 (mid seral) in 1995. Red Rock Seeding Pasture forage value rating went from 79 (excellent) in 1987 to 50 (fair) in 1995. For the Huntington Spray Pasture the forage value rating went from 97 (excellent) in 1987 to 70 (good) in 1995. The desired

vegetative communities have not been maintained.

Browne ecological status has remained static and frequency trend has shown a significant decline. Ecological status at the key area in the Main Field went from 39 (mid seral) in 1985 to 38 (mid seral) in 1995. The desired vegetative communities have not been maintained.

Frequency Trend studies on the Diamond Springs Allotment indicated a downward trend on four of seven key areas, static trend on two key areas and upward trend on one key area.

Studies have indicated a downward trend on four key areas, static trend on 2 key areas and upward trend on one key area. Studies need to be reread on Three Mile Allotment.

Allowable use levels have not been exceeded on the Corta Allotment.

B. Wild Horses

1. Short and Long Term Objective Attainment Determination:

Not Met

2. Rationale:

This objective was not met because the allowable use levels of key forage species were exceeded on the Diamond Mountain Complex. Seven of eight allotments did not meet this objective. Spanish Gulch Allotment is not within a herd management area.

Wild horses are not contributing to the non attainment of this objective on Shannon Station. A small number of wild horses use the allotment.

Allowable use levels have been exceeded on Diamond Springs, Black Point and Three Mile Allotments.

Allowable use levels were exceeded on Red Rock Allotment four of nine years in the Native Pasture, two of ten years in the Huntington Spray Pasture and five of ten years in the Red Rock Seeding Pasture. Data indicates a static trend at key area #3 on the Red Rock Allotment.

Browne Allotment's allowable use levels were exceeded in the Main Field four of twelve years at the key area. Data indicated a downward trend at the key area.

Railroad Pass allowable use levels were exceeded by wild horses and livestock as identified in the Railroad Pass Allotment Evaluation and Final Multiple Use Decision issued November 9, 1995. No adjustments to wild horse numbers has taken place since the decision was issued. The 1996 adjustments to livestock and the proposed adjustments to wild horses should improve the allowable use levels.

C. Mule Deer

1. Short and Long Term Objective Attainment Determination:

Not Met

2. Rationale

Three of nine allotments did not meet this objective on the Diamond Mountain Complex.

Allowable use levels of key browse species were exceeded on Shannon Station and Spanish Gulch Allotments; in Simpson Creek, Newark Canyon, Four-Eyed Nicks, and Spanish Gulch habitat areas.

Red Rock yearlong habitat was in fair condition as indicated by poor form class of key browse species, poor cover and poor condition of associated habitat. Utilization levels on bitterbrush exceeded allowable use levels on Indian Creek (DI-RR-02-91). The objective was met in crucial summer habitat; data indicated good habitat condition in 1991 and excellent habitat condition in 1995.

The objective was met for Browne Allotment. The allotment rated as good habitat condition for mule deer.

The objective was met on Diamond Springs, Black Point and Three Miles Allotments. Allowable use levels for key browse species in these allotments were not exceeded. Use pattern mapping data indicated allowable use levels were not exceeded in higher elevations.

Condition and Trend data shows that most of the upland habitat sites are in "Good" to "Excellent" Condition on all allotments on the west side of the Diamond Mountain Complex Area. The only real variable is the vegetative condition measured by age class and amount of hedging or utilization. The key browse species represented by bitterbrush and serviceberry are abundant in the Spanish Gulch, Shannon Station, and Black Point allotments, and to a lesser degree in the Three Mile and Diamond Springs allotments.

E. Sage grouse

1. Short and Long Term Objective Attainment Determination:

Not Met

2. Rationale:

Data obtained from big game habitat and livestock monitoring studies indicate that big sagebrush shrub cover and height objectives for sage grouse nesting habitat have essentially been met in both Red Rock and Browne allotments.

Not met where use pattern mapping showed heavy utilization.

E. Riparian

1. Short and Long Term Objective Attainment Determination:

Not Met

2. Rationale

Information collected in 1995 and 1996 show Indian Creek and at least some of the aspen stands and spring habitats in the Red Rock Allotment are in poor condition as a result of heavy use by livestock and wild horses. Information collected over the same time period on the large wet meadow complex located in the southeastern corner of the Browne Allotment showed apparent trend is downward as a result of trampling and heavy use of riparian vegetation by wild horses and cattle.

Utilization data and Use Pattern Mapping indicates that allowable use levels are being exceeded on

most lotic and lentic systems.

Railroad Pass off bank stream riparian condition was completed for that portion of the Huntington Creek on public lands (approximately 1/4 mile) in 1993. The survey resulted in a fair condition; this is down significantly from a 1989 survey which resulted in an excellent rating.

Cottonwood and Hildebrand Creeks stream survey data shows that bank cover has improved and is approaching, 60%. Bank stability has improved and exceeds 60% of optimum on both creeks. Overall riparian condition class has exceeded 67% of optimum on Cottonwood and is approaching 60% of optimum on Hildebrand Creek. Both streams are located in the Black Point Allotment. Other streams and spring/meadow complexes on the west side allotments have received heavy utilization by both cattle and wild horses. Water is being lost in the lentic sites due to excessive trampling which results in erosion channels that will eventually drain the site. Aspen stands in all allotments are in poor condition. The stands are mature, over mature and in some cases decadent, with very little regrowth evident.

VI. TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Issues

1. There is insufficient forage to meet the demand of all users (cattle, sheep, wildlife, and wild horses).

2. Conflicts exist between present grazing use and sage grouse nesting.

3. Lack of maintenance on some range improvement projects.

4. Allowable use levels are being exceeded on some upland and most riparian areas of the Diamond Mountain Complex.

5. Continuous spring grazing by wild horses and livestock.

6. Livestock distribution.

7. Some riparian areas and upland habitats are non-functional or functioning-at-risk.

8. Wild horse numbers have continued to increase during the evaluation period.

B. Short-Term Recommendations (See attached Livestock Use Agreements)

1. Adjust livestock and wild horse use.

Adjust the level of livestock use for the Diamond Mountain Complex from 17,608 to 16,480 AUMs for cattle and from 4,685 to 4,527 AUMs for sheep.

Adjust the level of wild horse use for the Diamond Mountain Complex from 15,096 to 2,753 AUMs or 230 animals yearlong.

To improve livestock distribution, placement of salt should be a minimum of 1/4 a mile from any riparian area or water source.

2. Draft Livestock Use Agreements/Railroad Pass Multiple Use Decision

Implement grazing practices as indicated by Draft Livestock Use Agreements on Red Rock, Browne, Diamond Springs, Shannon Station and Spanish Gulch Allotments (See Livestock Use Agreements). These changes in livestock management practices address riparian, wildlife, and over utilization concerns identified in the Draft Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation.

A reevaluation of Railroad Pass Allotment monitoring data and technical recommendations that were incorporated into the final multiple use decision for livestock should meet the Diamond Mountain Complex Objectives. Therefore, continue with the implementation of the Railroad Pass Final Multiple Use Decision as it pertains to livestock and wild horses.

3. Permit Transfer Adjustments

Analysis and evaluation of available monitoring data at the time of the permit transfers resulted in livestock adjustments to meet the Land Use Plan objectives for the Black Point and Three Mile

Allotments. The continued implementation of the livestock use adjustments and future adjustments of wild horses should make progress towards meeting the Diamond Mountain Complex objectives.

The following adjustments and stipulations implemented following approval of the permit transfers will continue as follows during the short term:

Black Point Allotment permit transfer approved February 1995.

Authorized grazing use was adjusted; 594 cattle AUMs and 616 sheep AUMs were placed into nonuse for conservation and protection from 05/01 to 10/31. These AUMs were included in the suspense column of the allotment summary within the permit.

No grazing on the Black Point Allotment south of Pedrioli Creek prior to June 1 in order to protect native forage species during the critical growth period and sage grouse brood rearing areas.

Place mineral or salt blocks a quarter of mile from any riparian area, wet meadow or water source.

Three Mile Allotment permit transfer approved January 1995.

Authorized grazing use was adjusted; 450 cattle AUMs were placed into nonuse for conservation and protection from 03/01 to 02/28. These AUMs were included in the suspense column of the allotment summary within the permit.

4. Corta Allotment contains a small portion of the herd management area and is a low priority "C" allotment and census data indicates very little to no use has occurred by wild horses. The allotment will be monitored and adjustments will be implemented as needed in the future.

C. Long-Term Recommendations

1. Implement range improvements to control livestock drift.

2. Implement range improvements to provide additional water for livestock, wild horses, and wildlife.

3. Specific long term recommendations will be identified in the Final Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation.

D. Monitoring Studies

Monitoring studies will continue to be read, evaluated, and new studies established as necessary to measure the effectiveness of management actions in meeting objectives to resolve resource issues. The following studies are recommended depending on resource conflicts:

1. Utilization (Use Pattern Mapping or Key Area Utilization).

2. Actual Use (Wild Horse Census Flights, Wild Horse Distribution Reports, Livestock Actual Use Reports, etc.)

3. Precipitation Data

4. Ecological Condition (Ecological Status at Key Areas or Ecological Site Inventories if funding permits)

5. Trend (Frequency, Apparent Trend, etc.) All other data as necessary to evaluate trend.

6. Any other necessary studies (Riparian Area Proper Function Condition, Stream Surveys, Sagegrouse Studies, Browse Utilization, etc.)

WILD HORSE
CAPTURE/REMOVAL PLAN FOR
DIAMOND COMPLEX HMAS
(Diamond, Diamond Hills North, Diamond Hills South)

Prepared by Bob Brown
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Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain, Elko, and Ely Districts

CAPTURE/REMOVAL PLAN FOR THE DIAMOND COMPLEX HMAS

I. Purpose and Rationale

The purpose of this capture/removal plan is to outline the methods and procedures to be used in the reduction of the wild horse population within the Diamond Mountain Range, including the Diamond, Diamond Hills North and Diamond Hills South Herd Management Areas (HMAs). The removal is based on the analysis of monitoring data presented in the Diamond Complex Evaluation, which establishes the wild horse appropriate management level (AML) for the three HMAs in the Diamond Mountain Range. The Diamond Complex Evaluation includes a re-evaluation of the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Railroad Pass Allotment in the Ely District and the evaluation of monitoring data within the Browne and Red Rock Allotments in the Elko District. It also includes the evaluation of monitoring data within the Corta, Diamond Springs, Three Mile, Black Point and Shannon Station/Spanish Gulch Allotments in the Battle Mountain District. Those wild horses that are found outside the boundaries of the Herd Management Areas within the vicinity of the Diamond Mountain Range will also be removed in conjunction with this gather, in accordance with 43 CFR 4710.4. This plan will also address the current selective removal policy of only removing those animals from the HMA that are under 10 years old.

Monitoring data collected during a period from 1988 through 1996 show available forage for wild horse use to be 2,753 animal unit months (AUMs) within the three herd management areas, which is 230 wild horses yearlong. Removal of excess animals within the allotments making up the herd management areas is needed in order to establish and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance within the allotments and to prevent deterioration of rangeland resources.

The wild horse gather will be conducted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Battle Mountain, Elko, and Ely Districts. The removal operation will begin after issuance of the final gather plan.

The proposed action is to capture approximately 1,500 animals and remove approximately 1,250 excess wild horses from the Diamond Complex Herd Management Areas (HMAs) and adjacent horse free areas. Horses up to the age of nine years old will be removed in compliance with National and Nevada policy, in order to reach the established AML during the initial removal. If AML cannot be reached by removing only animals under 10 years old, a sufficient number of wild horses aged 10 and older will also be removed to achieve the AML. Conformation and other characteristics necessary for an adoptable animal will be considered in selecting older horses for removal. Future removals will follow policy in effect at the time of removal. The initial removal is scheduled to commence August 1, 1997, and will last approximately one month. Subsequent removals may occur to maintain AMLs for the three HMAs.

The proposed action(s) will: (1) restore the range to a thriving natural ecological balance, (2) prevent further deterioration of the range threatened by an overpopulation of wild horses, and (3) bring the populations of wild horses to a level in balance with available forage within the Diamond Complex HMAs.

This document outlines the process and events involved with the capture and/or removal of wild horses from the Diamond Complex HMAs. The methodology will remain the same for future removals if they become necessary. Included are the initial numbers of horses to be captured, the time and method of capture, and the handling and disposition of captured horses. Also outlined are the BLM personnel involved with the roundup, the Contracting Officer's Representatives (COR), the delegation of authority, the briefing of the contractor(s), and the pre-capture evaluation held prior to capture operations.

II. Relationship to Planning

This document is in conformance with the Shoshone Eureka Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision signed on March 10, 1986, The Elko Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision signed March 11, 1987, and the Egan Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision signed February 3, 1987.

A Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA No. N66-EA8-42), analyzing the environmental consequences and mitigating measures of the proposed action, was prepared and distributed for public comment by the Battle Mountain District in May 1988. After the incorporation of public comments, a Record of Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact was approved on June 30, 1988. A tier EA (No. N64-EA94-37) to the Programmatic EA was issued on April 7, 1994, which addresses the releasing of older horses back into the HMAs. These documents are available for review at the Battle Mountain District Office. The Ely District also has three EAs on file pertinent to the Diamond Complex HMAs capture/removal. The parent EA No. NV-040-8-15 and two supplemental EAs No. S1-93-NV-040-8-15 and S1-95-NV-040-8-15 analyze the environmental consequences, with approved mitigation, for the capture, removal, and release of older horses from the Diamond Hills South HMA and the Diamond horse free areas. These documents are on file at the Ely District Office. An Administrative Determination (AD) has been made that these EAs adequately address the impacts of this proposed action for this area. This action is an implementation of the Diamond Complex Evaluation, which addresses the analysis of monitoring data and establishment of proper stocking levels for wild horses, livestock, and wildlife within the herd areas.

The capture area is not covered by a herd management area plan (HMAP). IBLA has ruled "..that it is not necessary that BLM prepare an HMAP as a basis for ordering the removal of wild horses, so long as the record otherwise substantiates compliance with the statute. Indeed, 43 CFR 4710.3-1 does not require preparation of an HMAP as a prerequisite for a removal action. Thus, we are not persuaded that preparation of an HMAP must in all cases

precede the removal of wild horses from an HMA/WHT, and decline to order preparation of HMAP's." (IBLA 88-591, 88-638, 88-648, 88 679, at 127).

The removal also implements the Strategic Plan for Management of Wild Horses and Burros on Public Lands (SP), issued on 6/92; U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. The SP states that only animals between the ages of 1 and 3 years should be removed. However, current National and Nevada policy is to remove animals up to nine years of age from HMAs and from horse free areas.

III. Area of Concern

The gather area is located along the Diamond Mountain Range approximately 3 miles east of Eureka, Nevada and extends approximately 48 miles to the north. The Herd Management Areas consist of a relatively narrow band of allotments extending along the mountain range. The terrain within the area varies from level valleys to high mountains, with elevations ranging from 5,700 feet to over 10,000 feet, respectively. Climate is characterized by warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Precipitation ranges from 8 inches in the valleys to 16 inches in the mountains. The major vegetation type of the lowlands is big sagebrush with an understory of Sandberg's bluegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, and Indian ricegrass. At mid-elevation, the vegetation type is primarily pinyon-juniper, big sagebrush, low sage, and an understory of bottlebrush squirreltail, Thurber's needlegrass, and Nevada bluegrass. The higher elevations support pinyon-juniper, mountain mahogany, big sagebrush, and low sage communities with understories similar to those found at mid-elevations.

The Diamond HMA is entirely within the Shoshone Eureka Land Use Plan (LUP) area of the Battle Mountain District BLM in Eureka County, Nevada. The Diamond Hills North HMA is just north of the Diamond HMA in Elko County, Nevada within the Elko LUP area of the Elko District BLM. The Diamond Hills South HMA, within the Egan LUP area of the Ely District BLM, lies in White Pine County, Nevada, adjacent to the other two HMAs. Maps of the proposed removal areas are attached.

IV. Number of Horses to be Captured/Removed

The overall Diamond Complex AML of 230 wild horses yearlong was established through the evaluation of monitoring data which was analyzed during the allotment evaluation process. It is the sum of the individual AMLs established for the three HMAs included in the Diamond Complex Evaluation, which are 22 wild horses for the Diamond Hills South HMA, 37 wild horses for the Diamond Hills North HMA, and 171 wild horses for the Diamond HMA. The latest helicopter census, conducted in October 1996, recorded a total of 1,258 wild horses within and outside the boundaries of the three HMAs. Using the BLM Nevada average of 18% as an annual rate of increase, it is estimated that there are currently approximately 1,500 wild horses, including the 1997 foaling season increase.

The overall AML established in the Diamond Complex Evaluation will only change when new monitoring data indicate that a change is needed. This capture/removal plan addresses the methodology and procedures to be used to capture and remove the animals to attain and maintain the established AML during the initial and subsequent removals.

Wild horses are managed on an HMA basis, and in this case the Diamond Complex basis, so that numbers within each allotment may vary. Only when the total AML for the Diamond Complex is exceeded will horses be removed. This capture/removal plan will cover all future removals for the three herd areas in the Diamond Complex.

The initial removal will be selective by age and only healthy animals between the ages of zero to nine will be removed from the HMAs for shipping to Palomino Valley Corrals (PVC) for processing into the adoption program, in conformance with Nevada State Policy, unless during the initial removal AML cannot be achieved by removing only those wild horses within that age structure. All animals outside the HMAs will be removed and horses nine years old and younger will be shipped to PVC. Horses older than nine years will be released back into the adjacent herd areas from which they were captured. If AML cannot be reached by removing only animals under 10 years old, a sufficient number of wild horses aged 10 and older will also be removed to achieve the AML. Conformation and other characteristics necessary for an adoptable animal will be considered in selecting older horses for removal.

Horses that have reached 10 years of age, and older horses, will be released back to the area of capture after the operations are complete in that area. Every effort will be made to release wild horses back to the HMAs that are representative of each age class at the time of removal. Based on the number of animals to be removed and the total population present in the HMAs, not all of the animals to be released will be over age 10. Some of the animals will be in the younger age classes, including obviously near term pregnant mares and mares with foals too young to be shipped. Some animals possessing unusual characteristics such as color, conformation or breed, as in curly horses, will not be removed from the breeding population within the HMAs, but will be released back into the HMA from which they were gathered. Released animals will be monitored within 72 hours to ensure that they are not caught behind fences and that they have found water and forage.

In the event that a captured mare, foal, or both are in poor physical condition and their survival on the range is questionable, the animals will be held on site until either sufficiently healthy to survive on the range or until the gather is completed. If at the completion of the gather it still appears that the animals' survival is questionable, the animals will be sent to PVC.

To remove approximately 1,250 animals in the proper ages classes, approximately 1,500 animals will need to captured, based on an estimate that 15-20% of the population is over 9 years of age. The AML of 230 wild horses will remain in the Diamond Complex HMAs at the completion of the removal.

V. Time and Method of Capture

The initial removal is scheduled to commence on August 1, 1997. Future removals will be conducted when the need arises and when funding becomes available. Timing of the removals is also dependent on the statewide priority schedule. Horses will not be captured or removed during the foaling season (March 1 to July 1).

The method of capture will be to use a helicopter to herd the animals to portable wing traps. It is the intention of the BLM to conduct the removal through a private contractor under the current requirements contract. If a contract is not currently in place for the initial or subsequent removals, BLM may conduct the removal using BLM employees. At least one qualified Bureau employee will be supervising the capture operation at all times. It is estimated that 6 to 8 trap locations will be required to accomplish the work.

Other methods of capture are not being considered in the Diamond Complex HMAs. Water trapping wild horses, though easier on the animal, is not feasible due to the large area and the number of water sources available to horses in the proposed capture area. Trapping horses by running them on horseback is not feasible because it is too easy to lose the horses after starting them towards the trap, injuries to both people and horses are more likely, and the cost factor shown from previous roundups using this method indicates that the costs are prohibitive.

The terrain in the removal area varies from flat valley bottoms to extremely mountainous, and the horses could be located at all elevations depending on the time of year the removal is conducted. There are few physical barriers and fences in the area and the contractor will be instructed to avoid them.

VI. Administration of the Contract

BLM will be responsible for overseeing a contract for the capture, care, aging and temporary holding of approximately 1,500 wild horses from the capture area for the initial removal. BLM is also responsible to oversee the transportation of approximately 1,250 wild horses to the adoption preparation facility as specified in the removal contract, which is expected to be Palomino Valley Corrals (PVC).

Within two weeks prior to the start of the contract, BLM will conduct a pre-capture evaluation of existing conditions in the capture area. The evaluation will include animal condition, prevailing temperatures, snow conditions (for subsequent removals), soil conditions, topography, road conditions, locations of fences and other physical barriers, and animal distribution in relation to potential trap locations. The evaluation will also arrive at a conclusion as to whether the level of activity is likely to cause undue stress to the animals and whether a delay in the 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 before the capture will proceed.

The contractor will be briefed on duties and responsibilities before the notice to proceed is issued. There will also be an inspection of the contractor's equipment at this time to ensure that it meets specifications and is adequate for the job. Any equipment that does not meet specifications must be replaced within 36 hours. The contractor will also be informed of the terrain involved, the condition of the animals, the condition of the roads, potential trap locations, motorized equipment limitations, and the presence of fences and other dangerous barriers. The contractor will be provided with a topographic map of the capture area which shows acceptable trap locations and existing fences and/or physical barriers prior to any gathering operation. The contractor will also be apprised of the existing conditions in the capture area and will be given direction regarding the capture and handling of animals to assure their health and welfare is protected.

At least one authorized BLM employee, a Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) or Project Inspector (PI), will be present at the site of captures/removals. The COR/PI will be directly responsible for the capture/removal. Other BLM personnel may be needed to assist the operation (i.e., an archaeologist or an archaeological technician to conduct cultural inventories, and a BLM law enforcement agent to protect BLM personnel and property from unlawful activities).

The CORs/PIs are directly responsible for the conduct of the capture/removal operation and for reporting progress to the Battle Mountain, Elko, and Ely District Managers and to the Nevada State Office.

The Battle Mountain, Elko, and Ely Associate District Managers (ADM) for Renewable Resources and District Managers are very involved with guidance and input into this removal plan and with contract monitoring. The health and welfare of the animals is the most important concern and responsibility of the District Managers, ADMs for Renewable Resources, and CORs/PIs.

All publicity, public contact, and inquiries will be handled through the ADMs for Renewable Resources. The managers will also coordinate the contract with the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley, the adoption preparation facility, to assure there is space available in the corrals for the captured horses, animals are handled humanely and efficiently, and animals being transported from the capture site are arriving in good condition.

The COR/PI will constantly evaluate the contractor's ability to perform the required work in accordance with the contract stipulations. Compliance with the contract stipulations will be ensured through issuance of written instructions to the contractor, stop work orders and default procedures should the contractor not perform work according to the stipulations.

To assist the COR/PI in administering the contract, the BLM will have a helicopter available, if needed, at the roundup site. This helicopter will be used with discretion to minimize disturbance of horses that would make capture more difficult. However, it will be used as needed to assure that the contractor is complying with the specifications of the contract and to

ensure the humane capture of animals. In the event an additional helicopter is not available to observe the project helicopter, other methods will be utilized to observe the removal operations, such as using observers on horseback or in vehicles, or by placing stationary observers in strategic locations.

If the contractor fails to perform in an appropriate manner at any time, the contract will not be allowed to continue until problems encountered are corrected to the satisfaction of the COR/PI.

VII. Stipulations and Specifications

The following stipulations, specifications and procedures will be followed during the capture operation to ensure the welfare, safety and humane treatment of the wild horses.

A. Trapping and Care

All capture attempts shall be accomplished utilizing helicopter drive-trapping and shall incorporate the following:

1. Trap and Holding Facility Locations. All trap locations and holding facilities must be approved by the COR and/or PI prior to construction. The contractor may also be required to change or move trap locations as determined by the COR/PI. All traps and holding facilities not located on public land must have prior written approval of the landowner.

The COR/PI will ensure that the general location of the trap is close to major concentrations of horses. General locations of traps will be selected by the COR after determining the habits of the animals and observing the topography of the area. Specific locations may be selected by the contractor with the COR/PI's approval within this general preselected area. Trap sites will be located to cause as little injury to horses and as little damage to the natural resources of the area as possible. Sites will be located on or near existing roads.

Due to the many variables such as weather, time of year, location of horses, and suitable trap sites, it is not possible to identify specific locations at this time. They will be determined at the time of the capture.

Trap sites or holding corrals will not be placed in areas of any known threatened or endangered species or in areas of candidate species.

A cultural resources investigation by an archaeologist or an archaeological technician will be conducted prior to trap or holding facility construction. If cultural values are found, an alternative site will be selected

Trap sites for capturing horses with a helicopter will not be placed within ¼ mile of water sources such as streams, springs, reservoirs or troughs.

Temporary traps and corrals will be removed and sites will be left free of all debris within 30 days following the operation.

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

BLM will not allow horses to be herded more than 10 miles nor faster than 20 miles per hour. The COR/PI may decrease the rate of travel or distance moved should the route to the trap site pose a danger or cause avoidable stress (steep and/or rocky). Animal condition will also be considered in making distance and speed restrictions.

Temperature limitations are 10 degrees F. as a minimum and 95 degrees F. as a maximum. Special attention will be given to avoiding physical hazards such as fences.

3. Trap and Holding Facility Construction. All traps, wings and holding facilities shall be constructed, maintained and operated to handle animals in a safe and humane manner and be in accordance with the following:

a. 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.

b. All loading chute sides shall be fully covered with plywood (without holes) or like material. The loading chute shall also be a minimum of 6 feet high.

c. All runways shall be a minimum of 30 feet long and a minimum of 6 feet high and shall be covered with plywood, burlap, plastic snow fence or like material a minimum of 1 foot to 6 feet above ground level.

d. Wings shall not be constructed out of barbed wire or other materials injurious to animals and must be approved by the COR/PI.

e. All crowding pens including 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 2 feet to 6

feet above ground level. Eight linear feet of this material shall be capable of being removed or let down to provide a viewing window.

f. All pens and runways used for the movement and handling of animals shall be connected with hinged self-locking gates.

4. Fence Modifications. No fence modifications will be made without authorization from the COR/PI. The contractor shall be responsible for restoration of any fence modification which he has made.

5. Dust. When dust conditions occur within or adjacent to the trap or holding facility, the contractor shall be required to wet down the ground with water.

6. Animal Separation. Alternate pens, within the holding facility, shall be furnished by the contractor to separate mares with small foals, sick and injured animals, and estrays from the other animals. 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. The contractor will be required to restrain animals for the purpose of determining age. Alternate pens shall be furnished by the contractor to hold older animals which will be returned to the herd areas. Additional holding pens will be needed to segregate animals transported from remote locations so they may be returned to their traditional ranges. Segregation or temporary marking and later sorting will be at the discretion of the COR/PI.

7. Food and Water. The contractor shall provide animals held in the traps and/or holding facilities with a continuous supply of fresh clean water at a minimum rate 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.

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

9. Sick or Injured Animals. The contractor shall restrain sick or injured animals if treatment by the Government is necessary.

Any severely injured, seriously sick, or animal with genetic defects such as club feet shall be destroyed in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4730.1. Animals shall be destroyed only when a definite act of mercy is needed to alleviate pain and suffering. The COR/PI will have the primary responsibility for determining when an animal will be destroyed and will perform the actual

destruction. The contractor will be permitted to destroy an animal only in the event the COR/PI is not at the capture site or holding corrals, and there is an immediate need to alleviate pain and suffering of a severely injured animal. When the COR/PI is unsure as to the severity of an injury or sickness, a veterinarian will be called to make a final determination. Destruction shall be done in the most humane method available as per Washington Office Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Program Guidance dated January 1983. A veterinarian can be called from Ely if necessary to care for any injured horses.

The contractor may be required to dispose of the carcasses as directed by the COR/PI.

The carcasses of wild horses which die or must be destroyed as a result of any infectious, contagious, or parasitic disease will be disposed of by burial to a depth of at least 3 feet.

The carcasses of wild horses which must be destroyed as a result of age, injury, lameness, or noncontagious disease or illness will be disposed of by removing them from the capture site or holding corral and placing them in an inconspicuous location to minimize the visual impacts. Carcasses will not be placed in drainages regardless of drainage size or downstream destination.

10. Transportation. Animals shall be transported to final destination (the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley) from temporary holding facilities within 24 hours after capture unless prior approval is granted by the COR/PI for unusual circumstances. Animals to be released back into the HMA following capture operations may be held up to 21 days or as directed by the COR/PI. 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/PI. The contractor shall schedule shipments of animals to arrive at the final destination between 6:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. No shipments shall be scheduled to arrive at final destination on Sunday or Federal holidays. Animals shall not be allowed to remain standing on trucks while not in transport for a combined period of greater than three (3) hours. Animals that are to be released back into the capture area may need to be transported back to the original trap site. This determination will be at the discretion of the COR/PI.

11. Release of Animals onto Range. Animals which are to be released back to the range will be released in small groups to avoid a herd stampede mentality. Mare/foal pairs will be released together. Stud horses will not be released at the same time as mares or mares with foals to avoid fighting over mares and injury to foals. If a foal becomes separated from a mare, the foal will be recaptured and sent to PVC.

12. Handling procedures for mares and foals

a. Mares older than the target age group (over 9 years old in the HMAs and over 9 years old from the horse-free area) will be paired with their foals and both will be returned to the range.

b. When mares older than the target group will not pair with their foals, the foals will be sent to the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley (PVC) for adoption and the mares will be returned to the range.

c. When mares older than the target group will accept their foals, but either the mare or the foal or both are in poor physical condition and their survival on the range is questionable, the animals will be held on site until healthy. If at the termination of the capture operation, it still appears that the animal's survival is questionable, they will be sent to PVC.

d. When mares within the target age group will accept their foals, the pair will be sent to PVC.

e. When mares within the target group will not accept their foals, both the mare and foal will be sent to PVC.

B. Capture Methods for Helicopter Drive Trapping

1. The primary method for gathering wild horses is the use of helicopter drive trapping. Roping will only be used as a supplemental gather technique when determined by the on-site COR that drive trapping will not be successful and it is in the best interest of the animals being gathered to capture them using roping techniques. Circumstances where roping may be necessary include, but are not limited to, where all wild horses must be gathered and/or removed from areas specified in the gather plan as being complete removal and those individual animals continue to elude helicopter herding operations and where it is necessary to capture an orphaned foal or a suspected wet mare. In all cases, when it is determined by the COR that a significant proportion of animals must be roped, the roping will only proceed after consultation with the District Managers or their designated representative.

2. The helicopter shall be used in such a manner that bands remain together. Foals shall not be left behind.

3. Helicopter, Pilot and Communications

a. 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.

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

c. The COR/PI shall have the means to communicate with the Contractor's pilot and be able to direct the use of the capture helicopter at all times. If communications cannot be established, the government will take steps as necessary to protect the welfare of the animals. The frequency(ies) used for this contract will be assigned by the COR/PI when the radio is used. When a VHF/AM radio is used, the frequency will be 122.925 MHz.

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

e. 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/PI 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.

f. At time of delivery order completion, the contractor shall provide the COR/PI with a completed copy of the Service Contract Flight Hour Report.

g. All incidents/accidents occurring during the performance of the delivery order shall be immediately reported to the COR/PI.

C. Motorized Equipment

1. 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. The contractor shall

provide the COR/PI with a current safety inspection (less than one year old) of all tractor/stocktrailers used to transport animals to final destination.

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

3. Only stocktrailers with a covered top shall be allowed for transporting animals from trap site(s) to temporary holding facilities. Only stocktrailers or single deck trucks shall be used to haul animals from temporary holding facilities to final destination(s). Sides or stock racks of transporting vehicles shall be a minimum height of 6 feet 6 inches from the floor. Single deck trucks with trailers 40 feet or longer shall have two (2) partition gates providing three (3) compartments within the trailer to separate animals. The compartments shall be of equal size plus or minus 10 percent. Trailers less than 40 feet shall have at least one (1) partition gate providing two (2) compartments within the trailer to separate the animals. The compartments shall be of equal size plus or minus 10 percent.

Each partition shall be a minimum of 6 feet high and shall have a minimum 5 foot wide swinging gate. The use of double deck trailers is unacceptable and shall not be allowed.

4. All vehicles used to transport animals to final destination(s) shall be equipped with at least one (1) door at the rear end of the vehicle which is capable of sliding either horizontally or vertically. The rear door must be capable of opening the full width of the trailer. All panels facing the inside of the trailers must be free of sharp edges or holes that could cause injury to the animals. The material facing the inside of the trailer must be strong enough so that the animals cannot push their hooves through the side. Final approval of vehicles to transport animals shall be held by the COR/PI.

5. Floors of vehicles, trailers, and the loading chutes shall be covered and maintained with wood shavings to prevent the animals from slipping.

6. Animals to be loaded and transported in any vehicle or trailer shall be as directed by the COR/PI and may include limitations on numbers according to age, size, sex, temperament, and animal condition. The following minimum square feet per animal shall be allowed in all trailers:

11 square feet per adult horse (1.4 linear foot in an 8 foot wide trailer);
8 square feet per adult burro (1.0 linear foot in an 8 foot wide trailer);
6 square feet per horse foal (.75 linear foot in an 8 foot wide trailer);
4 square feet per burro foal (.5 linear foot in an 8 foot wide trailer);

7. The COR/PI 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/PI shall provide for any brand and/or inspection services required for the captured animals.

8. If the COR/PI determines that dust conditions are such that the animals could be endangered during transportation, the contractor will be instructed to adjust speed. In general, roads in the capture area are in fair to good condition. If a problem develops, speed restrictions shall be set or alternate routes used. The maximum distance over which animals may have to be transported over dirt road is 20 miles. Periodic checks by BLM employees will be made as the animals are transported along dirt roads. If speed restrictions are in effect, then BLM employees will, at times, follow and/or time trips to ensure compliance.

D. Contractor Furnished Property

1. All hay, water, vehicles, saddle horses, helicopters and other equipment shall be provided by the contractor. Other equipment includes, but is not limited to, a minimum of 2,500 linear feet of 72-inch high (minimum height) panels for traps and holding facilities. Separate water troughs shall be provided at each pen where animals are being held. Water troughs shall be constructed of such material (e.g. rubber, galvanized metal with rolled edges, rubber over metal) so as to avoid injury to the animals.

2. The contractor shall furnish an avionics system that will allow communications between the contractor's helicopter and his fuel truck.

3. The contractor shall furnish a VHF/AM radio transceiver in the contractor's helicopter which has the capability to operate on a frequency of 122.925 MHz.

4. The contractor shall provide a programmable VHF/FM radio transceiver in the contractor's helicopter to accommodate the COR/PI in monitoring the capture operation.

E. Government Furnished Property

The government will provide a portable "Fly" restraining chute at each pre-work conference, to be used by the contractor for the purpose of restraining animals to determine the age of specific individuals or other similar practices. The government may also provide portable 2-way radios, if needed. The contractor shall be responsible for the security of all government furnished property.

VIII. Branded and Claimed Animals

A notice of intent to impound will be issued by the BLM prior to any capture operations in this area.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture and the District Brand Inspector will receive copies of this notice, as well as the Notice of Public Sale, if issued.

The COR/PI will contact the District Brand Inspector and make arrangements for dates and times when brand inspections will be needed.

When horses are captured, the COR/PI and the District Brand Inspector will jointly inspect all animals at the holding facility in the capture area. If determined necessary at that time by all parties involved, horses will be sorted into three categories:

a. Branded animals with offspring, including yearlings.

b. Unbranded or claimed animals with offspring, including yearlings with obvious evidence of existing or former private ownership (e.g., geldings, bobbed tails, photo documentation, saddle marks, etc.).

c. Unbranded animals and offspring without obvious evidence of former private ownership.

The COR/PI, after consultation with the District Brand Inspector, will determine if unbranded animals are wild and free-roaming horses. The District Brand Inspector will determine ownership of branded animals and their offspring and, if possible, the ownership of unbranded animals determined not to be wild and free-roaming horses.

Branded horses with offspring and claimed unbranded horses with offspring for which the owners have been identified by the District Brand Inspector will be retained in the custody of the BLM pending notification of the owner or claimant.

A separate holding corral will be set up near the temporary holding corral to house these horses until the owner/claimant or BLM can pick them up.

The animals will remain in the custody of the BLM until settlement in full is made for impoundment and trespass charges, as determined appropriate by the ADM Renewable Resources in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4710.6 and provisions in 43 CFR Subpart 4150. In the event settlement is not made, the horses will be sold at public auction by the BLM.

Branded horses with offspring whose owners cannot be determined, and unclaimed, unbranded horses with offspring having evidence of existing or former private ownership will be released to the Nevada Department of Agriculture (District Brand Inspector) as estrays.

The District Brand Inspector will provide the COR/PI a brand inspection certificate for the immediate shipment of wild horses to Palomino Valley (Reno), and for the branded or claimed horses where impoundment and trespass charges have not been offered or received, for shipment to public auction or another holding facility.

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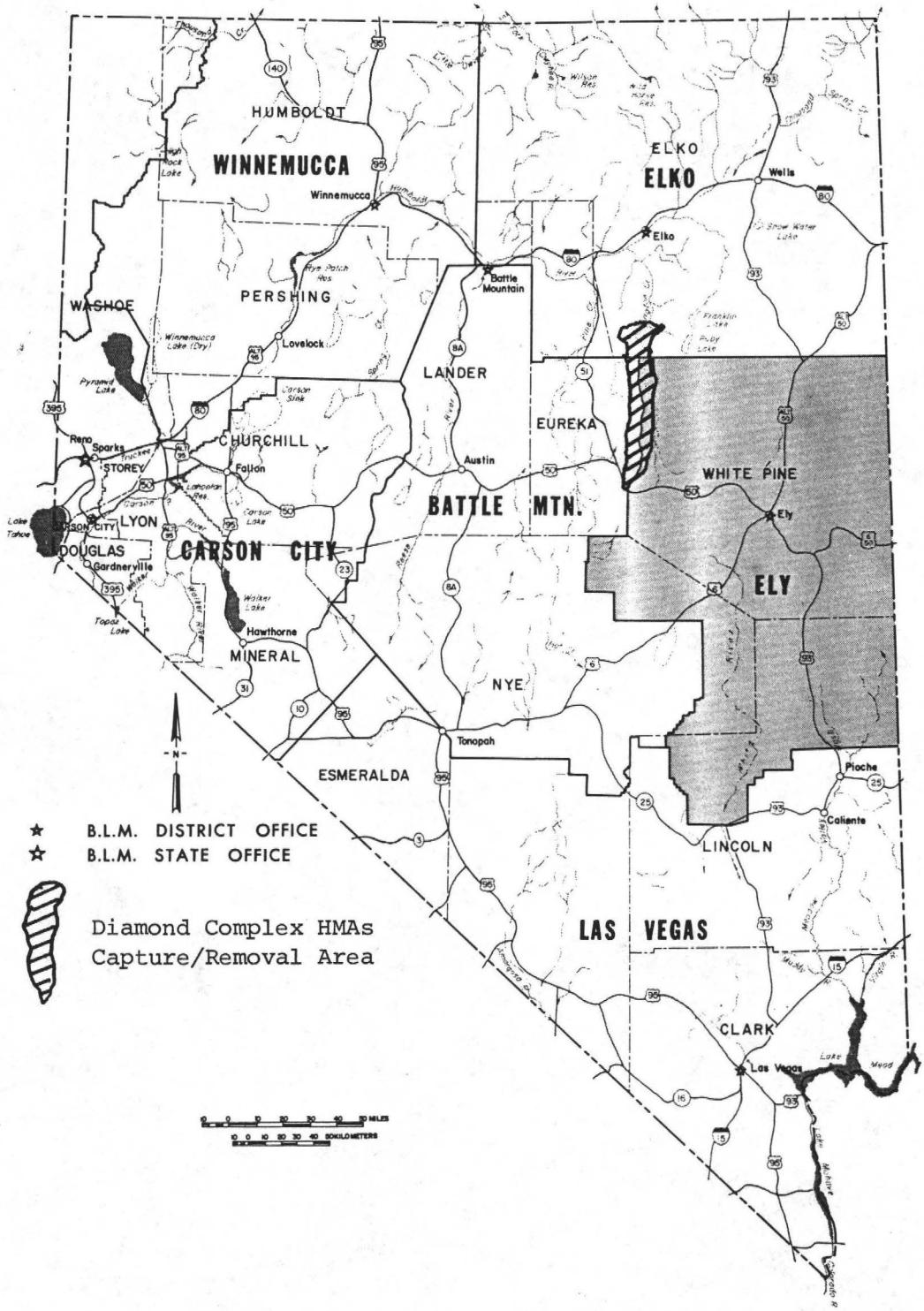
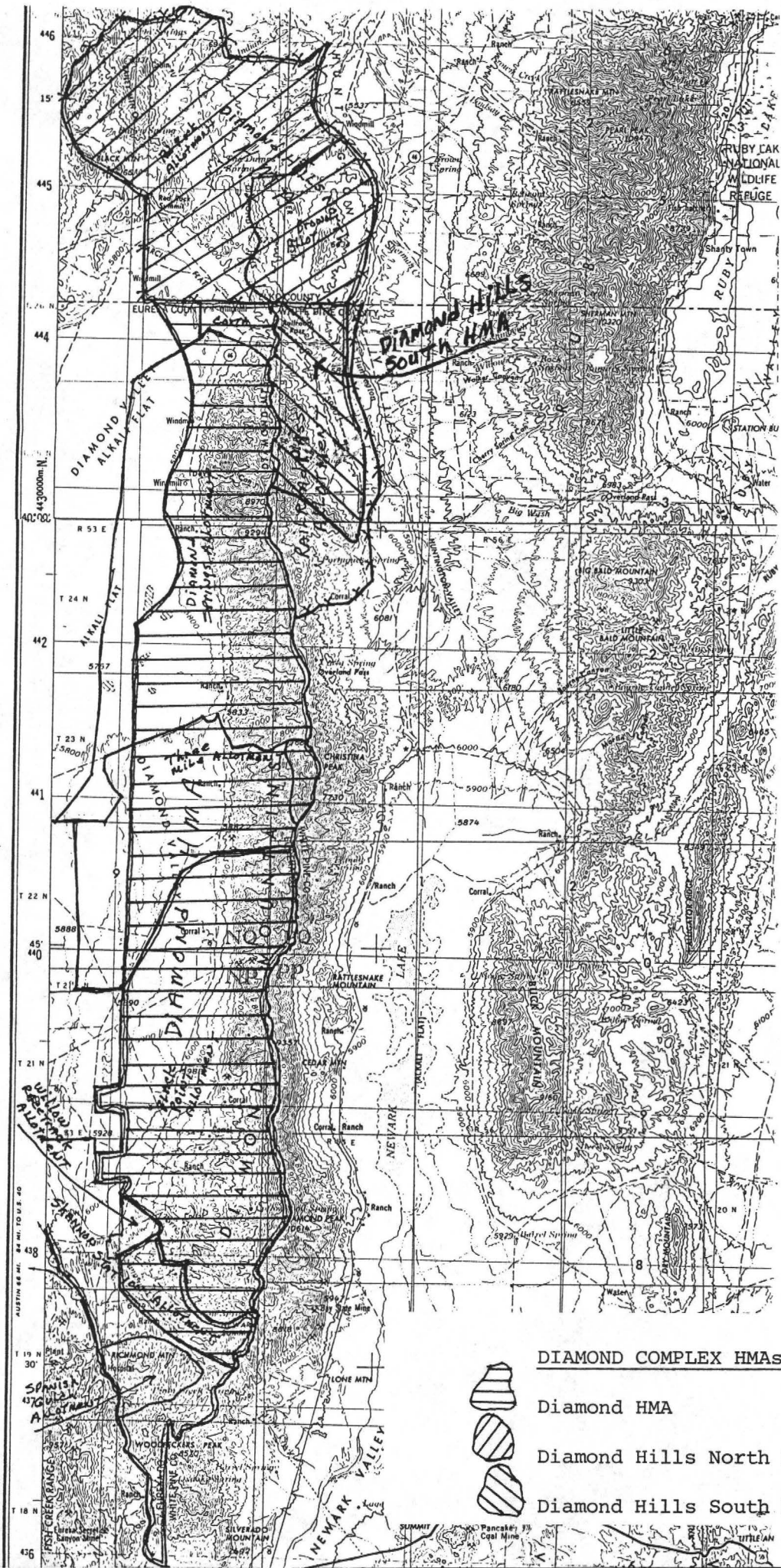
GENERAL LOCATION



NEVADA DISTRICTS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR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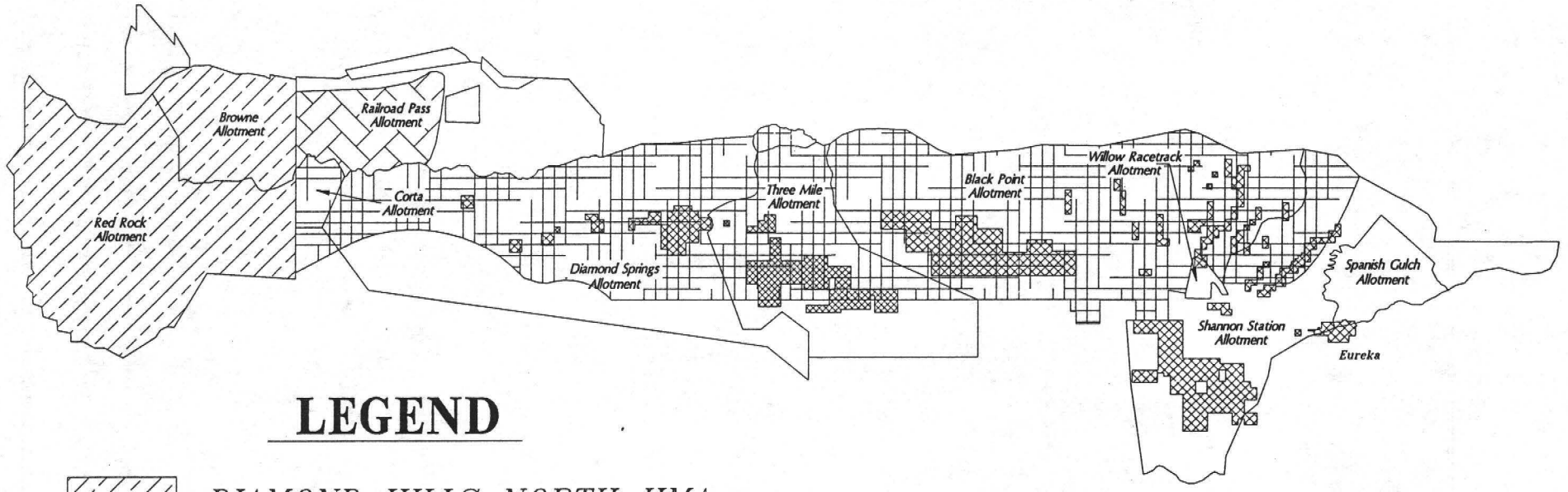
Diamond HMA
Diamond Hills North HMA
Diamond Hills South HMA

DIAMOND MOUNTAIN COMPLEX WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT AREAS



LEGEND

DIAMOND HILLS NORTH HMA

DIAMOND HILLS SOUTH HMA

DIAMOND HMA

PRIVATE PROPERTY

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: Livestock and Wild Horse Objectives
RAILROAD PASS ALLOTMENT

				PRESENT SITUATION		LONG TERM OBJECTIVES **			SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological Site No.*	Key Species	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Maintain or Improve	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Allowable Use Level ***	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
RR-2	T. 26 N, R. 55 E. Sec. 32 SW	N/A Seeding *****	AGCR	Unknown	N/A	Improve ******	Unknown	N/A	60%	Yearlong ****	Not Met	Allowable Use Levels exceeded for six years measured.
RR-3	T. 25 N, R. 55 E. Sec. 9 SWSW	N/A Seeding *****	AGCR	Unknown	N/A	Improve ******	Unknown	N/A	60%	Yearlong ****	Not Met	Allowable Use Levels exceeded for six years measured.
RR-4	T. 24 N, R. 55 E. Sec. 3 SWSE	028BY082NV Loamy Fan 12+" pz	SIHY ELCI Grasses Forbs Shrubs	10% 21% 33% 1% 64%	 46%* Mid	Improve	>5% 25-30% 40-50% 2-5% <60%	 >55% Late	50% 50%	Yearlong ****	Not Met	Allowable Use Levels exceeded for one year measured.
RR-5	T. 25 N, R. 55 E. Sec. 21 SE	N/A Seeding *****	AGCR	95%	N/A	Maintain	>90%	N/A	60%	Summer 06/01 to 09/30	Met	Allowable Use Levels not exceeded. (fenced seeding)

* Seral stage is based on plant community composition as well as percentage of PNC. Ecological sites listed here can be referred to from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions. These key areas lack key forage species so seral stage is lower than the percentage of PNC indicates.

