WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT

A Description

The Wilson Creek Allotment is located in Lincoln County, Nevada and is the largest grazing allotment on the Ely District at approximately 1.1 million acres of public land and 18,000 private. The allotment encompass five major mountain ranges and valleys. Elevations range from 9,296 feet at Mt. Wilson to 4,600 feet in Dry Lake Valley. The allotment provides a large variety of vegetation types including but not limited to Salt Desert Shrub, Winterfat, Mountain Shrub/Mahogany, Grass Dominated (meadow, wetland, loamy bottom, seedings, ect.), Sage Brush (big and black), ephedra, Ponderosa Pine/Manzanita, and Pinyon-Juniper which encompasses 35% of the allotment. There are approximately 26,000 acres of seeded pasture on the allotment from vegetation conversions and fire rehabilitation.

B Grazing

The allotment is divided into 13 Use areas and 10 livestock operators are authorized to graze livestock on the allotment. The total amount of permitted use for the allotment includes 32,073 cattle Animal Unit Months (AUMs) and 14,337 Sheep AUMs.

The Biodiversity of wildlife species on the allotment includes elk, deer, antelope, upland birds, birds of prey (including Bald and Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, and Peregerine Falcons), and numerous non game species.

There are portions of three herd management areas (HMA) on the allotment:

- 1) Wilson Creek HMA: 586,306 acres AML of 102 horses
- 2) Dry Lake HMA: 466,306 acres AML of 78 horses
- 3) Seaman HMA: 12,112 acres AML of 12 horses
- C Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)

There are three WSA on the allotment:

- 1) Table Mountain WSA 35,958 acres
- 2) White Rock WSA 23,625 acres
- 3) Parsnip Peak WSA 88,175 acres
- D Agenda for Tour on Wednesday September 11, 1996
 - 1. 8:00 Meet at the Mt. Wilson Road off US 93
 - 8:30 Wilson Creek HMA (Map 1)
 South Lake Valley Use Area: Condition of HMA
 Patterson Seedings (horse free area): Wild Horse Use in the Seedings.

3. 10:30 Dry Lake Valley HMA (Map 2)

Dry Lake Valley Use Area: This use area is closed to livestock grazing this fall and winter due to severe drought conditions. A maintenance gather was scheduled for next fiscal year, however due to drought conditions horses will be gathered down to the Appropriate Management Levels (AML) during the later part of Sept. The AML for horses was established through the Allotment Evaluation/Multiple Use Decision Process.

Point of Interest:

The Bristol Mining District was organized April 10, 1871, but the ore deposits (silver/lead) were discovered in the late sixties shortly after the discovery of ore near Pioche in 1863. A smelter was built at Bristol Well in the late seventies. The coke ovens provided charcoal for the smelter. Bristol well had a post office and a population of 400. Foundations and three Beehive ovens are all that remain.

East Bench-Key Area:

This key area is located in Coarse Silty 5-8 Range Site. The Key Management Species for livestock and wild horses at this study site are Indian Rice Grass and Winter Fat.

Drought Conditions-Coyote Wash: This area is an example of low plant vigor due to drought and grazing.

