



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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



In Reply Refer To:
4100 (NV-42)

RECEIVED

DEC 27 2004

DEC 22 2004

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
BUDGET AND PLANNING DIVISION

Dear Interested Public:

On August 20, 2004 the Bighorn Fire (BG9H) was started by lightning. The fire burned 1,471 acres of the Mormon Mountain Wilderness Area near the Whitmore Mine and Wiregrass Spring. The fire was declared controlled on August 25, 2004. As a result of the burn, emergency stabilization of the area is required to maintain site suitability and vegetation establishment. Hand seeding of blackbrush and planting of blackbrush seedlings in limited areas of the burn and rodent fencing of the blackbrush seeding areas is scheduled for the spring of 2005. As a result of the fire, the burn which occurred on the Mormon Peak Allotment near Wiregrass Spring will be closed to livestock grazing until objectives are met in the burn.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the "Livestock Closure Agreement" and maps. Please review this and provide any comments by **January 23, 2005**. We will review and consider all comments received. Following the comment period, the Livestock Closure Agreement will be issued.

If you have any questions or would prefer to discuss this matter with us, please contact Shirley Johnson of my staff at 775-726-8120.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Orr
Assistant Field Manager
Caliente Field Station

Enclosures:

Map of Bighorn Closure Area
Bighorn Livestock Closure Agreement

Bighorn Fire BC9H Closure Agreement

On August 20, 2004 the Bighorn fire (BC9H) was ignited. The fire burned 1471 acres of the Mormon Mountain Wilderness near the Whitmore Mine and Wiregrass Spring. The fire was declared controlled August 25, 2004. It was determined that this area needed to be stabilized and rehabilitated in order to prevent the blackbrush community from becoming dominated by invasive annuals. Hand seeding of blackbrush and planting of seedlings in limited areas of the burn and installation of rodent fencing around the blackbrush seeding areas is schedule for the spring of 2005.

To protect the soil from erosion while vegetation is becoming established and to allow the blackbrush plants time to germinate without disturbance, I hereby close to livestock grazing the Bighorn Fire Closure Area. The Bighorn Fire closure area is located within the Mormon Peak allotment Lincoln County Nevada, Township 11, South, Range 67, East, Sections 34 & 35 and Township 12 South, Range 67 East Sections 2, 3, 10, 11, 15, 16, 21 & 22. This Closure Agreement is effective immediately and will remain in effect for a minimum of two growing seasons or until emergency stabilization and rehabilitation objectives are met.

The Bighorn Fire burned 1.9% of the Mormon Peak Allotment. Therefore, no reduction in permitted use animal unit months (AUM) will occur. Livestock grazing in the Bighorn burn area will not be authorized until the Bighorn burn is re-opened. The livestock permittee and any lessees agree to discourage livestock from entering the area, using techniques such as herding livestock and salting away from the burn during the closure period.

The primary goals of the fire closure agreement area are:

1. Rest and establishment period for seeded species and naturally regenerating species
2. Prevention of invasive species and noxious weed establishment
3. Provide and protect forage and cover for wildlife species
4. Prevent loss of species diversity

The Bureau of Land Management will monitor the recovery of the burned area to see if the emergency stabilization goals and objectives are being achieved. The area will be monitored to determine that sufficient perennial vegetation establishment and soil stabilization has occurred. An assessment will be made to determine if the following objectives have been met:

1. Establishment of 3 firmly rooted perennial plants per 2m² or 5% perennial cover within 3 years after the fire. Progress will be measured using the line-point-intercept method and by averaging the density of perennials in at least twenty, two meter square plots in the natural revegetation treatment and comparing the progress in these plots to an unburned reference area.

2. Determine the successfulness of the blackbrush seeding. Progress will be measured by biannually monitoring of the blackbrush seeding plots for blackbrush germination and establishment.

This closure agreement is issued pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sections 4110.3-3(b) of the Grazing Regulations for the Public Lands for the protection of the soil and vegetation due to the imminent likelihood of significant resource damage.