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

*** Allowable use levels for utilization are the short term objectives established to meet the long term composition objectives.

**** Season of use for livestock is 6/1 to 9/30, wild horses are yearlong.

***** The following is the forage value rating assigned to seedings according to the percent composition of crested wheatgrass; 0 - 25 (poor), 26 - 50 (fair), 51 - 75 (good), 76 - 100 (excellent).

****** These seedings are functioning at risk due to poor plant vigor and yearlong grazing use.

Note: Vegetation manipulation will be necessary in order to change the percent composition of the shrub component in order to meet long term objective.

APPENDIX I: Livestock and Wild Horse Objectives Continued

RED ROCK ALLOTMENT

				PRESENT SITUATION		LONG TERM OBJECTIVES**			SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological Site No.*	Key Species	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)*	Maintain or Improve	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Allowable Use Level ***	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
1	T. 28 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 24, NENE	N/A Seeding ****	AGCR	50%	n/a	Improve	>60	n/a	55%	Yearlong *****	Not Met	Measured utilization indicated AUL met only in 1995, 1994, 1993 and 1987.
2	T. 27 N., R. 55 E., Sec. 14, NENE	N/A Seeding ****	AGCR	70%	n/a	Maintain	≥70	n/a	55%	Yearlong *****	Not Met	Measured utilization indicated AUL exceeded in 1988 and 1989.
3	T. 27 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 23, SWNW	025XY019NV Loamy 8-10"	STTH2 ORWE	STTH2-0 ORWE-2 Grass-18 Shrubs-78	37 (Mid Seral)	Improve	STTH2 >2 ORWE 5-10 Grass >30 Forbs 0-10 Shrubs <65	>40	50% (STTH2 & ORWE)	yearlong *****	Not Met	Measured utilization indicated AUL exceeded in 1996, 1990 and 1988.
4 & 5 ******	T. 27 N., R. 54 E., Sec.22, SWSW Sec. 9, SENW	025XY019NV Loamy 8-10"	STTH2	Utilization Study Sites Only					50% (STTH2)	yearlong *****	Not Met	#4 Measured utilization indicated AUL exceeded in 1996, 1990 and 1988. #5 Measured utilization indicated AUL exceeded in 1990, 1989 and 1988.

* Percent of PNC (Potential Natural Community) based 0-25 (early seral), 26-50 (mid seral), 51-75 (late seral) and 76-100 (PNC). Seral stage is based on plant community composition as well as percentage of PNC. Ecological sites listed here can be referred to from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions. These key areas lack key forage species so seral stage is lower than the percentage of PNC indicates.

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

*** Allowable use levels for utilization are the short term objectives established to meet the long term composition objectives.

**** The following is the forage value rating assigned to seedings according to the percent composition of crested wheatgrass; 0 - 25 (poor), 26 - 50 (fair), 51 - 75 (good), 76 - 100 (excellent).

***** Season of use for livestock is 4/15 to 11/15, wild horses are yearlong.

****** Study Sites 4 and 5 are utilization study sites, they are located in the same proximity as Key Management Area site 3, they are all located in site 025XY019NV Loamy 8-10"pz

APPENDIX I: Livestock and Wild Horse Objectives Continued

BROWNE ALLOTMENT

				PRESENT SITUATION		LONG TERM OBJECTIVES**			SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological Site No.*	Key Species	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)*	Maintain or Improve	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Allowable Use Level ***	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
1	T. 27 N., R. 55 E., Sec. 34 SESW	025XY019NV Loamy 8-10"	STTH2 ORHY	STTH2-0 ORHY-1 Grass-5 ****	38 (Mid Seral)	Improve	STTH2 >2 ORHY >3 Grass >20 Forbs 0-10 Shrubs <70	>42	50% (STTH2 & ORHY)	Yearlong *****	Not Met	Measured utilization indicated AUL exceeded in 1996, 1989, 1988 and 1987.

* Percent of PNC (Potential Natural Community) based 0-25 (early seral), 26-50 (mid seral), 51-75 (late seral) and 76-100 (PNC). Seral stage is based on plant community composition as well as percentage of PNC. Ecological sites listed here can be referred to from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions. These key areas lack key forage species so seral stage is lower than the percentage of PNC indicates.

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

*** Allowable use levels for utilization are the short term objectives established to meet the long term composition objectives.

**** Not including Cheatgrass, (Bromus tectorum - BRTE).

***** Season of use for livestock is 5/16 to 9/15, wild horses are yearlong.

APPENDIX I: Livestock and Wild Horse Objectives Continued

BLACK POINT ALLOTMENT

				PRESENT SITUATION		LONG TERM OBJECTIVES **			SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological Site No.*	Key Species	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Maintain or Improve	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Allowable Use Level ***	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
BP-1	T. 21 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 29	Unknown	POSE	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	5/1 to 10/31	Met	Allowable use levels were met 1988 - 1992, 1995.
BP-2	T. 21 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 15	N/A Seeding ****	AGCR	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	5/1 to 10/31	Met	Allowable use levels were met 1988 - 1992, 1995.
BP-3	T. 22 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 16	Unknown	STCO4 ORHY SIHY	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	5/1 to 10/31	Met	Allowable use levels were met 1988 - 1992, 1995.
BP-4	T. 20 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 8	Seeding	AGCR	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	5/1 to 10/31	Not Met	Allowable use levels exceeded in 1988 - 1992 and 1995.

* Seral stage is based on plant community composition as well as percentage of PNC. Ecological sites listed here can be referred to from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions. These key areas lack key forage species so seral stage is lower than the percentage of PNC indicates.

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

*** Allowable use levels for utilization are the short term objectives established to meet the long term composition objectives.

**** The following is the forage value rating assigned to seedings according to the percent composition of crested wheatgrass; 0 - 25 (poor), 26 - 50 (fair), 51 - 75 (good), 76 - 100 (excellent).

APPENDIX I: Livestock and Wild Horse Objectives Continued

DIAMOND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT

				PRESENT SITUATION		LONG TERM OBJECTIVES **			SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological Site No.*	Key Species	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Maintain or Improve	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Allowable Use Level ***	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
DS-1	T. 24 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 35	Unknown	STCO4 STTH2 SIHY POSE	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	3/1 to 12/31	Not Met	Allowable use levels exceeded 1989 - 1993.
DS-2	T. 23 N., R. 54 E., Sec 12	Unknown	AGSP SIHY POSE	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	3/1 to 12/31	Met	Allowable use levels met 1989 - 1993.
DS-3	T. 24 N., R. 54 E., Sec 3	Unknown	STCO4	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	3/1 to 12/31	Not Met	Allowable use levels exceeded 1989 - 1993.
DS-4	T. 25 N., R. 54 E., Sec 11	Unknown	FEID POSE SIHY PONE3 AGSP BRCA5 ELCI2	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	3/1 to 12/31	Not Met	Allowable use levels exceeded 1989 - 1993.
DS-5	T. 24 N., R. 54 E., Sec 23	Unknown	ORHY STCO4 AGSM	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	3/1 to 12/31	Not Met	Allowable use levels exceeded 1989 - 1993.
DS-6	T. 25 N., R. 54 E., Sec 2	Unknown	AGSP SIHY PONE3 POSE	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	3/1 to 12/31	Not Met	Allowable use levels exceeded 1989 - 1993.
DS-7	T. 25 N., R. 54 E., Sec 29	Unknown	ELCI2 SIHY	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	3/1 to 12/31	Not Met	Allowable use levels exceeded 1989 - 1993.
DS-8	T. 24 N., R. 54 E., Sec 29	Unknown	SIHY	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	3/1 to 12/31	Not Met	Forage sources eliminated
DS-10	T. 23 N., R. 54 E., Sec 7	Unknown	ORHY SIHY	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	3/1 to 12/31	Not Met	Forage sources eliminated.

* Seral stage is based on plant community composition as well as percentage of PNC. Ecological sites listed here can be referred to from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions. These key areas lack key forage species so seral stage is lower than the percentage of PNC indicates.

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

*** Allowable use levels for utilization are the short term objectives established to meet the long term composition objectives.

APPENDIX I: Livestock and Wild Horse Objectives Continued

SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT

				PRESENT SITUATION		LONG TERM OBJECTIVES **			SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological Site No.*	Key Species	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Maintain or Improve	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Allowable Use Level ***	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
SG-1	T. 19 N., R. 54 E., Sec 28	Unknown	AGSP SIHY	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	5/1 to 9/30	Met	Allowable use levels met 1989 - 1995.

* Seral stage is based on plant community composition as well as percentage of PNC. Ecological sites listed here can be referred to from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions. These key areas lack key forage species so seral stage is lower than the percentage of PNC indicates.

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

*** Allowable use levels for utilization are the short term objectives established to meet the long term composition objectives.

APPENDIX I: Livestock and Wild Horse Objectives Continued

SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT

				PRESENT SITUATION		LONG TERM OBJECTIVES **			SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological Site No.*	Key Species	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Maintain or Improve	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Allowable Use Level ***	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
SS-1	T. 20 N., R. 53 E., Sec 6	Unknown	ORHY STCO4	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	4/1 to 2/28	Met	Allowable use levels met 1989-1995.
SS-2	T. 20 N., R. 52 E., Sec 24	Unknown	ORHY STCO4	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	4/1 to 2/28	Met	Allowable use levels met 1989-1995.
SS-3	T. 20 N., R. 54 E., Sec 32	Unknown	ORHY STTH	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	4/1 to 2/28	Met	Allowable use levels met 1989-1995.
SS-4	T. 20 N., R. 53 E., Sec 23	N/A Seeding ****	AGCR	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	4/1 to 2/28	Met	Allowable use levels met 1989-1995.
SS-5	T. 20 N., R. 52 E., Sec 24	Unknown	ORHY STCO4	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	4/1 to 2/28	Met	Allowable use levels met 1989-1995.

* Seral stage is based on plant community composition as well as percentage of PNC. Ecological sites listed here can be referred to from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions. These key areas lack key forage species so seral stage is lower than the percentage of PNC indicates.

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

*** Allowable use levels for utilization are the short term objectives established to meet the long term composition objectives.

**** The following is the forage value rating assigned to seedings according to the percent composition of crested wheatgrass; 0 - 25 (poor), 26 - 50 (fair), 51 - 75 (good), 76 - 100 (excellent).

APPENDIX I: Livestock and Wild Horse Objectives Continued

THREE MILE ALLOTMENT

				PRESENT SITUATION		LONG TERM OBJECTIVES **			SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Ecological Site No.*	Key Species	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Maintain or Improve	Key Spp % Comp By Weight	Seral Stage (% of PNC)	Allowable Use Level ***	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
TM-1	T. 23 N., R. 54 E., Sec 24	Unknown	AGSP	No Ecological Status Completed to Date					60%	3/1 to 2/28	Not Met	Allowable use levels exceeded 1989 - 1993.

* Seral stage is based on plant community composition as well as percentage of PNC. Ecological sites listed here can be referred to from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Ecological Site Descriptions. These key areas lack key forage species so seral stage is lower than the percentage of PNC indicates.

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

*** Allowable use levels for utilization are the short term objectives established to meet the long term composition objectives.

APPENDIX II: Wildlife Objectives

RED ROCK AND BROWNE ALLOTMENTS

				PRESENT SITUATION	LONG TERM OBJECTIVE		SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Seasonal Use Area	Key Species	Habitat Condition Rating	Maintain or Improve	Habitat Condition Rating	Allowable Use Level	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
Red Rock										
CDS-RR-01-91	T28N,R53E sec24NESE	Crucial summer	PUTR2	Excellent 90%	Maintain	Good to Better	50%	Crucial Summer 3/16-11/15	Met	Allowable use levels not exceeded
DI-RR-02-91	T. 27 N., R. 54 E., Sec 4	Yearlong	PUTR2	Fair 56.4%	Improve	Good to Better	50%	Yearlong 1/1-12/31	Not Met	Poor key browse form class, cover and poor condition of associated habitat
Browne										
DY-T-90-03	T. 27 N., R. 55 E., Sec 27 SESE	Yearlong *	ARTRW	Good 77%	Maintain	Good to Better	50%*	Yearlong 1/1-12/31	Met	Allowable use levels not exceeded
DY-T-90-04	T. 26 N., R. 55 E., Sec 8 NWSW	Yearlong	ARTRW	Good 70%	Maintain	Good to Better	50%*	Yearlong 1/1-12/31	Met	Allowable use levels not exceeded

*Utilization not evaluated. Form class evaluated.

Mule Deer habitat condition is based on browse vigor, forage quality, cover.

Mule Deer Habitat Condition Rating Summary Form 6630-6 - Sum of Points: Excellent 81-100; Good 61-80; Fair 51-60; Poor 10-50.

APPENDIX II: Wildlife Objectives Continued

SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT

			PRESENT SITUATION	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES		SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Key Species	Habitat Condition Rating	Maintain or Improve	Habitat Condition Rating	Allowable Use Level	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
Newark Summit	T. 19 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 12	PUTR2	GOOD 77%	Improve	Good to Better or Excellent	50%	yearlong/ winter	Not met	Allowable Use Levels exceeded.

SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT

			PRESENT SITUATION	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES		SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Key Species	Habitat Condition Rating	Maintain or Improve	Habitat Condition Rating	Allowable Use Level	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
Crater Cone	T. 19 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 22	PUTR2	GOOD 71%	Improve	Good to Better	50%	yearlong/ winter	Not met	Allowable use levels exceeded.

Mule Deer habitat condition is based on browse vigor, forage quality, cover.

Mule Deer Habitat Condition Rating Summary Form 6630-6 - Sum of Points: Excellent 81-100; Good 61-80; Fair 51-60; Poor 10-50.

APPENDIX II: Wildlife Objectives Continued

BLACK POINT ALLOTMENT

			PRESENT SITUATION	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES		SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Key Species	Habitat Condition Rating	Maintain or Improve	Habitat Condition Rating	Allowable Use Level	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
Bold Bluff	T. 19 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 1	AMAL	GOOD 71%	Improve	Good to Better	50%	yearlong/ winter	Met	Utilization below allowable use levels since 1994.
Cottonwood Creek	T. 20 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 14	PUTR2	GOOD 71%	Improve	Good to Better	50%	yearlong/ winter	Met	Utilization below allowable use levels since 1994.
Minoletti Creek	T. 20 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 1	PUTR2	GOOD 77%	Improve	Good to Better	50%	yearlong/ winter	Met	Utilization below allowable use levels since 1994.

THREE MILE ALLOTMENT

			PRESENT SITUATION	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES		SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Key Species	Habitat Condition Rating	Maintain or Improve	Habitat Condition Rating	Allowable Use Level	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
Walters Can.	T. 22 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 2	PUTR2	GOOD 67%	Improve	Good to Better	50%	yearlong/ winter	Met	Utilization below allowable use levels since 1994.

1. Mule Deer habitat condition is based on browse vigor, forage quality, cover.

Mule Deer Habitat Condition Rating Summary Form 6630-6 - Sum of Points: Excellent 81-100; Good 61-80; Fair 51-60; Poor 10-50.

APPENDIX II: Wildlife Objectives Continued

DIAMOND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT

			PRESENT SITUATION	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES		SHORT TERM OBJECTIVE			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Key Species	Habitat Condition Rating	Maintain or Improve	Habitat Condition Rating	Allowable Use Level	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
Upper Judd Canyon	T. 24 N., R. 55 E., Sec. 19	SYOR	GOOD 66%	Improve	Good to Better	50%	yearlong/ winter	Met	Utilization below allowable use level since 1994.
Judd Canyon #2	T. 24 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 23	PUTR2	GOOD 77%	Improve	Good to Better	50%	yearlong/ winter	Met	Utilization below allowable use level since 1994.
Four-Mile Canyon	T. 24 N., R. 54 E., Sec. 11	PPFF	Fair 54%	Improve	Good to Better	50%	yearlong/ winter	Met	Utilization below allowable use level since 1994.

Mule Deer habitat condition is based on browse vigor, forage quality, cover.

Mule Deer Habitat Condition Rating Summary Form 6630-6 - Sum of Points: Excellent 81-100; Good 61-80; Fair 51-60; Poor 10-50.

APPENDIX III: Stream and Riparian Objectives (for lotic and lentic)

RAILROAD PASS ALLOTMENT

			PRESENT SITUATION	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES		SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Key Species	Functioning Condition *	Maintain or Improve	Functioning Condition	Allowable Use Level	Season of Use **	Met or Not Met	Rationale
Huntington Creek	T. 25 N., R. 55 E., Sec. 23 SW	Carex Juncus Poa	Unknown	Improve	Unknown ***	50%	Yearlong	Not Met	Utilization levels are consistently heavy to severe Off Bank Stream Riparian Worksheet shows this section of the stream in "FAIR" condition.
Dora Spring	T. 25 N., R. 55 E., Sec. 20 SWNW	Carex Poa	Unknown	Maintain	Unknown ***	50%	Yearlong	Met	
Jurista Spring	T. 26 N., R. 55 E., Sec. 30	Carex Poa	Unknown	Improve	Unknown ***	50%	Yearlong	Not Met	Off Bank Stream Riparian Worksheet shows this riparian area in "FAIR" condition.
Unnamed Spring	T. 23 N., R. 55 E., Sec. 16	Carex Juncus Poa	Unknown	Maintain	Unknown ***	50%	Yearlong	Met	

* This evaluation was completed prior to use of the Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) technique for riparian assessment, the Off Bank Stream Riparian Habitat Condition form was used.

** Season of use is yearlong for wild horses and 4/5 - 9/30 for livestock.

*** Off Bank Stream Riparian worksheet shows this section of the stream in fair condition.

RED ROCK ALLOTMENT

STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION			FUNCTIONING CONDITION ASSESSMENT (PRESENT SITUATION)	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES	SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES			
Type	Location	Key Species			Allowable Use Level	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
Lentic (standing water) riparian habitats	Dry Creek, Bailey Mountain, the Dumps Spring [1]	willow, aspen, riparian herbaceous	Nonfunctional	Achieve proper functioning condition	50%	Season -long	Not Met	Trampling and heavy use of riparian vegetation.
Lotic (flowing water) riparian habitat	Indian Creek	willow, riparian herbaceous	Nonfunctional	Achieve proper functioning condition	50%	Season -long	Not Met	Trampling and heavy use of riparian vegetation

[1] See Table xx (in Summary of Studies Data section for Fisheries/Riparian section) for legal descriptions of study sites.

Note: The Elko RPS objective to improve and maintain meadow and riparian areas for native trout on Huntington Creek has been deleted for the following reasons: 1)no native trout currently exist in Huntington Creek and there are no plans to reestablish native trout; and, 2)Huntington Creek is almost exclusively privately owned; the only portion on public land in the Red Rock Allotment is limited to a water gap in the Huntington Seeding Pasture.

BROWNE ALLOTMENT

STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION			FUNCTIONING CONDITION ASSESSMENT (PRESENT SITUATION)	LONG TERM OBJECTIVE	SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES			
Type	Location	Key Species			Allowable Use Level	Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
Wet Meadow (lentic riparian habitat)	T. 26 N., R. 55 E., Sec. 15 SW	Riparian herbaceous	Functioning at risk-downward trend	Achieve Proper Functioning Condition	50%	Season -long	Not Met	Trampling and heavy use of riparian vegetation.

APPENDIX III: Stream and Riparian Objectives (for lotic and lentic) Continued

Diamond Complex

			PRESENT SITUATION	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES		SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES			
Study No.	Key Area Location	Key Species	Functioning Condition	Maintain or Improve	Functioning Condition	Allowable Use Level	Livestock Season of Use	Met or Not Met	Rationale
Cottonwood Creek	T. 20 N., R. 54 E., Secs. 8, 10, 11, 13. 14.	SALIX	unknown	Improve	Proper Functioning Condition	30%	4/1 - 10/1	Not Met	Use Pattern Mapping indicates allowable use levels exceeded.
Hilderbrant Creek	T. 20 N., R. 54 E., Secs. 9, 16, 23, 24.	SALIX	unknown	Improve	Proper Functioning Condition	30%	4/1 - 10/1	Not Met	Use Pattern Mapping indicates allowable use levels exceeded.
Simpson Creek	T. 19 N., R. 54 E., Secs. 5, 22.	SALIX	unknown	Improve	Proper Functioning Condition	30%	4/1 - 10/1	Not Met	Use Pattern Mapping indicates allowable use levels exceeded.
Newark Canyon Riparian Complex	T. 19 N., R. 54 E. Secs. 15, 16.		unknown	Improve	Proper Functioning Condition	30%	4/1 - 10/1	Not Met	Use Pattern Mapping indicates allowable use levels exceeded.

Stream Survey Data in 1995 indicated that Hilderbrant Creek is in fair condition and Cottonwood Creek is in good condition the objective is 60% or better. Condition ratings: Excellent >80%; Good 50-79%; Fair 25-49%; Poor 0-25%.

Other streams and spring/meadow complexes on the west side of the Diamond Mountain Complex are experiencing heavy utilization by both cattle and wild horses. Water is being lost in the lentic sites due to excessive trampling which results in erosion channels that will eventually drain the sites. Aspen stands are in poor condition. The stands are mature, over mature and in some cases decadent, with very little regrowth evident. No studies have been conducted on these sites to date.

APPENDIX IV: LIVESTOCK ACTUAL USE (AUMS) BY ALLOTMENT

RAILROAD PASS (#00601)

Permittee	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Paris Livestock	592	696	692	633	596	619	606	647
Harold Rother Farms Inc.	457	332	434	Non Use	Non Use	Non Use	252	82
Pete Goicoechea	510	100	150	293	311	292	90	203
TOTAL	1559	1128	1276	926	907	911	948	942

CORTA (#10033)

Permittee	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Paris Livestock	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128
TOTAL	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128

Browne (#05450)

Permittee	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Rother Farms (Main Field)	548	836	370	372	110	102	112	0	110	181*	75*	158
Rother Farms (Sadler Field)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	140*
TOTAL	548	836	370	372	110	102	112	0	110	181*	139*	298

* This represents permitted use.

APPENDIX IV: LIVESTOCK ACTUAL USE (AUMS) BY ALLOTMENT CONTINUED

Red Rock (#05452)

Pasture	Permittee	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Native	Paris Livestock	504	940	901	749	949	913	1162	1691	1225
	Merkley Ranches	1333	1247	2012	2115	1324	2763	2077	1996	1994
	W. Bailey	1492	1498	1498	1498	1300	1498	1503	1494	1493
Huntington Spray	Merkley Ranches	750*	831*	955	938	387	763	756	731	718
Red Rock Seeding	Merkley Ranches	913	870	789	892	846	772	813	696	706
TOTAL		3792	5386	6155	6192	4806	6709	6311	6608	6136

* This represents combined use by Merkley and Zunino (former permittee).

BLACK POINT (#10032)

Permittee	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Consolidated Land & Livestock	2,377 *	2,347 *	2,347 *	2,469 *	2,366 *	2,363 *	2,101 *	1,769	1,781
Larralde Sheep Company	2,692 *	0*	977*	2,314 *	882*	2,243	2,312	1,711	1,534
TOTAL	5,069	2,347	3,324	4,783	3,248	4,606	4,413	3,480	3,315

* Use made by previous permittees

DIAMOND SPRINGS (#10035)

Permittee	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
William and Reese Marshall	378*	952*	2,865 *	1,974 *	731*	876*	2,235	3,076	2,708
TOTAL	378	952	2,865	1,974	731	876	2,235	3,076	2,708

* Use made by previous permittees

APPENDIX IV: LIVESTOCK ACTUAL USE (AUMS) BY ALLOTMENT CONTINUED

SHANNON STATION (#10051)

Permittee	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
James Baumann	2,137	2,107	2,143	2,525	1,611	2,519 *	1,576 *	1,970	2,276
TOTAL	2,137	2,107	2,143	2,525	1,611	2,519	1,576	1,970	2,276

* Use made by previous permittees

SPANISH GULCH (#10054)

Permittee	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Larralde Sheep Company	647	647	647	647	647	647	592	446	642
TOTAL	647	647	647	647	647	647	592	446	642

THREE MILE (#10056)

Permittee	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Andrew Anderson	487*	766*	884*	596*	819*	805*	753*	0	750
TOTAL	487	766	884	596	819	805	753	0	750

* Use made by previous permittees

APPENDIX V: ACTUAL USE FOR ALL USERS

RAILROAD PASS ALLOTMENT

YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	SHEEP AUMS	HORSE AUMS	MULE DEER AUMS	TOTAL AUMS
1995	285	647	1,620	180	2,732
1994	342	606	1,680	190	2,818
1993	292	619	732	175	1,818
1992	311	596	1,596	150	2,653
1991	293	633	2,496	130	3,552
1990	584	692	2,304	110	3,690
1989	432	696	2,112	230	3,470
1988	967	592	1,620	250	3,429

Livestock period of use is 04/05 to 11/15.

The evaluation period for the Railroad Pass Allotment was from 1988 through 1995.

CORTA ALLOTMENT

YEAR	SHEEP AUMS	HORSE AUMS	MULE DEER AUMS	TOTAL AUMS
1996	128	0	160	288
1995	128	*	180	308
1994	128	0	190	318
1993	128	0	175	303
1992	128	*	150	278
1991	128	0	130	258
1990	128	*	110	238
1989	128	*	230	358
1988	128	96	250	474

Livestock period of use is spring, 05/01 to 05/30.

* No census of wild horses.

APPENDIX V: ACTUAL USE FOR ALL USERS CONTINUED

RED ROCK ALLOTMENT

YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	SHEEP AUMS	HORSE AUMS	MULE DEER AUMS	TOTAL AUMS
1996	4,911	1,225	1,116	521	7,773
1995	4,917	1,691	648	421	7,677
1994	5,149	1,162	666	330	7,307
1993	5,796	913	444	580	7,733
1992	3,857	949	1,020	844	6,670
1991	5,443	749	792	765	7,749
1990	5,254	901	373*	955	7,483
1989	4,121	940	324	1,079	6,464
1988	4,488	504	264	1,366	6,622

* No census flown in 1990. 15% increase added to 1989 census number to estimate actual use.
Livestock period of use is 04/15 to 11/15.

BROWNE ALLOTMENT (Main Field)

YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	HORSE AUMS	MULE DEER AUMS	TOTAL AUMS
1996	158	1,188	521	1,867
1995	75	648	421	1,144
1994	181	774	330	1,285
1993	110	520	580	1,210
1992	0	472	844	1,316
1991	112	336	765	1,213
1990	102	289	955	1,346
1989	110	252	1,079	1,441
1988	372	0	1,366	1,738
1987	370	0	991	1,361
1986	836	0	488	1,324
1985	548	0		

Livestock period of use is 05/16 to 09/15.

APPENDIX V: ACTUAL USE FOR ALL USERS CONTINUED
BLACK POINT ALLOTMENT

YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	SHEEP AUMS	HORSE AUMS	MULE DEER AUMS**	TOTAL AUMS
1996	1,781	1,534	1,920	2,075	7,310
1995	1,769	1,711	1,104 *	1,980	6,564
1994	2,101	2,312	960	1,895	7,268
1993	2,363	2,243	1,608	1,856	8,070
1992	2,366	882	966*	1,809	6,023
1991	2,469	2,314	840	1,959	7,582
1990	2,347	977	1,270 *	1,726	6,320
1989	2,347	0	1,104 *	1,840	5,291
1988	2,377	2,692	960	2,145	8,144

Livestock period of use is 05/01 to 10/31.

DIAMOND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT

YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	HORSE AUMS	MULE DEER AUMS**	TOTAL AUMS
1996	2,708	3,900	1,235	7,843
1995	3,076	3,091 *	1,178	7,345
1994	2,235	2,688	1,128	6,051
1993	876	1,848	1,105	3,829
1992	731	1,477 *	1,077	3,285
1991	1,974	1,284	1,166	4,424
1990	2,865	2,317 *	1,027	6,209
1989	925	2,015 *	1,095	4,035
1988	378	1,752	1,277	3,407

Livestock period of use is 03/01 - 12/31.

* No census data available, wild horse numbers estimated. A 15% increase was calculated from the previous year's data'to account for natural population expansion.

** Estimated Mule Deer AUMs from NDOW census. Approximately 75% of Area 14 deer located on Diamond Mountains and 65% of those are located on west side of Diamonds. Approximately 42% of deer on west side located in this allotment. Deer/AUM = 7 Calculated by using Cow/calf dry forage weight average use rate of 26 lbs per day divided by average deer dry forage use per day of 3.5 lbs per day = 7.43 rounded down to 7 deer/AUM.

*** Estimated Mule Deer AUMs from NDOW census. Approximately 75% of Area 14 deer located on Diamond Mountains and 65% of those are located on west side of Diamonds. Approximately 20% of deer on west side located in this allotment. Deer/AUM = 7 Calculated by using Cow/calf dry forage weight average use rate of 26 lbs per day divided by average deer dry forage use per day of 3.5 lbs per day = 7.43 rounded down to 7 deer/AUM.

APPENDIX V: ACTUAL USE FOR ALL USERS CONTINUED
SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT

YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	HORSE AUMS	MULE DEER AUMS**	TOTAL AUMS
1996	2,276	446	988	3,710
1995	1,970	*	943	2,913
1994	1,576	48	903	2,527
1993	2,519	12	884	3,415
1992	1,611	*	861	2,472
1991	2,525	60	933	3,518
1990	2,143	*	822	2,965
1989	2,107	*	876	2,983
1988	2,137	96	1,022	3,255

Livestock period of use is 04/01 to 02/28.

SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT

YEAR	SHEEP AUMS	HORSE AUMS	MULE DEER AUMS***	TOTAL AUMS
1996	642	0	198	840
1995	446	*	189	635
1994	592	0	181	773
1993	647	0	177	824
1992	647	*	172	819
1991	647	0	187	834
1990	647	*	164	811
1989	647	*	175	822
1988	647	24	205	876

Livestock period of use is 05/01 to 09/30.

* Wild horse numbers not censused.

** Estimated Mule Deer AUMs from NDOW census. Approximately 75% of Area 14 deer located on Diamond Mountains and 65% of those are located on west side of Diamonds. Approximately 20% of deer on west side located in this allotment. Deer/AUM = 7 Calculated by using Cow/calf dry forage weight average use rate of 26 lbs per day divided by average deer dry forage use per day of 3.5 lbs per day = 7.43 rounded down to 7 deer/AUM

*** Estimated Mule Deer AUMs from NDOW annual March/April census of Area 14. Approximately 75% of Area 14 deer located on Diamond Mountains and 65% of those are located on west side of Diamonds. Approximately 4% of deer on west side located in this allotment. Deer/AUM = 7 was calculated by using cow/calf dry forage weight average use rate of 26 lbs per day divided by average deer dry forage use per day of 3.5 lbs per day = 7.43 rounded down to 7 deer/AUM.

APPENDIX V: ACTUAL USE FOR ALL USERS CONTINUED

THREE MILE ALLOTMENT

YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	HORSE AUMS	MULE DEER AUMS**	TOTAL AUMS
1996	750	1,548	445	2,743
1995	0	*	424	424
1994	753	540	406	1,699
1993	805	120	398	1,323
1992	819	*	388	1,207
1991	596	132	420	1,148
1990	884	*	370	1,254
1989	766	*	394	1,160
1988	487	228	460	1,175

Livestock period of use is yearlong, 3/1 - 2/28.

* Wild horse numbers not censused

** Estimated Mule Deer AUMs from NDOW census. Approximately 75% of Area 14 deer located on Diamond Mountains and 65% of those are located on west side of Diamonds. Approximately 9% of deer on west side located in this allotment. Deer/AUM = 7 Calculated by using Cow/calf dry forage weight average use rate of 26 lbs per day divided by average deer dry forage use per day of 3.5 lbs per day = 7.43 rounded down to 7 deer/AUM

APPENDIX VI: LIST OF WILDLIFE SPECIES

Diamond Mountain Complex - Northeastern Nevada

Mammals

badger	*Taxidea taxus*
coyote	*Canis latrans*
least chipmunk	*Eutamias minimus*
deer Mouse	*Peromyscus maniculatus*
black-tailed jackrabbit	*Lepus californicus*
Townsend's ground squirrel	*Citellus townsendi*
Northern pocket gopher	*Thomomys talpoides*
little pocket mouse	*Perognathus longimembris*
Great Basin pocket mouse	*Perognathus parvus*
Ord's kangaroo Rat	*Dipodomys ordi*
Ssgebrush vole	*Lagurus curtatus*
White-tailed jackrabbit	*Lepus townsendi*
Nattall's cottontail	*Sylvilagus nuttalli*
Pygmy rabbit	*Sylvilagus idahoensis*
Richardson's ground squirrel	*Citellus richardsoni*
Belding's ground squirrel	*Citellus beldingi*
golden mantle ground squirrel	*Citellus lateralis*
pinyon mouse	*Peromyscus truei*
cliff chipmunk	*Eutamias dorsalis*
mountain lion	*Felis concolor*
bobcat	*Lynx rufus*
western spotted skunk	*Spilogale putorius*
kit fox	*Vulpes macrotis*
grey fox	*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*
weasel	*Mustela spp.*

Birds

northern goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*
ferruginous hawk	*Buteo regalis*
sage grouse	*Centrocercus urophasianus*
chukar partridge	*Alectoris chukar*
gray (Hungarian) partridge	*Perdix perdix*
mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*
golden eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*
red-tailed hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*
American kestrel	*Falco sparverius*
prairie falcon	*Falco mexicanus*
western kingbird	*Tyrannus verticalis*
horned lark	*Eremophila alpestris*
American crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*
common raven	*Corvus corax*
sage thrasher	*Oreoscoptes montanus*
loggerhead shrike	*Lanius ludovicianus*
Brewer's sparrow	*Spizella breweri*
Vesper sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*
lark sparrow	*Chondestes grammacus*

Diamond Mountain Complex List of Wildlife Species(cont'd)

blue grouse	*Dendragapus obscurus*
western meadowlark	*Sturnella neglecta*
Swainson's hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*
American rough-legged hawk	*Buteo lagopus*
northern harrier	*Circus cyaneus*
Cooper's hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*
sharp-shinned hawk	*Accipiter striatus*
burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia*
great horned owl	*Bubo virginianus*
western screech owl	*Otus kennicottii*
barn owl	*Tyto alba*
Northern saw-whet owl	*Aegolius acadicus*
long-eared owl	*Asio otus*
short-eared owl	*Asio flammeus*
pinyon jay	*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*
magpies	*Pica pica*
turkey vultures	*Cathartes aura*
American kestrel	Falco sparverius

Reptiles

western whiptail	*Cnemidorphorus tigrus*
desert collared lizard	*Crotaphytus insularis*
long-nosed leopard lizard	*Crotaphytus wislizenii*
sagebrush lizard	*Sceloporus graciosus*
western fence lizard	*Sceloporus occidentalis*
side-blotched lizard	*Uta stansburiana*
desert horned lizard	*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*
short-horned lizard	*Phrynosoma douglassi*
long-nosed snake	*Rhioncheilus lecontei*
night snake	*Hypsiglena torquata*
gopher snake	*Pituophis melanoleucus*
striped whipsnake	*Masticophis taeniatus*
western rattlesnake	*Crotalus viridis*
eastern fence lizard	*Sceloporus undulatus*
spadefoot toad	*Scaphiopus spp.*

APPENDIX VII: INDIVIDUAL ALLOTMENT PROFILES:

Red Rock and Browne Allotments:

The Red Rock and Browne Allotments are directly adjacent to one another and located in the northern portion of the Diamond Mountain Evaluation Area. They are located in and administered from the Elko planning area. Both of these allotments are located just west of state route 228 approximately 40 miles south of Elko, Nevada (refer to map 1). The town of Jiggs, Nevada is situated 10 to 15 miles northeast of the allotments and Huntington Creek borders them to the east.

The Red Rock Allotment is comprised of three pastures. The Native Pasture and the Red Rock Seeding Pasture are on the West side of state route 228 and the Huntington Spray Pasture is located on the east side of state route 228 (See Map 3). The Browne Allotment is comprised of the Main Field on the west side of state route 228 and the Sadler Field that is much smaller and located on the east side of state route 228 (see map 3).

Terrain of the Red Rock Allotment is quite variable in topography with elevations that vary from 5,600 feet to 6,350 feet. While some areas of these allotments are mountainous, the predominant land features within them would be described as rolling hills, benches and flats.

Most of the Red Rock Allotment is in a deep loam native condition that is dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, antelope bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, Thurber needlegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, and bluegrass (Native Pasture). The other two pastures of the allotment are seeded to a dominance of crested wheatgrass (Red Rock Seeding and Huntington Spray Pastures). Both fields of the Browne Allotment are in a deep loam native condition that is dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, Thurber needlegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass and bluegrass.

Railroad Pass Allotment:

The Railroad Pass Allotment is located and administered out of the Egan planning area. The Railroad Pass Allotment (0601) is a category "I" allotment located on the east side of the Diamond Mountain Evaluation Area. There are approximately 28,840 acres of federal land and 160 acres of private land. The main ridge of the Diamond Mountains forms a natural boundary on the west side of the allotment; the north, south and east sides are completely fenced. There are three seedings located on the allotment; two of the seedings consist of old burns which were rehabilitated and

the third was disced and seeded. The third seeding referred to as the Corta Seeding is completely fenced: Pete Paris has exclusive grazing privileges within the seeding. Map illustrates the general location of the allotment within the Egan Planning Area and Map 3 depicts approximate allotment boundaries.

Black Point, Corta, Diamond Springs, Shannon Station, Spanish Gulch, and Three Mile Allotments:

The Battle Mountain District's allotments cover approximately 188,539 public acres north of Eureka, Nevada (see map 3). All of these allotments lie entirely within the borders of Eureka County. Additionally, the allotments' contain the Diamond wild horse herd management area. This herd management area covers 130,739 (70%) of the allotments' acres. The allotments terrain vary from the Diamond Valley's level floor to the Diamond Mountain's steep western slopes. Elevations range from about 5,845 feet on the valley's bottom to 10,614 feet on Diamond Peak's summit. Climate is generally characterized by warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Average annual precipitation is around 10 inches and varies from 5 to 16 inches at the lower and higher elevations respectively. Basin big sagebrush dominates lowland vegetation with understories containing Sandberg's bluegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, and Indian ricegrass. Pinyon/Juniper communities generally cover alluvial fans and hills, and give way to occasional Cottonwood/Aspen stands near the allotments' riparian areas. Higher mountains contain shrubby overstories of mountain big sagebrush, snowberry, serviceberry, bitterbrush, and curlleaf mountain mahogany with understories of bluebunch wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, and needlegrass species.

APPENDIX VIII: NORTHEASTERN GREAT BASIN AREA STANDARDS AS DEVELOPED BY THE NORTHEASTEN RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

STANDARD 1. UPLAND SITES:

Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and land form.

As indicated by:

- Indicators are canopy and ground cover, including litter, live vegetation and rock, appropriate to the potential of the site.

a. Applicable Land Use Plan (RMP/ROD) objectives:

(1) Establish utilization limits to maintain watershed cover, plant vigor and soil fertility in consideration of plant phenology, physiology, terrain water availability, wildlife needs, grazing systems and aesthetic values. [Watershed - Egan, ROD]

(2) Maintain or improve the condition of the public rangelands to enhance productivity for all rangeland values. [Elko, RMP]

(3) In the long term, improve ecological condition of 585,191 acres to good condition, and 25,990 acres to excellent condition. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

(4) In the long term, stop downward trends in ecological condition on 464,873 acres and manage for upward trends on 634,868 acres. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

b. Applicable Range Program Summary Objective

Maintain or enhance native vegetation with utilization levels not to exceed 50% on the key species. [Elko RPS, Red Rock and Brown Allotments]

Maintain or improve current ecological condition on the remainder of the native range, with utilization levels not to exceed Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook recommended allowable use levels which for perennial grass species is 50%. [Egan RPS, Railroad Pass Allotment]

Utilization not to exceed 50% on key species by seed dissemination, and 60% by the end of the

grazing year. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS; Black Point, Corta, Diamond Springs, Shannon Station, Spanish Gulch, Three Mile Allotments]

In the short term, improve 138 acres of riparian habitat within the Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area to good condition. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, Diamond Springs and Black Point Allotments]

In the short term, within the Diamond Valley Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 35 acres of riparian/waterfowl habitat to good condition. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Valley Habitat Management Plan Area, Diamond Springs Allotment]

In the long term, within the Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 8,246 acres of terrestrial big game habitat to good, and 375 acres to excellent condition. Manage for upward trends on 8,996 acres. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, Black Point Allotment]

In the long term, within the Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 3,136 acres of terrestrial big game habitat to good, and 523 acres to excellent condition. Manage for upward trends on 3,920 acres. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, Diamond Springs Allotment]

In the long term, within the Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 3,656 acres of terrestrial big game habitat to good, and 199 acres to excellent condition. Manage for upward trends on 4,021 acres. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, Shannon Station and Spanish Gulch Allotments]

In the long term, within the Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 2,004 acres of terrestrial big game habitat to good, and 23 acres to excellent condition. Manage for upward trends on 2,097 acres. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, Three Mile Allotment]

In the long term, within the Diamond Valley Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 40 acres of riparian/waterfowl habitat to good condition.

[Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Valley Habitat Management Plan Area, Diamond Springs Allotment]

STANDARD 2. RIPARIAN AND WETLAND SITES:

Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.

As indicated by:

- Stream side riparian areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, large woody debris, or rock is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows. Elements indicating proper functioning condition such as avoiding accelerating erosion, capturing sediment, and providing for groundwater recharge and release are determined by the following measurements as appropriate to the site characteristics:

- Width/Depth ratio; Channel roughness; Sinuosity of stream channel; Bank stability;
Vegetative cover (amount, spacing, life form); and
Other cover (large woody debris, rock).

- Natural springs, seeps, and marsh areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation is present to facilitate water retention, filtering, and release as indicated by plant species and cover appropriate to the site characteristics.

- Chemical, physical and biological water constituents are not exceeding the state water quality standards.

a. Bureau of Land Management, National Riparian Objective

Restore and maintain riparian - wetland areas so that 75 percent or more are in proper functioning condition by 1997. The overall objective is to achieve an advanced ecological status, except where resource management objectives, including proper functioning condition, would require and earlier successional stage.

b. Nevada State Riparian Objective

Manage riparian areas to enhance riparian area dependent resources such as vegetation, water quality, erosion protection, and wildlife and fisheries habitat. The overall goal of riparian management in Nevada is to maintain, restore or improve riparian areas to achieve proper function

condition (good or better habitat condition) by the year 2010.

c. Applicable Land Use Plan Objectives

Conserve and enhance terrestrial, riparian and aquatic wildlife habitat. [Wildlife/Fisheries Riparian - Elko, RMP]

Establish utilization limits to maintain watershed cover, plant vigor and soil fertility in consideration of plant phenology, physiology, terrain water availability, wildlife needs, grazing systems and aesthetic values. [Watershed - Egan, ROD]

In the short term, improve and maintain in good or better condition, 64 mile of aquatic habitat and 768 acres of riparian habitat associated with the streams and an additional 1,067 acres of other meadows, springs, and aspen groves. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

In the long term, improve and maintain in good or better condition, a total of 84.8 miles of aquatic habitat and 1,018 acres of riparian habitat associated with the streams and an additional 1,414 acres of other meadows, springs, and aspen groves. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

To improve priority riparian and stream habitat to good or better condition and prevent decline of remaining areas. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

To improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

d. Range Program Summary Objectives

Maintain habitat condition of meadows and riparian areas in good or better condition for mule deer and upland game. Maintain .25 miles of stream riparian in good or better condition. [Egan RPS, Railroad Pass Allotment]

Improve and maintain meadow and riparian areas for mule deer and sage grouse, and native trout Huntington Creek. [Elko RPS, Red Rock Allotment][1]

Improve and maintain meadow and riparian areas for mule deer and sage grouse. [Elko RPS, Browne Allotment]

Utilization levels will not exceed 50 percent on

meadows and riparian areas.
[Elko RPS, Red Rock and Browne Allotments]

Utilization of riparian habitat to be improved will not exceed 30% of key species. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Black Point Allotment]

In the short term, improve 5.4 miles of riparian/aquatic habitat to good condition on the following streams: 3.2 miles of Cottonwood Creek, 2.2 miles of Hildebrand Creek including 65 acres of associated riparian habitat and 100 acres of other riparian habitat in the allotment. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Black Point Allotment]

Utilization of riparian habitat to be improved will not exceed 50% on key species. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Diamond Springs Allotment]

In the short term, improve 138 acres of riparian habitat within the Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area to good condition. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, Diamond Springs and Black Point Allotments]

In the short term, within the Diamond Valley Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 35 acres of riparian/waterfowl habitat to good condition. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Valley Habitat Management Plan Area, Diamond Springs Allotment]

In the long term, within the Diamond Valley Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 40 acres of riparian/waterfowl habitat to good condition. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Valley Habitat Management Plan Area, Diamond Springs Allotment]

[1] The Elko RPS objective to improve and maintain meadow and riparian areas for native trout on Huntington Creek has been deleted for the following reasons: 1) no native trout currently exist in Huntington Creek and there are no plans to reestablish native trout; and 2) Huntington Creek is almost exclusively privately owned; the only portion on public land in the Red Rock Allotment is limited to a water gap in the Huntington Seeding Pasture.

STANDARD 3. HABITAT:

Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive, and diverse

population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.

As indicated by:

- Vegetation composition (relative abundance of species);
- Vegetation structure (life forms, cover, height, or age class);
- Vegetation distribution (patchiness, corridors);
- Vegetation productivity; and Vegetation nutritional value.

a. Applicable Land Use Plan (RMP/ROD) objectives:

(1) Livestock

Maintain or improve the condition of the public rangelands to enhance productivity for all rangeland values. [Elko, RMP]

All vegetation will be managed for those successional stages which would best meet the objective of this proposed plan. [Rangeland Management - Egan, ROD]

Manage livestock use at 239,717 animal unit months (AUMs) (5-year average use) in the short term and determine if such use can be maintained. In the long term, manage livestock at 262,500 AUMs. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

To establish a grazing management program designed to provide key forage plants with adequate rest from grazing during critical growth periods. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

To achieve, through management of livestock and wild horses, utilization levels consistent with those recommended by the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook to allow more plants to complete growth cycles and to increase storage of reserves for future growth. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

(2) Wild Horses

Manage wild horses populations and habitat in the established herd areas consistent with other resource uses. [Elko, RMP]

Wild horses will be managed at a total of 36 animals within the Diamond Hills South HMA. [Egan, ROD]

Manage viable herds of sound, healthy wild horses in a wild and free-roaming state. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

Initially manage wild horse populations at existing numbers based on 1982 aerial counts and determine if this level of use can be maintained. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

Manage wild horses within the areas which constituted their habitat at the time the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act became law in 1971. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

(3) Wildlife

Habitat will be managed for reasonable numbers of wildlife species as determined be the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Forage will be provided for reasonable numbers of wildlife species as determined by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. [Egan, ROD]

To maintain and improve wildlife habitat and to reduce habitat conflicts while providing for other appropriate resource uses. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

To provide habitat sufficient to allow big game populations to achieve reasonable numbers in the long term. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

To improve and maintain habitat for state listed sensitive species and federally listed threatened or endangered species. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

In the long term, improve and maintain 133,075 acres of big game habitat in good condition and 6,104 acres in excellent condition. [Shoshone/Eureka, ROD]

In the long term, stop downward trends on 65,702 acres of big game habitat and manage for upward trends on 144,186 acres. [Shoshone/Eureka amendment, ROD]

[Note: BLM sensitive species has been added to the above statement due to the removal of 264 former candidate species from the FWS listing on February 28, 1996. BLM's policy states that 'in order to ensure that actions authorized, funded or carried out by the Bureau do not contribute to the need to list any of these species as threatened or endangered, former candidate species removed from the list, will be placed on the BLM's sensitive species list until such time as a species by species review can be completed.']

b. Applicable Range Program Summary Objectives

(1) Livestock

Short Term:

Maintain or enhance native vegetation with utilization levels not to exceed 50% on the key species. [Elko RPS, Red Rock and Browne Allotments]

Maintain or improve current ecological condition on the remainder of the native range, with utilization levels not to exceed Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook recommended allowable use levels which for perennial grass species is 50%. [Egan RPS, Railroad Pass Allotment]

Utilization not to exceed 50% on key species by seed dissemination, and 60% by the end of the grazing year. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS; Black Point, Corta, Diamond Springs, Shannon Station, Spanish Gulch and Three Mile Allotments]

Existing Use: 4,633 AUMs, cattle and sheep. In the short term, manage use at 4,633. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Black Point Allotment]

Existing Use: 103 AUMs, cattle. In the short term, manage use at 103 AUMs. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Corta Allotment]

Existing Use: 3,179 AUMs, cattle. In the short term, manage use at 3,179 AUMs. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Diamond Springs Allotment]

Existing Use: 2,848 AUMs, cattle and sheep. In the short term, manage use at 2,848 AUMs. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Shannon Station and Spanish Gulch Allotments]

Existing Use: 1,001 AUMs, cattle. In the short term, manage use at 1,001 AUMs. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Three Mile Allotment]

Long Term:

Provide forage to sustain 7,792 AUMs for livestock grazing. Improve ecological status from mid to late seral of 254 acres. Maintain or enhance the current livestock forage values on native range. Maintain or enhance the current livestock forage values on non-native range. [Elko RPS, Red Rock Allotment]

Provide forage to sustain 1,409 AUMs for livestock grazing. Improve ecological status on 2,425 acres. [Elko RPS, Browne Allotment]

Provide forage for up to 943 AUMs of livestock use. Maintain the Corta and Burn Seedings in good or better condition. Improve ecological condition of low productivity/high potential big sagebrush dominated vegetation types on approximately 1/3 allotment. [Egan RPS, Railroad Pass Allotment].

