United States Department of the Interior

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In Reply Refer To:
4160.1(NV022.15)

February 2, 2001

CERTIFIED MAIL 70001670000696064965
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

PROPOSED MULTIPLE USE DECISION
GOLDBANKS ALLOTMENT

Mike J. Burke
P.O. Box 823
Winnemucca, NV 89445

Dear Mr. Burke:

The Sonoma-Gerlach Final Environmental Impact statement was issued on 09/18/81. The Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plan Record of Decision was issued on 07/09/82. These documents guide the management of public lands within the Goldbanks Allotment. Monitoring data has been collected on this allotment in accordance with Bureau policy and regulations. This data has been evaluated in order to determine progress in meeting management objectives and standards for rangeland health for the Goldbanks Allotment and to determine if management adjustments may be necessary to meet management objectives and standards.

The following are the multiple use management objectives and standards for rangeland health under which grazing on the Goldbanks Allotment will be monitored and evaluated:

A. Short Term Objectives:

1. The objective for utilization of key wetland riparian plant species is 50% for POA, JUNCUS, CAREX and SALIX.

2. The objective for utilization of key upland plant species is 50% for SIHY, ELCI2, FEID, and STTH2.

B. Long Term Objectives:

1. Improve to and maintain 40 acres of riparian and meadow habitat types to ensure species diversity and quality, and to maximize reproduction and recruitment of woody riparian species.

2. Improve or maintain suitable sage grouse strutting, nesting, brood rearing, and/or wintering habitat in good condition within the ecological potential of the rangeland habitat.

The following parameters have been found to constitute optimum (good) conditions for sage grouse use:

Strutting Habitat

1. Low sagebrush or brush free areas for strutting, and nearby areas of sagebrush having 20-50% canopy cover for loafing.

Nesting Habitat

1. Sagebrush between seven 7 and 31 inches in height (optimum = 16 inches).
2. Sagebrush canopy coverage 15-30% (optimum = 27%).
3. 25-35% basal ground cover.
4. Average understory height of 6-7 inches (grasses).

Brood Rearing Habitat

Early Season

1. Sagebrush canopy cover 10-21% (optimum = 14%)

Late Season

1. Meadow areas that are in functioning condition.
2. Residual meadow vegetation of no less than 3-6 inches in height.

Winter Habitat

1. Greater than 20% sagebrush canopy cover.

3. Manage, maintain, and improve public rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis for big game, with an initial forage demand of 92 AUMs for mule deer and 18 AUMs for Bighorn Sheep.

4. Manage, maintain, and improve public rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis for livestock, with an initial forage stocking level of 2347 AUMs.

5. Improve range/ecological condition from fair to good on 4,100 acres and good to excellent on 112 acres.

3. Desired Plant Community Objectives

Mud Springs Pasture

Key Area 5-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the shadscale/ bud sage community for livestock. The site is 024XY002 which represents approximately 33% of the allotment. Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) data collected in 1982 places this site in late condition.

Objective: Maintain the site in late condition with no significant decrease in key forage species.

Monitoring: Continue to read the quadrat frequency study established in 1979 and reread in 1994 for key species as follows: bottlebrush squirreltail, shadscale, and bud sage. Establish a production study to determine the percent composition of budsage. The ESI data collected in 1982 places this site in late condition, however, trend data collected in 1994 indicates that a significant decline in bud sage has taken place since 1979.

Key Area 5-2

Purpose: To determine trend of the Wyoming sagebrush/stipa community for livestock and habitat suitability for mule deer yearlong range (DY-3). The site is 024XY005 which represents approximately 26% of the allotment.

Objective: To increase this site from mid seral condition to late condition. Manage for key species bottlebrush squirreltail, Thurbers needlegrass, Indian ricegrass, and Wyoming sagebrush.

Monitoring: Establish quadrat frequency baseline, production, cover density board, and line intercept studies.

Key Area 5-4

Purpose: To determine trend of the shadscale/bud sage

community for livestock. The site is 024XY002 which represents approximately 33% of the allotment.

Objective: Maintain the site in late condition with no significant decrease in key forage species.

Monitoring: Reread trend study established in 1979 and establish a production study.

Panther Canyon Pasture

Key Area 1-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the Wyoming sagebrush/stipa community for livestock. The site is 024XY005 which represents approximately 26% of the allotment.

Objective: Maintain this site in mid seral condition with no significant decrease in key species.

Monitoring: Continue to read the trend study established in 1979 and reread in 1994. Establish a production study.

Pollard Pasture

Key Area 3-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the bluebunch wheatgrass/Thurbers needlegrass community (024XY029) for livestock and habitat suitability for sage grouse, mule deer summer (DS-4) and big horn sheep winter range (BW-3).