A map of the closed area is attached to this agreement

SIGNATURES:

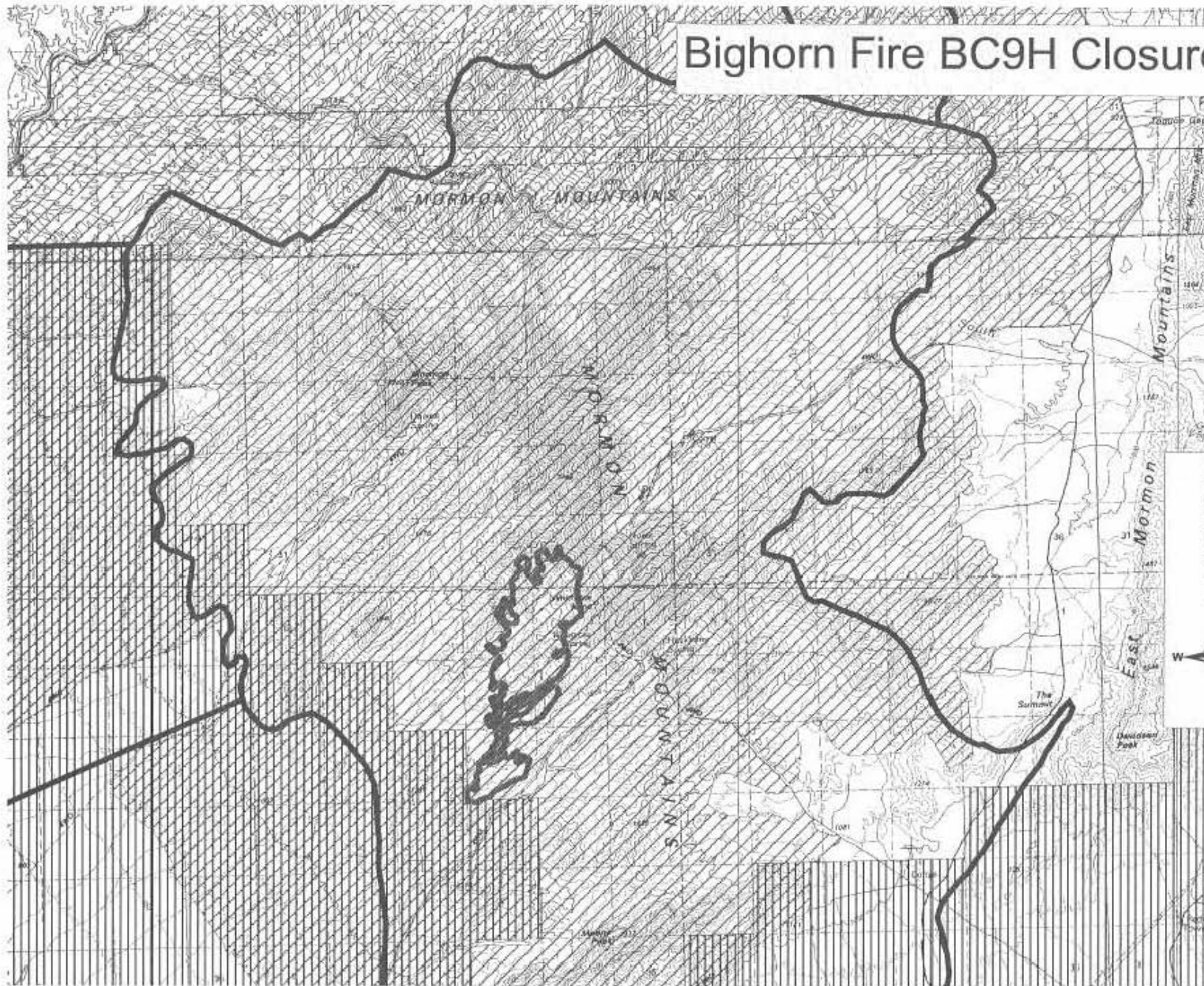
Mary Alice Gates

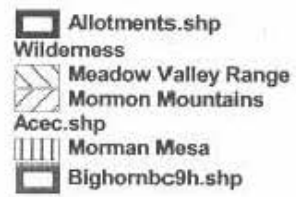
Date


Richard A. Orr
Assistant Field Manager
Caliente Field Station


Date

Bighorn Fire BC9H Closure Area 2004











No warranty is made by the BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



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In Reply Refer To:
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DEC. 23 2004

Dear Interested Public:

On October 5, 2004 the Gregerson Fire (BG2E) was started by lightning. The fire burned 230 acres in the Gregerson basin southwest of Caliente, Nevada. The fire was declared controlled on October 17, 2004. As a result of the burn, emergency stabilization of the area is required to maintain site suitability and vegetation establishment. The burn was aerially seeded on December 14, 2004. If cheatgrass production is sufficient for prescription grazing, the permittee would be allowed to graze the cheatgrass in the early spring of 2005 until perennial seedlings reach one inch in height. As a result of the fire, the burned area will be closed to livestock grazing on the Delamar Allotment.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the "Livestock closure Agreement" and maps. Please review this and provide any comments by **January 23, 2004**. We will review and consider all comments received. Following the review of any comments received, the Livestock Closure Agreement will be issued.

If you have any questions or would prefer to discuss this matter with us, please contact Shirley Johnson of my staff at 775-726-8120.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Orr
Assistant Field Manager
Caliente Field Station

Enclosures:

Map of Gregerson Closure Area
Gregerson Livestock Closure Agreement

Cc:

Merlin Flake, Delamar Valley Cattle Co.
Varlin Higbee

Gregerson Fire (BG2E) Closure Agreement

On October 5, 2004 the Gregerson Fire BG2E started and was ignited by lightning. The fire burned 230 acres in Gregerson basin southwest of Caliente, Nevada. The fire was declared controlled October 17, 2004. It was determined that this area needed to be rehabilitated to replenish the depleted seed bank, reduce the chance of noxious weed and cheatgrass invasion, and stabilize the soil. The entire burn will be aerially seeded. If the annual cheatgrass production is sufficient for prescription grazing, the livestock permittee would be allowed to graze cattle in the burn area in the early spring of 2005 until perennial seedlings reach one inch in height.

For protection of the soil and vegetation, due to the Gregerson Fire, I hereby close to livestock grazing the Gregerson Fire Closure Area. The Gregerson Fire closure area is located within the Delamar Allotment, Lincoln County, Nevada, Township 7, South, Range 64, East, Sections 34-35 and Township 8 South, Range 64 East, Section 3. This Closure Agreement is effective immediately and will remain in effect for a minimum of two growing seasons and/or until the emergency stabilization objectives have been met.

No livestock grazing animal unit months (AUMs) will be placed in nonuse. The livestock permittee and any lessees or their agents agree to discourage livestock from entering the area using techniques such as herding livestock and salting away from the burn during the closure period.

As agreed upon with the permittee, prescription grazing to control cheatgrass production may occur in the early spring of 2005 if cheatgrass production is sufficient. If cheatgrass production is considered sufficient by the permittee and by the rangeland management specialist for the Delamar Allotment, grazing will occur in the burned area for a limited time until perennial grass seedlings reach one inch in height.

During prescription grazing, the permittee will provide water near the Gregerson burned area to help keep the livestock in the area of the burn; livestock checks will also occur twice weekly by the permittee to keep the livestock in the immediate vicinity of the burn. It will be the responsibility of the permittee and the rangeland management specialist to determine when the perennial grass seedlings have reached one inch in height. Daily checks will occur by the permittee to insure perennial seedlings have not reached one inch in height. Other checks by the rangeland management specialist may occur if necessary. When the perennial seedlings have reached one inch in height, the permittee will have his livestock out of the closed Gregerson burned area within a couple of days. The permittee is requested to document the grazing use on actual use form 4130-5.

The primary goals of the fire closure agreement area are:

1. Rest and establishment period for seeded species and naturally regenerating species.
2. Prevention of invasive species and noxious weed establishment especially monotypic stands of cheatgrass.
3. Soil erosion control.

4. Prevent loss of wildlife and plant species diversity.
5. Watershed stabilization and protection.
6. Prevent further reduction in ecosystem integrity due to high fire frequencies.

The Bureau of Land Management will monitor the recovery of the burned area to see if the emergency stabilization goals and objectives are being achieved. The area will be monitored to determine that sufficient perennial vegetation establishment and soil stabilization has occurred. An assessment will be made to determine if the following objectives have been met:

Establishment of two or more firmly rooted perennial plants per 9.62 square feet or 6% perennial cover. Progress will be measured using the line-point-intercept method and by averaging the density of perennials in at least twenty, one square meter plots.