In the long term, improve 8,903 acres to good, and 400 acres to excellent condition. In the long term, manage use at 5,050 AUMs in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. In the long term, manage for upward trends on 9,703 acres. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Black Point Allotment]

In the long term, improve 6,271 acres to good, and 1,045 acres to excellent condition. In the long term, manage for upward trends, on 7,839 acres. In the long term, manage use at 3,465 AUMs in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Diamond Springs Allotment]

In the long term, improve 6,414 acres to good, and 350 acres to excellent condition. In the long term, manage for upward trends on 7,056 acres. In the long term, manage use at 3,242 AUMs in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Shannon Station and Spanish Gulch Allotments]

In the long term, improve 5,727 acres to good, and 67 acres to excellent condition. In the long term, stop downward trends on 1,333 acres, and manage for upward trends on 5,994 acres. In the long term, manage use at 1,392 AUMs in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS, Three Mile Allotment]

(2) Wild horses

Short Term:

Maintain or improve current ecological condition on the remainder of the native range, with utilization levels not to exceed Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook recommended allowable use levels which for perennial grass species is 50%. [Egan RPS, Railroad Pass Allotment]

Long Term :

Provide habitat and forage for approximately 38 horses (453 AUMs) within the Diamond Hills South HMA. [Egan RPS, Railroad Pass Allotment]

Maintain management levels at 37 horses (444 AUMS) within the Red Rock Allotment portion of the Diamond Hills HMA. [Elko RPS, Red Rock Allotment]

Maintain management levels at 13 horses (156 AUMs) within the Browne Allotment portion of the Diamond Hills HMA. [Elko RPS, Browne Allotment]

Manage for a wild horse herd size which will maintain a thriving ecological balance consistent with other multiple uses while remaining within the wild horse herd area.[Elko amended RPS, Browne and Red Rock Allotments]

Initially manage to provide 972 AUMs of forage for 81 horses within the Diamond Herd Management Area, 39.6% is within this allotment. [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS, Black Point Allotment]

Initially manage to provide 48 AUMs of forage for 4 horses within the Diamond Herd Management Area, 1.7% of the herd management area is within this allotment. [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS, Corta Allotment]

Initially manage to provide 840 AUMs of forage for 70 horses within the Diamond Herd Management Area, 34.1% of the herd management area is within this allotment. [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS, Diamond Springs Allotment]

Initially manage to provide 180 AUMs of forage for 15 horses within the Diamond Herd Management Area, 7.5% of the herd management area is within this allotment. [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS,

Shannon Station and Spanish Spring Allotments]

Initially manage to provide 372 AUMs of forage for 31 horses within the Diamond Herd Management Area, 15% of the herd management area is in this allotment. [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS, Three Mile Allotment]

Maintain or improve wild horse habitat in a condition which enhances or preserves their wild and free-roaming behavior, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. (For example, the absence of fences which disrupt normal distribution and movement patterns.) [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS, Black Point, Diamond Springs, Shannon Station, Spanish Gulch and Three Mile Allotments]

Maintain or improve wild horse habitat by ensuring free access to water, in conformance with other objectives for the RMP. [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS, Black Point, Diamond Springs, Shannon Station, Spanish Gulch and Three Mile Allotments]

(3) Wildlife

Short Term:

Maintain or improve current ecological condition on the remainder of the native range, with utilization levels not to exceed Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook recommended allowable use levels which for perennial grass species is 50%. [Egan RPS, Railroad Pass Allotment]

Protect ferruginous hawk nest sites by limiting utilization to 50% on winterfat flats within two miles of nest sites. [Egan RPS, Railroad Pass Allotment]

Utilization levels will not exceed 50 percent on meadows and riparian areas. [Elko RPS, Red Rock and Browne Allotments]

Utilization of key browse species not to exceed 50% in terrestrial big game habitat areas. [Shoshone/Eureka RPS; Black Point, Diamond Springs, Shannon Station, Spanish Gulch, Three Mile Allotments]

Long Term:

Manage rangeland habitat and forage condition to support reasonable numbers of wildlife, as follows: deer 682 AUMs. [Egan RPS, Railroad Pass Allotment]

Manage rangeland habitat and forage condition to support 488 AUMs for reasonable numbers of mule deer. [Elko RPS, Red Rock Allotment]

Manage rangeland habitat and forage condition to support 83 AUMs for reasonable numbers of mule deer. [Elko RPS, Browne Allotment]

Maintain or improve to at least good condition all mule deer crucial habitat. [Elko RPS, Red Rock and Browne Allotments]

Protect sage grouse breeding complexes by maintaining the big sagebrush sites within two miles of active strutting grounds of mid-late seral stage with a minimum of 30% shrub component by weight.[Egan RPS, Railroad Pass Allotment]

Manage rangeland to protect or enhance crucial sage grouse strutting or nesting habitat. [Elko RPS, Red Rock and Browne Allotments]

Improve and maintain meadow and riparian areas for mule deer and sage grouse, and native trout Huntington Creek. [Elko RPS, Red Rock Allotment]

Improve and maintain meadow and riparian areas for mule deer and sage grouse. [Elko RPS, Browne Allotment]

Existing big game use (AUMs): 2,450. In the long term, provide habitat to support 1,979 AUMs (forage needs for reasonable numbers) of big game use, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS, Black Point Allotment]

Existing big game use (AUMs): 1,433. In the long term, provide habitat to support 1,158 AUMs (forage needs for reasonable numbers) of big game use, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS, Diamond Springs Allotment]

Existing big game use (AUMs): 1,391. In the long

term, provide habitat to support 1,135 AUMs (forage needs for reasonable numbers) of big game use, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS, Shannon Station and Spanish Gulch Allotments]

Existing big game use (AUMs): 496. In the long term, provide habitat to support 401 AUMs (forage needs for reasonable numbers) of big game use, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS, Three Mile Allotment]

Manage rangeland habitat to maintain or enhance sagegrouse strutting and nesting areas, in conformance with other objectives of the RMP. [Shoshone/Eureka Diamond Hills RPS, Black Point, Diamond Springs, Shannon Station, Spanish Gulch and Three Mile Allotments]

In the long term, within the Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 8,246 acres of terrestrial big game habitat to good, and 375 acres to excellent condition. Manage for upward trends on 8,996 acres. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, Black Point Allotment]

In the long term, within the Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 3,136 acres of terrestrial big game habitat to good, and 523 acres to excellent condition. Manage for upward trends on 3,920 acres. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, Diamond Springs Allotment]

In the long term, within the Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 3,656 acres of terrestrial big game habitat to good, and 199 acres to excellent condition. Manage for upward trends on 4,021 acres. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, Shannon Station and Spanish Gulch Allotments]

In the long term, within the Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, improve 2,004 acres of terrestrial big game habitat to good, and 23 acres to excellent condition. Manage for upward trends on 2,097 acres. [Shoshone/Eureka, RPS, Diamond Hills Habitat Management Plan Area, Three Mile Allotment]

STANDARD 4. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

Land use plans will recognize cultural resources within the context of multiple use.

The RPS objectives may be applicable to more than one of the standards.

Note: RPS - Rangeland Program Summary
ROD - Record of Decision
RMP - Resource Management Plan

APPENDIX IX: PRECIPITATION DATA

Elko Airport

Calendar Year	Total Precipitation	Crop Year	Crop Year Precipitation	CYI
1985	7.3	1984-85	6.49	0.72
1986	6.08	1985-86	9.12	1.1
1987	8.62	1986-87	6.17	0.67
1988	6.72	1987-88	6.69	0.74
1989	7.88	1988-89	7.98	0.93
1990	10.06	1989-90	8.52	1.01
1991	7.85	1990-91	7.25	0.83
1992	7.56	1991-92	6.85	0.77
1993	7.66	1992-93	9.17	1.1
1994	8.32	1993-94	5.88	0.63
1995	11.46	1994-95	12.71	1.06
1996	15.24	1995-96	10.86	1.34

PRECIPITATION TOTALS BY MONTH FOR ELKO MUNICIPAL AIRPORT REPORTING STATION:

	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
JAN		1.56	0.32	1.98	0.17	0.49	0.97	0.46
FEB		0.33	1.11	0.93	0.75	0.46	0.78	0.93
MAR		2.04	0.15	0.68	1.64	0.62	1.07	2.39
APR		1.15	1.11	0.24	0.02	0.86	1.51	0.28
MAY		2.35	1.68	0.44	0.40	1.71	0.96	0.36
JUN		1.66	0.00	1.43	0.67	0.06	0.97	0.50
JULY		0.24	0.22	0.36	0.27	0.20	0.19	0.18
AUG		0.02	0.11	0.09	0.17	0.25	0.56	0.52
SEPT		0.31	0.79	0.46	0.01	0.58	0.15	0.69
OCT		0.00	0.52	0.76	0.54	1.29	0.07	0.27
NOV		0.39	1.61	0.07	1.03	1.29	0.98	0.79
DEC		1.41	0.70	0.22	1.89	0.04	1.22	0.51
TOTAL		11.46	8.32	7.66	7.56	7.85	9.43	7.88

Elko Municipal Airport precipitation data continued.

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981
JAN	1.27	0.54	0.18	0.54	0.57	1.73	0.82	0.64
FEB	0.06	0.68	1.86	0.15	0.80	1.34	0.65	0.33
MAR	0.04	1.13	0.52	1.09	1.25	1.91	1.94	1.20
APR	0.46	0.26	1.17	0.23	1.00	1.28	0.50	0.75
MAY	0.91	1.80	0.75	0.60	0.24	0.60	1.04	0.80
JUN	0.58	m	0.39	0.17	1.29	0.47	0.54	0.24
JULY	0.08	0.14	0.12	0.25	1.04	0.01	0.69	0.02
AUG	0.26	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.46	1.25	1.24	0.19
SEPT	0.11	0.09	0.81	1.17	0.11	1.57	2.55	0.13
OCT	0.00	0.55	0.04	0.16	1.75	1.21	1.11	0.69
NOV	1.94	1.97	0.13	2.14	1.40	2.76	1.78	0.60
DEC	1.01	0.76	0.09	0.78	0.45	4.21	0.86	3.19
TOTAL	6.72		6.08	7.30	10.36	18.34	13.72	8.78

	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973
JAN	3.11	1.91	0.68	0.30	0.35	1.79	0.61	1.17
FEB	1.89	1.20	0.97	0.26	0.68	1.06	0.38	0.96
MAR	0.77	0.59	1.88	0.13	0.25	2.37	0.86	0.56
APR	1.22	0.43	1.98	0.18	0.65	1.70	0.58	0.88
MAY	3.15	0.42	0.25	1.44	0.50	0.98	0.00	0.70
JUN	0.80	0.38	0.18	1.03	0.64	0.40	0.00	0.56
JULY	0.33	0.32	0.58	0.22	0.44	0.15	0.19	0.46
AUG	0.10	0.36	0.02	0.77	0.91	0.10	0.12	0.29
SEPT	0.42	0.25	3.22	0.26	1.84	0.18	0.00	0.18
OCT	0.19	0.43	0.25	0.01	0.58	1.42	1.16	0.64
NOV	0.62	1.10	0.61	0.96	0.26	0.94	0.34	1.40
DEC	0.21	0.35	0.52	0.90	0.00	0.25	0.53	1.30
TOTAL	12.81	7.74	11.14	6.46	7.10	11.34	4.77	9.10

Elko Municipal Airport precipitation data continued.

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965
JAN	0.39	0.58	2.36	1.24	1.16	1.00	0.24	0.84
FEB	0.57	1.03	0.40	1.76	1.45	0.08	0.37	0.31
MAR	0.56	0.53	0.50	0.35	1.12	1.79	0.26	0.44
APR	0.36	0.96	0.37	0.28	0.53	0.87	0.64	1.81
MAY	0.16	4.09	0.37	0.27	1.15	0.84	0.55	1.08
JUN	1.46	1.01	1.29	2.11	2.60	1.19	0.36	1.21
JULY	0.00	0.21	0.48	0.25	0.04	1.03	0.69	0.62
AUG	0.29	0.98	4.61	0.00	1.94	0.08	0.52	1.31
SEPT	1.01	0.74	0.52	0.17	0.36	0.21	0.44	0.20
OCT	1.92	0.74	0.64	1.11	0.79	0.27	0.02	0.63
NOV	0.98	1.23	1.32	0.34	1.56	0.60	0.58	1.96
DEC	0.77	1.57	1.70	1.83	1.93	0.66	1.83	0.76
TOTAL	8.47	13.67	14.56	9.71	14.63	8.62	6.50	11.17

Average annual precipitation 1966-1995 (29 years, 1 year had missing data) 9.59 inches.

PRECIPITATION TOTALS BY MONTH FOR ELY YELLAND FIELD REPORTING STATION:

	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
JAN		m	0.59	2.08	0.52	0.11	0.59	0.35
FEB		0.70	1.09	1.42	0.68	0.17	1.31	0.50
MAR		m	0.96	1.15	1.35	1.70	0.79	0.61
APR		1.57	1.76	0.24	0.14	0.57	1.14	0.00
MAY		2.85	1.03	0.88	0.53	2.81	1.55	1.36
JUN		1.53	0.00	1.17	0.83	0.35	0.82	1.01
JULY		0.01	0.05	0.32	1.37	0.31	0.32	0.59
AUG		1.38	0.61	0.78	1.70	0.91	0.20	1.25
SEPT		0.15	0.97	0.15	0.25	1.32	0.64	0.46
OCT		0.46	0.46	1.03	1.26	0.98	0.67	0.30
NOV		0.01	m	0.69	0.25	0.48	0.42	0.15
DEC		0.45	m	0.15	0.90	0.27	0.31	0.02
TOTAL		m	m	10.06	9.78	9.98	8.76	6.60

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981
JAN	1.22	0.76	0.29	0.49	0.36	1.41	m	0.77
FEB	0.12	0.61	0.75	0.42	0.39	1.33	0.31	0.16
MAR	0.29	0.91	1.47	1.07	1.09	1.18	2.07	1.32
APR	1.62	0.33	1.32	0.17	0.94	1.87	0.72	1.10
MAY	0.62	2.35	0.51	1.33	0.35	0.38	1.57	2.02
JUN	0.62	0.15	0.02	0.43	0.63	2.28	0.05	0.15
JULY	0.15	2.30	0.09	0.58	2.18	0.09	0.58	0.24
AUG	1.41	1.21	1.24	0.00	2.01	2.51	1.41	0.07
SEPT	0.15	0.05	1.42	1.82	3.73	0.88	4.99	0.36
OCT	0.40	1.43	1.24	1.44	1.41	0.50	1.28	3.67
NOV	1.24	1.53	0.18	1.55	0.99	0.96	1.03	0.17
DEC	0.82	0.67	0.07	0.59	0.76	1.45	0.46	0.26
TOTAL	8.66	12.30	8.60	9.89	14.84	14.84	m	10.29

Ely Yelland Field precipitation data continued.

	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973
JAN	1.55	0.89	0.64	0.39	0.38	0.74	0.41	1.34
FEB	1.08	0.59	1.27	0.09	1.51	0.76	0.29	0.71
MAR	1.57	1.07	2.00	0.74	0.77	1.59	0.67	2.17
APR	0.51	0.22	3.41	0.17	0.77	1.20	0.18	0.20
MAY	2.55	1.44	0.45	3.26	0.45	1.48	0.30	0.38
JUN	0.72	0.15	0.00	0.49	0.34	0.31	0.00	1.14
JULY	0.76	1.27	0.19	0.49	1.57	1.04	0.29	0.43
AUG	0.35	0.58	0.23	1.59	0.16	0.51	0.02	2.06
SEPT	1.65	0.07	1.33	0.50	0.66	0.55	0.01	0.07
OCT	0.37	0.76	0.82	0.33	1.48	0.91	1.54	0.88
NOV	0.55	0.28	1.42	0.24	0.16	0.29	0.23	1.10
DEC	1.12	0.07	0.71	0.90	0.00	0.39	0.28	0.75
TOTAL	12.78	7.39	12.47	9.19	8.25	9.77	4.22	11.23

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965
JAN	0.17	0.63	0.11	1.24	0.15	1.86	0.23	0.46
FEB	0.01	0.57	0.14	2.19	0.92	0.10	0.31	0.64
MAR	0.07	0.20	0.59	0.41	0.67	0.37	0.16	0.46
APR	0.88	1.31	1.55	0.98	1.26	1.38	0.16	0.74
MAY	0.32	2.89	0.01	0.28	1.00	3.05	0.46	0.54
JUN	0.83	0.09	1.09	2.80	1.12	2.83	0.14	1.25
JULY	0.17	0.17	1.81	0.55	1.32	0.84	0.16	1.12
AUG	0.47	0.25	1.45	0.34	1.04	0.41	0.61	1.52
SEPT	1.82	0.39	0.45	0.37	0.10	2.23	1.34	1.56
OCT	1.02	1.08	0.23	0.91	1.44	0.13	0.10	0.27
NOV	0.14	0.59	1.69	0.79	0.22	0.84	0.30	0.93
DEC	0.69	1.25	1.57	0.59	0.79	0.69	2.11	1.28
TOTAL	6.59	9.42	10.69	11.45	10.03	14.73	6.08	10.77

Average annual precipitation 1966-1995 (27 years, 3 years had missing data) 9.96 inches.

PRECIPITATION TOTALS BY MONTH FOR DIAMOND VALLEY USDA REPORTING STATION

	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
JAN		1.68	.48	1.42	.20	.25	.65	m
FEB		.23	.98	m	.19	.57	1.01	.46
MAR		2.70	.88	.54	2.14	1.07	1.39	1.37
APR		1.67	1.20	.11	0.00	.60	1.10	.02
MAY		3.09	1.17	.64	.06	2.75	1.39	.56
JUN		1.83	0.00	.98	.99	.33	.89	.80
JULY		.69	.08	.40	.96	.03	1.05	.96
AUG		1.06	.83	.06	.25	1.70	1.57	.67
SEPT		1.04	.31	.25	.48	1.20	.71	.34
OCT		0.00	.38	1.48	.49	.69	.28	.86
NOV		.14	m	.08	.56	m	.29	.45
DEC		1.14	.73	.28	.50	.82	.53	.04
TOTAL		15.27	7.04 m	6.24 m	6.82	10.01 m	10.86	6.53 m

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981
JAN	1.31	.11	.43	.72	.34	1.59	.85	.29
FEB	0.00	.64	m	.28	.19	.53	.36	m
MAR	0.22	1.39	2.39	.99	.90	1.05	1.56	m
APR	1.06	.07	.68	.11	.76	1.53	.36	.32
MAY	1.91	4.83	m	0.00	.39	.11	1.04	1.74
JUN	0.73	.31	.05	.38	1.11	1.78	.77	.20
JULY	0.62	.47	.95	.24	1.61	.01	1.04	.01
AUG	0.69	.01	m	0.00	.77	4.60	1.98	.09
SEPT	0.67	0.00	.23	m	.26	.98	3.38	.15
OCT	0.46	1.05	1.12	.59	1.19	1.50	.98	1.39
NOV	1.06	2.87	.03	1.71	.43	1.20	.49	.04
DEC	0.49	.67	m	.09	m	2.05	.22	.69
TOTAL	9.22	12.42	5.88 m	5.11 m	7.95 m	16.93	13.03	4.92 m

Diamond Valley USDA precipitation continued.

	1980	1979	1978
JAN	1.32	m	
FEB	0.54	m	
MAR	0.54	m	
APR	0.28	m	
MAY	3.60	m	
JUN	0.58	m	
JULY	1.07	m	
AUG	0.25	1.23	
SEPT	1.58	m	
OCT	0.00	.58	
NOV	m	.27	
DEC	m	m	
TOTAL	9.76 m	m	

APPENDIX X: DESIRED STOCKING RATE ANALYSIS

The desired stocking level for the Railroad Pass Allotment was determined using the following formula (BLM Technical Reference 4400-7):

$$\frac{\text{Active Use (AUMs)}}{\text{Adjusted Utilization}} = \frac{\text{Desired Actual Use (AUMs)}}{\text{Desired Utilization}}$$

Livestock use and utilization data were collected on the Railroad Pass, Browne (Main Field), and Red Rock Allotments between 1986 and 1994. Precipitation data was used in the formulation of a yield index (BLM Technical Reference 4400-7, Appendix 3). Wild horse use was estimated from aerial census data and field observations. A stocking rate was calculated for each year. The stocking rates were then averaged to come up with the desired stocking level for the allotment (AUMs). The AUMs were allocated to the livestock and wild horses based on the proportions in the Resource Area Land Use Plans(LUPs). See the following tables.

Railroad Pass Allotment

GRAZING YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	SHEEP AUMS	HORSE AUMS	TOTAL AUMS	MEASURED UTILI.%	YIELD INDEX	ADJUSTED UTILI. %	DESIRED UTILI.%	DESIRED AUMS
1988	967	592	1620	3179	70%	106%	74%	50%	2148
1989	432	696	2112	3240	90%	79%	71%	50%	2282
1990	584	692	2304	3580	70%	90%	63%	50%	2841
1992	311	596	1596	2503	70%	90%	63%	50%	1987

AVE. TOTAL 2315 AUMS

Land Use Plan percentages

2315 AUMS total available - 691 AUMs (Sheep preference) = 1624

Cattle 84% 1624 x 84% = 1,364 AUMs

Horses 16% 1624 x 16% = 260 AUMs

APPENDIX X: DESIRED STOCKING RATE ANALYSIS CONTINUED

Browne Allotment/Main Field

GRAZING YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	HORSE AUMS	TOTAL AUMS	MEASURED UTILI.%	YIELD INDEX	ADJUSTED UTILI. %	DESIRED UTILI.%	DESIRED AUMS
1985	548	0	548	50	.72	36	50	761
1986	836	0	836	46	1.1	51	50	820
1987	370	0	370	58	.67	39	50	474
1988	372	0	372	52	.74	38	50	489
1989	110	252	362	56	.93	52	50	348
1990	102	289	391	26	1.01	26	50	752
1991	112	336	448	46	.83	38	50	589
1992	0	472	472	nd	.77	nd	50	nd
1993	110	520	630	nd	1.1	nd	50	nd
1994	181 [1]	774	955	nd	.63	nd	50	nd
1995	75	648	723	nd	1.06	nd	50	nd
1996	158	1188	1346	66	1.34	88	50	764

AVERAGE TOTAL 625 AUMS

Land Use Plan percentages (RMP)
625 AUMS total available -
Cattle 89% 625 x 89% = 556 AUMs
Horses 11% 625 x 11% = 69 AUMs

APPENDIX X: DESIRED STOCKING RATE ANALYSIS CONTINUED

Red Rock Allotment/NATIVE

GRAZING YEAR	LVSTK AUMS	HORSE AUMS	TOTAL AUMS	MEASURED UTILI.%	YIELD INDEX	ADJUSTED UTILI. %	DESIRED UTILI.%	DESIRED AUMS
1988	3,329	264	3,593	65	.74	48	50	3,743
1989	3,685	324	4,009	64	.93	60	50	3,341
1990	4,411	373 [1]	4,784	68	1.01	67	50	3,570
1991	4,362	792	5,154	50	.83	42	50	6,136
1992	3,573	1,020	4,593	40	.77	31	50	7,408
1993	5,174	444	5,418	37	1.10	41	50	6,607
1994	4,742	666	5,408	49	.63	31	50	8,723
1995	5,181	648	5,829	nd	1.06	nd	50	nd
1996	4,712	1,116	5,828	64	1.34	86	50	3,388

[1] No census flown in 1990. 15% increase added to 1989 census number to estimate actual use.

AVE. TOTAL 5,365 AUMS

<u>Land Use Plan percentages (RMP)</u>
5,365 AUMS total available -
Cattle 93% 5,365 x 93% = 4,989 AUMs
Horses 07% 5,365 x 07% = 376 AUMs

APPENDIX X: DESIRED STOCKING RATE ANALYSIS CONTINUED

Red Rock Allotment/HUNTINGTON SPRAY

GRAZING YEAR	LVSTK AUMS	MEASURED UTILI.%	YIELD INDEX	ADJUSTED UTILI. %	DESIRED UTILI.%	DESIRED AUMS
1987	ND	42	.67	28	55	ND
1988	750	64	.74	47	55	878
1989	831	68	.93	63	55	725
1990	955	50	1.01	51	55	1029
1991	938	46	.83	38	55	1358
1992	387	45	.77	35	55	608
1993	763	42	1.10	46	55	912
1994	756	46	.63	29	55	1433
1995	731	ND	1.06	ND	55	ND
1996	718	ND	1.34	ND	55	ND

1 No census flown in 1990. 15% increase added to 1989 census number to estimate actual use.

AVERAGE TOTAL 992 AUMS

Land Use Plan percentages (RMP)
992 AUMS total available -
Cattle 100% 992 x 100% = 992 AUMs

APPENDIX X: DESIRED STOCKING RATE ANALYSIS CONTINUED

Red Rock Allotment/Red Rock Seeding

GRAZING YEAR	LVSTK AUMS	MEASURED UTILI.%	YIELD INDEX	ADJUSTED UTILI. %	DESIRED UTILI.%	DESIRED AUMS
1987	nd	50	.67	34	55	nd
1988	913	69	.74	51	55	984
1989	870	68	.93	63	55	760
1990	789	70	1.01	71	55	611
1991	892	60	.83	50	55	981
1992	846	62	.77	48	55	969
1993	772	51	1.10	56	55	758
1994	813	53	.63	33	55	1,355
1995	696	54	1.06	57	55	671
1996	706	nd	1.34	nd	55	nd

1 No census flown in 1990. 15% increase added to 1989 census number to estimate actual use.

AVERAGE TOTAL 886 AUMS

Land Use Plan percentages (RMP)
886 AUMS total available -
Cattle 100% 886 x 100% = 886 AUMs

APPENDIX X: DESIRED STOCKING RATE ANALYSIS CONTINUED

The desired stocking level for the Black Point Allotment was determined using the following formula (BLM Technical Reference 4400-7):

$$\frac{\text{Actual Use (AUMs)}}{\text{Actual Utilization}} = \frac{\text{Desired Use (AUMs)}}{\text{Desired Utilization}}$$

Livestock use and utilization data were collected for the allotment between 1988 and 1996. Wild horse use was recorded and estimated from aerial census data. A stocking rate was calculated for each year that had utilization data. The stocking rates were then averaged to come up with the desired stocking level for the allotment(AUMs). The AUMs were allocated to livestock and wild horses based on the proportions identified in the Resource Area's Land Use Plan (LUP).

Black Point Allotment

GRAZING YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	SHEEP AUMS	HORSE AUMS	TOTAL AUMS	MEASURED UTILI.%	DESIRED UTILI.%	DESIRED AUMS
1988	2,377	2,692	960	6,029	68	60	5,319
1989	2,347	0	*1,104	3,247	54	60	3,835
1990	2,347	977	*1,270	4,224	55	60	5,011
1991	2,469	2,314	840	5,623	55	60	6,135
1992	2,366	882	*966	4,472	60	60	4,213
1993	2,363	2,243	1,608	6,214	N/D	60	N/D
1994	2,101	2,312	960	5,373	N/D	60	N/D
1995	1,769	1,711	*1,104	4,920	58	60	4,741
1996	1,781	1,534	1,920	5,235	N/D	60	N/D

* No census data for these years. Therefore, a 15% increase was calculated from the previous year's data to account for natural population expansion.

AVE. TOTAL 4,876 AUMS

Land Use Plan percentages

Cattle 41% 4,876 x 41% = 1,999 AUMs
Sheep 43% 4 876 x 43% = 2,097 AUMS
Horses 16% 6022 x 16% = 780 AUMs (65 horses yearlong)

APPENDIX X: DESIRED STOCKING RATE ANALYSIS CONTINUED

Diamond Springs Allotment

GRAZING YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	HORSE AUMS	TOTAL AUMS	MEASURED UTILI.%	DESIRED UTILI.%	DESIRED AUMS
1988	378	1,752	2,130	69	60	1,852
1989	925	*2,015	2,940	N/D	60	N/D
1990	2,865	*2,317	5,182	56	60	5,552
1991	1,974	1,284	3,258	57	60	3,430
1992	731	*1,477	2,208	N/D	60	N/D
1993	876	1,848	2,724	59	60	2,770
1994	2,235	2,688	4,923	N/D	60	N/D
1995	3,076	*3,091	6,167	N/D	60	N/D
1996	2,708	3,900	6,608	N/D	60	N/D

* No census data for these years. Therefore, a 15% increase was calculated from the previous year's data to account for natural population expansion.

AVE. TOTAL 3,401 AUMS

Land Use Plan percentages

Cattle 81% 3,401 x 81% = 2,755 AUMs
Horses 19% 3,401 x 19% = 646 AUMs (54 horses yearlong)

APPENDIX X: DESIRED STOCKING RATE ANALYSIS CONTINUED

Spanish Gulch Allotment

GRAZING YEAR	SHEEP AUMS	TOTAL AUMS	MEASURED UTILI.%	DESIRED UTILI.%	DESIRED AUMS
1988	647	647	50	60	776
1989	647	647	50	60	776
1990	647	647	54	60	719
1991	647	647	77	60	504
1992	647	647	68	60	571
1993	647	647	69	60	563
1994	592	592	79	60	450
1995	446	446	65	60	412
1996	642	642	N/D	60	N/D

AVE. TOTAL 596 AUMS

APPENDIX X: DESIRED STOCKING RATE ANALYSIS CONTINUED

Shannon Station Allotment

GRAZING YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	TOTAL AUMS	MEASURED UTILI.%	DESIRED UTILI.%	DESIRED AUMS
1988	2,137	2,137	50	60	2,564
1989	2,107	2,107	50	60	2,528
1990	2,143	2,143	54	60	2,381
1991	2,525	2,525	65	60	2,331
1992	1,611	1,611	67	60	1,443
1993	2,519	2,519	62	60	2,438
1994	1,576	1,576	50	60	1,891
1995	1,970	1,970	N/D	60	N/D
1996	2,276	2,276	N/D	60	N/D

AVE. TOTAL 2,225 AUMS

APPENDIX X: DESIRED STOCKING RATE ANALYSIS CONTINUED

Three Mile Allotment

GRAZING YEAR	CATTLE AUMS	HORSE AUMS	TOTAL AUMS	MEASURED UTILI.%	DESIRED UTILI.%	DESIRED AUMS
1988	487	228	715	60	60	715
1989	766	*262	1,028	54	60	1,142
1990	884	*301	1,185	71	60	1,001
1991	596	132	728	62	60	705
1992	819	152	971	80	60	728
1993	805	120	925	70	60	793
1994	753	540	1,293	N/D	60	N/D
1995	0	*621	621	N/D	60	N/D
1996	750	1,548	2,298	N/D	60	N/D

* No census data for these years. Therefore, a 15% increase was calculated from the previous year's data to account for natural population expansion.

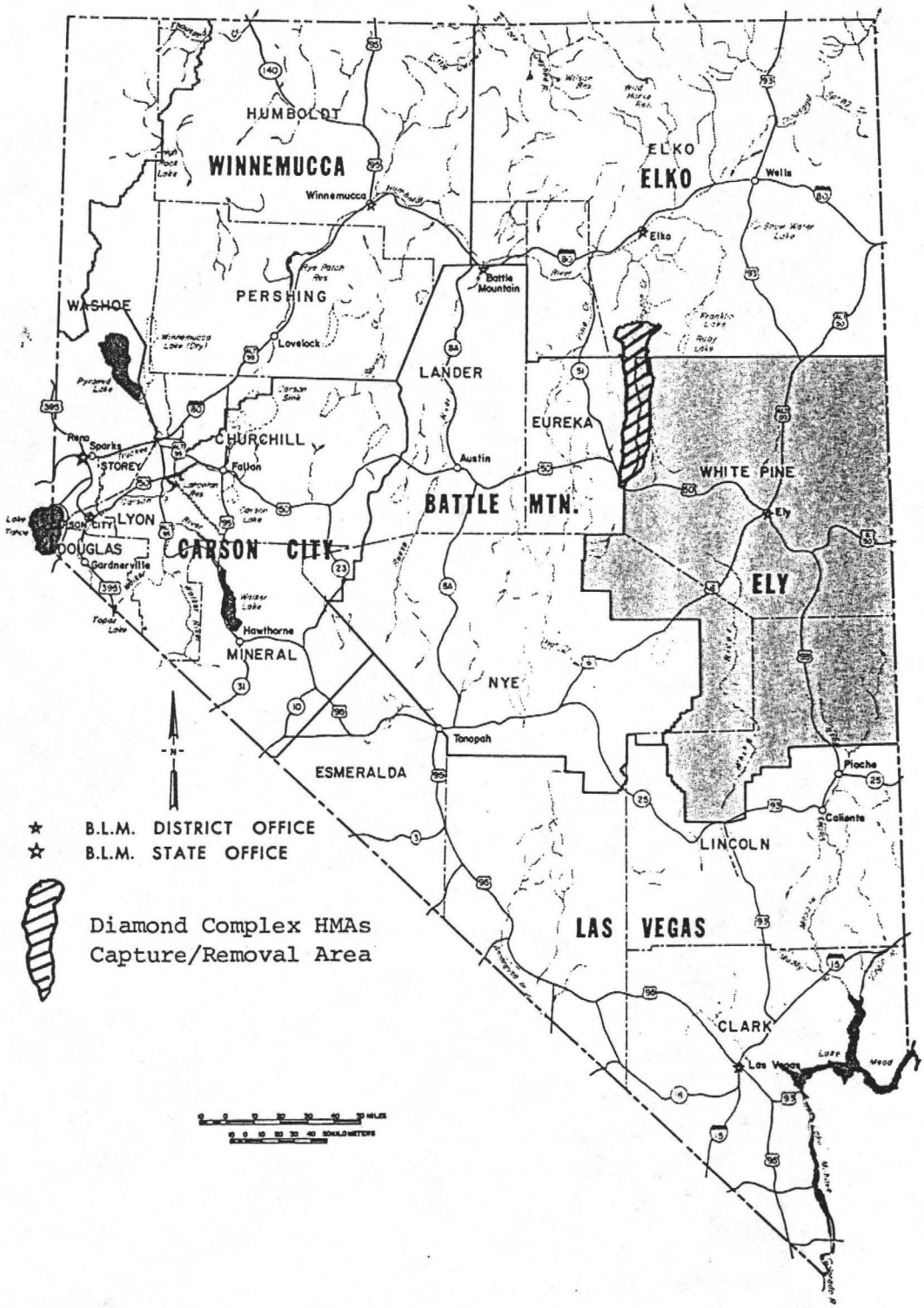
AVE. TOTAL 847 AUMS

Land Use Plan percentages (RPS)

Cattle 79% 847 x 79% = 669 AUMs
Horses 21% 847 x 21% = 178 AUMs (15 horses yearlong)

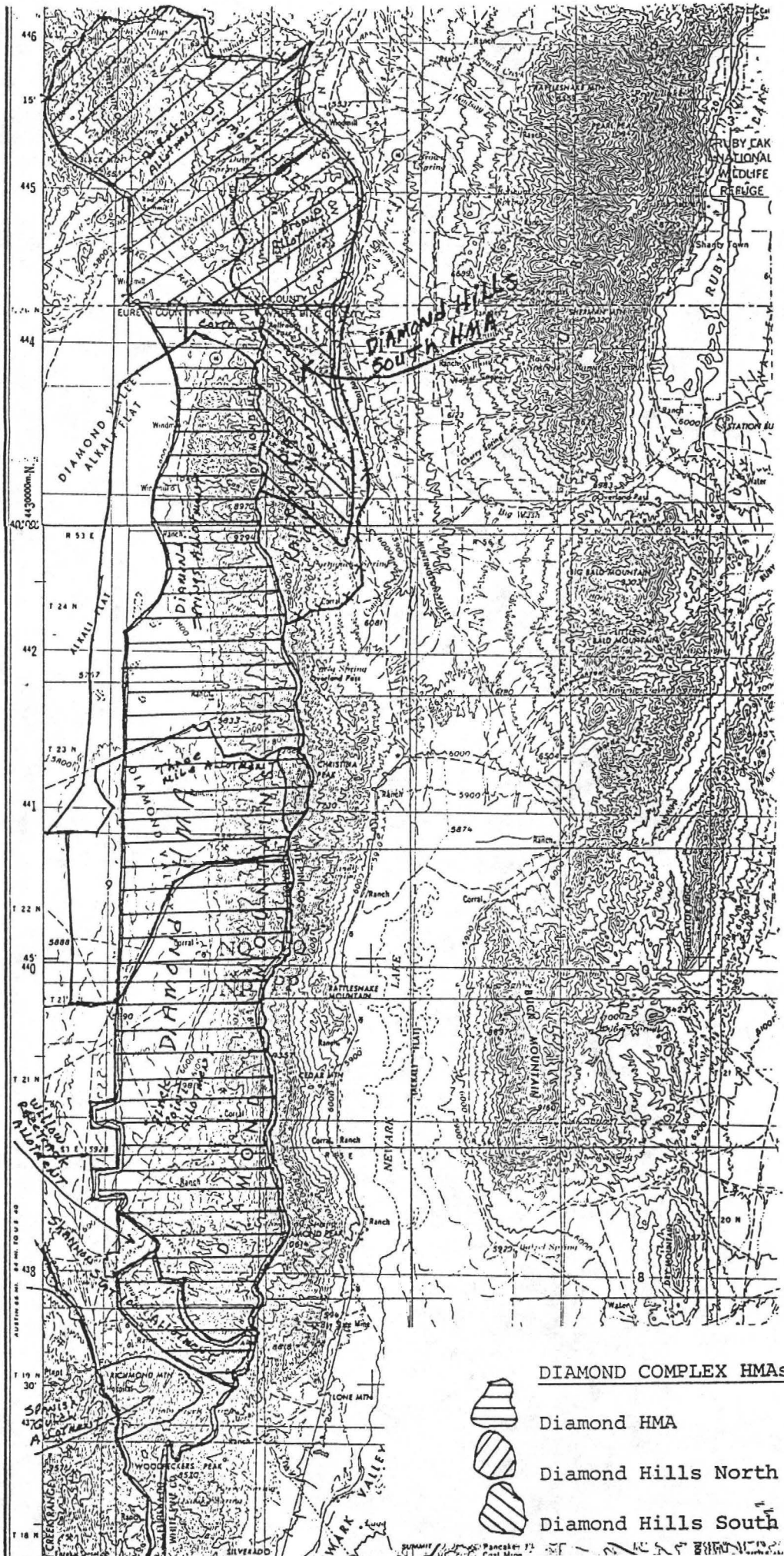
LIST OF MAPS

GENERAL LOCATION



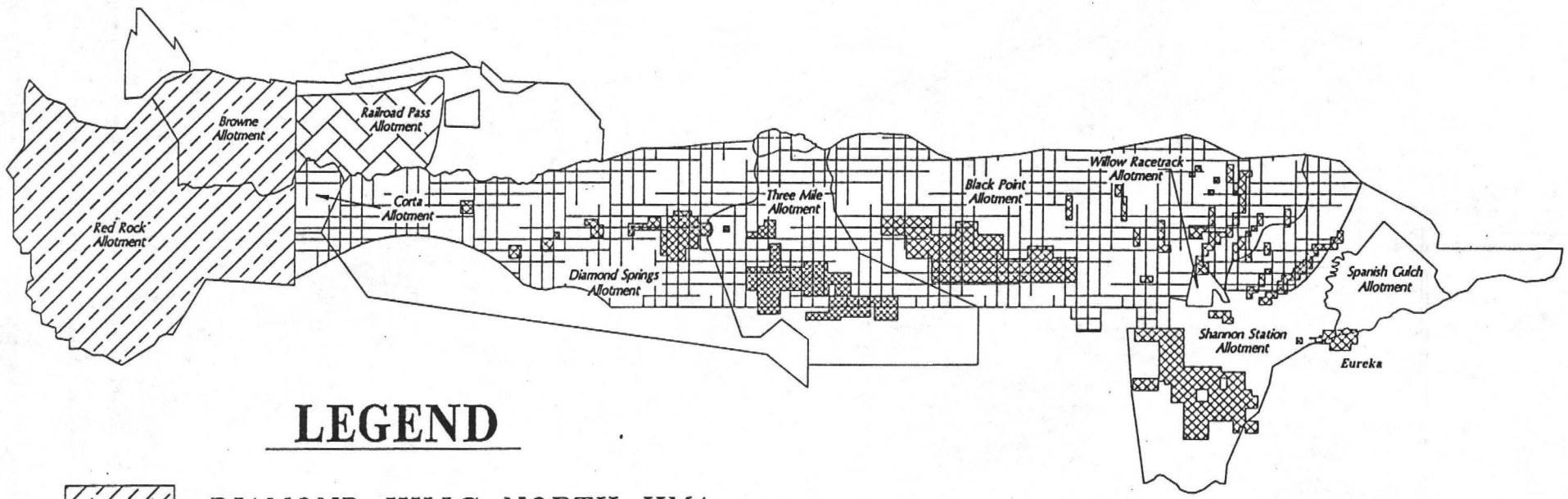
NEVADA DISTRICTS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR


DIAMOND HILLS SOUTH HMA
DIAMOND VALLEY ALKALI FLAT
DIAMOND MOUNTAINS
RUBY LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
DIAMOND COMPLEX HMAs
Diamond HMA
Diamond Hills North HMA
Diamond Hills South HMA

Map 3

DIAMOND MOUNTAIN COMPLEX WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT AREAS