Objective: To increase the site from mid seral to late seral condition.
Manage for key species bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurbers needlegrass and mountain big sagebrush.

Monitoring: Continue to read the quadrat frequency established in 1979. Establish line intercept, cover density board and production studies.

Key Area 3-2

Purpose: To determine trend of the bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurbers needlegrass and Wyoming sagebrush

community (024XY035) for livestock and habitat suitability for sage grouse.

Objective: To increase the site from mid seral to late seral condition.
Manage for key species bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurbers needlegrass and Wyoming sagebrush.

Monitoring: Continue to reread the quadrat frequency established in 1981 and establish a production study. Establish a line intercept study to monitor cover.

China Mountain Pasture

Key Area 2-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the Wyoming sagebrush/Thurber needlegrass community for livestock. The site is 024XY005 which represents approximately 26% of the allotment.

Objective: Maintain this site in mid seral condition with no significant decrease in key species.

Monitoring: Continue to read the quadrat frequency established in 1979 and reread in 1994. Establish a production study.

Jim Creek Spray Field

Since the entire Jim Creek Spray Field burned in August of 1999 and has been fenced and reseeded this year it will not be addressed using a Desired Plant Community objective. The objective, once rehabilitation has been achieved, will be to maintain the seeding (Jim Creek Spray Field) in good condition. Forage production should range from five (5) to ten (10) acres per AUM.

C. STANDARDS FOR RANGELAND HEALTH

1. Soil processes will be appropriate to soil types, climate and land form.

2. Riparian/wetland systems are in properly functioning condition.

3. Water quality criteria in Nevada or California State Law shall be achieved or maintained.

4. Populations and communities of native plant species and habitats for native animal species are healthy, productive and diverse.

5. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of special status species.

D. LIVESTOCK GRAZING DECISION

Based upon the evaluation of monitoring data for the Goldbanks Allotment, consultation with the permittee and other interested public, and recommendations from my staff, it is my proposed decision for livestock to change the management :

FROM: **Description of Existing Use**

BURKES - CATTLE

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2295
B.	Historical Suspended	404
C.	Permitted Use	1891
D.	Authorized	1891

Season of Use

Spring/Summer	04/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 01/31

2. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

3. Percent Federal Range — 100%

4. Grazing System

PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
Pollard Cyn.	210	04/01 to 07/15	732
Panther Cyn.	210	07/16 to 09/30	532
China Mtn.	Rest		

Jim Ck. Field	210	10/01 to 10/31	214
Mud Springs	210	12/01 to 01/31	428

PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
Pollard Cyn.	210	04/01 to 07/15	732
Panther Cyn.	Rest		
China Mtn.	210	07/16 to 09/30	532
Jim Ck. Field	210	10/01 to 10/31	214
Mud Springs	210	12/01 to 01/31	428

PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
Pollard Cyn.	Rest		
Panther Cyn.	210	07/16 to 09/30	532
China Mtn.	210	04/01 to 07/15	732
Jim Ck. Field	210	10/01 to 10/31	214
Mud Springs	210	12/01 to 01/31	428

AGRI-BEEF - SHEEP

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	208
B.	Historical Suspended	48
C.	Permitted Use	160
D.	Authorized Use	160

2. Season of Use

Fall 10/03 to 11/03

3. Kind and Class of Livestock Sheep

4. Percent Federal Range 59%

5. Grazing System

PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
Mud Springs	1300	10/03 to 11/03	160

PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs

Mud Springs	1300	10/03 to 11/03	160

PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
Mud Springs	1300	10/03 to 11/03	160

TO: Grazing System To Be Implemented

BURKES - CATTLE - 2001

The first year (2001) livestock use will be limited to the existing authorized AUMs since the fire closure Decision is in effect. An increase of 706 cattle AUMs will be phased in over a period of five years (2002-2007) assuming all the allotment objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health are being achieved. Assuming the Fire Rehabilitation Objectives, Allotment Objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health are being accomplished the phasing in process will begin in 2002. Two hundred and thirty-five (235) AUMs will be activated in 2002 with subsequent increases of 235 and 236 AUMs in 2004 and 2006 respectively in accordance with the following schedule.