The average frequency of non-native invasive annuals within the newly burned area should be less than twice what is found in an unburned reference area. Progress will be measured using the line-point-intercept method and by averaging the density of non-native invasive annuals in at least forty, one square meter plots.

If prescription grazing occurs for cheatgrass, monitoring of the burn will occur twice weekly to ensure perennial seedlings have not reached one inch in height. Livestock will be removed immediately after perennial seedlings have reached one inch.

This closure agreement is issued pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 4110.3-3(b) for the protection of the soil and vegetation due to the imminent likelihood of significant resource damage.

A map of the closed area is attached to this agreement

SIGNATURES:

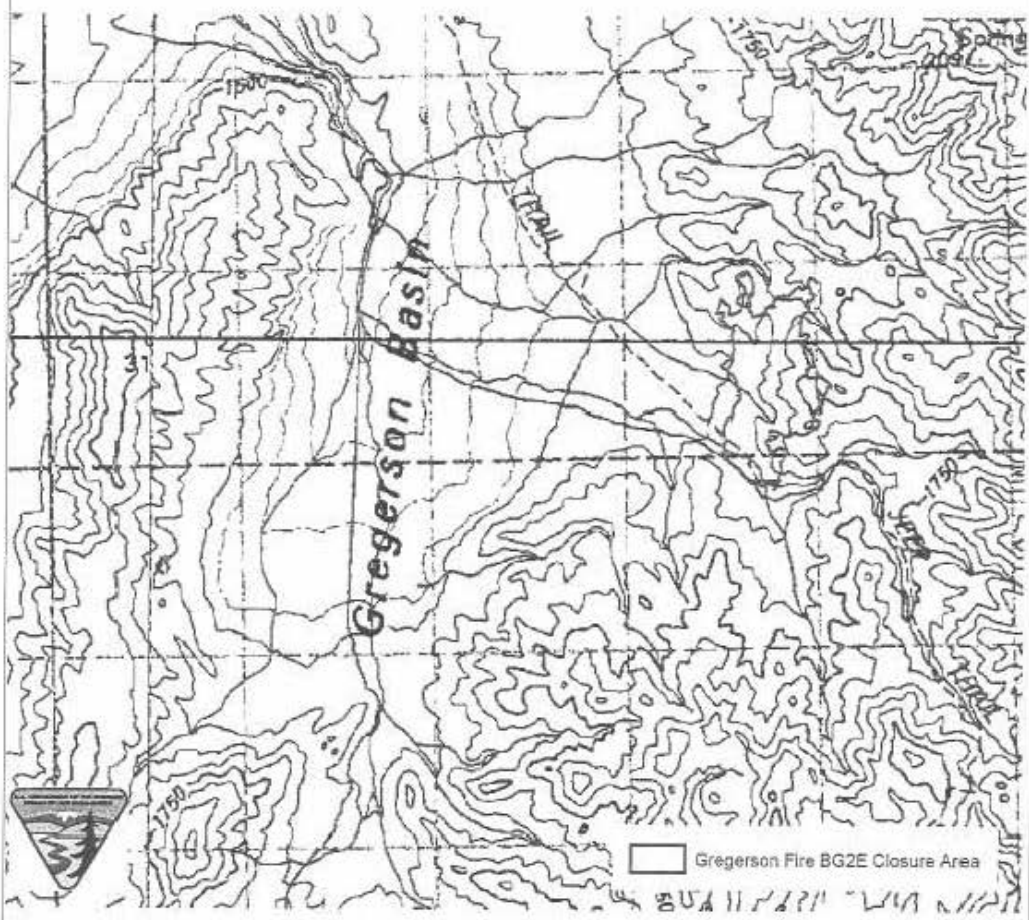
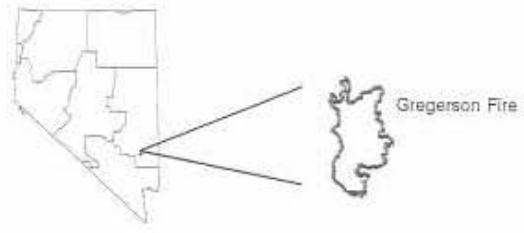
Merlin Flake, Delamar Valley Cattle

Date

Richard A. Orr
Assistant Field Manager
Caliente Field Station

Date

Gregerson Fire BG2E Closure Area



"No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregated use with other data."