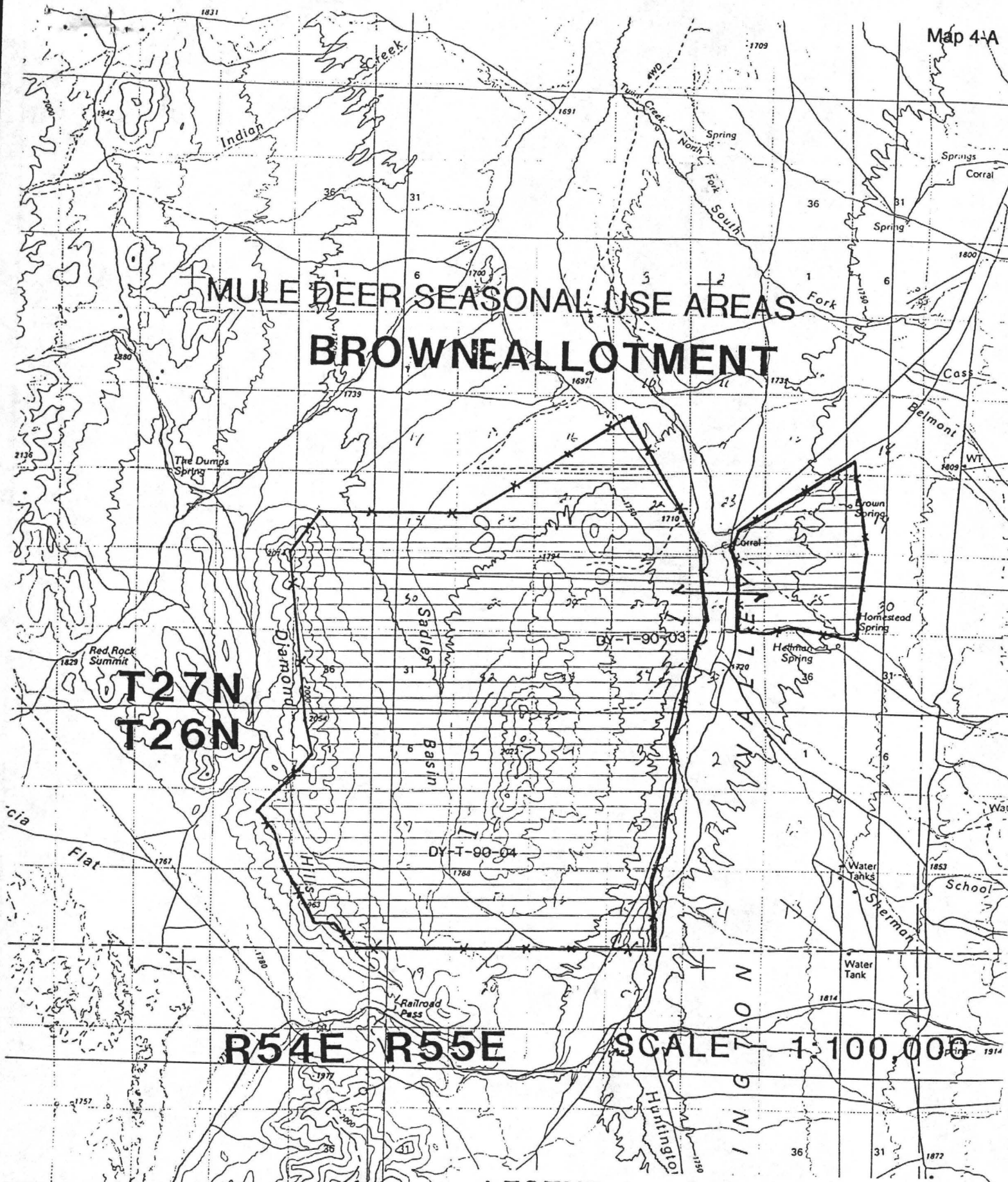
LEGEND

- *DIAMOND HILLS NORTH HMA*
- *DIAMOND HILLS SOUTH HMA*
- *DIAMOND HMA*
- *PRIVATE PROPERTY*

Map 4-A

MULE DEER SEASONAL USE AREAS

BROWNE ALLOTMENT



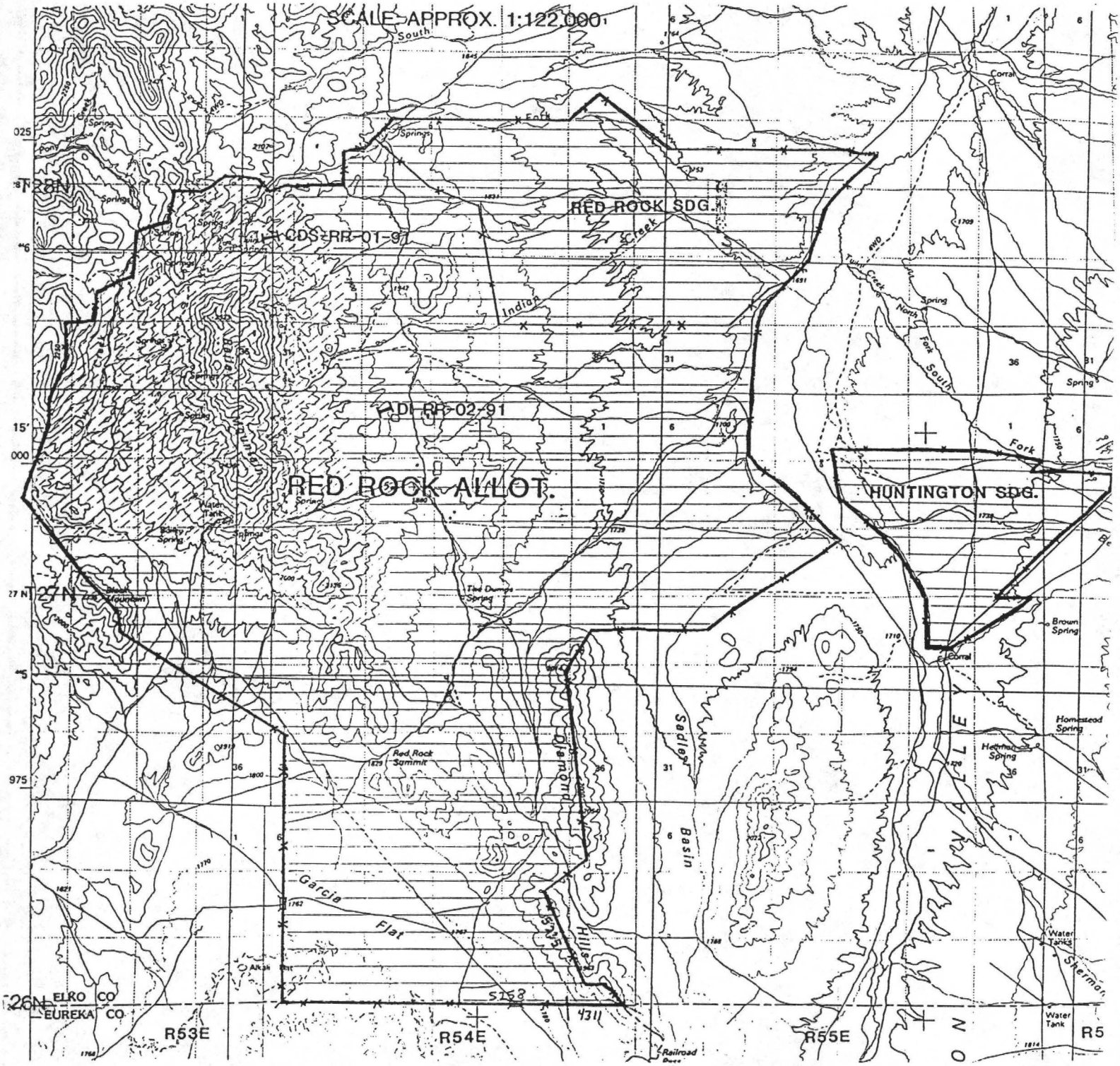
LEGEND

KEY AREA TRANSECT ⊢

ENTIRE ALLOTMENT CONTAINS MULE DEER YEARLONG HABITAT

MULE DEER SEASONAL USE AREAS
RED ROCK ALLOTMENT

Map 4-B



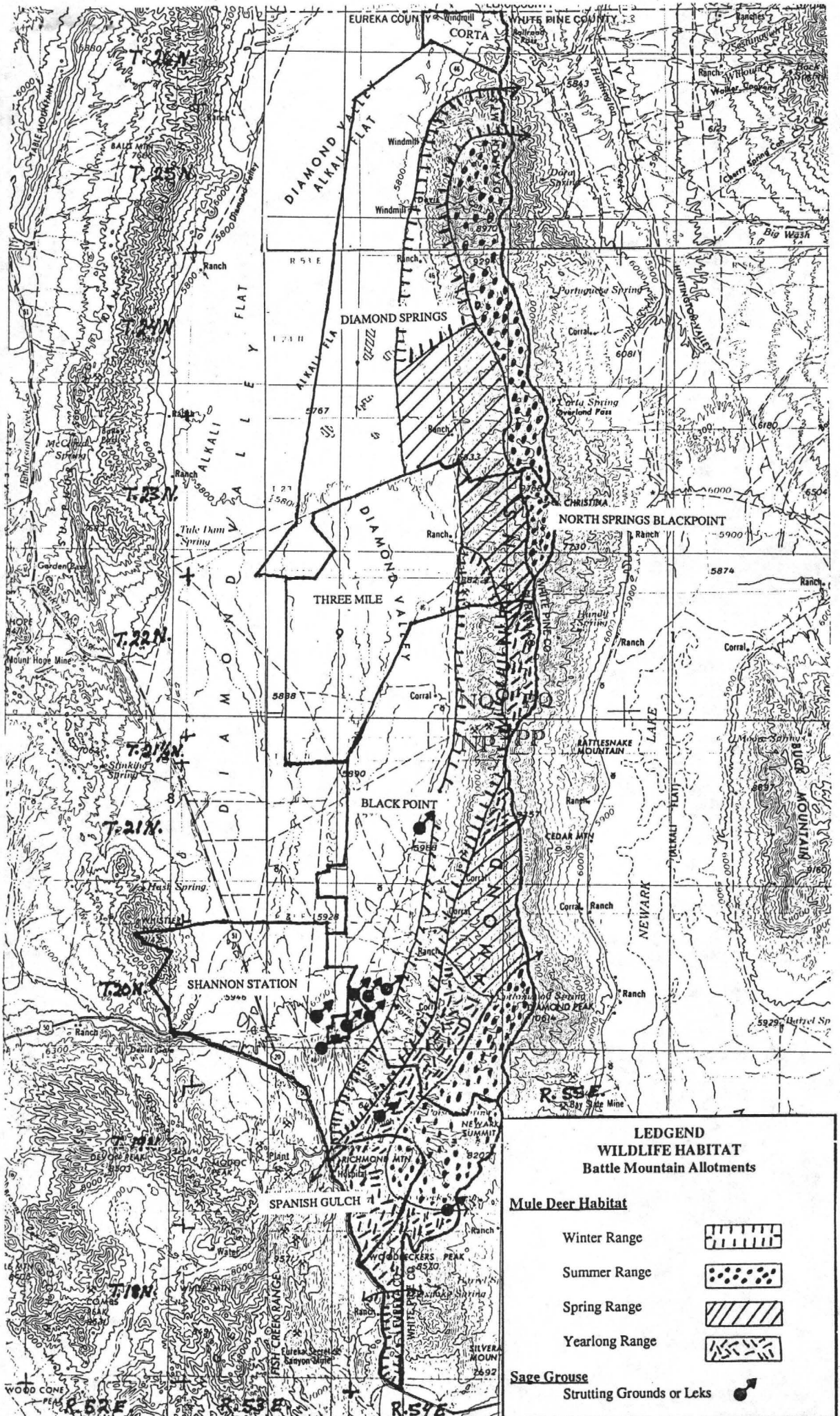
LEGEND

CRUCIAL SUMMER HABITAT

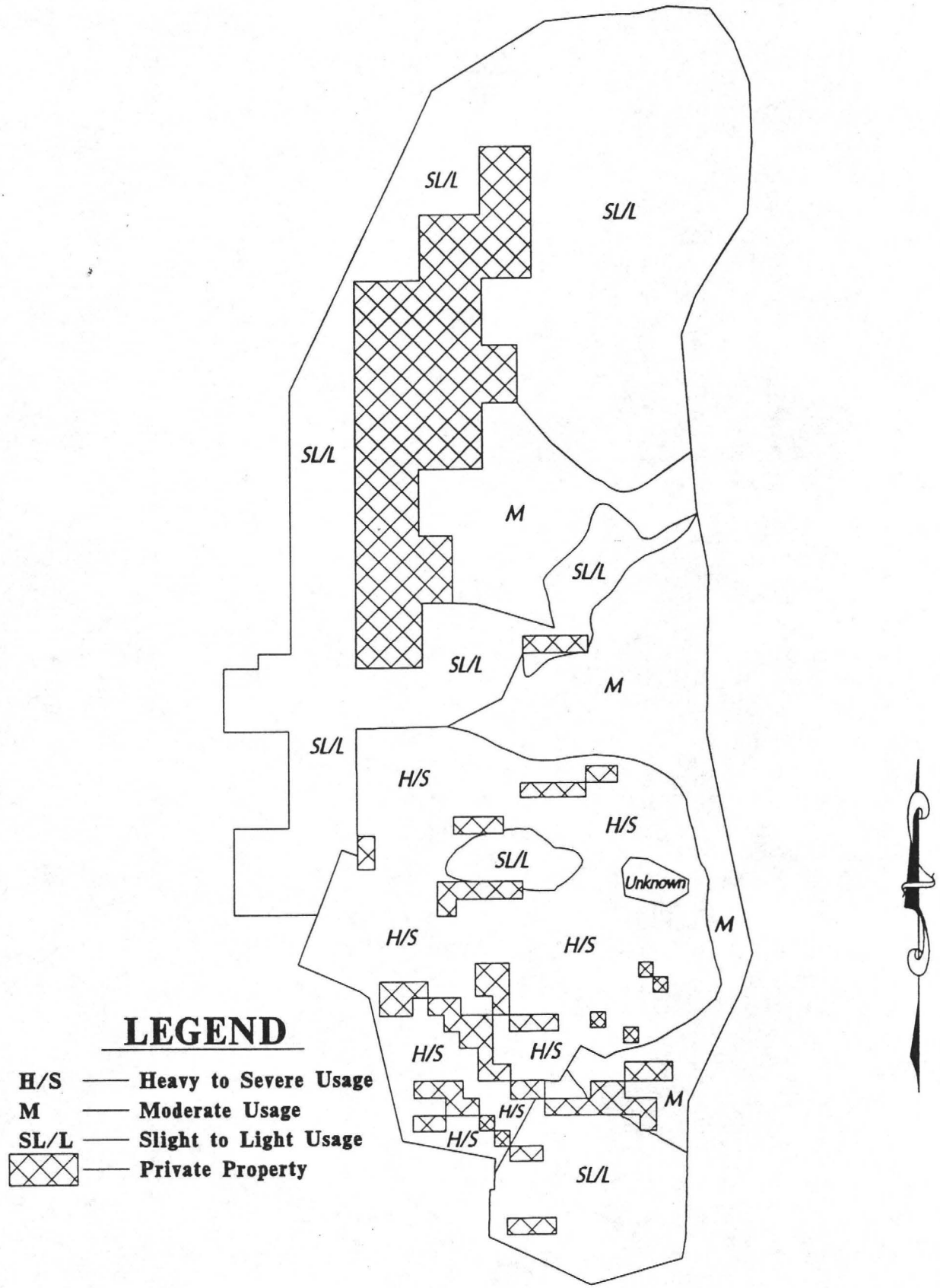
YEARLONG HABITAT

KEY AREA TRANSECT

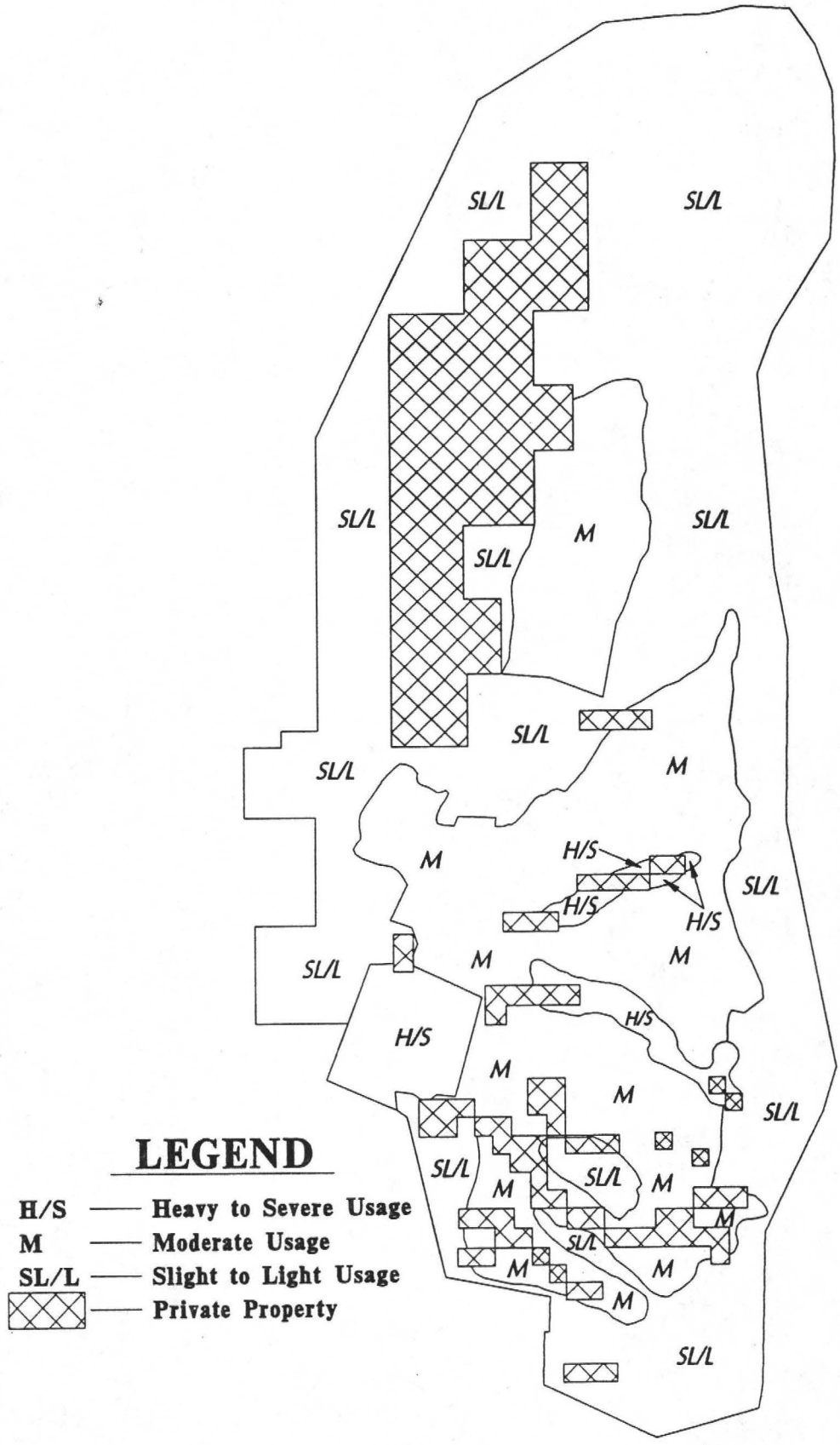
Map 4-C


EUREKA COUNTY
WHITE PINE COUNTY
CORTA
DIAMOND SPRINGS
NORTH SPRINGS BLACKPOINT
THREE MILE
BLACK POINT
SHANNON STATION
SPANISH GULCH
DIAMOND VALLEY
DIAMOND VALLEY ALKALI FLAT
ALKALI FLAT
NEWARK LAKE
T.24N.
T.23N.
T.22N.
T.21½N.
T.21N.
T.20N.
T.19N.
T.18N.
R.51E.
R.52E.
R.53E.
R.54E.
LEDGEND
WILDLIFE HABITAT
Battle Mountain Allotments
Mule Deer Habitat
Winter Range
Summer Range
Spring Range
Yearlong Range
Sage Grouse
Strutting Grounds or Leks

BLACK POINT ALLOTMENT
1988 UTILIZATION PATTERN



BLACK POINT ALLOTMENT
1989 UTILIZATION PATTERN

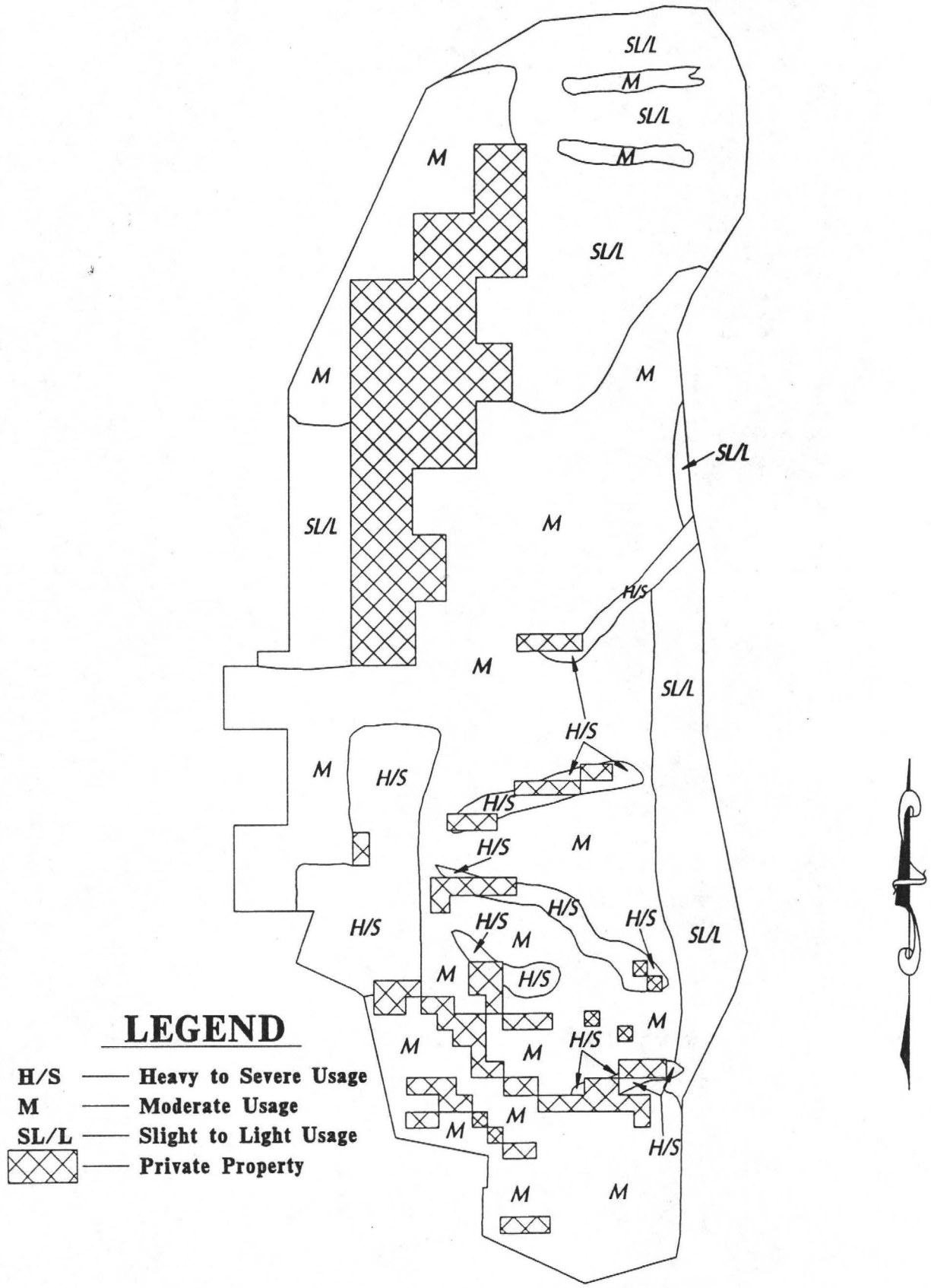


LEGEND

H/S — Heavy to Severe Usage
M — Moderate Usage
SL/L — Slight to Light Usage
Private Property

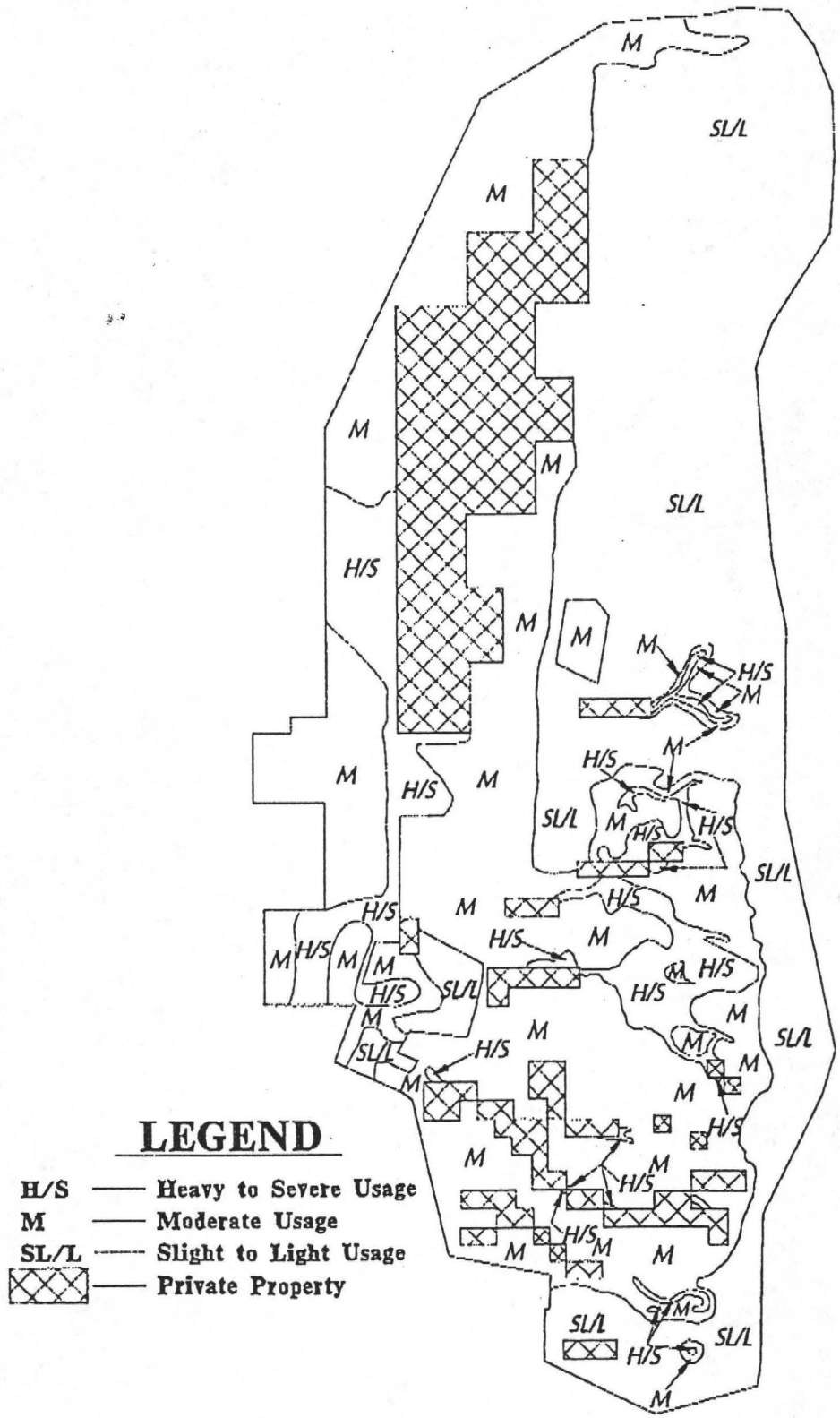
Map 5-C

BLACK POINT ALLOTMENT
1990 UTILIZATION PATTERN

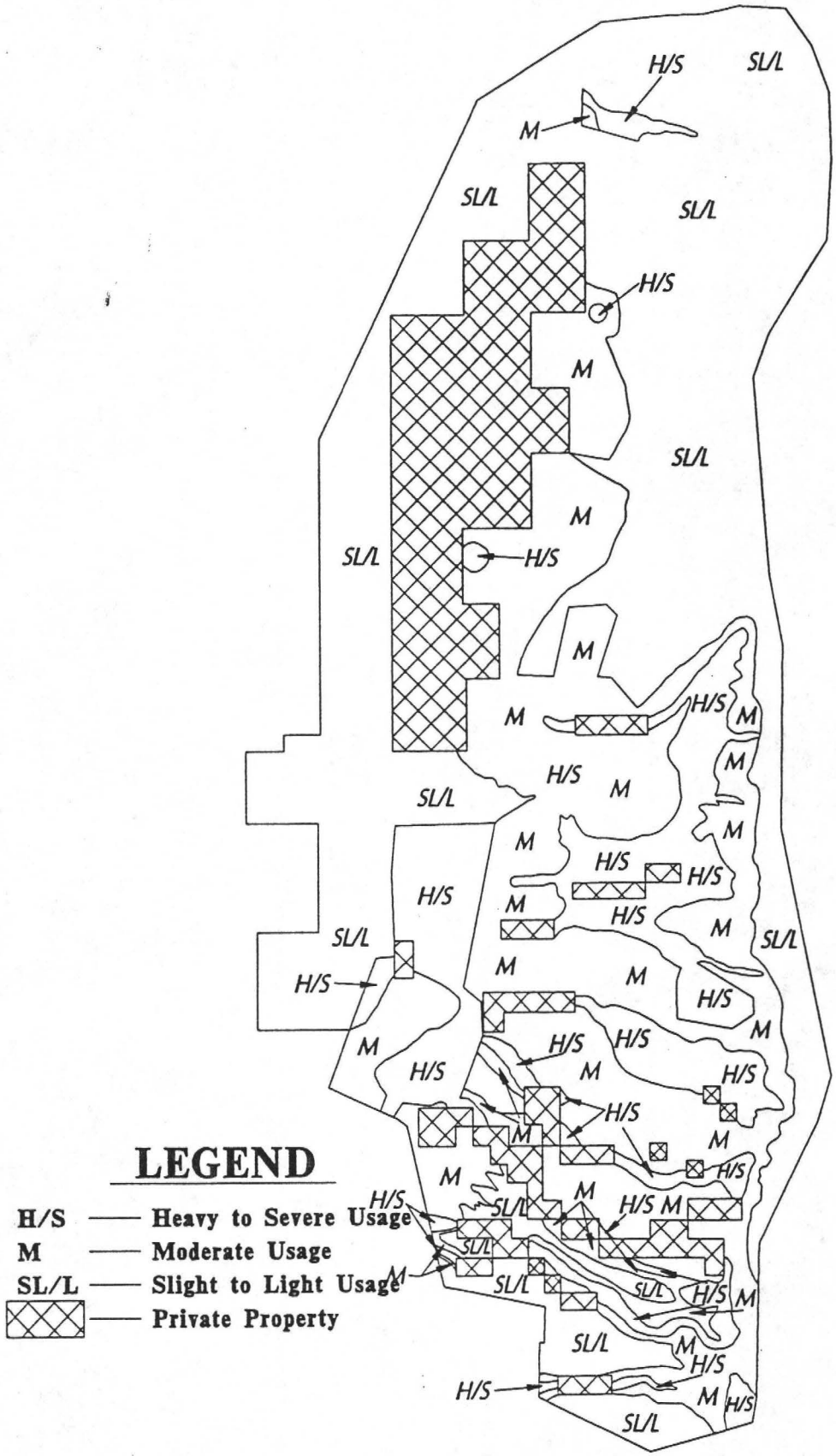


MAP 5-D

BLACK POINT ALLOTMENT
1991 UTILIZATION PATTERN



BLACK POINT ALLOTMENT
1992 UTILIZATION PATTERN

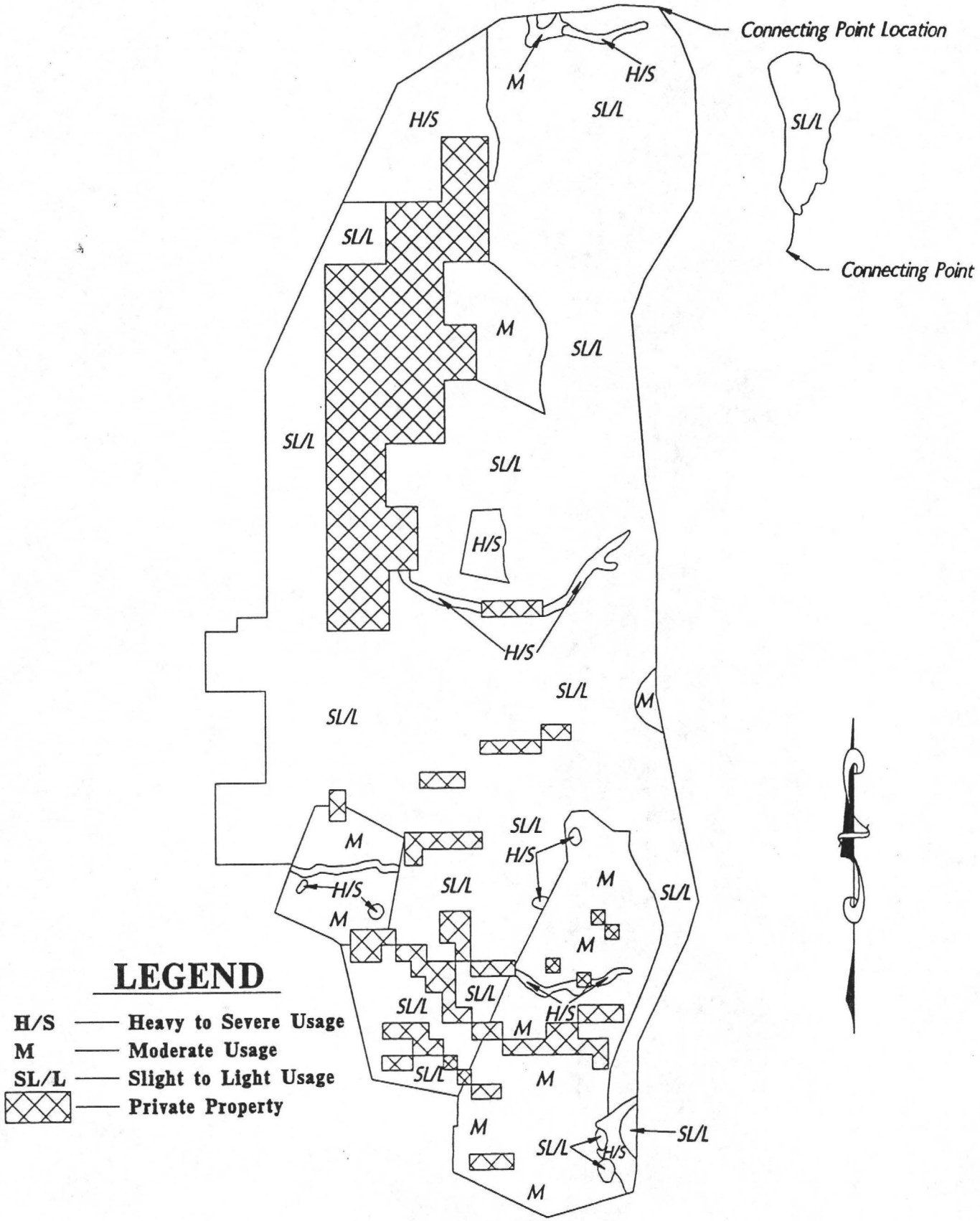


LEGEND

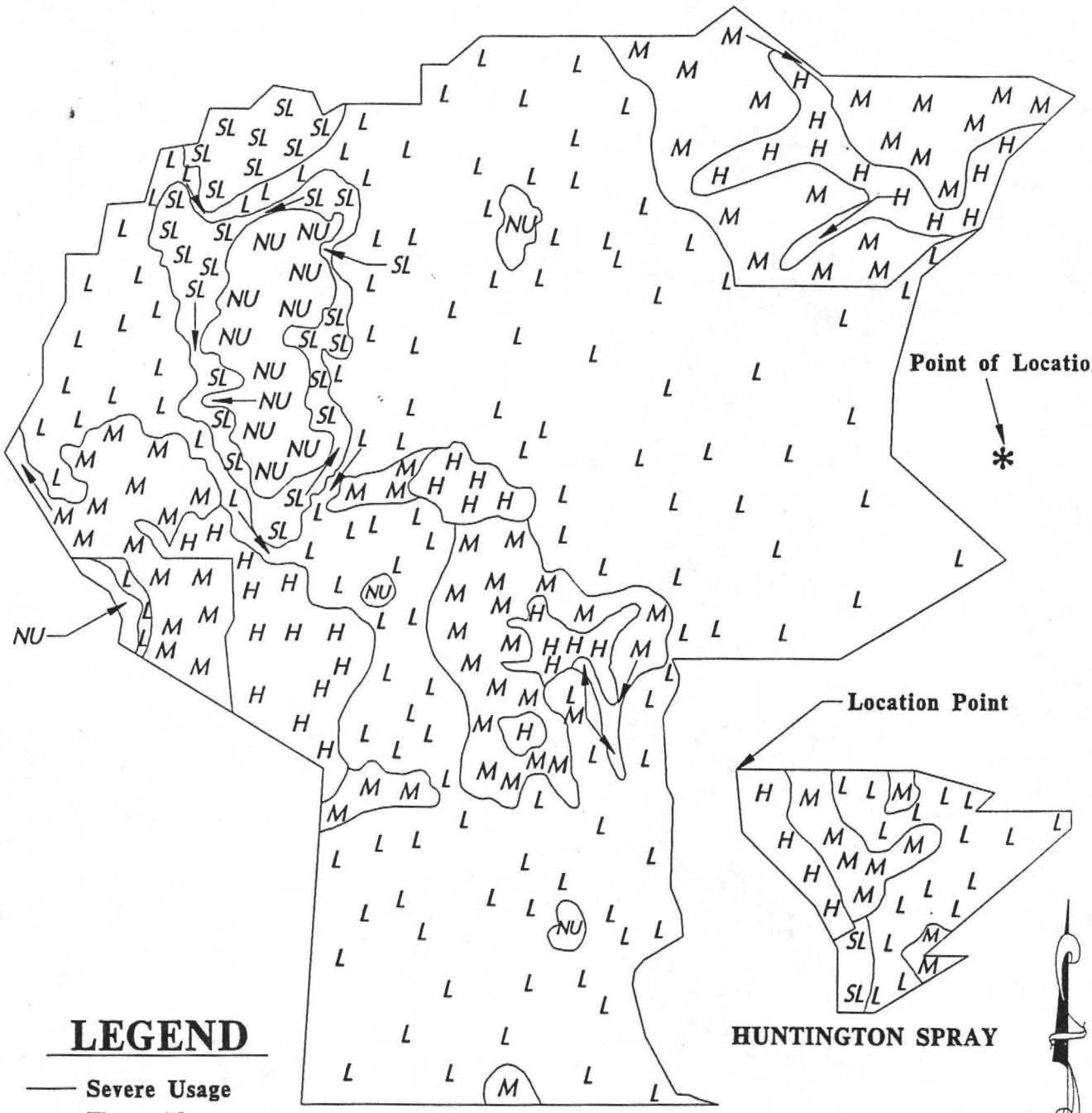
H/S — Heavy to Severe Usage
M — Moderate Usage
SL/L — Slight to Light Usage
▨ — Private Property

Map 5-F

BLACK POINT ALLOTMENT
1995 UTILIZATION PATTERN



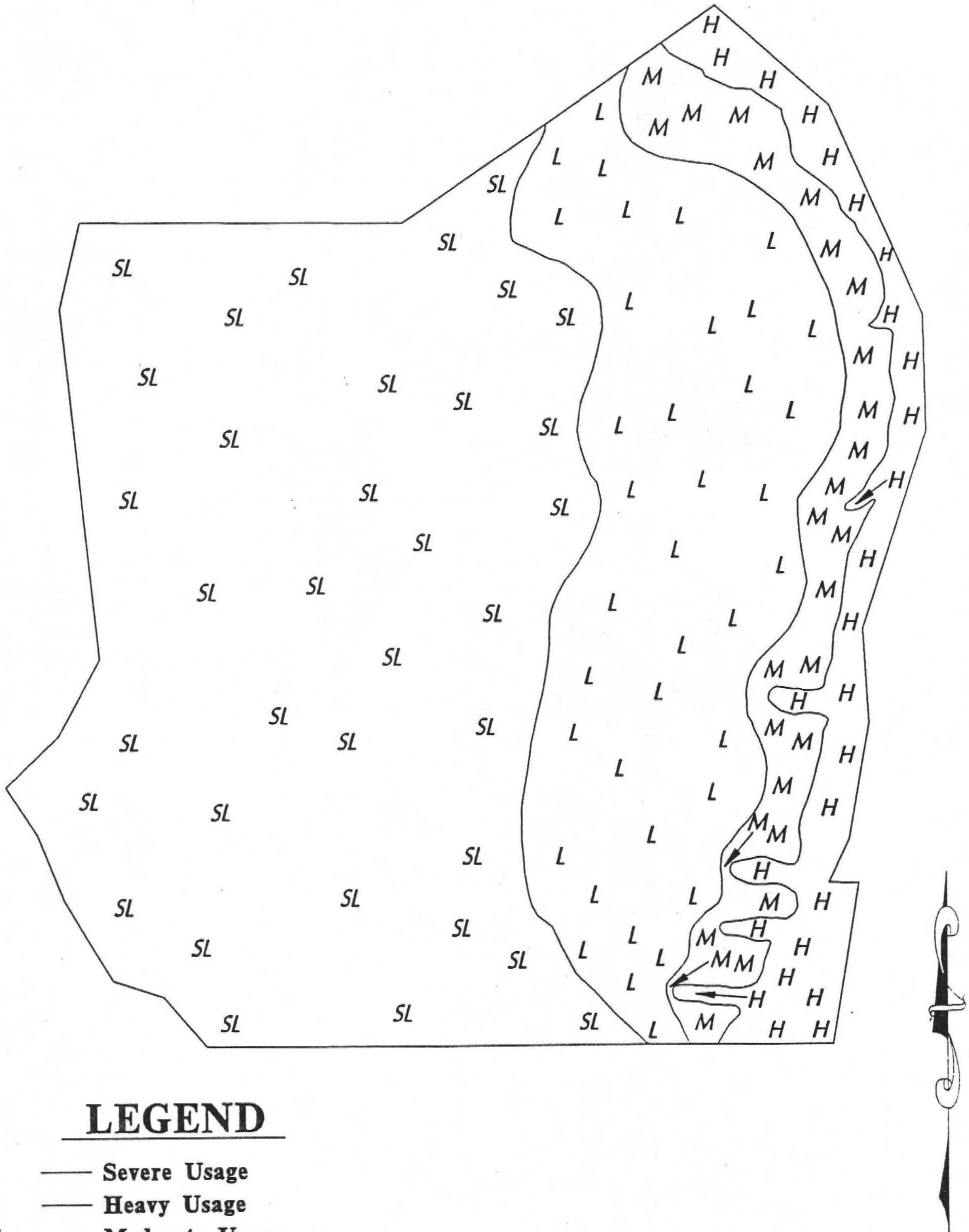
RED ROCK ALLOTMENT
1987 UTILIZATION PATTERN



LEGEND

S	——	Severe Usage
H	——	Heavy Usage
M	——	Moderate Usage
L	——	Light Usage
SL	——	Slight Usage
NU	——	Non-Use

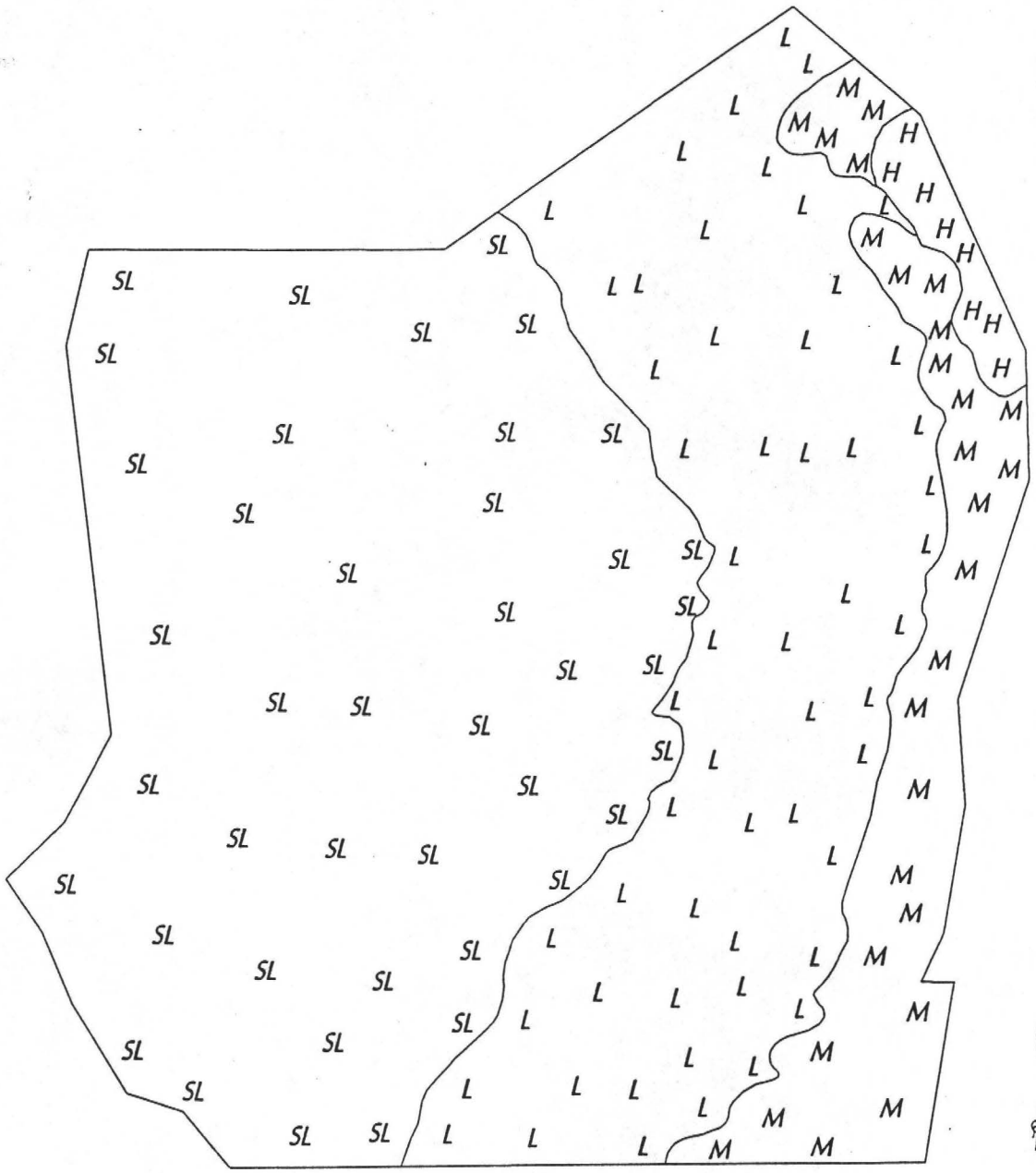
BROWNE ALLOTMENT
1987 UTILIZATION PATTERN



LEGEND

S —— Severe Usage
H —— Heavy Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
L —— Light Usage
SL —— Slight Usage

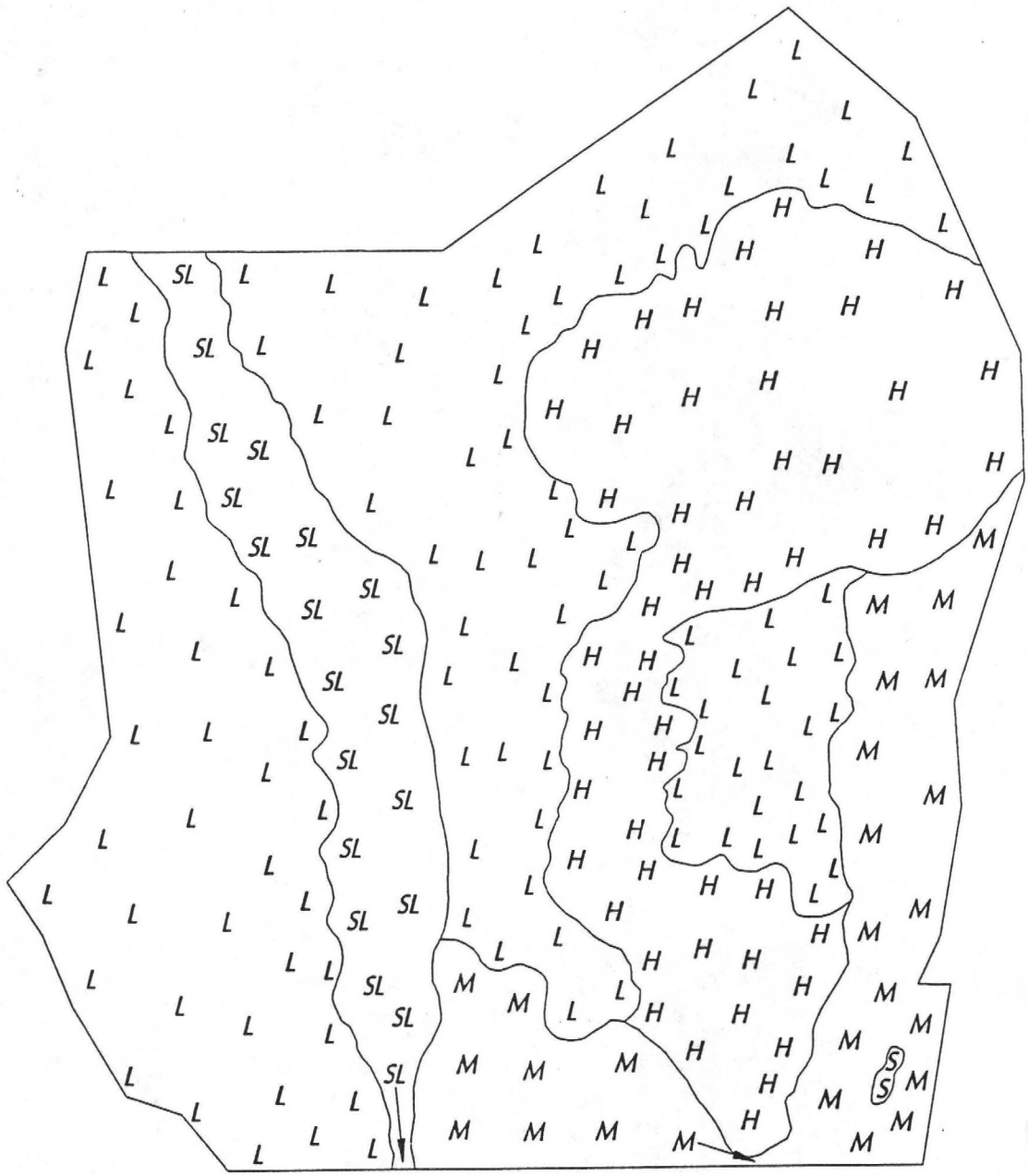
BROWNE ALLOTMENT
1990 UTILIZATION PATTERN



LEGEND

S	——	Severe Usage
H	——	Heavy Usage
M	——	Moderate Usage
L	——	Light Usage
SL	——	Slight Usage