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2295
B.	Historical Suspended	404
C.	Permitted Use	1891
D.	Authorized	1649
E.	Non-Use - **FIRE**	242

2. Season of Use

Spring/Summer	05/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 02/28

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

4. Percent Federal Range — 100%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2001	Pollard Cyn.	183	05/01 to 07/15	457
	Panther Cyn.	183	07/16 to 09/30	463

China Mtn.	Rest		
Mud Spring	183	10/01 to 10/31	187
Mud Springs	183	12/01 to 02/28	541

BURKES - CATTLE - 2002 & 2003

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2295
B.	Historical Suspended	169
C.	Permitted Use	2126
D.	Authorized	2126

2. Season of Use

Spring/Summer	05/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 02/28

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

4. Percent Federal Range — 100%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2002	Pollard Cyn.	221	05/01 to 07/15	552
	Panther Cyn.	Rest		
	China Mtn.	221	07/16 to 09/30	559
	Jim Ck. Field	221	04/01 to 04/19	138
		OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	221	10/01 to 10/31	225
	Mud Springs	221	12/01 to 02/28	654

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2003	Pollard Cyn.	Rest		
	Panther Cyn.	221	07/16 to 09/30	559
	China Mtn.	221	05/01 to 07/15	552
	Jim Ck. Field	221	04/01 to 04/19	138
		OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	221	10/01 to 10/31	225
	Mud Springs	221	12/01 to 02/28	654

BURKES - CATTLE - 2004 & 2005

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2361
B.	Historical Suspended	0
C.	Permitted Use	2361
D.	Authorized	2361

2. Season of Use

Spring/Summer	05/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 02/28

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

4. Percent Federal Range — 100%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #		SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2004	Pollard Cyn.	245		05/01 to 07/15	612
	Panther Cyn.	245		07/16 to 09/30	620
	China Mtn.	Rest			
	Jim Ck. Field	245		04/01 to 04/19	153
			OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	245		10/01 to 10/31	250
	Mud Springs	245		12/01 to 02/28	725

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #		SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2005	Pollard Cyn.	245		05/01 to 07/15	612
	Panther Cyn.	Rest			
	China Mtn.	245		07/16 to 09/30	620
	Jim Ck. Field	245		04/01 to 04/19	153
			OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	245		10/01 to 10/31	250
	Mud Springs	245		12/01 to 02/28	725

BURKES - CATTLE - 2006 & 2007

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2597

B.	Historical Suspended	0
C.	Permitted Use	2597
D.	Authorized	2597

2. Season of Use

Spring/Summer	05/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 02/28

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

4. Percent Federal Range — 100%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #		SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2006	Pollard Cyn.	Rest			
	Panther Cyn.	269		07/16 to 09/30	672
	China Mtn.	269		05/01 to 07/15	681
	Jim Ck. Field	269		04/01 to 04/19	168
			OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	269		10/01 to 10/31	274
	Mud Springs	269		12/01 to 02/28	796

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #		SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2007	Pollard Cyn.	269		05/01 to 07/15	672
	Panther Cyn.	269		07/16 to 09/30	681
	China Mtn.	Rest			
	Jim Ck. Field	269		04/01 to 04/19	168
			OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	269		10/01 to 10/31	274
	Mud Springs	269		12/01 to 02/28	796

RATIONALE:

This grazing system extends the winter season of use within the Mud Springs pasture by one month until 02/28 and increases the allotment permitted use by 37%. The grazing system utilizes a three summer pastures, Panther, Pollard and China rest/rotation plan with one pasture used early (05/01 to 07/15), the second pasture used later (07/16 to 09/30 and the third pasture rested. The Pollard pasture is always grazed early (05/01 to 07/15) during the cooler portion of the summer when livestock are not as likely to concentrate on the riparian sites along the creek. Using the Panther pasture later (07/16 to 09/30) allows rest until seedripe (July 15) increasing plant vigor, food storage, forage production and seed production. A complete season of rest increases plant vigor, food storage, forage

production and establishment of seedlings. The winter and early spring use areas are grazed as follows: Jim Creek Spray Field (04/01 - 04/14 or 10/01 - 10/14) and Mud Springs (10/01 to 10/31 & 12/01 to 02/28). Grazing these areas during the winter and early spring seasons when most of the vegetation is dormant or starting to green up and after livestock removal on 04/28 allows the vegetation time for regrowth. This grazing system allows some flexibility when moving livestock from the winter to the summer pastures. Depending upon the range readiness and vegetative green up the cattle may move into the summer pasture on or about 04/01 or a month later about 05/01.

AGRI-BEEF - SHEEP - 2001

The first year (2001) sheep use will be limited to the existing authorized AUMs since the fire closure Decision is in effect. An increase of 182 sheep AUMs will be phased in over a period of five years (2002-2007) assuming all the Allotment Objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health are being achieved. Assuming the Fire Rehabilitation Objectives, Allotment Objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health are being accomplished the phasing in process will begin in 2002. Sixty-one (61) AUMs will be activated in 2002 with subsequent increases of 61 and 60 AUMs in 2004 and 2006 respectively in accordance with the following schedule.