NV-040 12/15/04





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In Reply Refer To:
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Dear Interested Public:

On August 11, 2004 the Riggs Fire (BA5P) was started by lightning. The fire burned 1,048 acres near Kane Springs southwest of Caliente, Nevada. The fire was declared controlled on August 18, 2004. As a result of the burn, emergency stabilization of the area is required to maintain site suitability and vegetation establishment. Seven hundred and twenty seven acres of the burn were seeded in December, 2004. As a result of the fire, the burned area on the Delamar allotment near Kane Springs will be closed to livestock grazing.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the "Livestock Closure Agreement" and maps. Please review this and provide any comments by **January 23, 2004**. We will review and consider all comments received. Following the comment period the Livestock Closure Agreement will be issued.

If you have any questions or would prefer to discuss this matter with us, please contact Shirley Johnson of my staff at 775-726-8120.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Orr
Assistant Field Manager
Caliente Field Station Manager

Enclosures:

Map of Riggs Closure Area
Riggs Livestock Closure Agreement

cc:

Merlin Flake, Delamar Valley Cattle Co.
Varlin Higbee
John McLain, RCI
Betsy McFarlan, ENLC
Katie Fite, Western Watersheds
Mike Scott, NDOW

Riggs Fire (BA5P) Closure Agreement

On August 11, 2004 the Riggs fire (BA5P) was ignited. The fire burned 1048 acres near Kane Springs southwest of Caliente, Nevada. The fire was declared controlled August 18, 2004. It was determined that this area needed to be stabilized to aid in the replenishment of the depleted seed bank, reduce the chance of noxious weed and introduced annual invasion, and protect desert bighorn sheep habitat from further incremental losses to fire. A permanent perimeter fence will be installed around Kane Springs to facilitate grazing closure of the burn.

For protection of the soil and vegetation, due to the Riggs Fire, I hereby close to livestock grazing the Riggs Fire Closure Area. The Riggs Fire closure area is located within the Delamar allotment Lincoln County Nevada, Township 8, South, Range 65, East, Sections 9-15. This Closure Agreement is effective immediately and will remain in effect for a minimum of two growing seasons and/or until the emergency stabilization objectives have been met.

The Riggs fire burned 0.4% of the Delamar Allotment. Therefore, no reduction in permitted use on the allotment will occur. Livestock grazing in the Riggs burn area will not be authorized until the Riggs burn is re-opened. The livestock permittee and any lessees or their agents agree to discourage livestock from entering the area using techniques such as herding livestock and salting away from the burn during the closure period.

As agreed upon between the permittee and the Bureau of Land Management, the livestock operator will place his cattle in the southern portion of the pasture and use riders to keep them out of the Riggs burned area until the burned area is open to grazing. The permittee will herd livestock away from the burned area.

The primary goals of the fire closure agreement area are:

1. Rest and establishment period for seeded species and naturally regenerating species;
2. Prevention of invasive species and noxious weed establishment;
3. Provide and protect forage and cover for wildlife species; and
4. Watershed stabilization and protection.

The Bureau of Land Management will monitor the recovery of the burned area to see if the emergency stabilization goals and objectives are being achieved. The area will be monitored to determine that sufficient perennial vegetation establishment and soil stabilization has occurred. An assessment will be made to determine if the following objectives have been met:

Establishment of 5 firmly rooted perennial plants per 9.62 square feet or 9% perennial cover within 3 years after the fire. Progress will be measured using the line-point-intercept method and by averaging the density of perennials in at least twenty, one square meter plots in both the aerial seeding treatment and the natural revegetation

treatment and comparing the progress in these plots to an appropriate unburned reference area.

Determine the successfulness of the blackbrush seeding. Progress will be measured by biannually monitoring of the blackbrush seeding plots for blackbrush germination and establishment.

The average frequency of non-native invasive annuals within the newly burned area should be less than twice what is found in an unburned reference area. Progress will be measured using the line-point-intercept method and by averaging the density of non-native invasive annuals in at least sixty, one square meter plots.