BROWNE ALLOTMENT
1996 UTILIZATION PATTERN

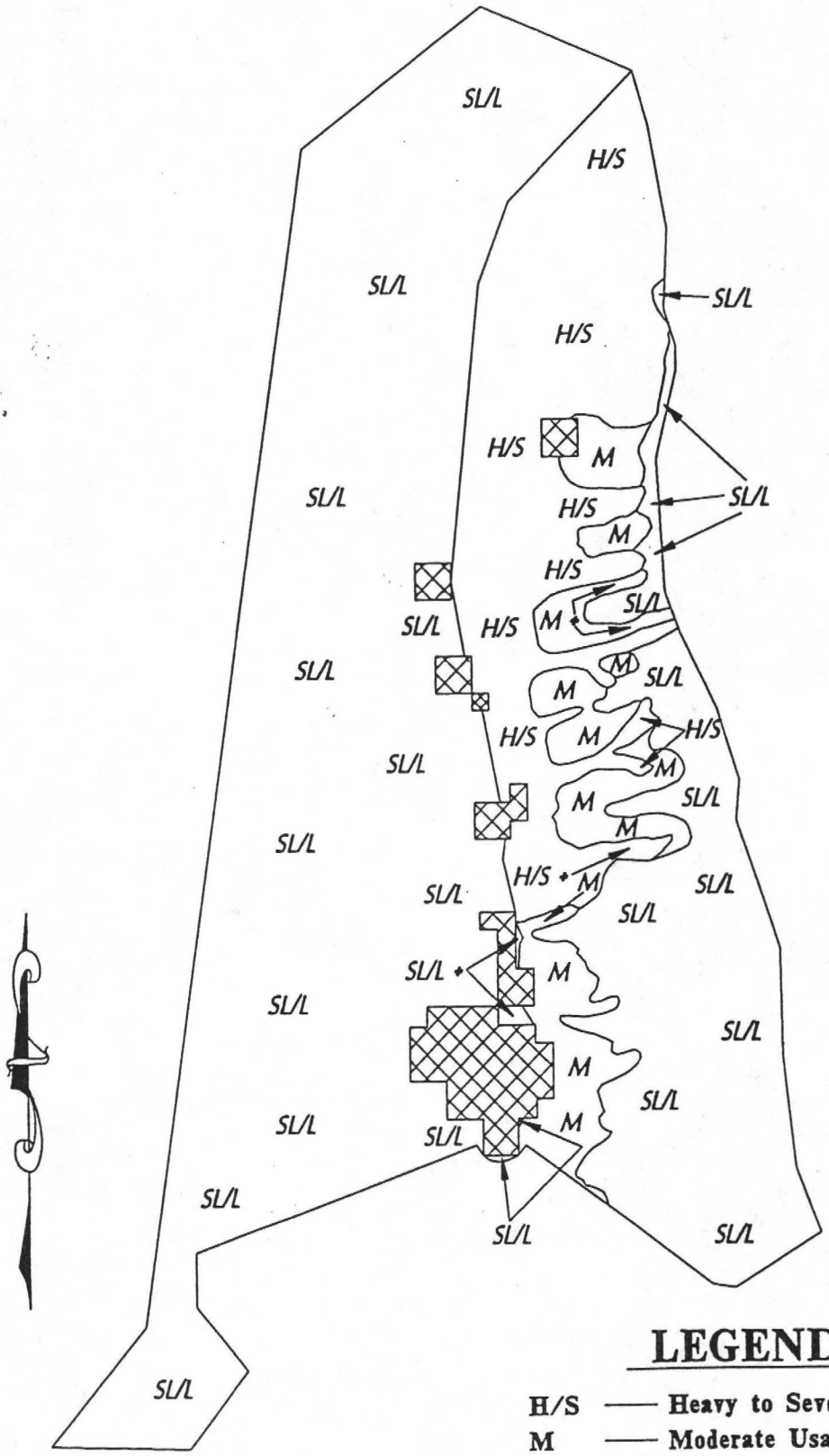


LEGEND

S	——	Severe Usage
H	——	Heavy Usage
M	——	Moderate Usage
L	——	Light Usage
SL	——	Slight Usage

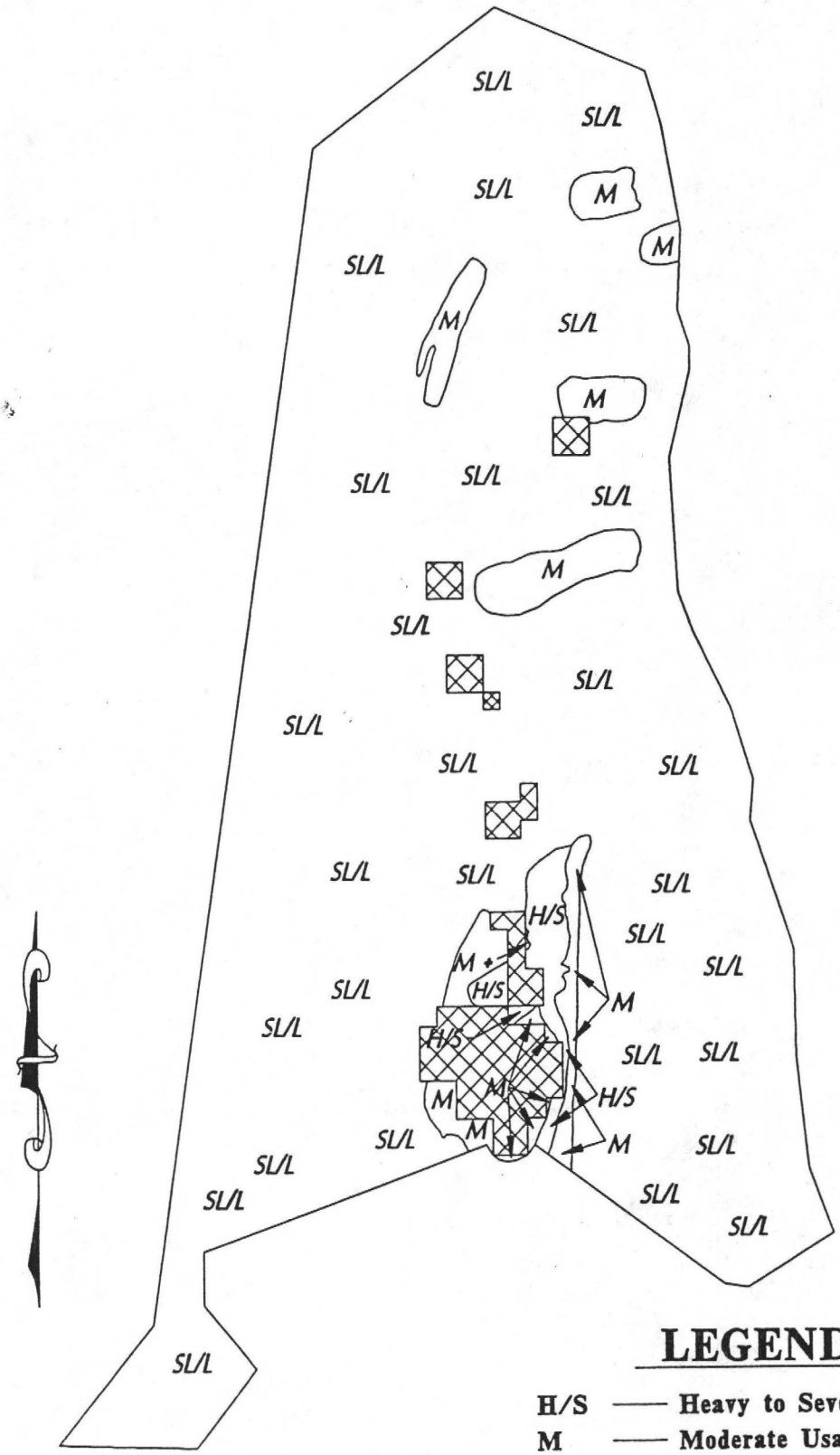
DIAMOND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
1988 UTILIZATION PATTERN

Map 8-A



DIAMOND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
1990 UTILIZATION PATTERN

Map 8-B

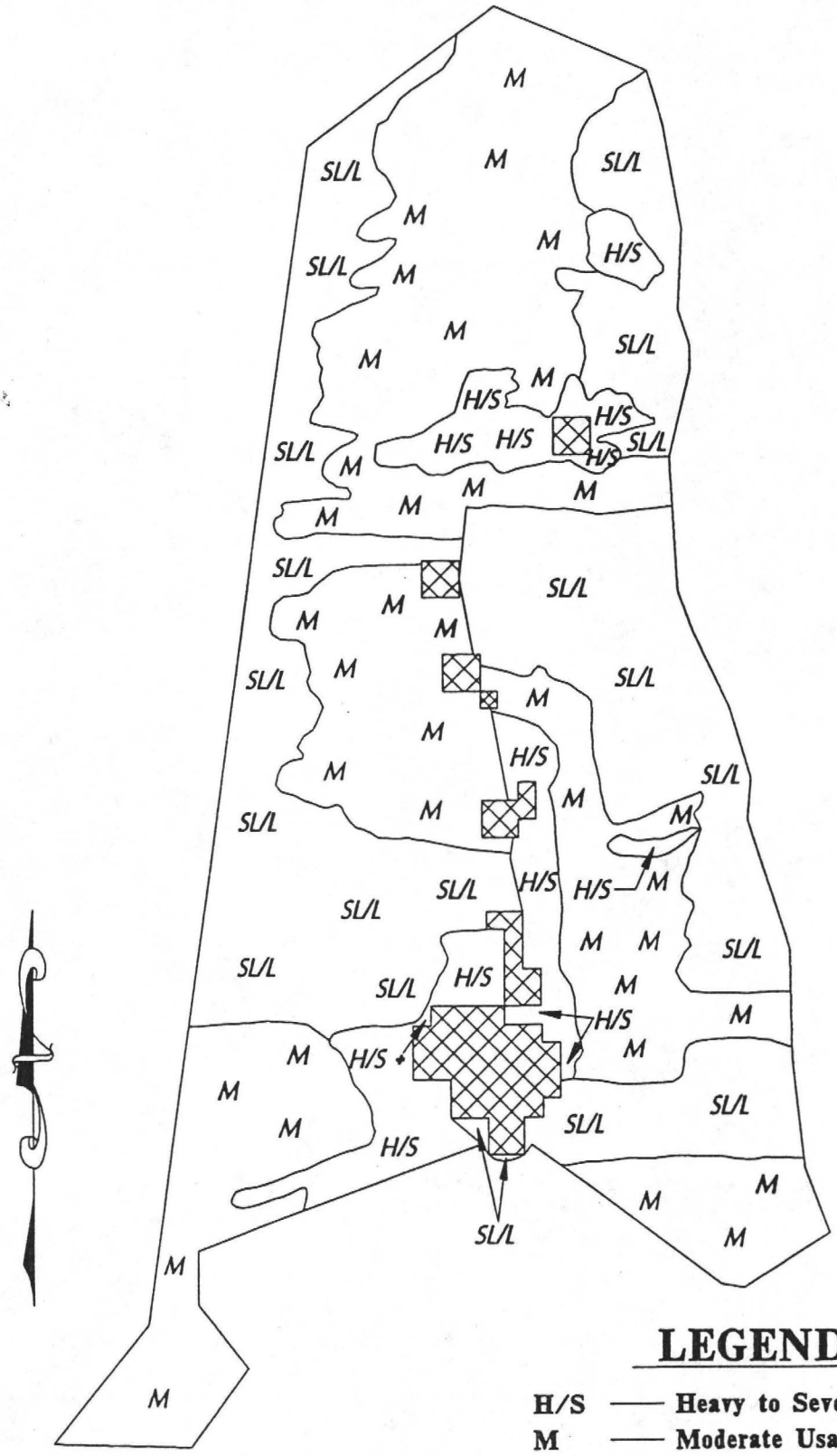


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

DIAMOND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
1991 UTILIZATION PATTERN

Map 8-C

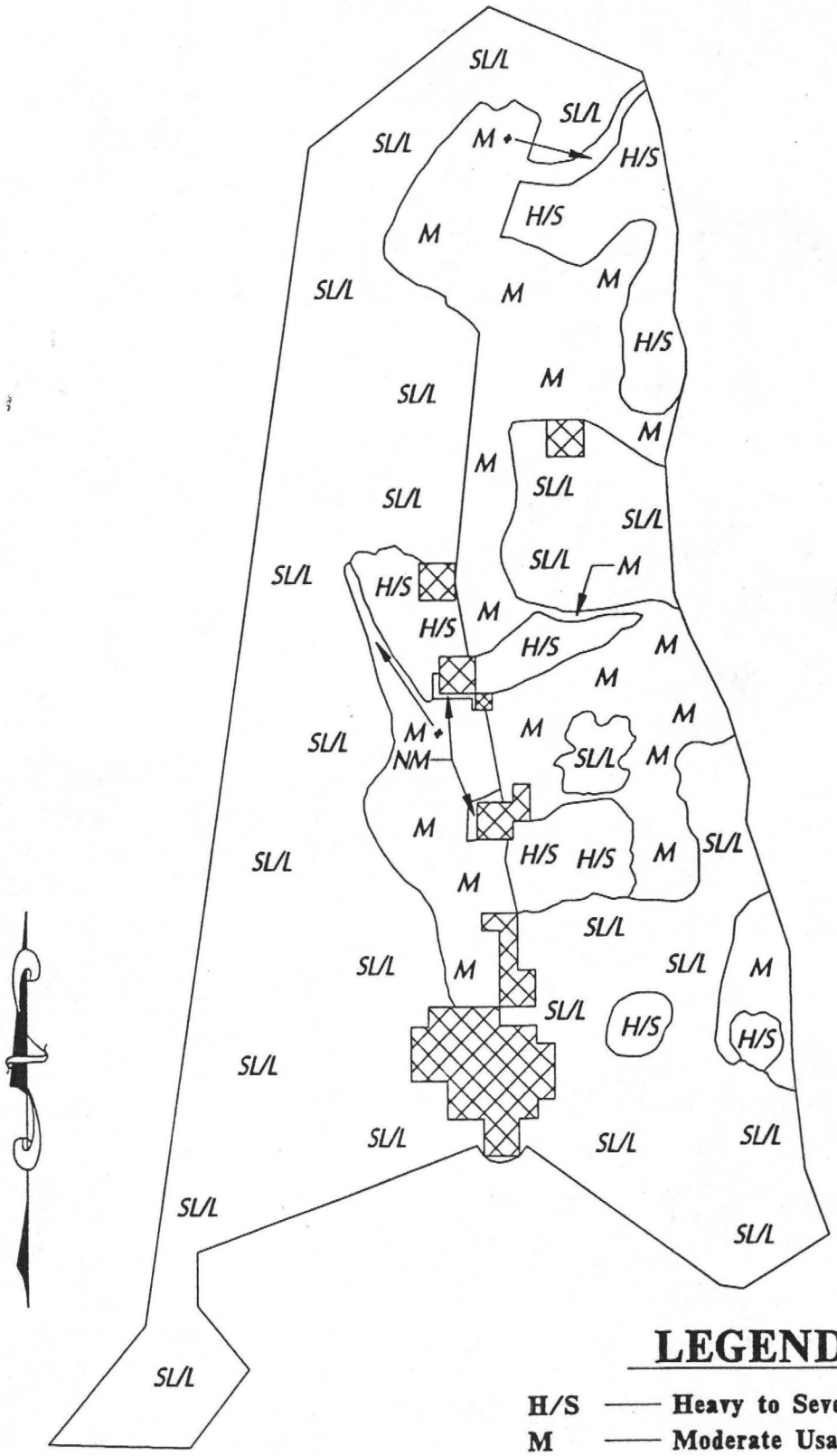


LEGEND

H/S — Heavy to Severe Usage
M — Moderate Usage
SL/L — Slight to Light Usage
Private Property

DIAMOND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
1993 UTILIZATION PATTERN

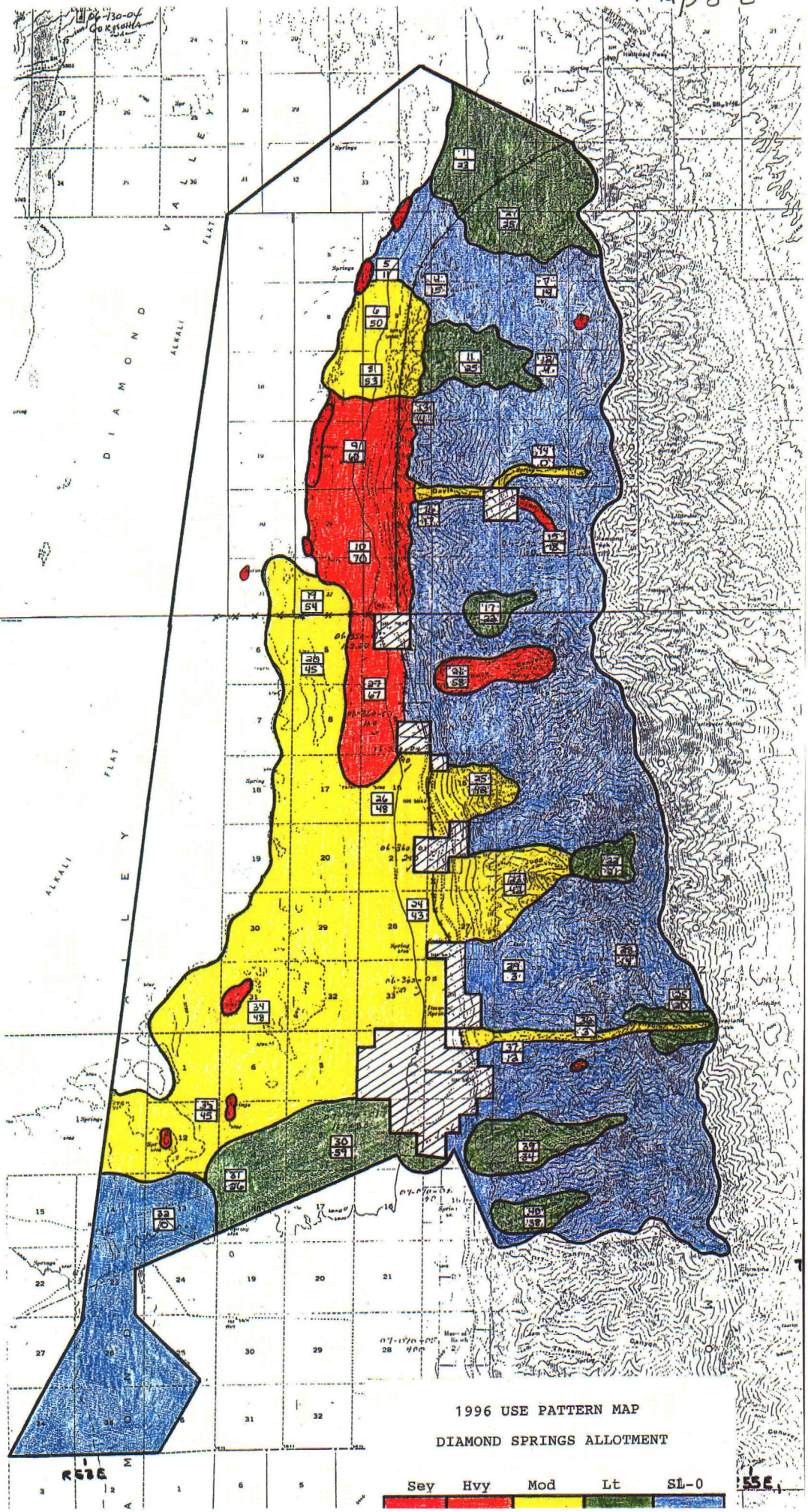
Map 8-D



LEGEND

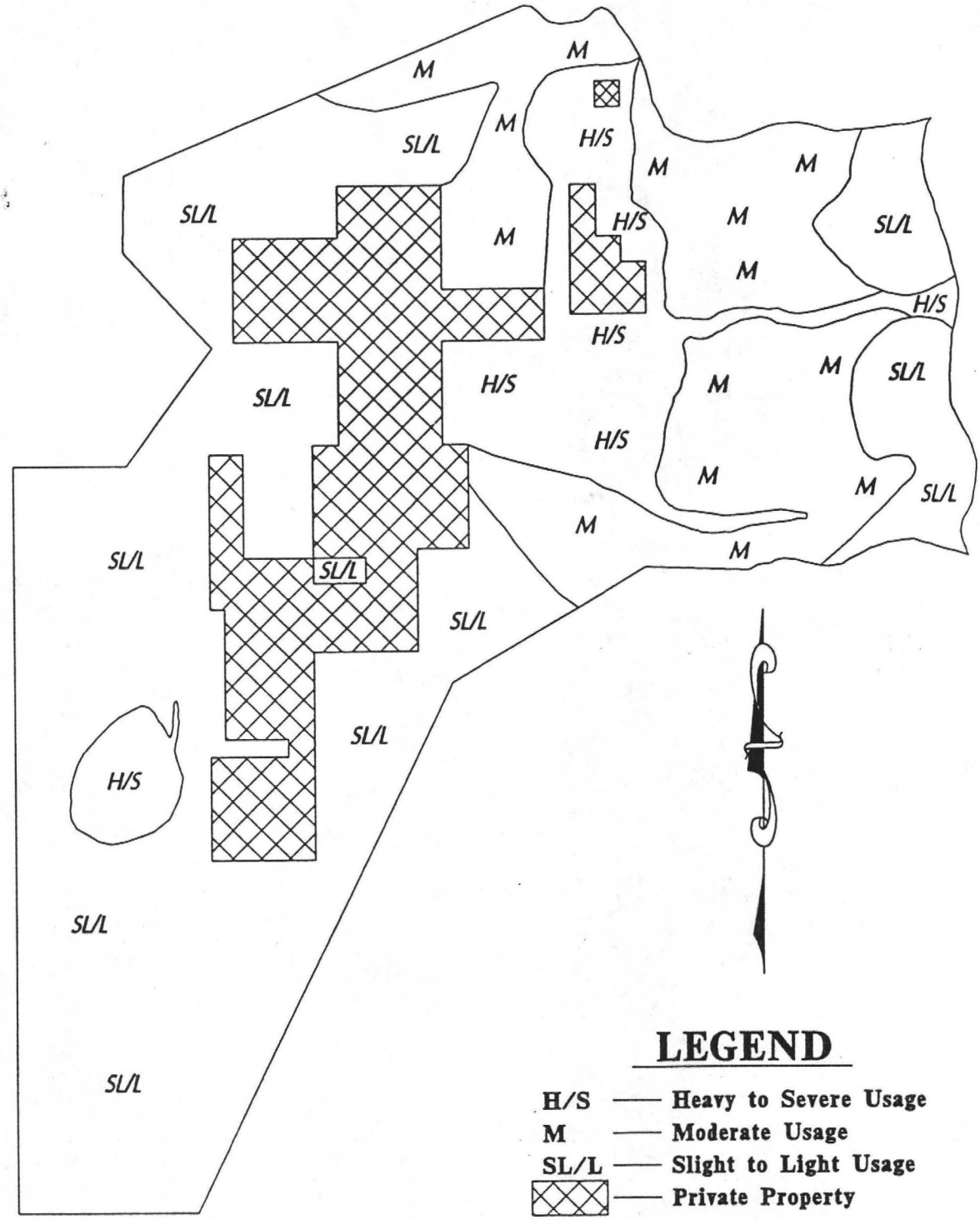
H/S	—	Heavy to Severe Usage
M	—	Moderate Usage
SL/L	—	Slight to Light Usage
	—	Private Property
NM	—	Not Monitored

Map 8-E


DIAMOND VALLEY
ALKALI FLAT
1996 USE PATTERN MAP
DIAMOND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
Sev
Hvy
Mod
Lt
SL-0

THREE MILE ALLOTMENT
1988 UTILIZATION PATTERN

Map 9-A

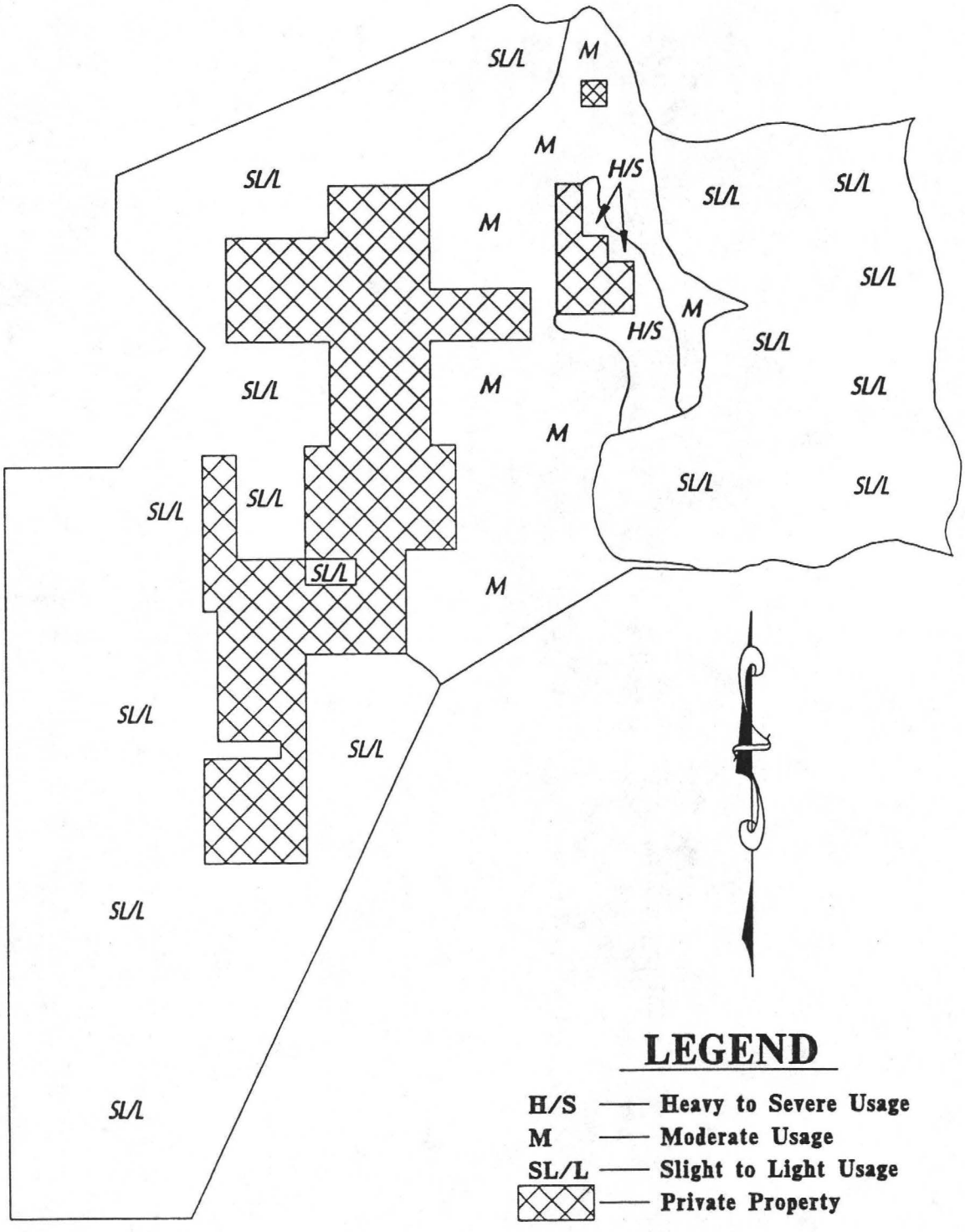


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

THREE MILE ALLOTMENT
1989 UTILIZATION PATTERN

Map 9-B

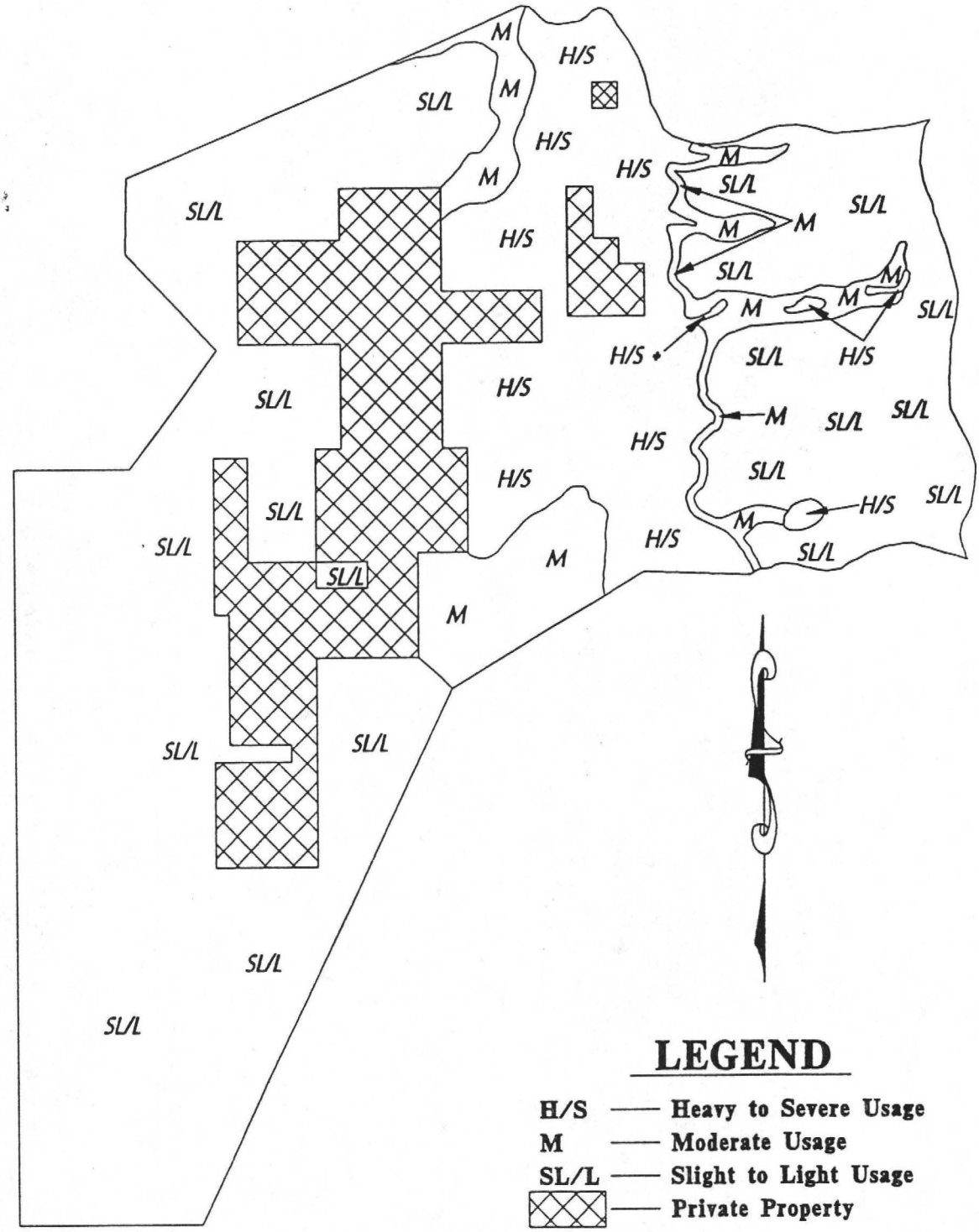


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

THREE MILE ALLOTMENT
1990 UTILIZATION PATTERN

Map 9-C

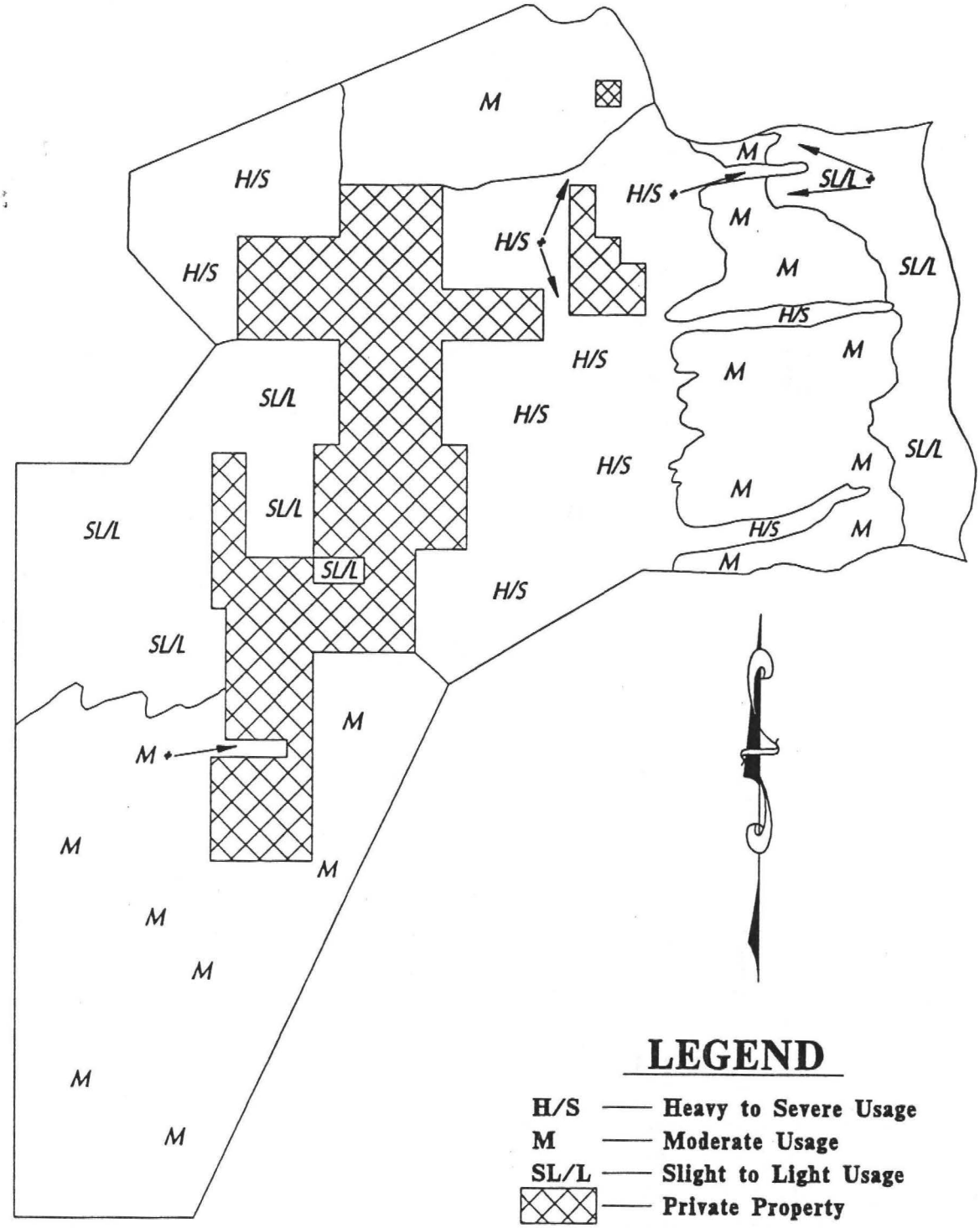


LEGEND

H/S — Heavy to Severe Usage
M — Moderate Usage
SL/L — Slight to Light Usage
▨ — Private Property

THREE MILE ALLOTMENT
1991 UTILIZATION PATTERN

Map 9-D

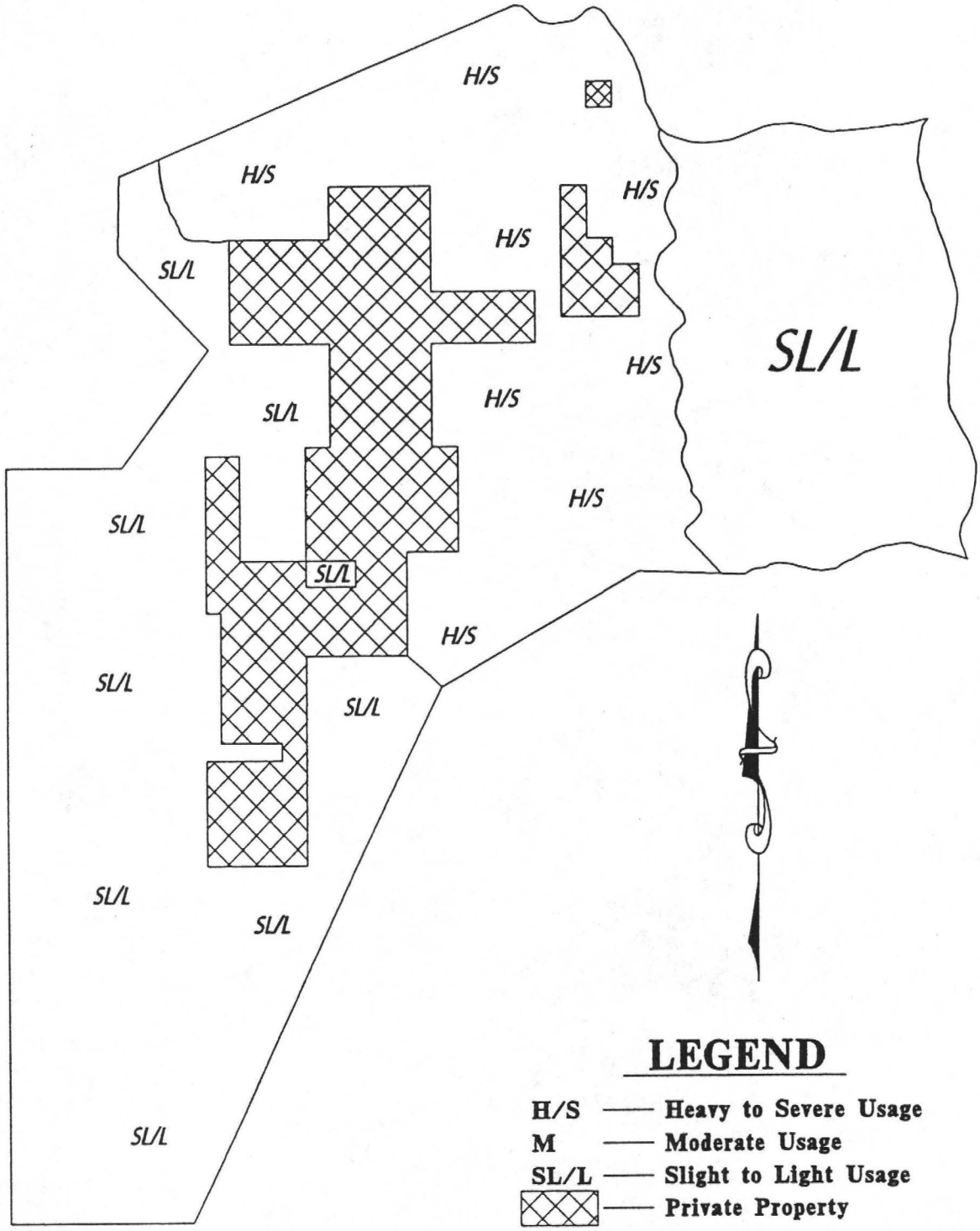


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

THREE MILE ALLOTMENT
1992 UTILIZATION PATTERN

Map 9-E

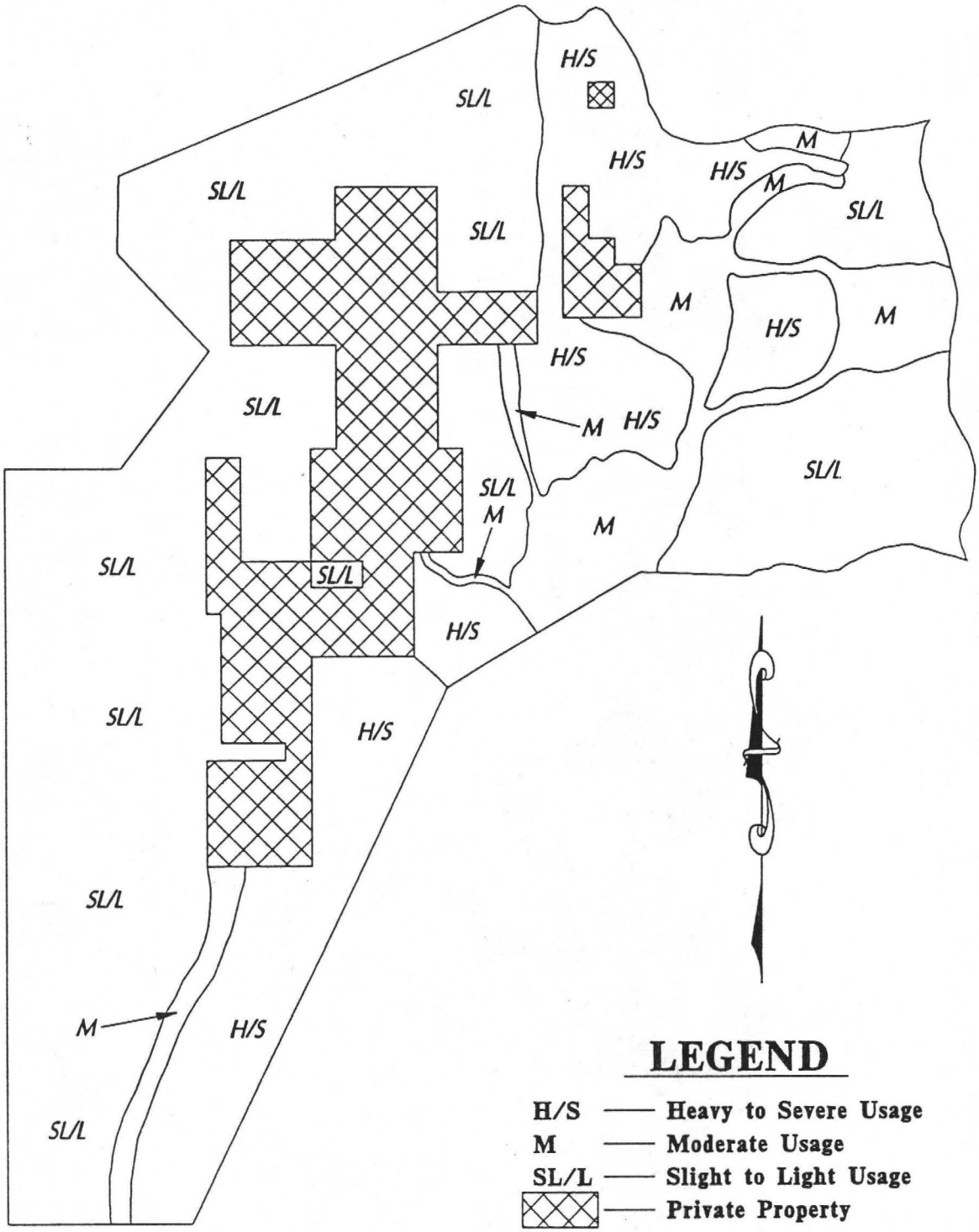


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

Map 9-F

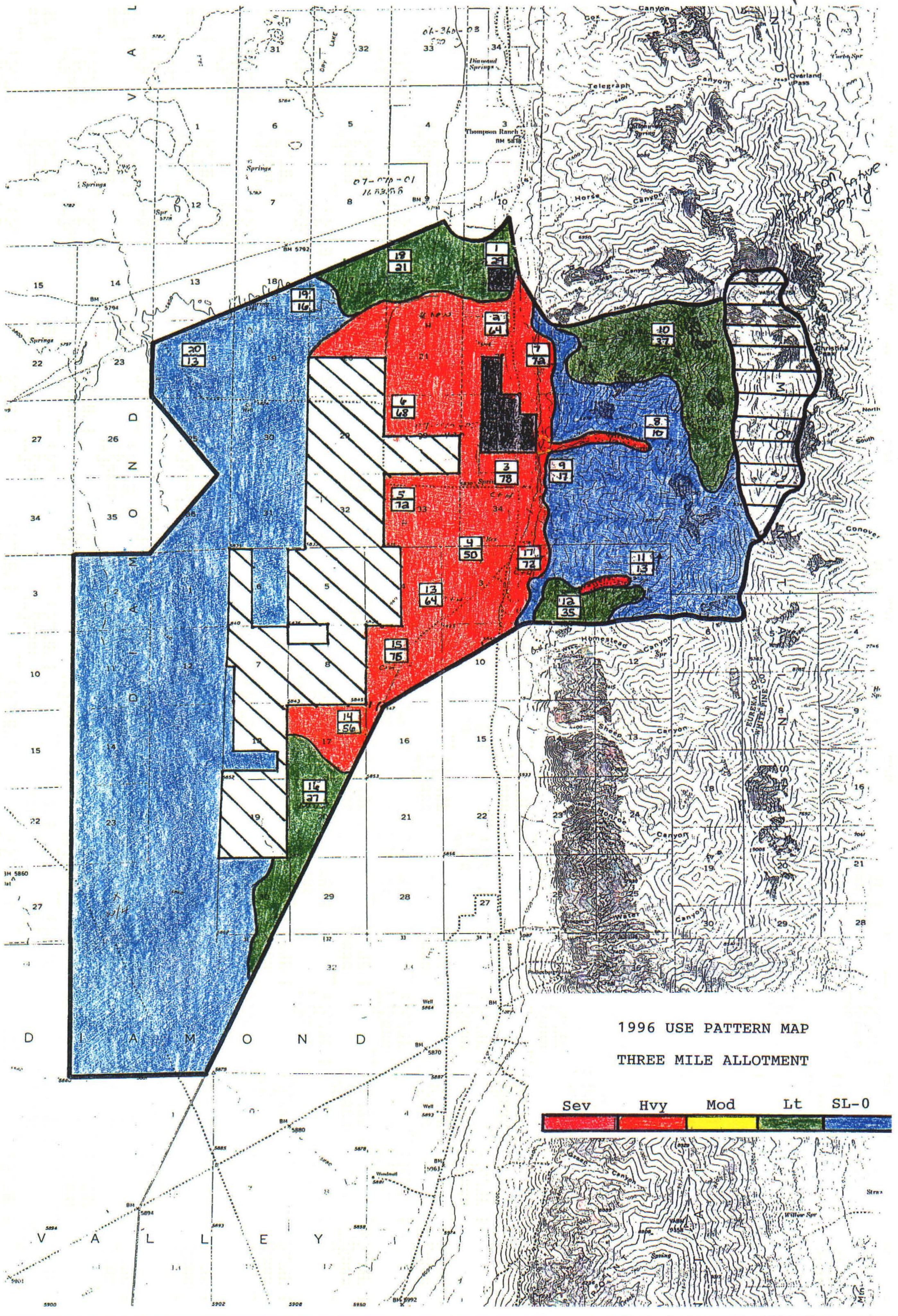
THREE MILE ALLOTMENT
1993 UTILIZATION PATTERN



LEGEND

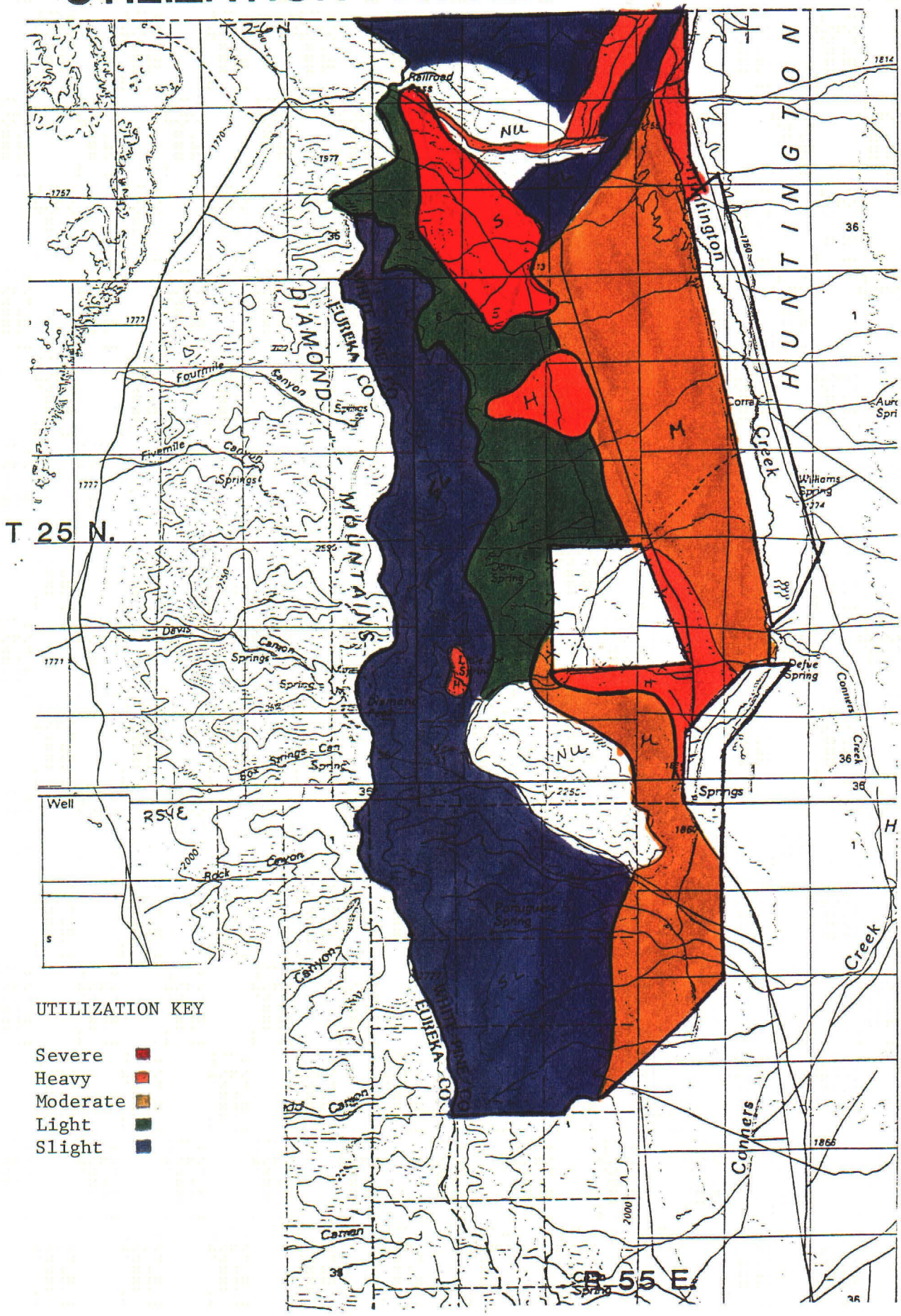
H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