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	208
B.	Historical Suspended	48
C.	Permitted Use	160
D.	Authorized Use	148
E.	Non-Use - **FIRE**	12

2. Season of Use

Winter	01/01 to 03/31

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Sheep

4. Percent Federal Range — 59%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2001	Pollard Cyn.	426	01/01 to 01/31	51
	Panther Cyn.	426	02/01 to 02/28	46
	China Mtn.			
	Mud Springs	426	03/01 to 03/31	51

AGRI-BEEF - SHEEP - 2002 & 2003

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	221
B.	Historical Suspended	0
C.	Permitted Use	221
D.	Authorized Use	221

2. Season of Use

Winter 01/01 to 03/31

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Sheep

4. Percent Federal Range — 59%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2002	Pollard Cyn.	635	01/01 to 01/31	76
	Panther Cyn.	Rest		
	China Mtn.	635	02/01 to 02/28	69
	Mud Springs	635	03/01 to 03/31	76

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2003	Pollard Cyn.	Rest		
	Panther Cyn.	635	02/01 to 02/28	69
	China Mtn.	635	01/01 to 01/31	76
	Mud Springs	635	03/01 to 03/31	76

AGRI-BEEF - SHEEP - 2004 & 2005

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	282
B.	Historical Suspended	0
C.	Permitted Use	282
D.	Authorized Use	282

2. Season of Use

Winter 01/01 to 03/31

3. Kind and Class of Livestock Sheep

4. Percent Federal Range 59%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2004	Pollard Cyn.	805	01/01 to 01/31	97
	Panther Cyn.	805	02/01 to 02/28	88
	China Mtn.	Rest		
	Mud Springs	805	03/01 to 03/31	97

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2005	Pollard Cyn.	805	01/01 to 01/31	97
	Panther Cyn.	Rest		
	China Mtn.	805	02/01 to 02/28	88
	Mud Springs	805	03/01 to 03/31	97

AGRI-BEEF - SHEEP - 2006 & 2007

1. Grazing (AUMs)

   A. Total 342
   B. Historical Suspended 0
   C. Permitted Use 342
   D. Authorized Use 342

2. Season of Use

   Winter 01/01 to 03/31

3. Kind and Class of Livestock Sheep

4. Percent Federal Range 59%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2006	Pollard Cyn.	Rest		

	Panther Cyn.	979	02/01 to 02/28	106
	China Mtn.	979	01/01 to 01/31	118
	Mud Springs	979	03/01 to 03/31	118

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2007	Pollard Cyn.	979	01/01 to 01/31	118
	Panther Cyn.	979	02/01 to 02/28	106
	China Mtn.	Rest		
	Mud Springs	979	03/01 to 03/31	118

RATIONALE:

This system allows the sheep to graze within two of the summer pastures following the same schedule as the cattle. Grazing the sheep during the early spring within the Mud Springs Pasture at green up should not have a negative impact on the vegetative resources. Once the sheep are removed on 03/31 there will be 3 ½ months of growing season rest to allow for regrowth. Use of Pollard Canyon, Panther Canyon and China Mountain pastures by sheep should not conflict with cattle use since the cows use these areas from May 1 to September 30. Sheep use in Mud Springs is in a different portion of the pasture than areas that cattle are scheduled to use. Since sheep tend to graze more shrubs and forbs while cattle prefer grasses there should be very little dietary overlap.

E. Range Improvements

1. Add sheep troughs to Panther Canyon pipeline

   Rationale: To make water accessible to sheep as well as cattle, so that livestock can be better distributed within the allotment.

2. Construct exclosures in the China Pasture to protect wetland riparian habitat. Exact location of exclosures will be determined during the survey and design stage of the project process in coordination with all interested publics.

   Rationale: To protect and improve wetland riparian habitat, so that the utilization and condition objective for wetland riparian habitat can be met.

3. Recommend fencing the headwater meadow of Pollard Creek. This area

is private land belonging to Agri Beef, we will pursue a cooperative effort to construct this project.

Rationale: To protect the headwater meadow from trampling and to provide good wetland riparian habitat.

4. Recommend reconstructing the boundary fence between the South Buffalo Allotment and Goldbanks Allotment.

Rationale: To prevent unauthorized livestock from drifting from the South Buffalo Allotment into the Pollard Canyon pasture.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS - AGRI-BEEF & BURKES

The terms and conditions must be in conformance with the Standards and Guidelines for the Sierra Front - Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997.

1. "Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and protect it from your activities for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer."