4. 12:00pm

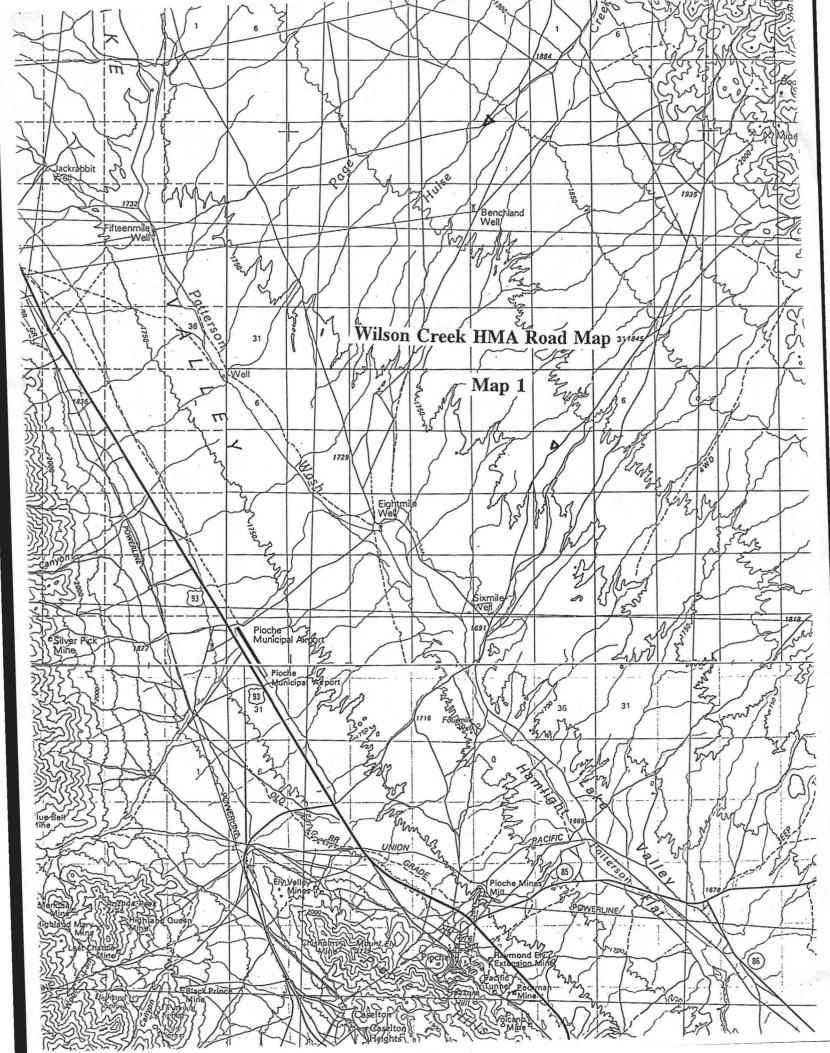
Lunch Coyote Spring

5. 12:30

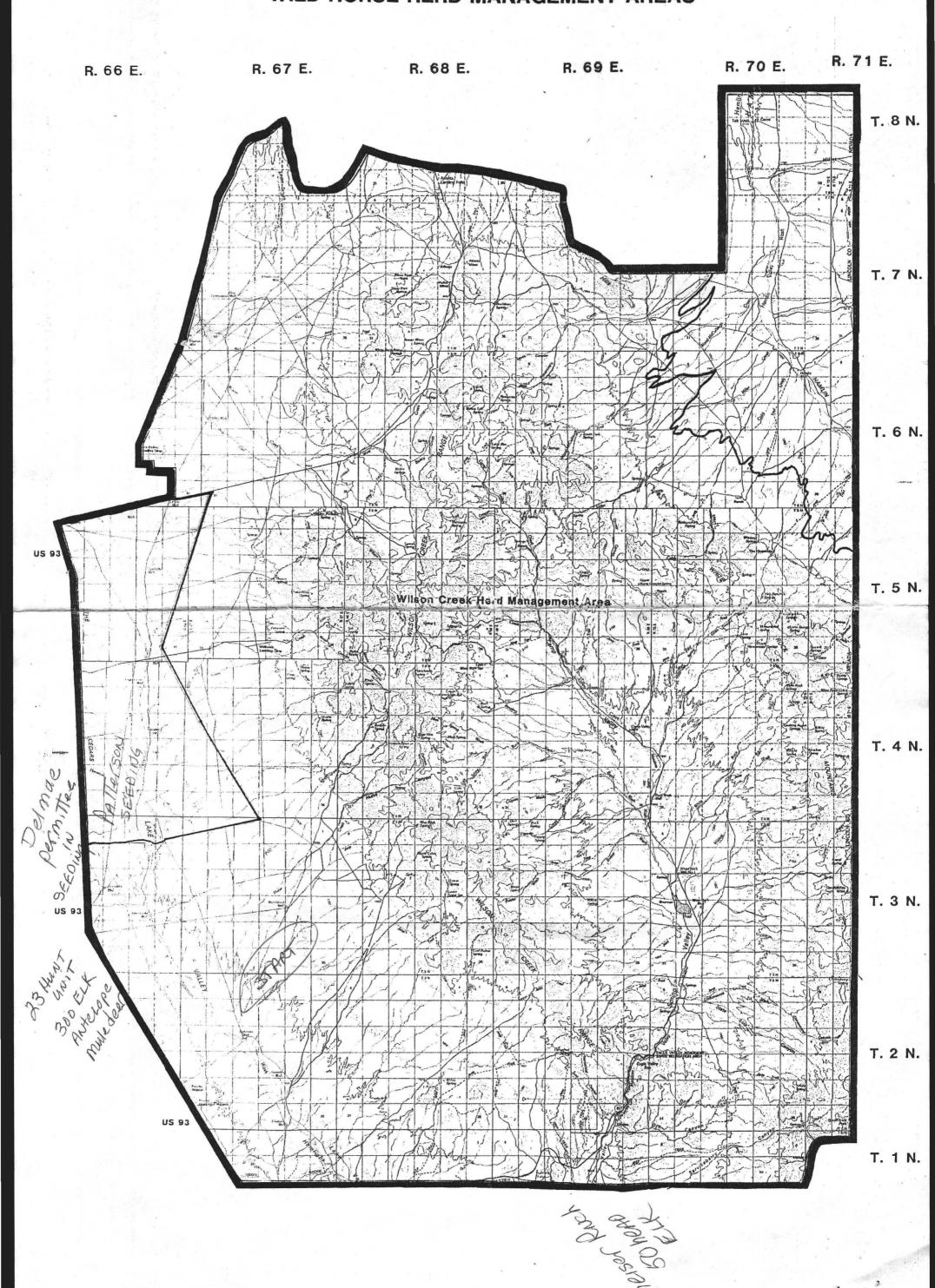
Dry Lake Valley Division Fence Drought comparison of grazed and ungrazed vegetation