Map 9-G


1996 USE PATTERN MAP
THREE MILE ALLOTMENT
Sev
Hvy
Mod
Lt
SL-0
D I A M O N D
V A L L E Y
Thompson Ranch
Diamond Springs
Telegraph
Canyon
Horse
Homestead
Overland Pass
vegetation not representative of property

Map 10-A

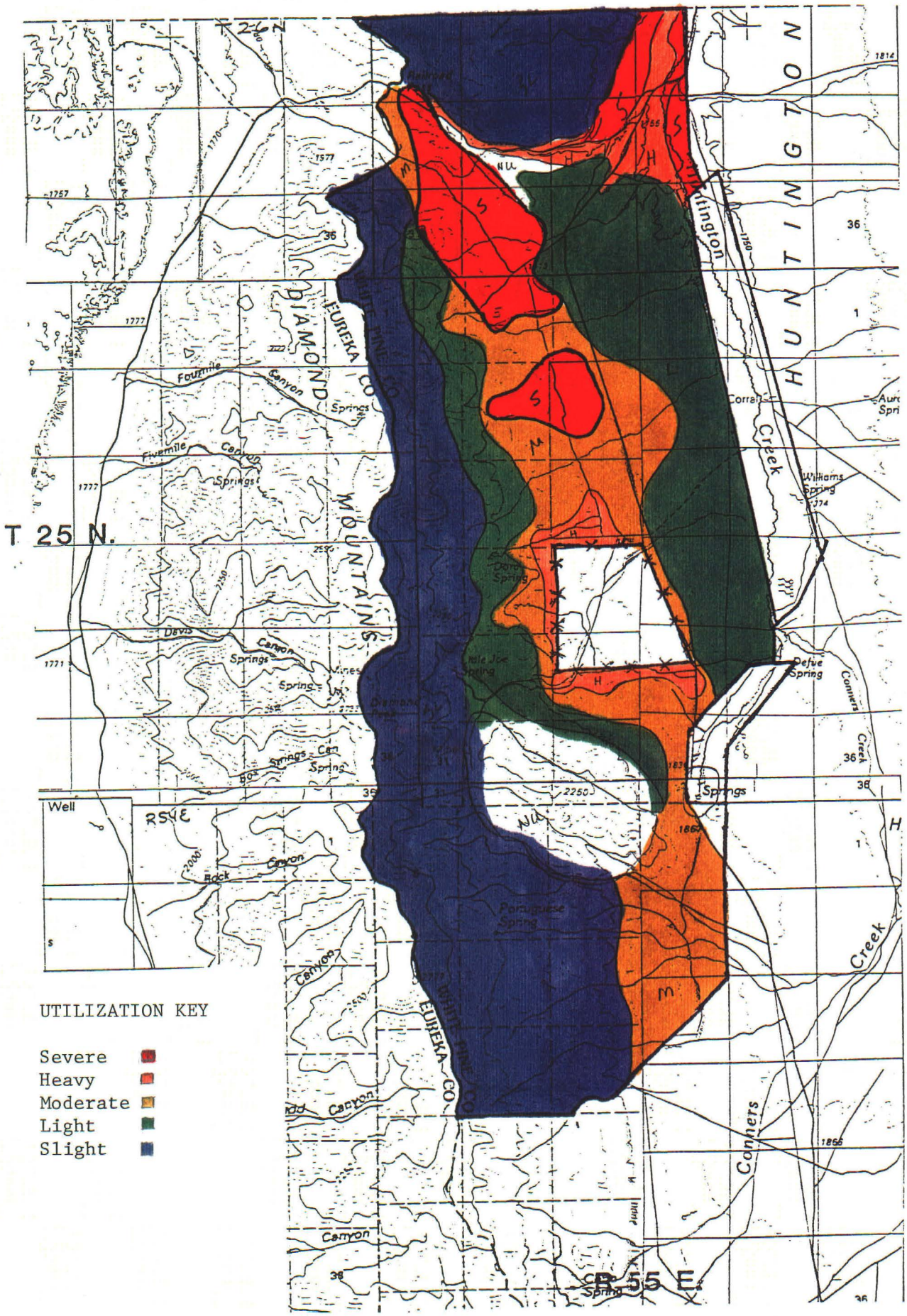
RAILROAD PASS
UTILIZATION PATTERN MAPPING 1988



Map 10-B

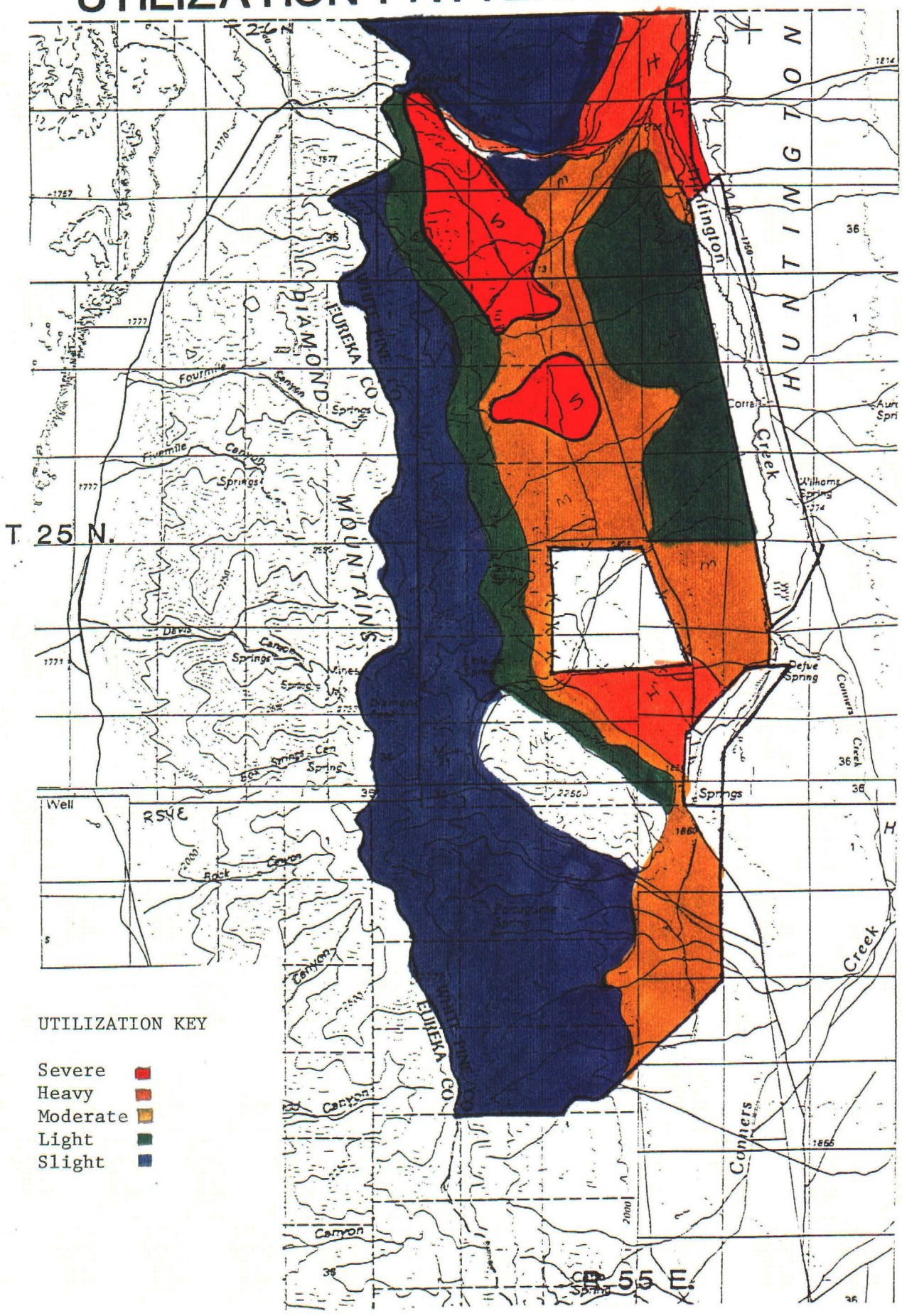
RAILROAD PASS

UTILIZATION PATTERN MAPPING 1989

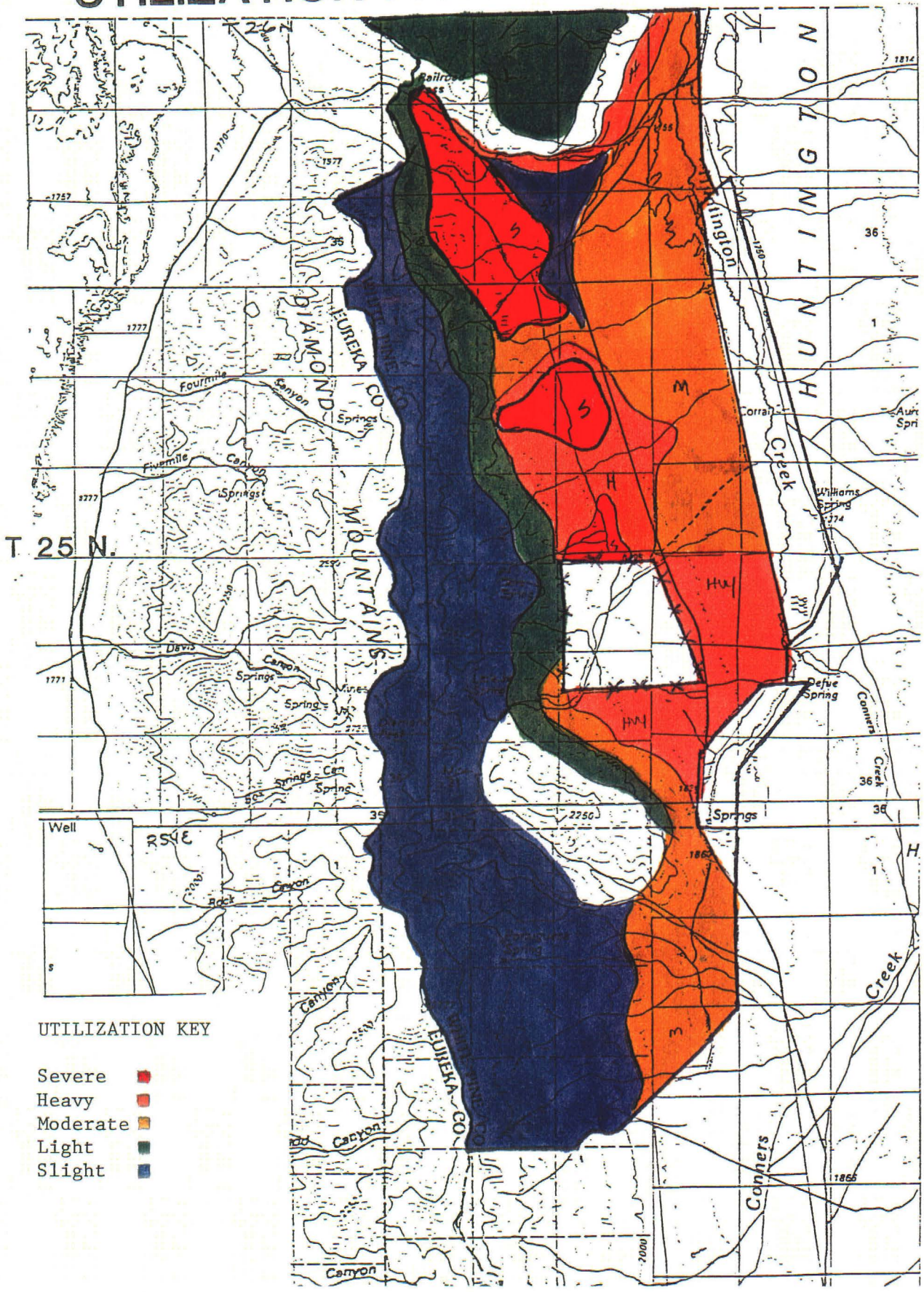


Map 10-C

RAILROAD PASS
UTILIZATION PATTERN MAPPING 1990



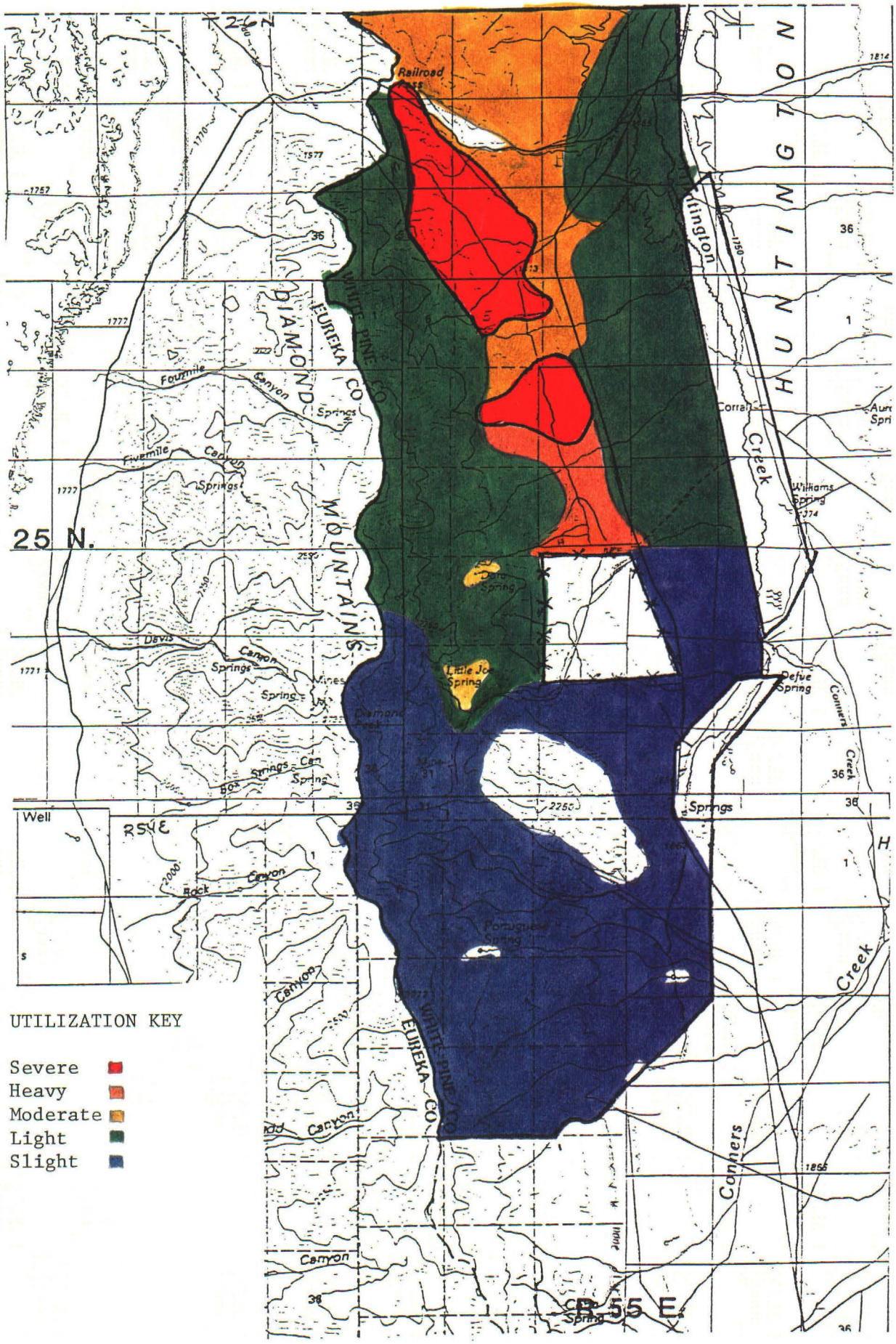
RAILROAD PASS
UTILIZATION PATTERN MAPPING 1992



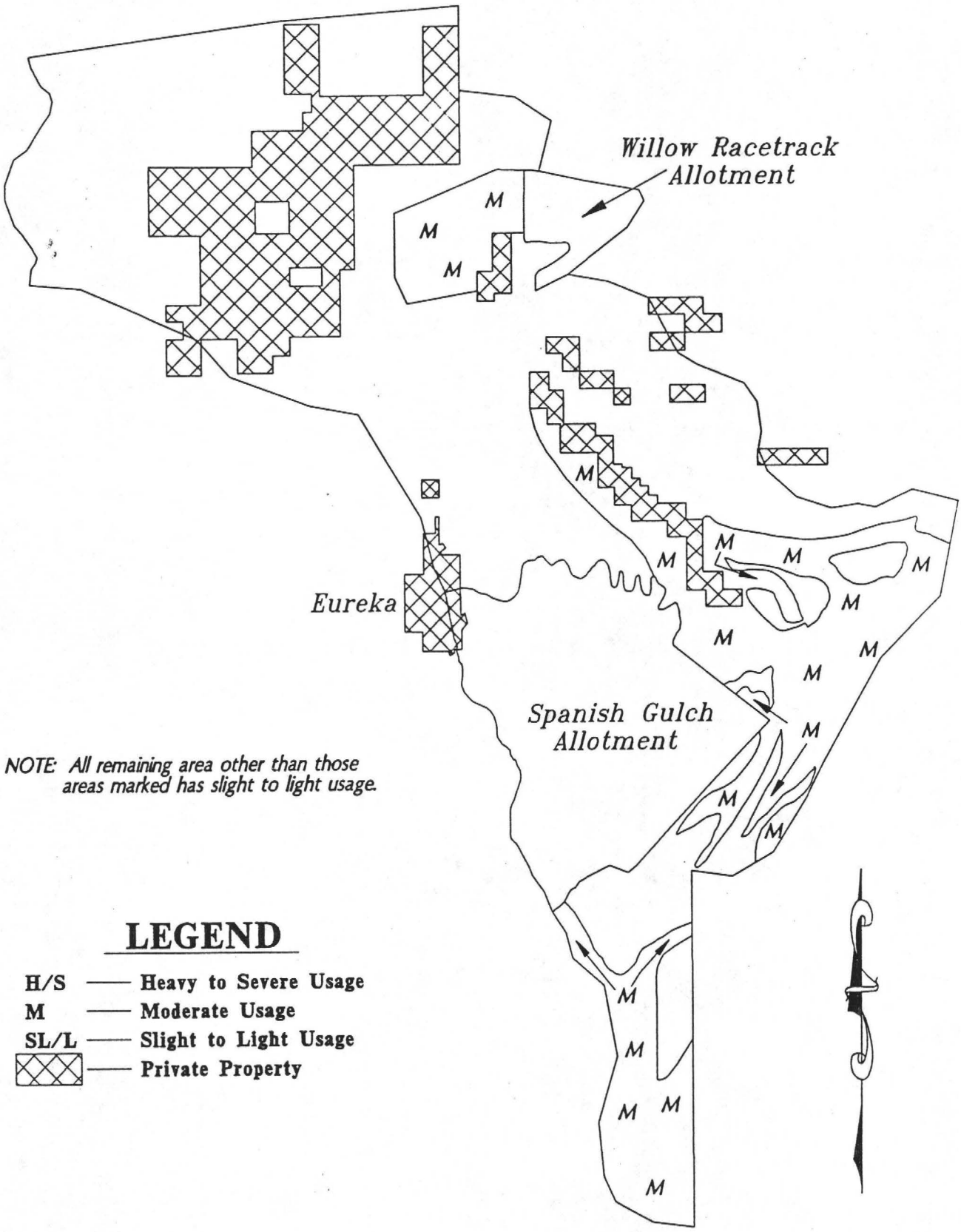
RAILROAD PASS

Map 10-E

UTILIZATION PATTERN MAPPING 1995



SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT
1988 UTILIZATION PATTERN

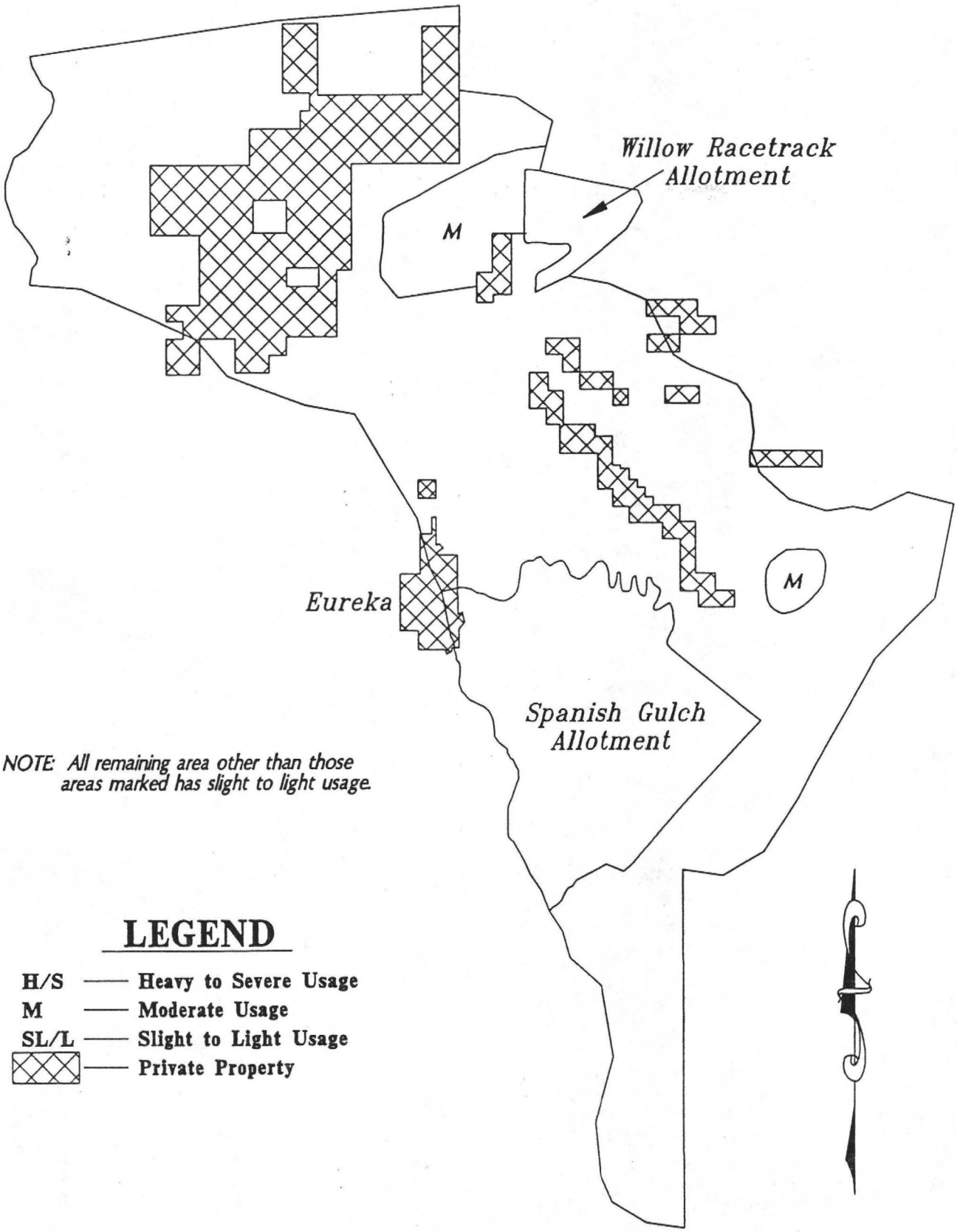


NOTE: All remaining area other than those areas marked has slight to light usage.

LEGEND

H/S —— **Heavy to Severe Usage**
M —— **Moderate Usage**
SL/L —— **Slight to Light Usage**
—— **Private Property**

SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT
1989 UTILIZATION PATTERN

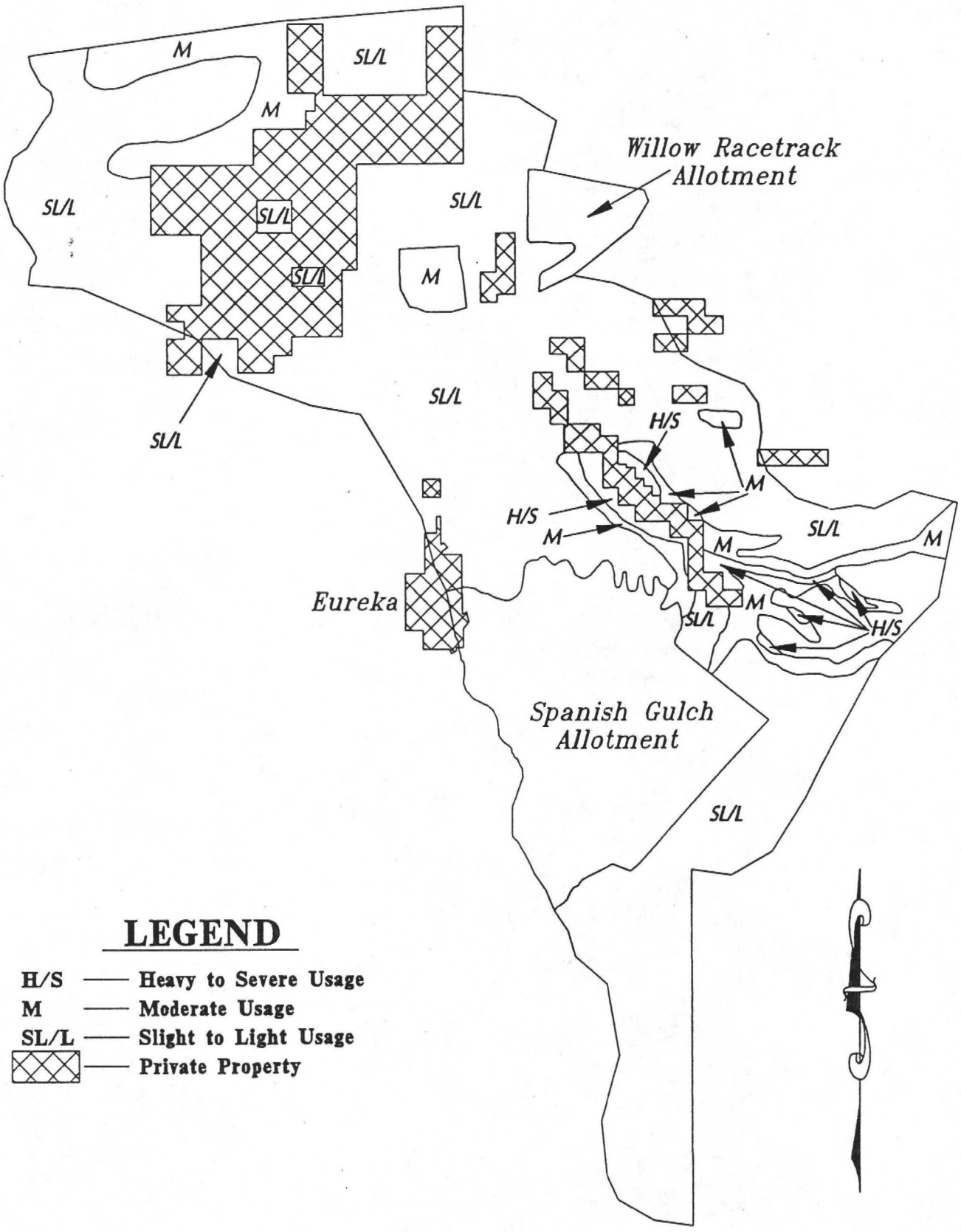


NOTE: All remaining area other than those areas marked has slight to light usage.

LEGEND

H/S — **Heavy to Severe Usage**
M — **Moderate Usage**
SL/L — **Slight to Light Usage**
Private Property

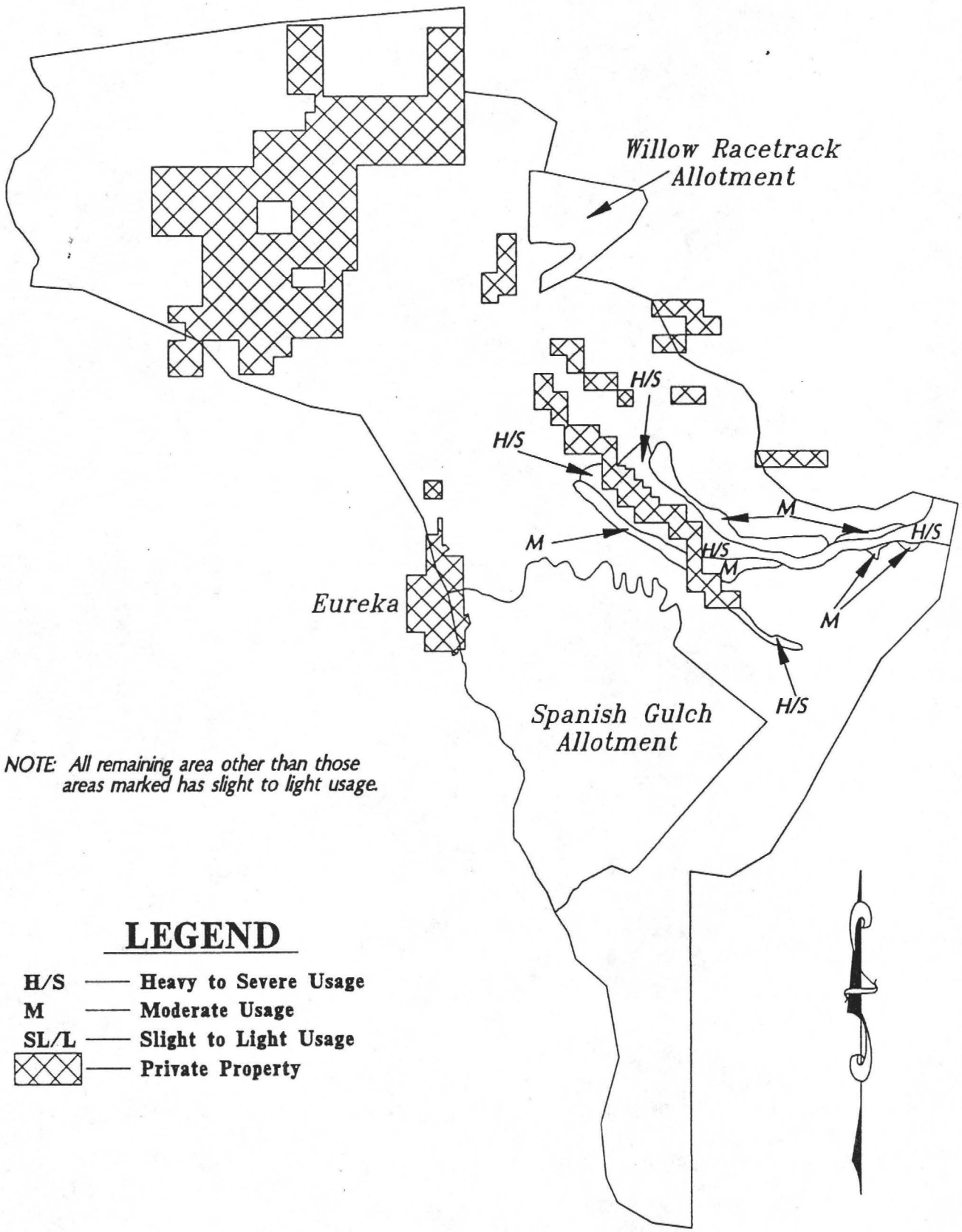
SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT
1990 UTILIZATION PATTERN



LEGEND

H/S	——	Heavy to Severe Usage
M	——	Moderate Usage
SL/L	——	Slight to Light Usage
⊠	——	Private Property

SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT
1991 UTILIZATION PATTERN

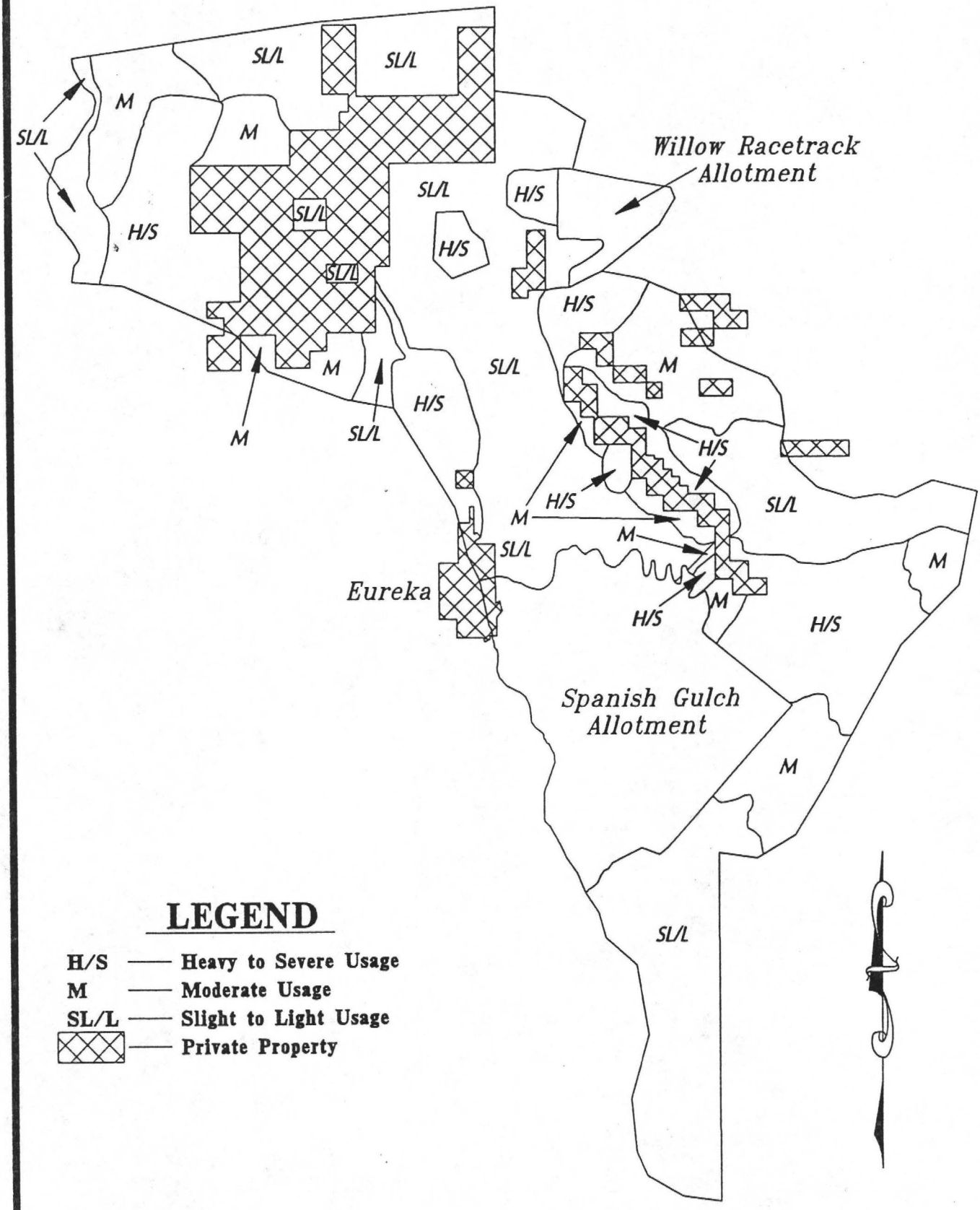


NOTE: All remaining area other than those areas marked has slight to light usage.

LEGEND

H/S —— **Heavy to Severe Usage**
M —— **Moderate Usage**
SL/L —— **Slight to Light Usage**
—— **Private Property**

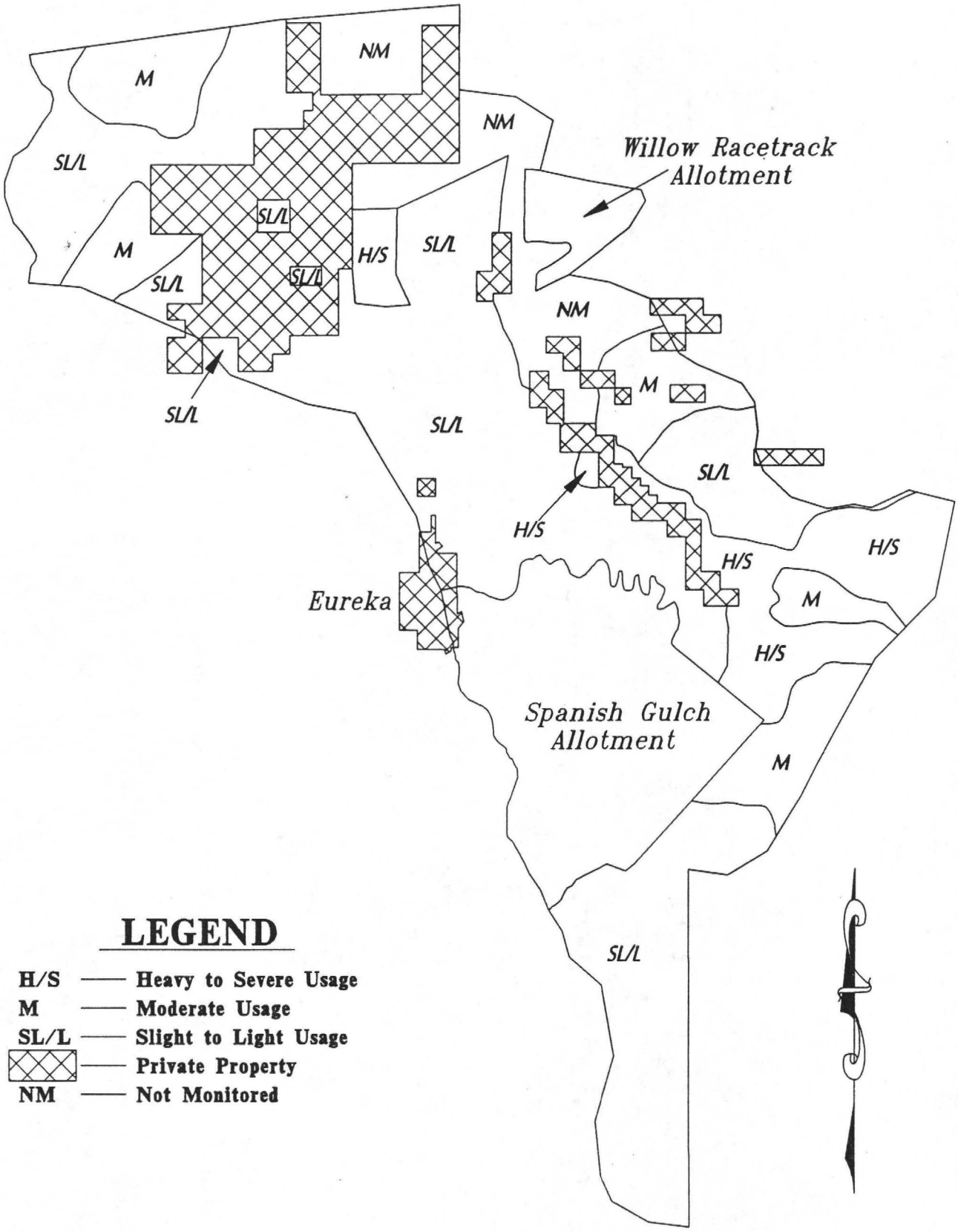
SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT
1992 UTILIZATION PATTERN



LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
▨ —— Private Property

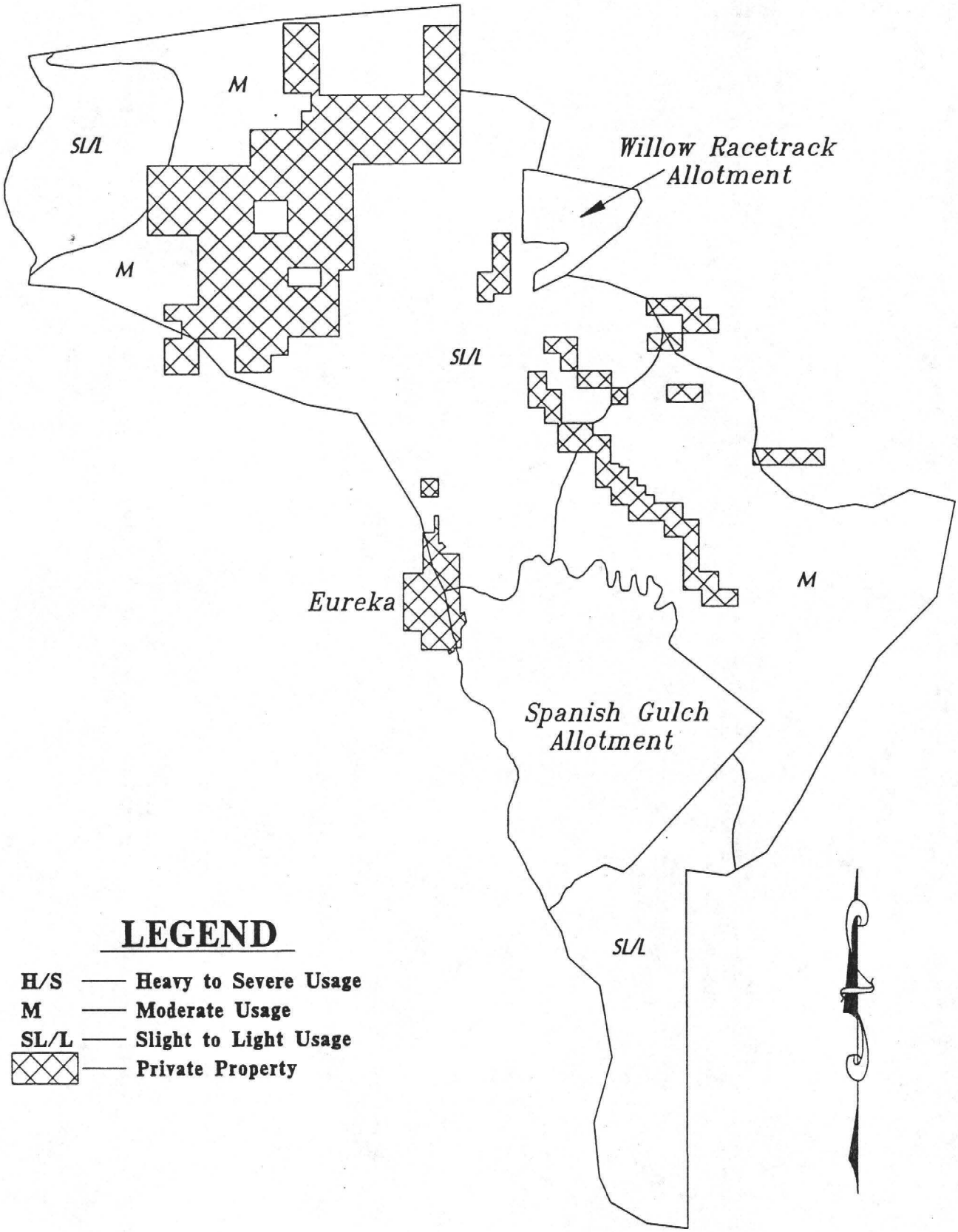
SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT
1993 UTILIZATION PATTERN



LEGEND

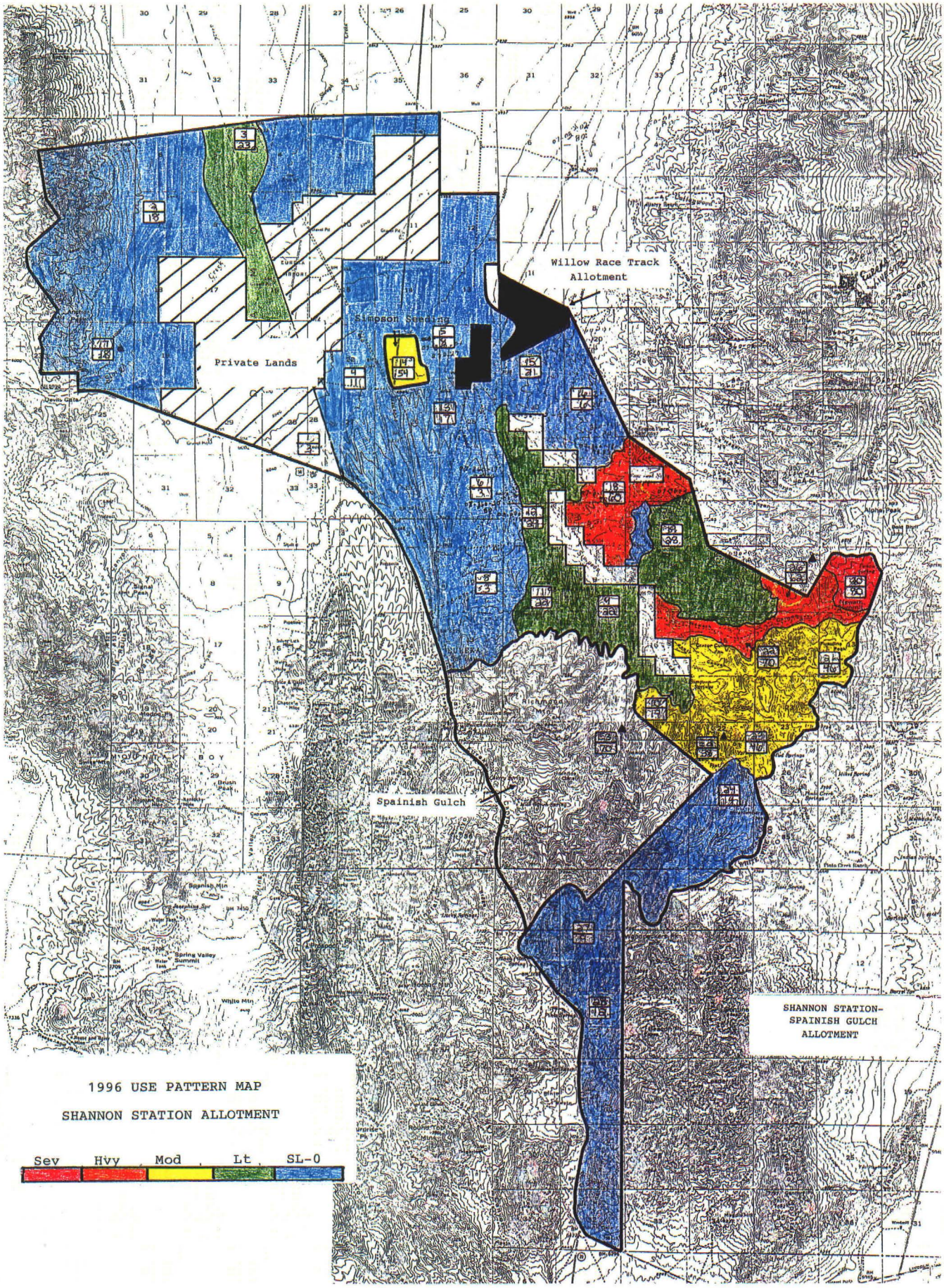
H/S	——	Heavy to Severe Usage
M	——	Moderate Usage
SL/L	——	Slight to Light Usage
	——	Private Property
NM	——	Not Monitored

SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT
1994 UTILIZATION PATTERN

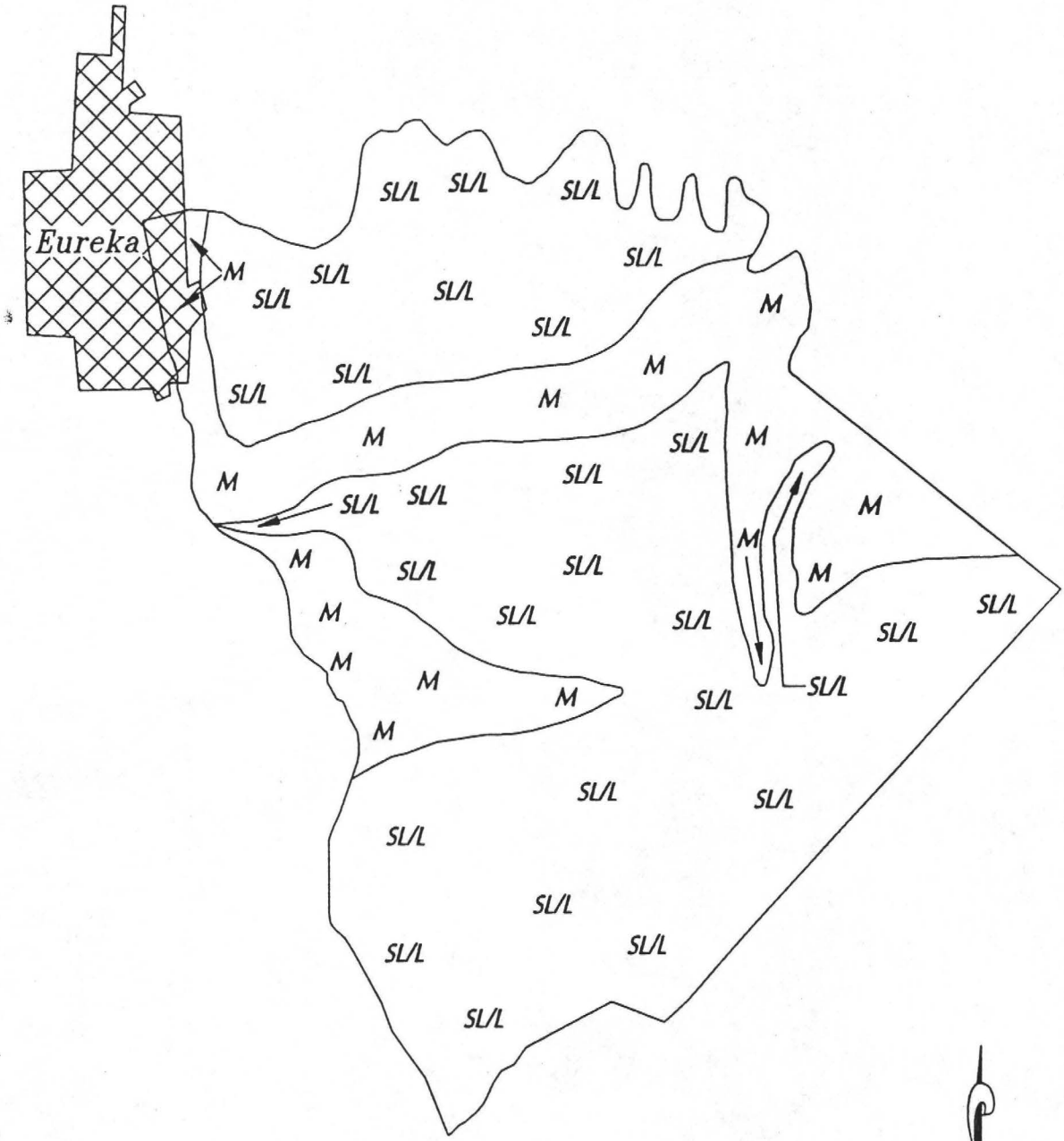


LEGEND

H/S — Heavy to Severe Usage
M — Moderate Usage
SL/L — Slight to Light Usage
— Private Property


Willow Race Track
Allotment
Simpson Seeding
Private Lands
Spainish Gulch
SHANNON STATION-
SPAINISH GULCH
ALLOTMENT
1996 USE PATTERN MAP
SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT
Sev
Hvy
Mod
Lt
SL-0

SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT
1988 UTILIZATION PATTERN

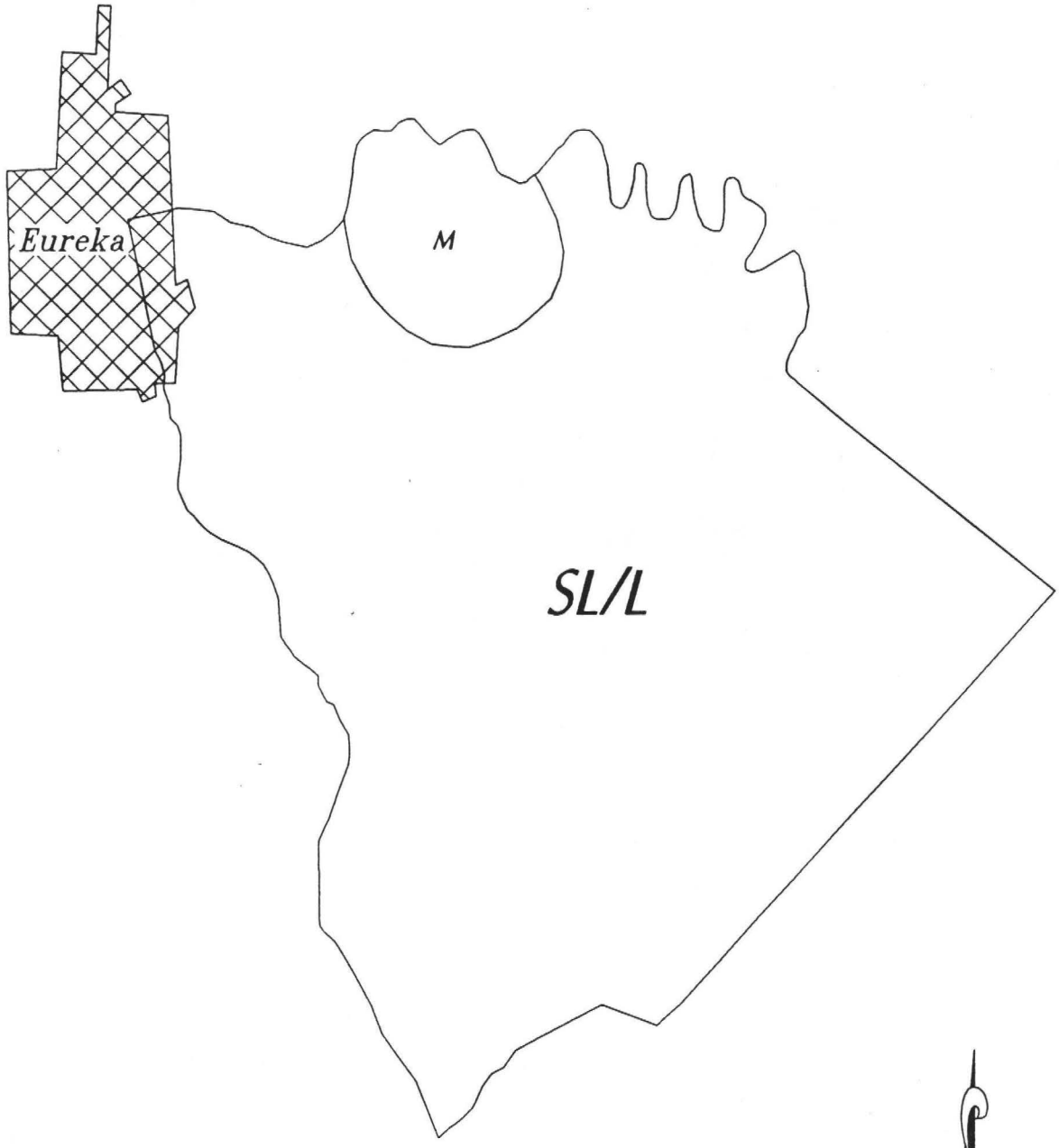


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

MAP 12-B

SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT
1989 UTILIZATION PATTERN

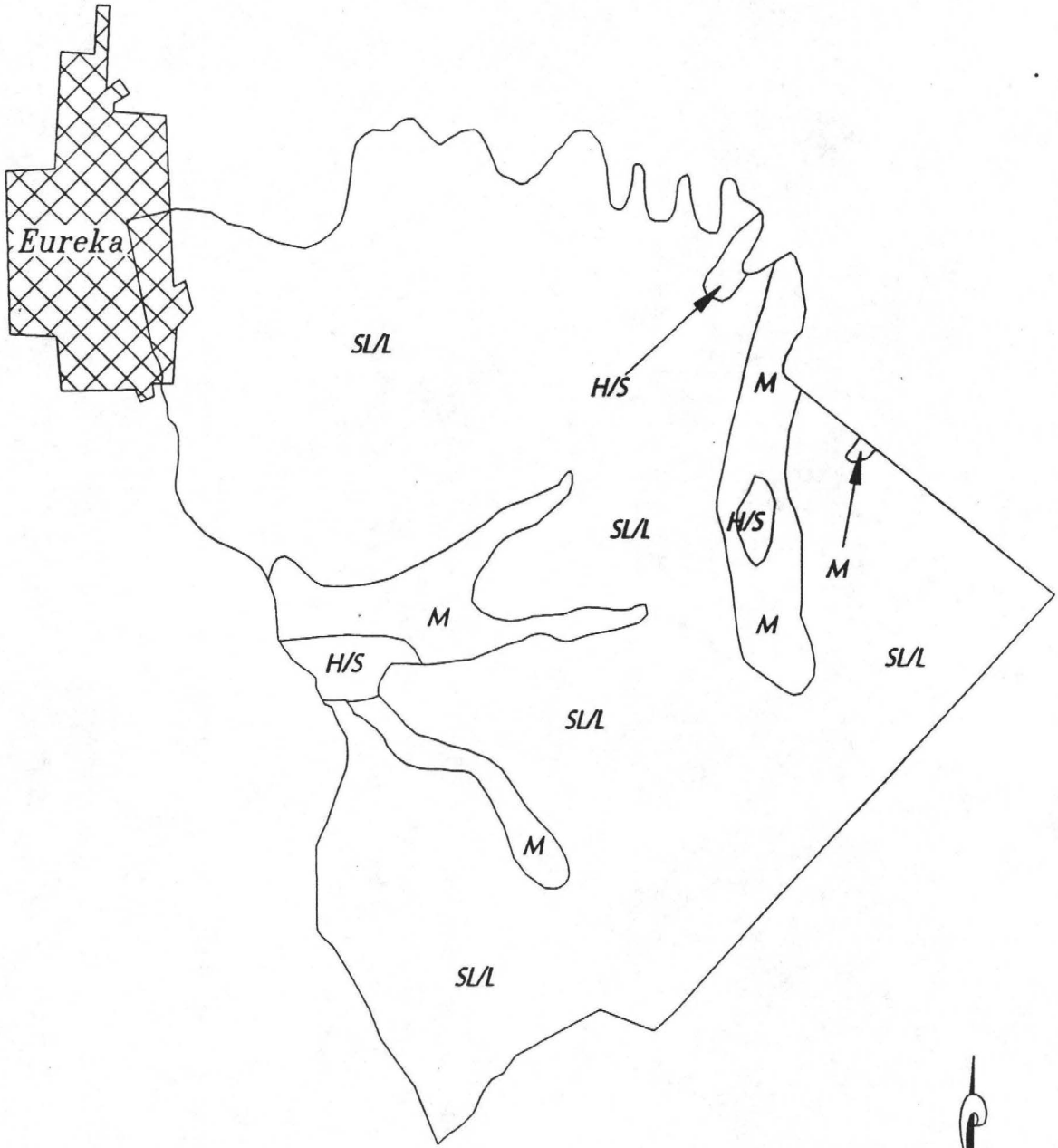


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

MAP 12-C

SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT
1990 UTILIZATION PATTERN

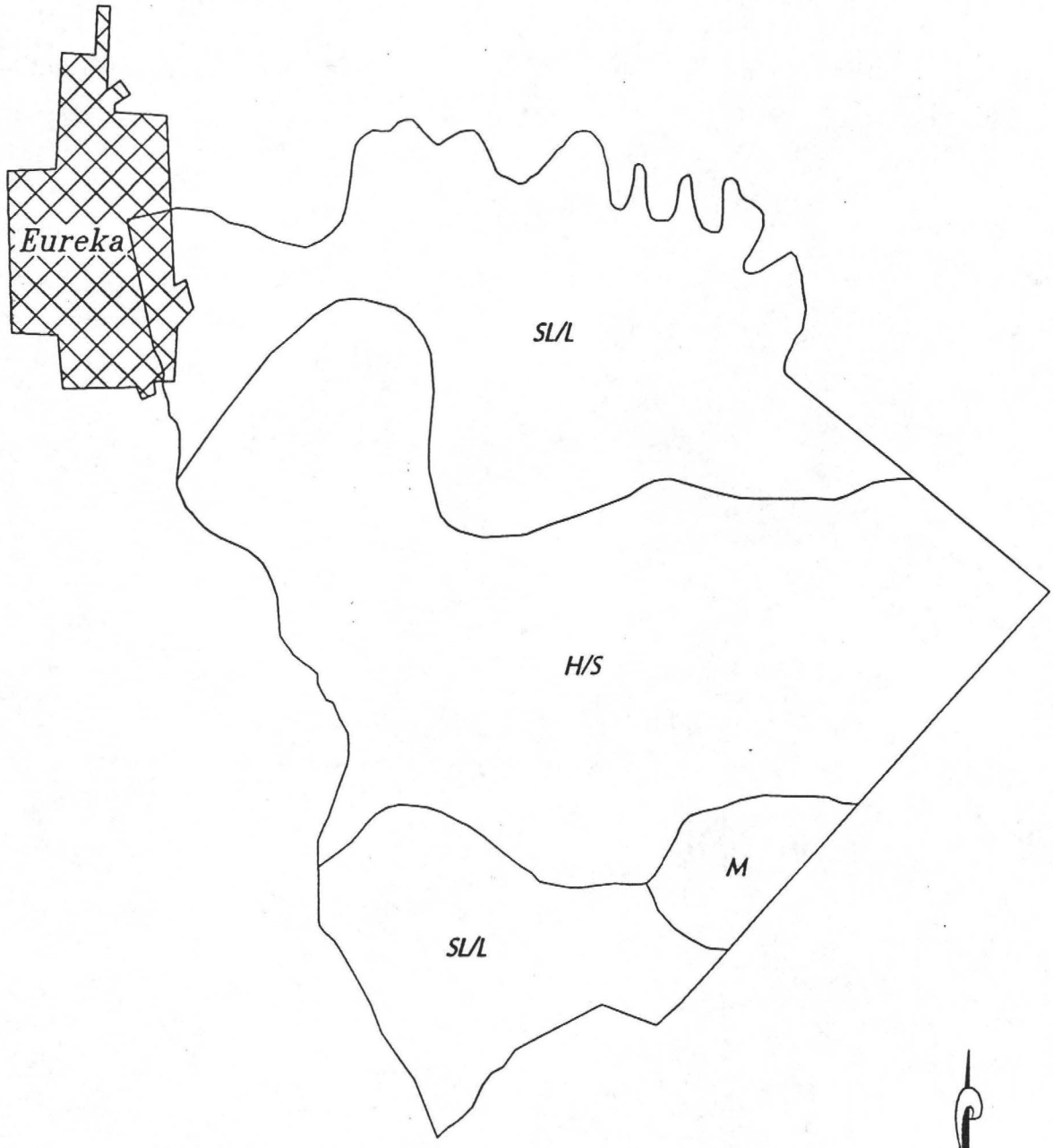


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

MAP 12-D

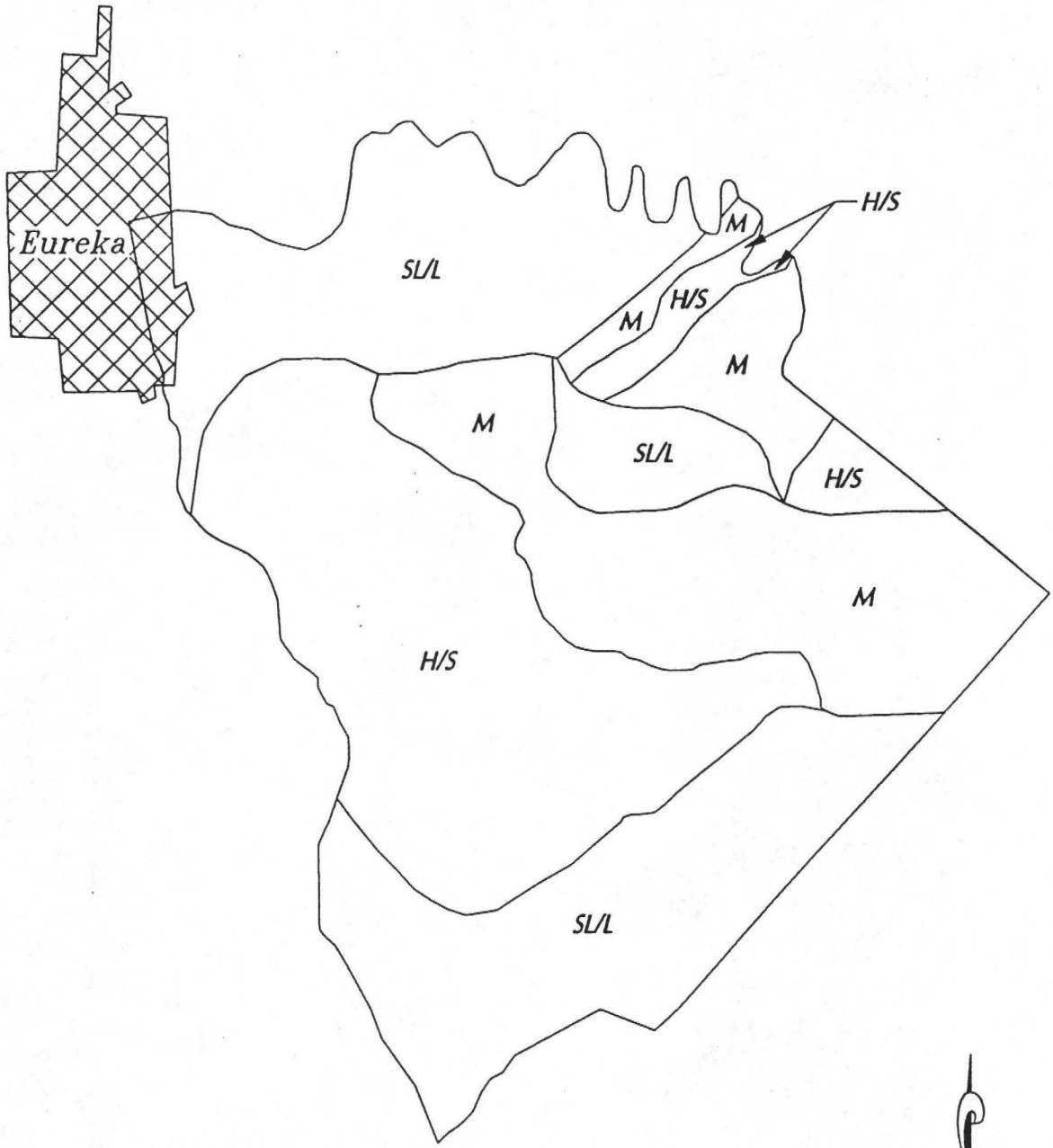
SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT
1991 UTILIZATION PATTERN



LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT
1992 UTILIZATION PATTERN

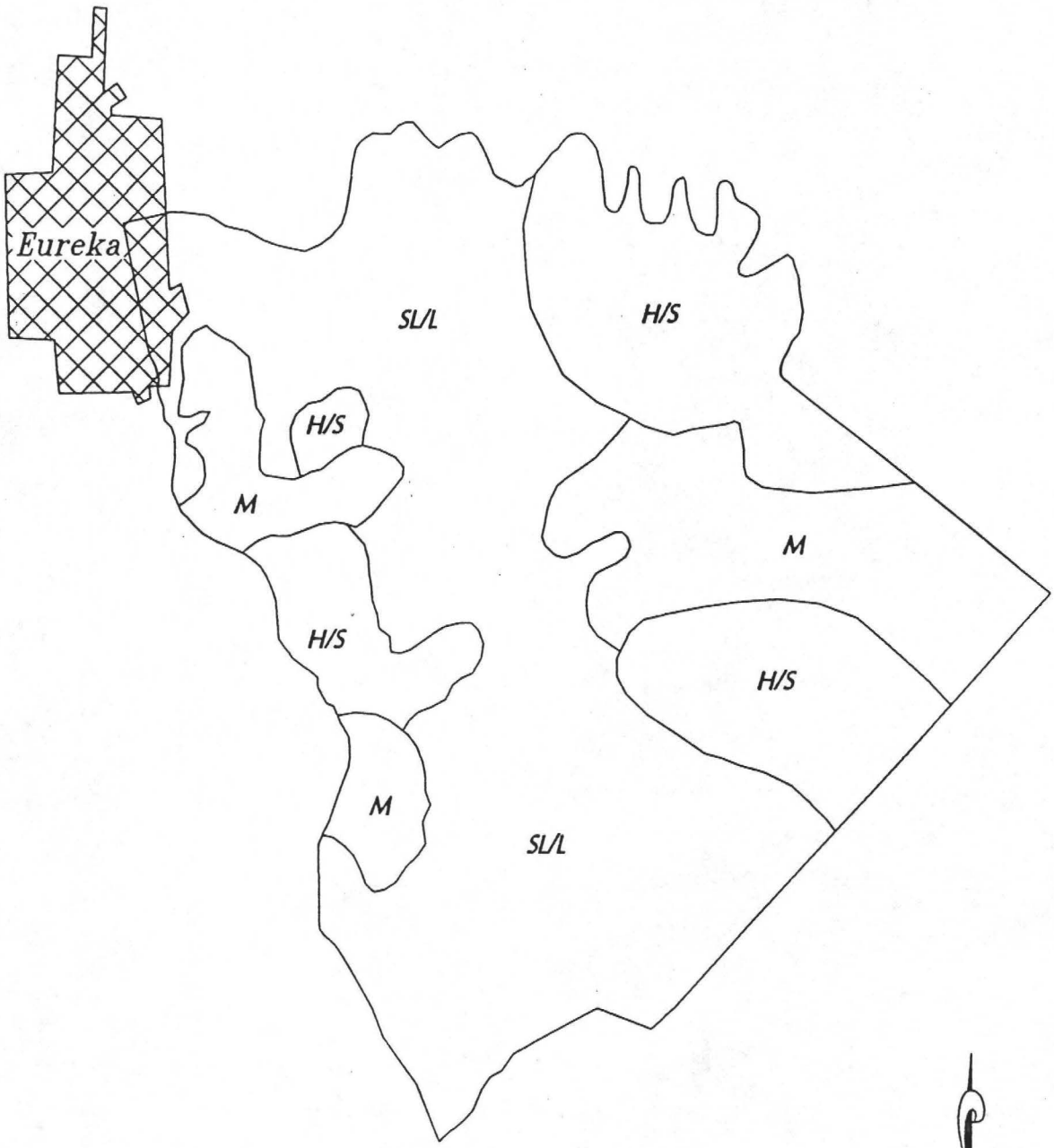


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

MAP 12-F

SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT
1993 UTILIZATION PATTERN

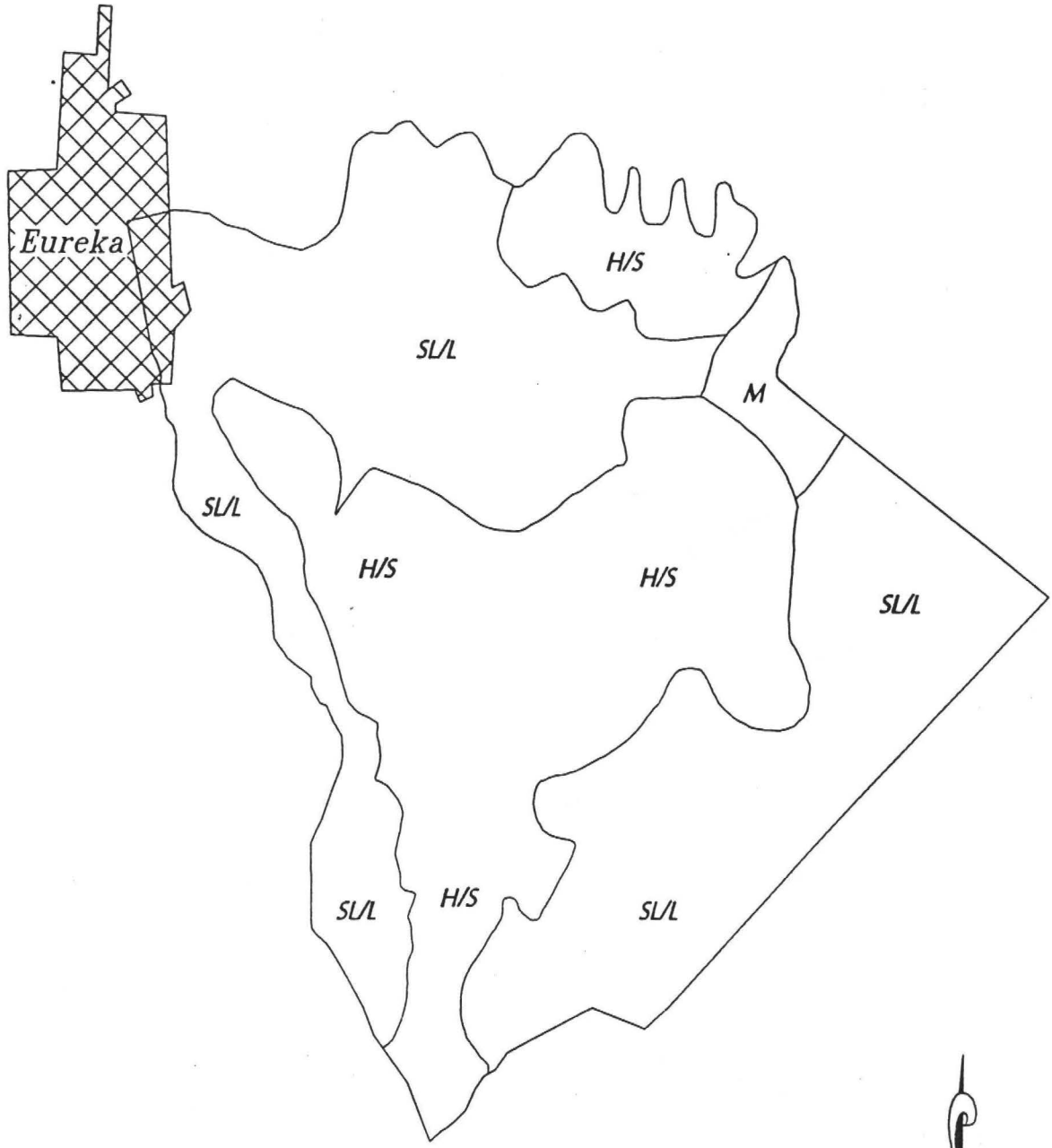


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

MAP 12-G

SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT
1994 UTILIZATION PATTERN

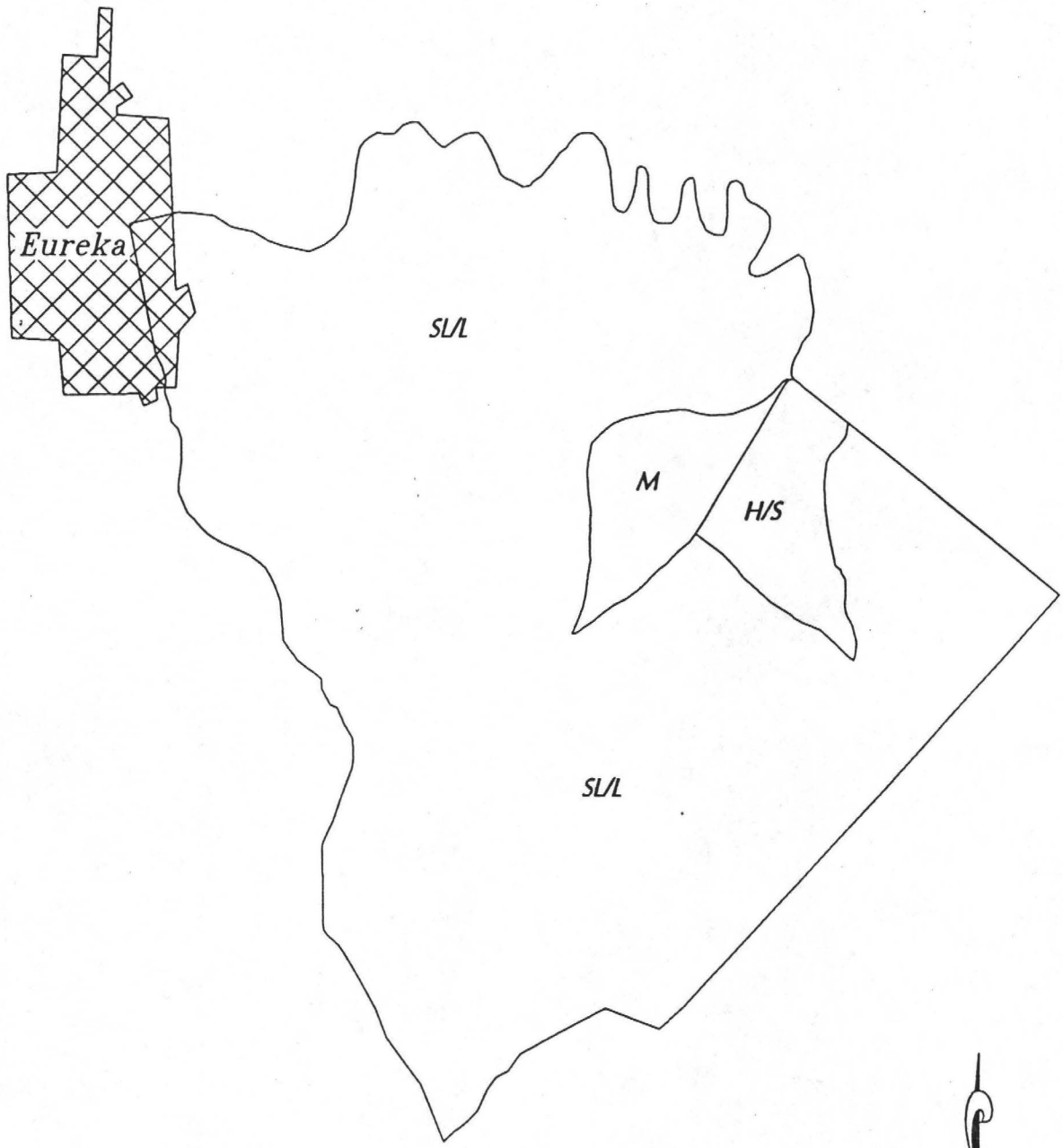


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

MAP 12-H

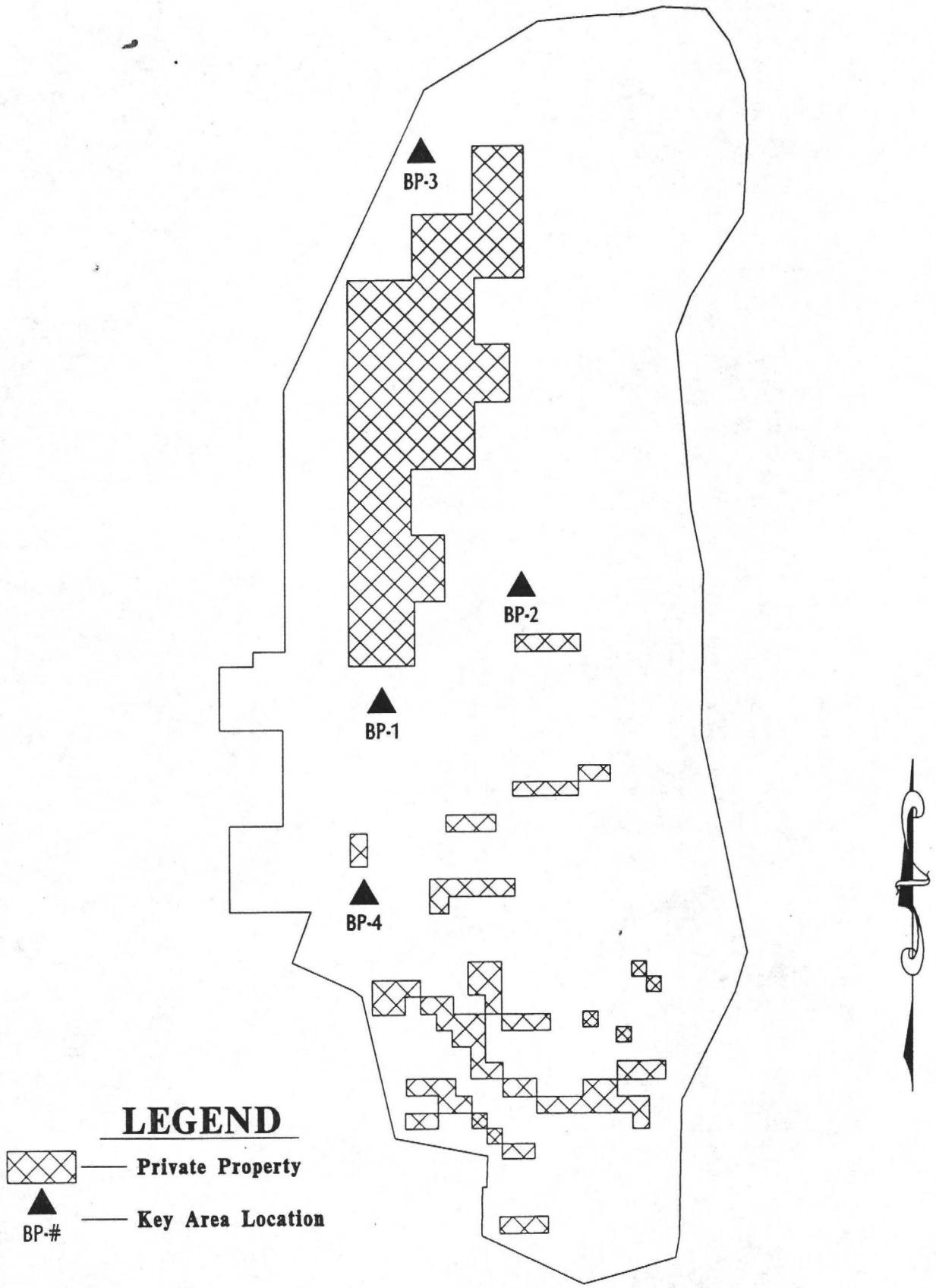
SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT
1995 UTILIZATION PATTERN

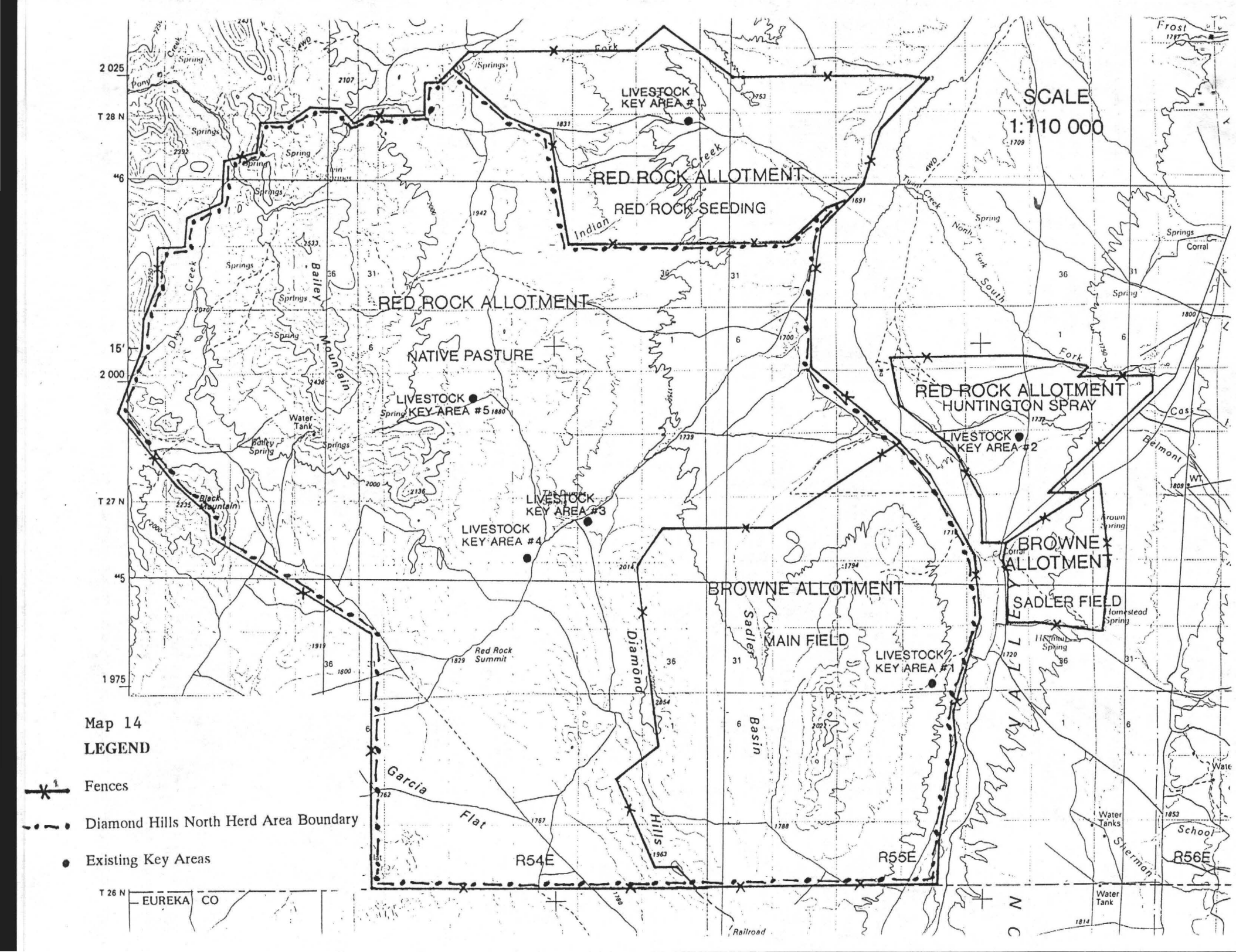


LEGEND

H/S —— Heavy to Severe Usage
M —— Moderate Usage
SL/L —— Slight to Light Usage
—— Private Property