This closure agreement is issued pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Sections 4110.3-3(b) for the protection of the soil and vegetation due to the imminent likelihood of significant resource damage.

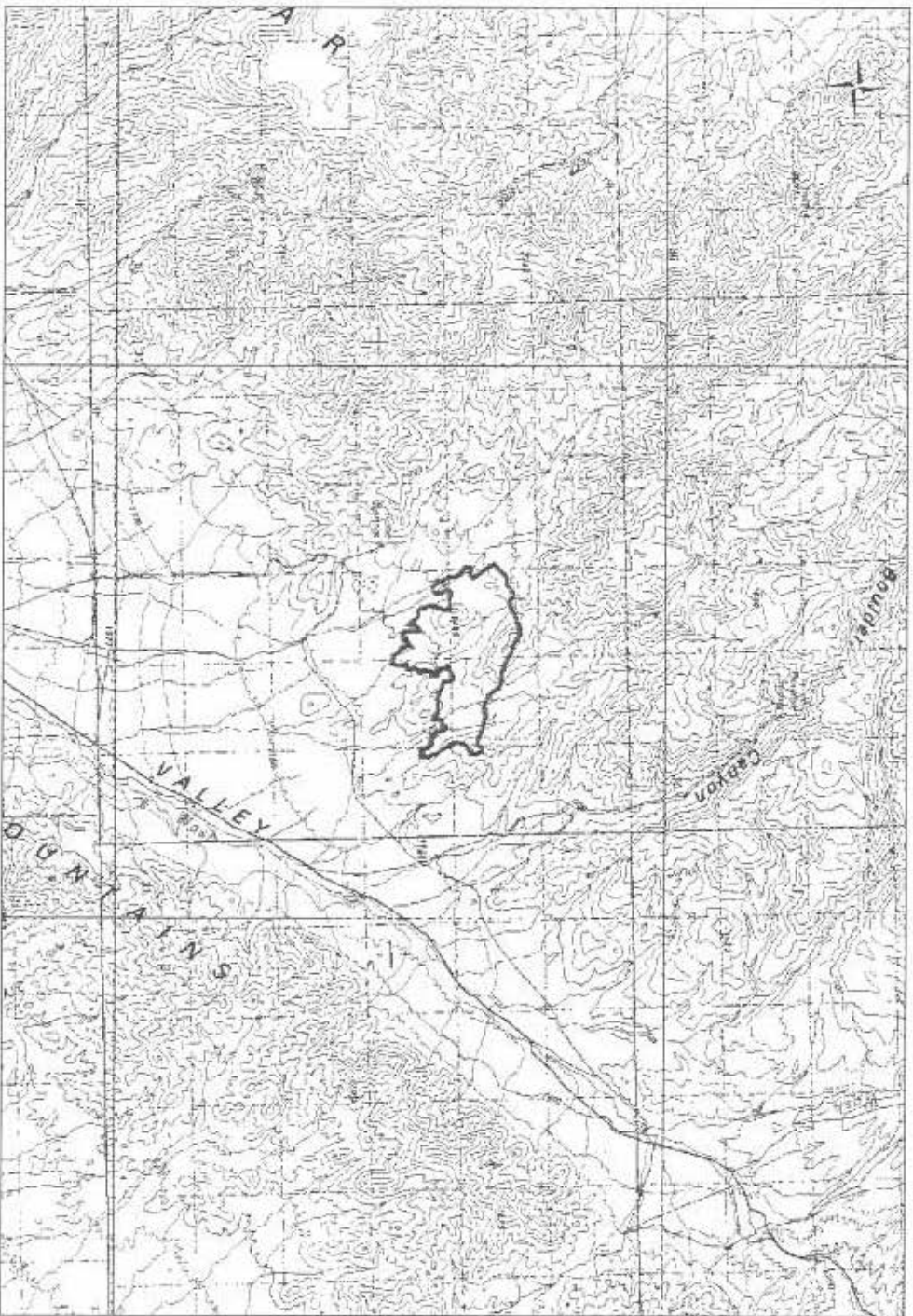
A map of the closed area is attached to this agreement

SIGNATURES:

Merlin Flake, Delamar Valley Cattle Co. Date _____

Richard A. Orr Date _____
Assistant Field Manager
Caliente Field Station

Riggs Fire BA5P



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