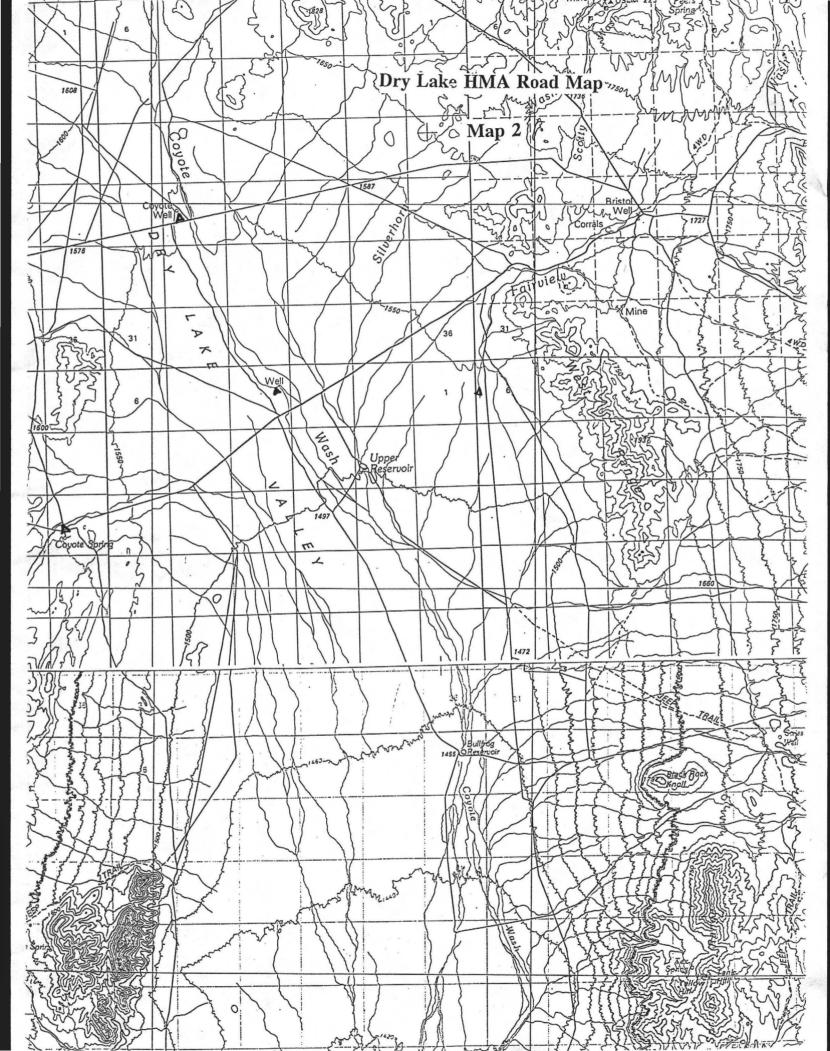
6. 13:00

Return to Las Vegas via US 318



WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT EAST HALF WILD HORSE HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS





WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT WEST HALF WILD HORSE HERD MANAGEMENT AREAS

R. 62 E. R. 63 E. R. 64 E. R. 65 E. R. 66 E R. 67 E. T. 6 N. US 93 T. 5 N. US 93 T. 4 N. Dry Lake Herd Management Area T. 3 N. US 93 T. 2 N. Seaman Herd Management Area T. 1 N. T. 1 S.