BLACK POINT ALLOTMENT
KEY AREA LOCATIONS



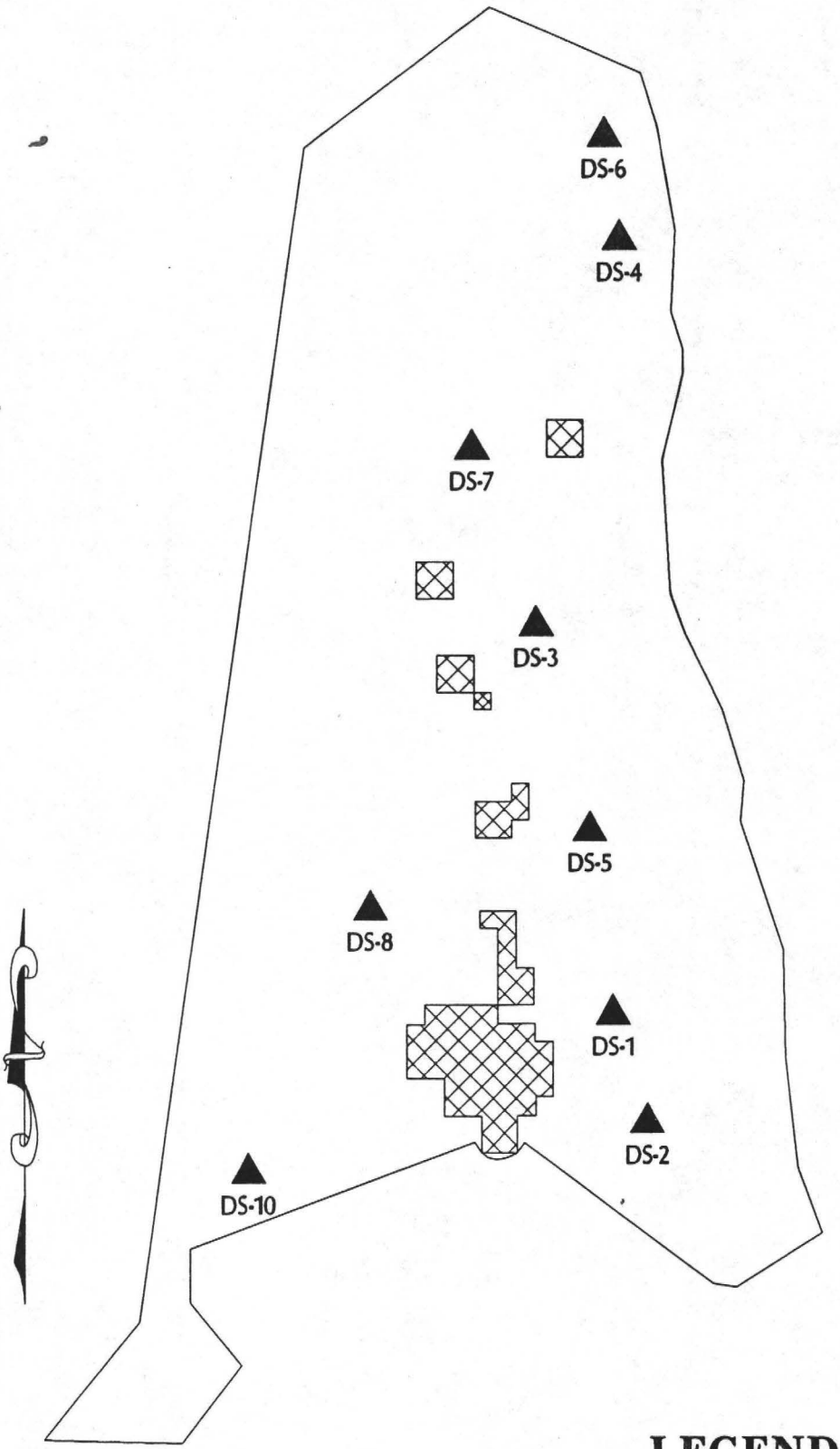


Map 14

LEGEND

- Fences
- Diamond Hills North Herd Area Boundary
- Existing Key Areas

DIAMOND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
KEY AREA LOCATIONS

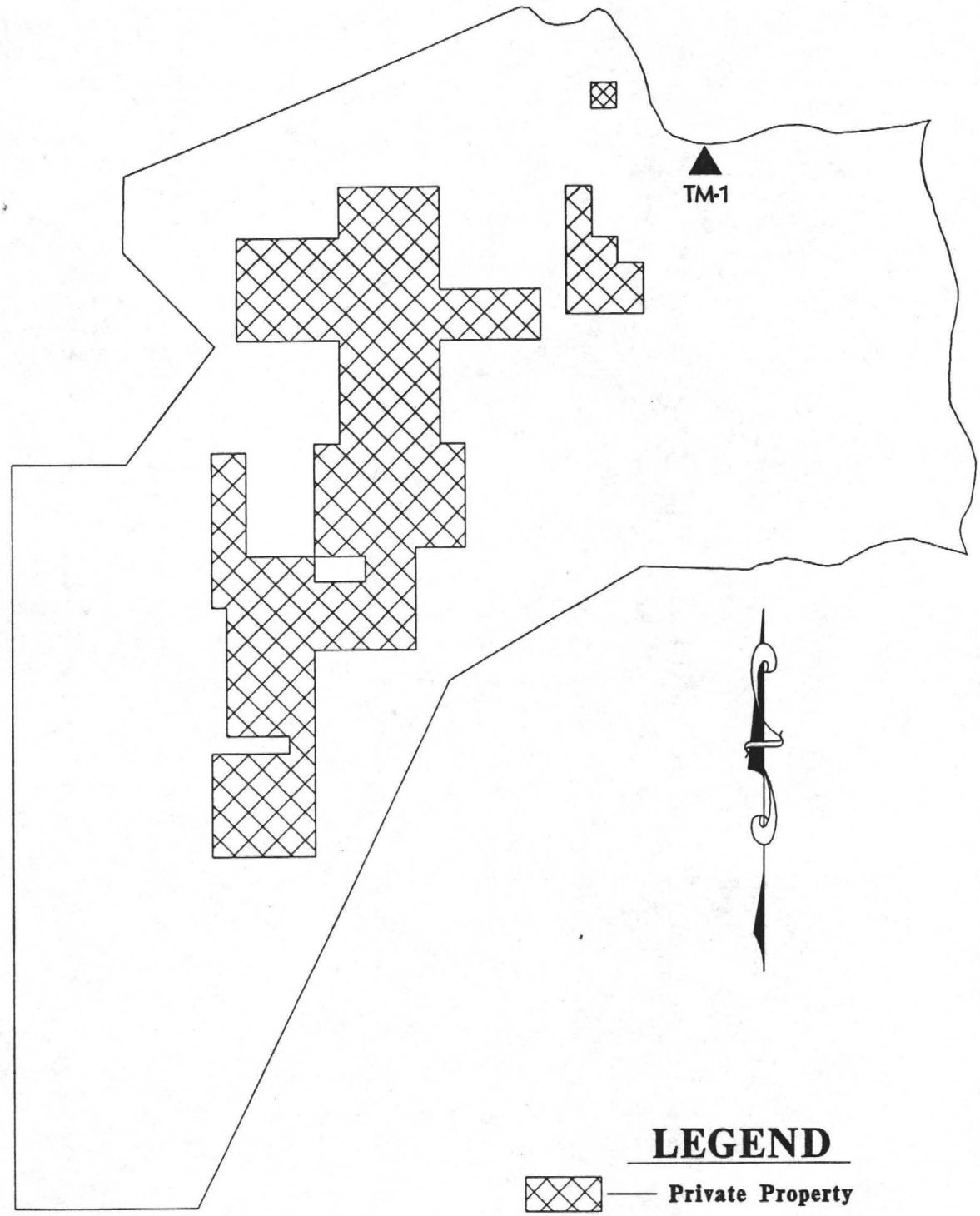


LEGEND

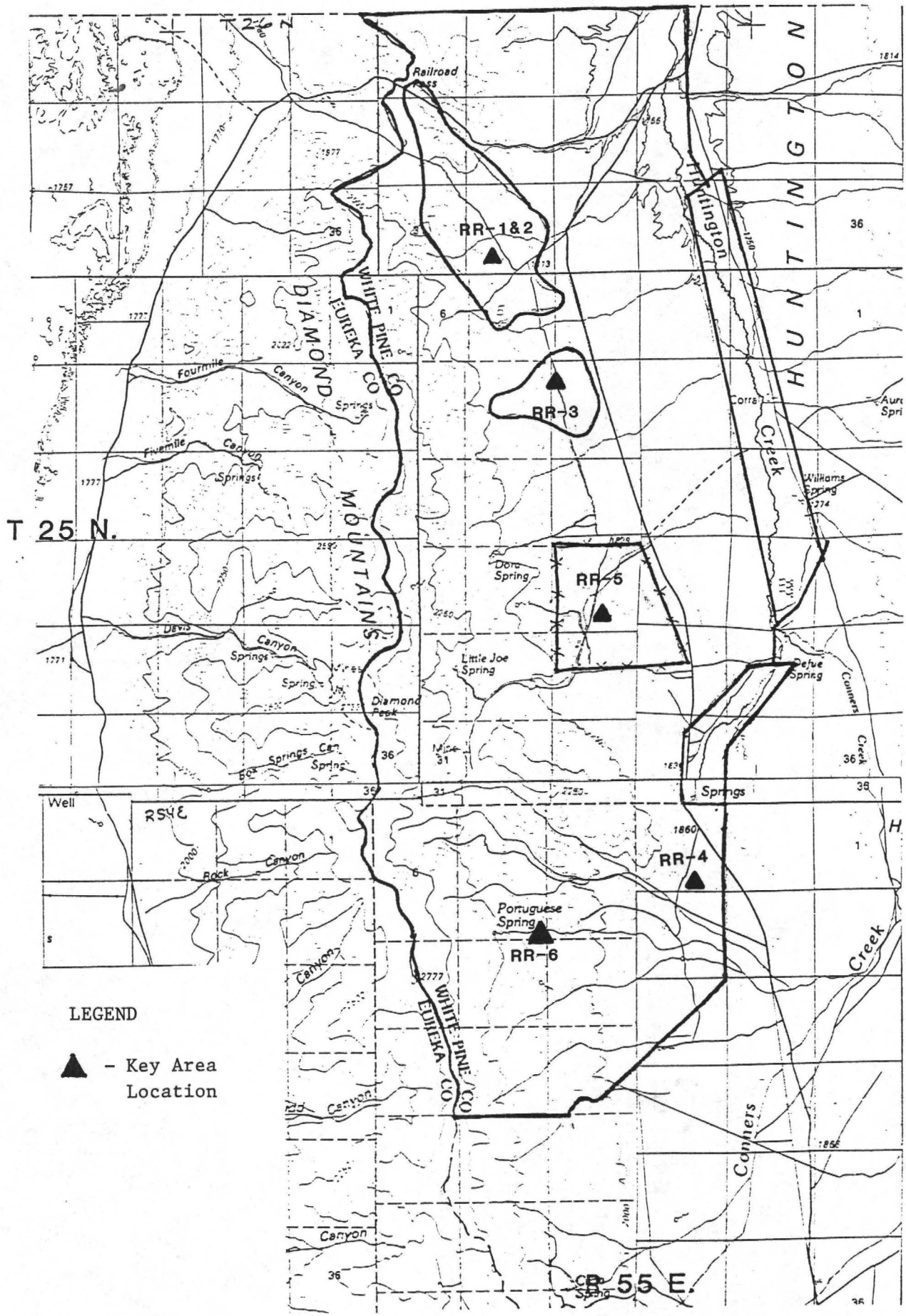
Private Property

DS-# — Key Area Location

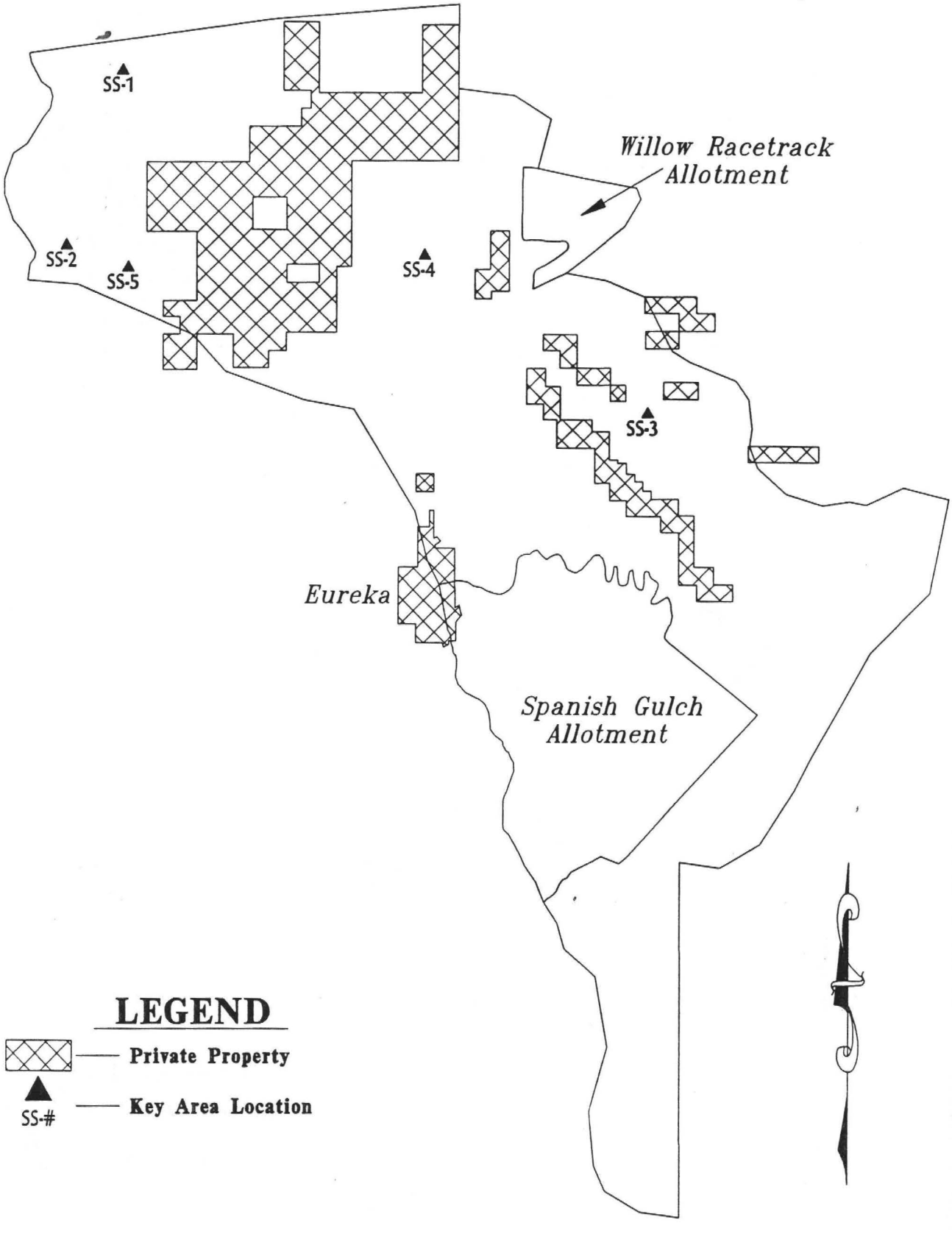
THREE MILE ALLOTMENT
KEY AREA LOCATION



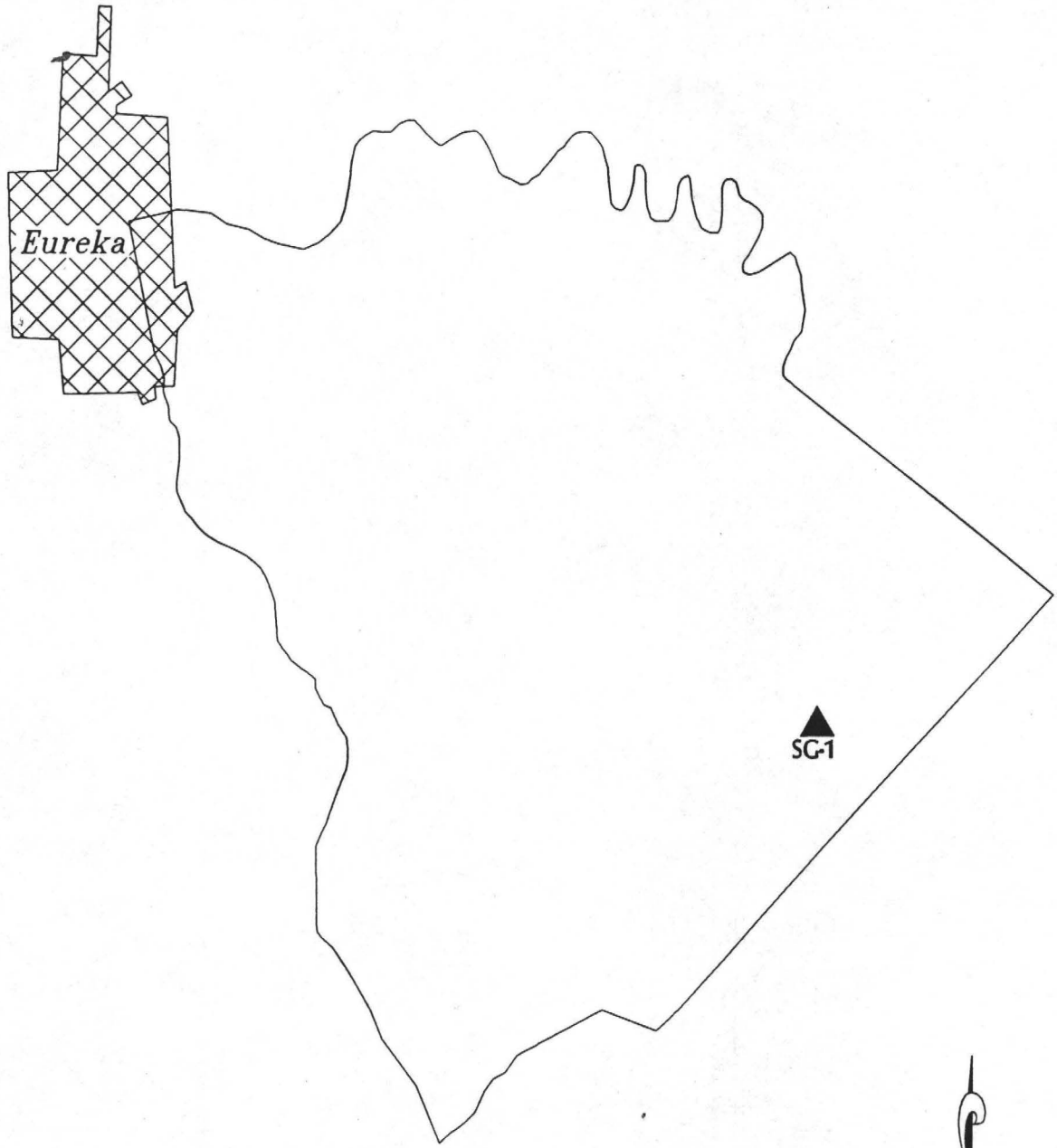
RAILROAD PASS ALLOTMENT



SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT KEY AREAS



SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENT
KEY AREA LOCATION



LEGEND

Private Property

SG-# — Key Area Location

ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT LIVESTOCK USE AGREEMENT (BROWNE ALLOTMENT)
2. DRAFT LIVESTOCK USE AGREEMENT (RED ROCK ALLOTMENT)
3. DRAFT LIVESTOCK USE AGREEMENT (DIAMOND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT)
4. DRAFT LIVESTOCK USE AGREEMENT (SHANNON STATION/SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENTS

DRAFT LIVESTOCK USE AGREEMENT
Browne Allotment

The undersigned, representing the **Rother Farms** grazing permit, does hereby agree to the changes in livestock management for the Browne Allotment outlined below.

The changes in livestock management are due to the identification of issues brought forth by the Diamond Mountains Working Group that was created to address and resolve the resource management problems associated with the Wild Horse Herd Management Areas in the Ely (White Pine County), Battle Mountain (Eureka County) and Elko (Elko County) Districts of the Bureau of Land Management.

The agreed upon livestock use, as documented below is consistent with the achievement of the Diamond Mountain Complex objectives for the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the Red Rock Allotment.

The Bureau will monitor the attainment of the Diamond Mountain Complex objectives as identified in the draft Diamond Complex evaluation.

The change in livestock management for the Rother Farms Grazing Permit in the Browne Allotment will be as follows:

FROM:

Active Grazing Privilege AUMs	Historical Suspended AUMs	Season of Use
1,307	673	5/16 to 9/15

TO:

Active Grazing Privilege AUMs	Historical Suspended AUMs	AUMs of Non-Use for Conservation Purposes	Season of Use
657	673	650	5/16 to 9/15

Rationale:

The Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) specified the initial stocking level of wild horses for the portion Browne Allotment that falls within the Diamond Hills North Herd Area (Main Field) to be 156 AUMs (13 horses for 12 months).

The Elko RMP/RPS further specified the initial stocking level of livestock for the entire Browne Allotment to be 1,307 AUMs. The two pastures in the allotment are the Main Field (1,206 AUMs) and the Sadler Field (101 AUMs). The allocation of AUMs to each pasture was determined by adjusting the adjudicated AUMs for each pasture to the active grazing privileges for the allotment (1,307). The portion of the Diamond Hills North Herd Area that falls within the Browne Allotment is in the Main Field. Rother Farms is the only livestock operator in the Browne Allotment.

Operator	Current Active Grazing Privilege AUMs for the Browne Allotment	Portion of Active Grazing Privilege AUMs in the Main Pasture
Rother Farms	1,307	1,206

With the Total Main Field Active Grazing Privilege AUMs for livestock (1,206 AUMs), it can be determined what proportion of the RMP/RPS AUMs that were to be given to wild horses and livestock in the part of the Browne Allotment that falls within the Diamond Hills North Herd Area (the Main Field):

Animal Class	RMP/RPS AUMs	Percentage of Total
Wild Horses	156	11%
Livestock	1,206	89%
Totals	1,362	100%

Carrying capacity calculations (from the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation-1997) based on actual use and utilization for the Main Field of the Browne Allotment for the period 1985-1996, resulted in a desired stocking level for the Main Field of 625 AUMs. The allocation of these AUMs to wild horses and livestock were determined as follows:

When the desired stocking level for the Main Field (625 AUMs) is multiplied by the proportions of RMP/RPS AUMs given to wild horses (11%) and livestock (89%), the results are the wild horse Appropriate Management Level (AML) and the interim livestock stocking level for the Main Field.

Wild Horse AML - 69 AUMs or 6 wild horses for 12 months.
[625 AUMs X 11% = 69 AUMs]

Interim Livestock Stocking Level for the Main Field - 556 AUMs
[625 AUMs X 89% = 556 AUMs]

The Interim Livestock active grazing privileges by pasture are presented below:

Pasture	Interim Livestock Active Grazing Privilege AUMs	Interim Reduction
Main Field	556	650
Sadler Field	101	0
Totals	657	650

Reductions will be placed into non-use for conservation purposes until the Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) for the Diamond Mountains Complex is issued, which will in part be a result of previous and additional monitoring and if necessary, will warrant further adjustments in stocking levels.

Wild horse numbers for the allotment will be set at the AML and adjustments will be made if necessary, through the FMUD.

The term of this agreement will be from the time a wild horse gather is conducted and the AML of wild horses in the Browne Allotment is reached (as specified in the Diamond Mountains Wild Horse Removal Plan) until the FMUD is issued for the Browne Allotment, in conjunction with the Diamond Mountains Complex.

_____ _____

Rother Farms Date

_____ _____

Clinton R. Oke
Assistant District Manager
Renewable Resources

Date

DRAFT LIVESTOCK USE AGREEMENT
Red Rock Allotment

The undersigned, representing **Wilfred R. Bailey, Paris Livestock Company** and **Merkley Ranches** grazing permits, do hereby agree to the changes in livestock management for the Red Rock Allotment outlined below.

The changes in livestock management are due to the identification of issues brought forth by the Diamond Mountains Working Group that was created to address and resolve the resource management problems associated with the Wild Horse Herd Management Areas in the Ely (White Pine County), Battle Mountain (Eureka County) and Elko (Elko County) Districts of the Bureau of Land Management.

The agreed upon livestock use, as documented below is consistent with the achievement of the Diamond Mountain Complex objectives for the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the Red Rock Allotment.

The Bureau will monitor the attainment of the Diamond Mountain Complex objectives as identified in the draft Diamond Complex evaluation.

The changes in livestock management in the Red Rock Allotment will be as follows:

FROM:

Permittee	Active Grazing Privilege AUMs	Historical Suspended AUMs	Season of Use
Wilfred R. Bailey	1,500	0	4/15 to 11/1
Paris Livestock Co.	1,385	405	4/25 to 11/15
Merkley Ranches	4,618	943	4/18 to 11/17

TO:

Permittee	Active Grazing Privilege AUMs	Historical Suspended AUMs	AUMs of Non-Use for Conservation Purposes	Season of Use
Wilfred R. Bailey	1,332	0	168	4/15 to 11/1
Paris Livestock Co.	1,227	405	158	4/25 to 11/15
Merkley Ranches	4,308	943	310	4/18 to 11/17

Rationale:

The Elko Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) specified the initial stocking level of wild horses for the portion of the Red Rock Allotment that falls within the Diamond Hills North Herd Area, which consists of the Native Pasture, to be 444 AUMs (37 horses for 12 months).

The Elko RMP/RPS further specified the initial stocking level of livestock for the entire Red Rock Allotment to be 7,503 AUMs. The three livestock operators in the Red Rock Allotment are Wilfred R. Bailey, Paris Livestock Company and Merkley Ranches. Wilfred R. Bailey has 1,500 active grazing privilege AUMs in the Native Pasture only. Paris Livestock Company has 1,385 active grazing privilege AUMs in the Native Pasture only. Merkley Ranches has 4,618 active grazing privilege AUMs in the Native Pasture, the Red Rock Seeding Pasture and the Huntington Spray Pasture.

In an effort to determine the proportion of the RMP/RPS AUMs that were to be given to wild horses and livestock in the Native pasture of the Red Rock Allotment, the fraction of the Merkley Ranches active grazing privileges existing within the Native Pasture had to be determined. Merkley Ranches is the only operator with active grazing privileges in the two other pastures (Red Rock Seeding and Huntington Spray) of the Red Rock Allotment. Because calculated carrying capacity for the Native Pasture (from the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation-1997) represents use by all three operators, it cannot be determined what part would be applied to Merkley Ranches. Therefore, the part of the Merkley Ranches active grazing privileges that are in the Native Pasture (2,740 AUMs) was determined by subtracting the combined calculated carrying capacities (from the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation-1997) of the Red Rock Seeding and the Huntington Spray (1,878 AUMs combined) from the overall active grazing privileges of Merkley Ranches for the Red RockAllotment (4,618 AUMs):

Operator	Current Active Grazing Privilege AUMs for Red Rock Allotment	Portion of Active Grazing Privilege AUMs in the Native Pasture
Wilfred R. Bailey	1,500	1,500
Paris Livestock Company	1,385	1,385
Merkley Ranches	4,618	2,740
Totals	7,503	5,625

With the total Native Pasture active grazing privilege AUMs for livestock (5,625 AUMs), it can be determined what proportion of the RMP/RPS AUMs that were to be given to wild horses and livestock in the part of the Red Rock Allotment that falls within the Diamond Hills North Herd Area (the Native Pasture):

Animal Class	RMP/RPS AUMs	Percentage of Total
Wild Horses	444	7%
Livestock	5,625	93%
Totals	6,069	100%

Carrying capacity calculations (from the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation-1997) based on actual use and utilization for the Native Pasture of the Red Rock Allotment for the period 1988-1996, resulted in a desired stocking level for the Native Pasture of 5,365 AUMs. The allocation of these AUMs to wild horses and livestock were determined as follows:

When the desired stocking level for the Native Pasture (5,365 AUMs) is multiplied by the proportions of RMP/RPS AUMs given to wild horses (7%) and livestock (93%), the results are the Wild Horse Appropriate Management Level (AML) and the interim livestock stocking level for the Native Pasture.

Wild Horse AML - 376 AUMs or 31 wild horses for 12 months.
[5,365 AUMs X 7% = 376 AUMs]

Interim Livestock Stocking Level - 4,989 AUMs
[5,365 AUMs X 93% = 4,989 AUMs]

In order to allocate the interim livestock stocking level AUMs to each operator, the percentage of each operator's active grazing privileges of the total current active grazing privileges for the Native Pasture must be determined:

Operator	Current Active Grazing Privilege AUMs	Percentage of Total Current Active Grazing Privilege AUMs
Wilfred R. Bailey	1,500	26.7%
Paris Livestock Company	1,385	24.6%
Merkley Ranches	2,740	48.7%
Totals	5,625	100%

The interim livestock stocking level by operator was determined by multiplying the total interim livestock stocking level by the percentage of current active grazing privilege AUMs for each operator:

Permittee	Total Native Pasture Interim Livestock Stocking Level AUMs	Percentage of Current Active Grazing Privilege AUMs	Revised Native Pasture Active Grazing Privilege AUMs	Interim Reduction (AUMs)
Wilfred R. Bailey	4,989	26.7%	1,332	168
Paris Livestock Company	4,989	24.6%	1,227	158
Merkley Ranches	4,989	48.7%	2,430	310
	Totals	100%	4,989	636

Reductions will be placed into non-use for conservation purposes until the Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) for the Diamond Mountains Complex is issued, which will in part be a result of previous and additional monitoring and if necessary, will warrant further adjustments in stocking levels.

Wild horse numbers for the allotment will be set at the AML and adjustments will be made if necessary, through the FMUD.

The term of this agreement will be from the time a wild horse gather is conducted and the AML of wild horses in the Red Rock Allotment is reached (as specified in the Diamond Mountains Wild Horse Removal Plan) until the FMUD is issued for the Red Rock Allotment, in conjunction with the Diamond Mountains Complex.

Wilfred R. Bailey _____ Date _____

Paris Livestock Company _____ Date _____

Merkley Ranches _____ Date _____

Clinton R. Oke _____ Date _____
Assistant District Manager
Renewable Resources

LIVESTOCK USE AGREEMENT FOR THE DIAMOND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

This agreement is based on the Diamond Complex Evaluation dated May 15, 1997.

The agreed upon livestock use, as documented below is consistent with the achievement of the short term management objectives for the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the Diamond Springs Allotment.

II. Diamond Complex Objectives

The Bureau will monitor the attainment of the short term multiple use management objectives as identified in the draft Diamond Complex Evaluation.

III. AGREED UPON CHANGES IN LIVESTOCK USE

A. From (Description of Existing Use)

1. Authorized Grazing Use

a. Total Preference: 5287 AUMs
b. Active Preference: 3680 AUMs
c. Suspended: 1607 AUMs

2. Season(s) of Use: March 1 to December 31

3. Grazing System or Practice

a. The permittee grazes the allotment spring, summer, fall, and early winter. Their is no formal grazing system.

B. To (Description of Agreed Upon Changes)

1. Authorized Grazing Use

No changes in grazing use are proposed for the short term.

2. Season(s) of Use: No changes in season of use are proposed for the short term.

3. Grazing Practice

a. Immediately following the proposed horse gather in August of 1997, all cattle will be moved to the mountain pastures and will remain there until December 31, 1997. The operator must ensure minimal drift, proper

livestock distribution, and proper utilization levels (≤60% on key forage species, ≤50% on key browse species, and ≤50% on riparian habitat). This will be accomplished by repairing and/or maintaining existing fences (especially near Fourmile Canyon), riding as often as necessary, and salting (at least 1/4 mile from all sources of water).

b. Cattle will then be grazed from March 1, 1998 to December 31, 1998 on the mountain pastures. Cattle will make use of lower slopes dominated by cheatgrass during the beginning of the season and be moved to higher elevations as the year progresses. Again, the operator must ensure minimal drift, proper livestock distribution, and proper utilization levels (≤60% on key forage species, ≤50% on key browse species, and ≤50% on riparian habitat). This will be accomplished by repairing and/or maintaining existing fences, riding as often as necessary, and salting (at least 1/4 mile from all sources of water).

Therefore, the valley bottom (Dibble and Home Pastures) will be rested from August of 1997 to the fall of 1999.

c. Beginning March 1, 1999, the Diamond Springs Allotment will be grazed as follows:

Season of Use	Pasture	AUMs
03/01/99 to 09/01/99	Mountain	2208
09/02/99 to 12/28/99	Dibble & Home	1472
	TOTAL	3680

Cattle will make use of lower slopes dominated by cheatgrass during the beginning of the season and be moved to higher elevations as the year progresses. Again, the operator must ensure minimal drift, proper livestock distribution, and proper utilization levels (≤60% on key forage species, ≤50% on key browse species, and ≤50% on riparian habitat)for all pastures. This will be accomplished by repairing and/or maintaining existing fences, riding as often as necessary, and salting (at least 1/4 mile from all sources of water).

IV. MONITORING PROGRAM

1. Collect monitoring data as identified in the Diamond Complex Evaluation as funding and workloads permit. This data includes the following studies:

    a. Actual Use
    b. Key Area Utilization/Ecological Status
    c. Frequency
    b. Use Pattern Mapping

Additional types of monitoring data may be collected if the need arises.

As time and funding permits, future monitoring will entail the establishment and/or replacement of additional key areas. This will be done in consultation, coordination and cooperation with the livestock operator and interested publics.

V. FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS

This agreement documents and establishes the short term grazing practices to be used on the Diamond Springs Allotment. This agreement will remain in place until such time as long term recommendations are established through the evaluation/multiple use decision process.

Any future adjustments will be based on the results of additional monitoring data collected and evaluated towards the achievement of the Diamond Complex Objectives. This process will be done in coordination, consultation and cooperation with the livestock operator and interested publics.

VI. The changes in livestock use, identified above, is agreed to by the undersigned. This agreement goes into affect immediately following the August 1997 Diamond Complex Wild Horse Gather.

_____ _____

Permittee Date

_____ _____

ADM - Renewable Resources Date

LIVESTOCK USE AGREEMENT
FOR THE
SHANNON STATION/SPANISH GULCH ALLOTMENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

This agreement is based on the Diamond Complex Evaluation dated May 15, 1997.

The agreed upon livestock use, as documented below is consistent with the achievement of the short term management objectives for the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the Shannon Station/Spanish Gulch Allotments.

II. DIAMOND COMPLEX OBJECTIVES

The Bureau will monitor the attainment of the short term multiple use management objectives as identified in the draft Diamond Complex Evaluation.

III. AGREED UPON CHANGES IN LIVESTOCK USE

A. From (Description of existing use)

1. Authorized Grazing Use

   a. Total Preference: 3,211
   b. Active Preference: 2,520
   c. Suspended: 691

2. Season(s) of Use: 04/01 - 02/28

3. Grazing System or Practice

   a. The permittee grazes on the allotments 11 months each year. Their is no formal grazing system.

B. To (Description of Agreed Upon Changes)

1. Authorized Grazing Use

   a. Active Use: 2,520
   b. Non-Use: 0

2. Season(s) of Use: 04/01 - 02/28

3. Grazing Practice

a. A seven pasture rotational grazing system will be established as follows:

Whistler Pasture

Season of Use	Animal Units	AUM's
April 01 - April 15	50 cows	24
April 16 - April 30	100 cows	48
May 01 - May 31	300 cows	297

* Salt will be placed west of highway 278

Angelo Belli Pasture

Season of Use	Animal Units	AUM's
June 01 - June 30	300 pairs	287
July 01 - Sept. 15	100 pairs	246

* Turn on water at Summit Springs development.
* Place salt on ridges in Pinto Canyon and Angelo Belli Canyon.

Newark Pasture

Season of Use	Animal Units	AUM's
July 01 - Aug. 15	200 pairs	293

* Place salt on ridges away from Newark Canyon.

Williams Pasture

Season of Use	Animal Units	AUM's
Aug. 16 - Sept. 30	200 pairs	293

* Place salt in uplands near Four Eyed Nicks Springs (deeded).
* Insure against livestock drift into Newark Canyon by riding.

Rocky Knoll Pasture

Season of Use	Animal Units	AUM's
Sept. 15 - Oct. 31	100 cows	150
Dec. 01 - Jan. 01	125 cows	128

* Turn on water at fair grounds during use.
* Restrict cattle use in the southern portion of pasture during September.
* Restrict cattle use in the northern portion of pasture near seeding during November/December.

Simpson Seeding

Season of Use	Animal Units	AUM's
Oct. 01 - Oct. 15	200 cows	96
Oct. 16 - Nov. 30	300 cows	440

* Flexibility to extend grazing use in the event additional forage is available.

Sixth Street Pasture

Season of Use	Animal Units	AUM's
Jan. 01 - Feb. 28	115 cows	219

* Supplement on denuded range and broadcast native seed mixture to improve range condition.

IV. MONITORING PROGRAM

1. Collect monitoring data as identified in the Diamond Complex Evaluation as funding and workloads permit. This data includes the following studies:

   a. Actual Use
   b. Key Area Utilization/Ecological Status
   c. Frequency
   d. Use Pattern Mapping

Additional types of monitoring data may be collected if the need arises.

As time and funding permits future monitoring will entail the establishment of additional key areas. This will be done in consultation, coordination and cooperation with the livestock operator and interested publics.

V. FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS

This agreement documents and establishes the short term grazing practices to be used in the Shannon Station/Spanish Gulch Allotments. This agreement will remain in place until such time as long term recommendations are established through the evaluation/multiple use decision process.

Any future adjustments will be based on the results of monitoring data collected and evaluated towards the achievement of the Diamond Complex Objectives. This process will be done in coordination, consultation and cooperation with the livestock operator and interested publics.

VI. The changes in livestock use, identified above, is agreed to by the undersigned. This agreement goes into affect immediately following the August 1997 Diamond Complex Wild Horse Gather.

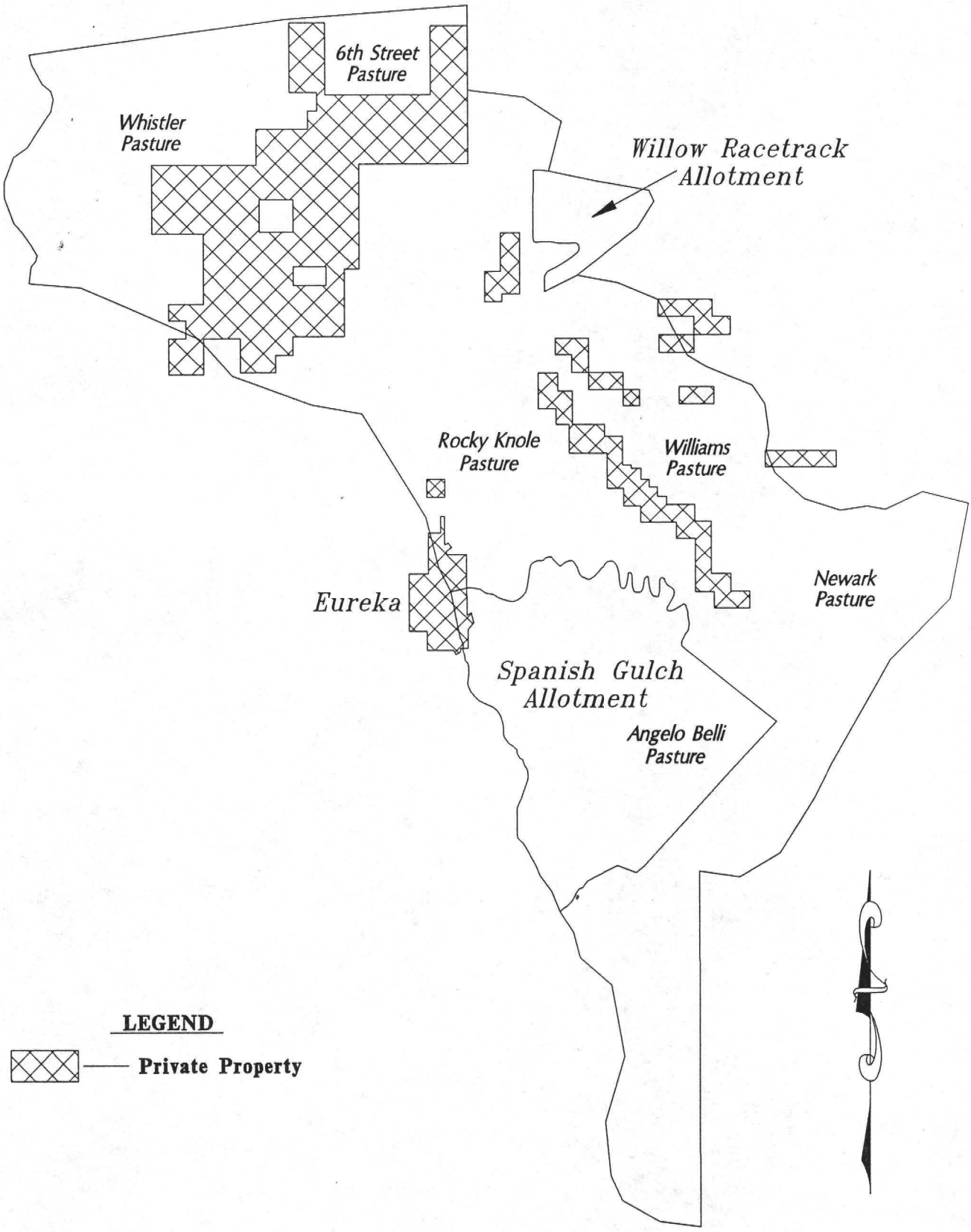
_____

Permittee date

_____

ADM-Renewable Resources date

SHANNON STATION ALLOTMENT PASTURES



4-10-97

United States Department of the Interior

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4400/4700 (NV-04200)

Certified Mail No. P 313 269 713
Return Receipt Requested

Wild Horse Organized Assistance
Dawn Lappin
Box 555
Reno, NV 89504

Dear Ms. Lappin:

The intent of this letter is to update interested publics and the Diamond Mountain working group of the past accomplishments, current time frames, and goals of the Diamond Mountain Core team and Monitoring Plan committee.

INTRODUCTION:

The Battle Mountain, Elko and Ely Districts are jointly conducting an evaluation of the Diamond Mountain Complex to evaluate the nature of grazing that has occurred on the project area and to measure the effectiveness in meeting Land Use Plan (LUP) objectives for the three districts. Included will be recommendations to make specific changes in current management where these LUP objectives are not being met. Once the draft evaluation is completed, the wild horses will be gathered down to an initial management level and livestock use agreements will be implemented. The Diamond Mountain Complex encompasses three wild horse herd management areas (HMAs) established by the respective land use plans and in accordance with the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 (PL92-195). The three HMAs are the Diamond HMA in the Battle Mountain District, the Diamond Hills North HMA in the Elko District and the Diamond Hills South HMA in the Ely District. The three HMAs encompass all or part of nine grazing allotments. The wild horses pass with relative ease within and across the three HMAs. A Final Multiple Use Decision for the Railroad Pass Allotment was issued by the Ely District in November of 1995. This decision established an appropriate management level for the Diamond Hills South HMA and set the terms and conditions for permitted use.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On August 27 and 28, 1996, a field tour of the Diamond Mountain Complex was conducted in preparation for the planned allotment evaluations and decisions. The goal of the tour was to identify vegetative, livestock and wild horse issues. Sixteen invitation letters were sent to

affected parties and interested publics encouraging their participation in the tour. At the completion of the tour, the group consensus was to complete an interim plan for the evaluation of rangeland health in order to establish an initial management level for wild horses and livestock. The participants recommended that in order to get started on the project a comprehensive census of the three HMAs should be conducted and additional monitoring data should be collected within the project area. As a result of the aforementioned field tour, a working group was established to complete the evaluation and monitoring plan for the Diamond Complex. This working group included the Eureka, White Pine and Elko County Commissions, Eureka Department of Natural Resources, Nevada Division of Wildlife, the livestock permittees, wild horse interest groups, public land interest groups, general interested publics, and the Elko, Battle Mountain and Ely BLM Districts.

On October 2nd through the 4th, 1996, a census of the entire Diamond Mountain Complex was conducted. This census flight occurred through a cooperative effort by Eureka County and the various BLM district wild horse specialists. This census identified over 1250 wild horses within the Diamond Mountain Complex.

The first meeting of the Diamond Mountain Working Group was held on October 10, 1996. The objective of the meeting was to look at existing monitoring data including the census data from the October 2 - 4 flight, set an initial management level for wild horses within the three HMAs and develop agreements with the various livestock permittees. This interim management plan would be implemented until the Diamond Mountain Complex evaluation was completed and future multiple use decisions were issued.

The second meeting of the Diamond Mountain Working group was held on November 19, 1996. The objective of this meeting was to finalize initial wild horse and livestock stocking levels for the HMAs, based on the evaluation of wild horse census and livestock monitoring data. The second objective was to establish some time frames for the implementation of the interim management plan and the completion of the evaluation and subsequent decisions. A Monitoring Plan Committee was also formed to make recommendations on what type of monitoring data to collect for the Diamond Mountain Complex.

A Monitoring Plan Committee meeting was held in Eureka on December 4, 1996. The objective of the meeting was to identify what monitoring was needed to implement an interim management plan, to measure the effectiveness of the wild horse gather, and to identify what long term monitoring studies should be initiated to evaluate the need for future management adjustments.

On December 10, 1996, a draft gather plan was prepared for the removal of wild horses in excess of the identified initial level. Based on concerns with the adequacy of the gather plan, the gather was not conducted.

On January 9, 1997, a core team from the participants of the working group was formed to pull together the best available monitoring data and to prepare a new document that evaluates all existing data, identifies an initial wild horse level for the three HMAs, identifies interim livestock management agreements, and incorporates a wild horse gather plan that covers the three HMAs.

The draft Diamond Mountain Complex evaluation (DMCE) will analyze existing monitoring data to determine the initial management levels for the three Herd Management Areas and short term changes needed in livestock management. The DMCE will be used as supporting rationale for the wild horse gather plan and livestock use agreements. The initial stocking level for wild horses and livestock, including any agreed upon management practices, should improve rangeland health. Additional monitoring data will be collected as identified in the monitoring plan and will be incorporated into the final evaluation. A final evaluation and management action selection report will be completed addressing each allotment. As multiple use decisions are developed they will set the appropriate management levels for the three wild horse herd management areas and set the terms and conditions for each grazing permit by allotment.

CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR THE CORE TEAM:

Information needed for the Diamond Mountain Complex evaluation is currently being gathered by the three districts and forwarded to the Ely District. The Core Team Members are as follows:

Team Leader Alfred (Bill) Coulloudon, Rangeland Management Specialist; Matt Spaulding, Rick Oyler, Wendy Fuell, Brett Covlin, Chuck Peterson, John Balliette, and Doug Furtado. Wildlife Biologists; Duane Crimmins and Mike Perkins. Wild Horse and Burro Specialists; Bob Brown, Kathy McKinstry and John Winnipenninkx.

April 10, 1997, has been selected as a tentative date for a meeting in Ely, Nevada at 8:00 AM. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss Sections I through III and Sections IV and V. Identification of data needs and a monitoring schedule will be discussed at that time.

April 30, 1997, has been selected as a tentative date for a meeting in Eureka, Nevada at 9:00 AM to discuss technical recommendations (Section VI) for the Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation. This will include the Draft Livestock Agreements, Railroad Pass Final Multiple Use Decision, and management actions addressed through the transfer process.

On May 15, 1997, the Draft Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation, the Gather Plan and the Livestock Agreement Documents will be sent to the working group and other interested public for review and 30 day comment period.

June 15, 1997, has been selected as tentative date for the Core Team to meet with the working group to go over any comments or questions in Eureka, Nevada at 9:00 AM.

On June 30, 1997, public comments will have been addressed and incorporated into the Draft Diamond Mountain Evaluation, the Gather Plan and the Livestock Agreement Documents.

August 1, 1997, is the tentative date for the wild horse gather to begin on the three herd management areas.

If you have any questions or comments please provide them in writing to Bill Coulloudon, BLM, Ely District Office, HC33 Box 33500, Ely, Nevada 89301-9408.

Sincerely,

Alfred W. Coulloudon

Alfred W. Coulloudon
Project Team Leader

cc: Pete Paris Jr.; Paris Livestock Company
Pete Goicochea
Bruce Gould; Lundahl Ranches
Reese Marshall
Andy Anderson
Guy Norcutt; Consolidated Land and Livestock
Martin Larralde; Larralde Sheep Company
Randy Venturacci; Cottonwood Land and Livestock
Jim Baumann; Simpson Creek Ranch
Clint Oke; Elko BLM
Duane Erickson; Nevada Division of Wildlife
Mike Podborny; Nevada Division of Wildlife
Cathy Barcomb; Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Eureka County Commissioners
John Balliette
Dawn Lappin; WHOA
Leo Mousel; Rother Farms
George Parman
Leta Collard; People for the West

5/23/97

Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
1375 Mountain City Highway Elko, NV 89801

(702) 738-5332

MAY 27 1997

MEMORANDUM

May 23, 1997

To: ~~2600 & 2200~~ 1600 Roy, (This is the memo I sent to Swede & Larry.)
From: 2216
Re: Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation and Horse Gather Plan

In view of the commotion caused over my last comment letter regarding this subject I am sending you a draft copy of my comment letter before it goes to the BLM. I will be on vacation from 5/24/97 until 6/2/97. I have enclosed a 3 page letter and 2 hand written pages of AUM figures I worked out from the evaluation.

I am trying to be more positive in my response to the BLM this time while at the same time trying to make my points. I hope my strategy works. Please feel free to change anything in the letter especially if you don't think we should say we support any of the thinks I did. I know the horse groups and Roy don't agree with the way the BLM calculates horse numbers (the same way we don't agree the BLM calculating elk numbers) but this is a start at some horse and livestock management for the mountain. This is only a start by removing most of the horses but I have some doubts in there livestock management proposed.

I did not make any comments regarding the calculation of mule deer AUM's by allotment and how the data was presented but not used. In reality the BLM determines a proper carrying capacity based on use by livestock and horses and mule deer get whatever is left. The real issue is to try and convince the BLM to use monitoring data by species and not calculate AUM's after reading combined use. It appears to me that we are fighting an uphill battle with the BLM and they don't want to change.

There will be a meeting in Eureka on June 16, 1997 to go over the comments received. I will be there and you are more than welcome to attend if you would like to spend an exciting time in Eureka.

I also enclosed the letter I sent in January.

Mike

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road
P.O. Box 10678
Reno, Nevada 89520-0022
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BOB MILLER
Governor

PETER G. MORROS
Director
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

WILLIAM A. MOLINI
Administrator

May 23, 1997

Alfred W. Coulloudon, Project Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Ely District Office
HC 33 Box 33500
Ely, NV 89301-9408

RE: Draft Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation with Wild Horse Gather Plan.

Dear Mr. Coulloudon:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the subject document. We support the proposed action to remove the wild horses as outlined in the evaluation and gather plan based on the data provided. The Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation has data to support the technical recommendations made and we support these recommendations. We have some questions concerning how and why some of the data was used and we will provide some specific comments relating to the proposed management actions.

The actual Wild Horse Capture/Removal Plan written for the Diamond Mountain Complex was easy to follow and understand for the number of horses estimated on the area, the number of horses to be gathered, the age of animals captured and the date of the capture. This document included all the pertinent information to explain the capture and removal of horses form the area. We fully support the gather at the established AML of 230 horses. We hope within the budget constraints and other problems associated with a gather of this size that the number of horses can be brought down to the AML during the initial gather or as quickly as possible. Attaining the AML for horses during the initial gather will be beneficial to the range and the results can be documented by monitoring after the gather. A delay in the gather or not reaching AML quickly will make monitoring the effects of the gather less clear. The removal of horses will also help in monitoring the effectiveness of the livestock management actions to be taken. The removal of all the horses from outside the HMA's, as stated in the plan, has always been a priority of ours and we strongly support this action be completed in August 1997.

We support the adjusted livestock and wild horse use levels made in the short-term recommendations found on page 34 but we do not understand why the specific numbers were used. The appendices list all of the data used and analyzed in the decision but it was very difficult in determining how the numbers stated on page 34 were generated. There should be a single table showing the AUM's used for each grazing animal by allotment with the sum of all the allotments equaling the total found on page 34. We agree with using actual use data of all grazing animals in calculating the desired stocking rate for each allotment as shown in Appendix X. A minor problem with the analysis is that the newly calculated stocking rates from Appendix X was not used for every allotment in determining the total AUM's. There should be an explanation why the new stocking rates for the Black Point, Diamond Springs, Shannon Station and Spanish Gulch allotments were not used. The draft livestock use agreements and permit transfer adjustments sections on pages 34 and 35 discuss some AUM figures but does not show how or why the numbers were used in determining the final AUM's for the Diamond Mountain complex. These total AUM's used for livestock and wild horses are not significantly different from the calculated numbers in Appendix X but there should be an explanation for all numbers used in the evaluation.

The livestock use agreement for the four allotments should help in the short term management of these area. We have concerns with the Diamond Springs agreement and its season of use on the mountain pastures. There is a need to rest the lower Dibble and Home valley bottom but we are concerned with the decision to graze the mountain continually from August 1997 to December 31, 1997 and the entire grazing season (3/1 to 12/31) in 1998. There are important browse communities and riparian areas important for mule deer and other wildlife species on the mountain pastures that could be impacted with late season grazing from August to December if livestock are allowed to stay in any area to long. We support the implementation of utilization standards on grasses, browse and riparian areas as stated in the agreement.

The Shannon Station allotment agreement is a good initial step forward in some livestock management on the allotment. We would like to see the same utilization standards set for the Diamond Springs allotment agreement included in this agreement. The concerns we have expressed for riparian areas and use on bitterbrush could be addressed with these utilization standards and season of use adjustments.

This evaluation will make a significant reduction in wild horses on the Diamond mountains while allowing the actual use of livestock to increase slightly. We feel the most important part of this decision is that when the proposed actions have been taken that monitoring continue to determine the effectiveness of the management action on improving range condition and future changes that may be needed in the Final Multiple Use Decision.

Sincerely,

Mike Podborny, Biologist
P.O. Box 672
Eureka, NV 89316

cc: Region II, NDOW

Diamond Mountain Complex Evaluation
Stocking Rates (AUMs)

Allotment	Cattle Appendix X / Used for determining Total Area AUMs	Sheep App X / Used	Horses App. X / Used
Railroad Pass	1364 / 1364	691/691	260/260
Brown-Main -Saddle	556/556 101/101	—	69/69
Redrock	3762/3762 992/992 886/886	1227/1227	376/376
Black Point	1999/(1769) = Permit Transfer	2097/(1834) Permit Transfer	780/780
Dian. Spgs	2755/(3680) = Existing Use	—	646/646
Spanish Gulch	—	596/(647) = ?	0
Shannon Station	7725/(2520) = Existing Use	—	0/444
Basile	669/(850) = Permit transfer	—	178/178
Corta	—	128/128	0
	15,309/16480	4739/4527	2309/2753
Page 34 =	16480	4527	2753

Actual Use - Appendix IV

1996 = 16,253 AUMs with Railroad Pass = 0
for both Cattle & sheep.

1995 = 16,795 AUMs (cattle & sheep) 3-Mile = 0 no permittee

The new AUMs in decision found on page 34.

for cattle & sheep = 21,007 AUM's

for an increase 4754 from 1996 Actual use.

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

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BOB MILLER
Governor

PETER G. MORROS
Director
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

WILLIAM A. MOLINI
Administrator

January 6, 1997

Jeffrey A. Weeks, Assistant District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Battle Mountain District
50 Bastian Road
P.O. Box 1420
Battle Mountain, Nevada 89820

RE: Diamond Mountain Range Wild Horse Removal Plan

Dear Mr. Weeks:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the subject document. This removal plan is unique with the absence of the Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) for most of the allotments in the area. The problem we see with the removal plan is the lack of data that is usually presented in the allotment evaluation process is not presented in this or any other document. The removal plan should contain many of the elements found in the allotment evaluation process to show what data was used for the actions being taken. We agree there are excess numbers of wild horses in the Diamond Mountains and in many areas resource damage can be attributed to horses. The problem with the removal plan is no data was presented to justify the actions being taken or how the data was used.

We have participated in the field trip and attended the public meetings concerning the Diamond Mountains. At these meetings we have been presented monitoring data. The monitoring data should be presented in the removal plan showing the utilization levels measured along with the use pattern maps developed. The utilization should be broken down into horse use, livestock use and dual use by both grazing animals. There should also be an explanation on how the monitoring data was used to calculate the stocking rate of horses and livestock. There are three BLM Districts involved in this process and it was confusing at the meetings how each district interpreted the data and calculated there appropriate management level for horses. The data should be presented to clarify this point.

It was our understanding that along with the Interim Management Level (IML) established for horses an interim livestock agreement would be established for each allotment that does not have a Final Multiple Use Decision. The removal plan does not mention any interim livestock agreements. The plan does present an IML for livestock and wild horses but the table is confusing. The IML for wild horses is a significant reduction from the present number of horses but the IML for livestock shows an increase in AUMs in all seven allotments when compared to the actual use made during the monitoring period. There is no data or explanation on how these numbers were developed and hard to understand the rational for these numbers. There should be some season of use changes or areas rested from livestock along with the removal of horses to improve the condition of the land. It would seem very difficult to monitor the effects of the horse removal if livestock numbers are allowed to increase at the same time.

We agree that the horses on the Diamond Mountains should be managed as one unit irrespective of the BLM District and HMA boundaries. We also agree that wild horses need to be removed to improve conditions on many parts of the mountain range, but there are also other problems that need to be addressed. The IML for both horses and livestock should be made with some discussion as to the overall problems of each allotment. Areas that need to be addressed should include riparian areas, heavy use areas, season of use, critical wildlife areas and other factors. This removal plan does not address any problems other than with respect to wild horses. In the absence of Final Multiple Use Decisions this plan or some other document needs to address the actions to be taken for all grazing animals in the interim between this plan and the FMUDs. The management actions taken can then be monitored to measure there effectiveness on improving the range condition.

Sincerely,

Mike Podborny

Mike Podborny, Biologist
P.O. Box 672
Eureka, NV 89316

cc: Region II, NDOW