2. The authorized officer reserves the authority to modify annual grazing authorization as long as the modification is consistent with management objectives and remains within the designated season of use.

3. Continuation of grazing and implementation of scheduled increases will be contingent on the attainment of the utilization objectives and standards for uplands within the Goldbanks Allotment. Verification of utilization objectives and standards will be made at the end of the grazing season through monitoring. If utilization objectives and standards are not met, scheduled increases in AUMs will not occur.

4. The permittees are required to perform normal maintenance on range improvements as per their signed cooperative agreements and section 4 permits prior to livestock turnout.

5. Salt and/or mineral blocks shall not be placed within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, riparian habitats or aspen stands.

6. The permittees certified actual use report, by pasture, is due fifteen (15) days after the end of the authorized grazing period.

7. The grazing authorization with the schedules of use outlined in this evaluation will be the only approved use and all other schedules, flexibilities and terms and conditions addressed in the Goldbanks Allotment Management Plan dated January 31, 1972 are suspended. unless revised.

F. GRAZING PERMIT

A ten year grazing permit, reflecting the terms and conditions of this decision, will be offered upon completion of the decision process. Any existing permit would become null and void as the new ten year permit becomes effective.

AUTHORITY:

The authority for this decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4100.0-8 "The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plans also set forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5(b)."

4110.3 "The authorized officer shall periodically review the permitted use specified in a grazing permit or grazing lease and shall make changes in the permitted use as needed to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity, to assist in restoring ecosystems to properly functioning condition, to conform with land use plans or activity plans, or to comply with the provisions of subpart 4180. These changes must be supported by monitoring, field observations, ecological site inventory or other data acceptable to the authorized officer.

4110.3-1 "Additional forage may be apportioned to qualified applicants for livestock grazing use consistent with multiple-use management objectives.
(b) "Additional forage available on a sustained yield basis for livestock grazing use shall first be apportioned in satisfaction of suspended permitted use to the permittee(s) or lessee(s) authorized to graze in the allotment in which the forage is available".
(c) "After consultation, cooperation, and coordination, with the affected permittees or lessees, the State having lands or managing resources within the area, and the interested public, additional forage on a sustained yield basis available for livestock grazing use in an allotment may be apportioned to permittees or lessees or other applicants, provided the permittee, lessee, or other applicant is found to be qualified under subpart 4110 of this Part.

4130.3-1(a) "The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotment(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. The authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity as determined through regulations or of any term or condition of the permit or lease.

4130.3-2 "The authorized officer may specify in grazing permits and leases other terms and conditions which will assist in achieving management objectives, provide for proper range management or assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands..."

4130.3-3 "Following consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the affected lessees or permittees, the State having lands or responsible for managing resources within the area, and the interested public, the authorized officer may modify terms and conditions of the permit or lease when the active grazing use or related management practices are not meeting the land use plan, allotment management plan or other activity plan, or management objectives, or is not in conformance with the provisions of subpart 4180. To the extent practical, the authorized officer shall provide to affected permittees or lessees, States having lands or responsibility for managing resources within the affected area, and the interested public an opportunity to review, comment and give input during the preparation of reports that evaluate monitoring and other data that are used as a basis for making decisions to increase or decrease grazing use, or to change the terms and conditions of a permit or lease."

4160.1(a) "Proposed decisions shall be served on any affected applicant, permittee, or lessee, and any agent and lien holder of record, who is affected by the proposed actions, terms or conditions, or modification relating to applications, permits and agreements (including range improvement permits) or leases, by certified mail or personal delivery. Copies of proposed decisions shall also be sent certified to the interested public."

4160.2 "Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interests may protest the proposed decision under 4160.1 of this title in person or in writing to the authorized officer within 15 days after receipt of such decision."

4180.1 "The authorized officer shall take appropriate action under subparts 4110, 4120, 4130, and 4160 of this part as soon as practicable but not later than the start of the next grazing year upon determining that existing grazing management needs to be modified to ensure that the following conditions exist."

(a) Watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, properly functioning physical condition, including their upland, riparian-wetland, and aquatic components; soil and plant conditions support infiltration, soil moisture storage, and the release of water that are in balance with climate and landform and maintain or improve water quality, water quanity, and timing and duration of flow.

(b) Ecological processes, including the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and every flow, are maintained, or there is significant progress toward their attainment, in order to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

(c) Water quality complies with State water quality standards and achieves, or is making significant progress toward achieving, established BLM management objectives such as meeting wildlife needs.

(d) Habitats are, or are making significant progress toward being restored or maintained for Federal threatened and endangered species, Federal Proposed, Category 1 and 2 Federal candidate and other special status species.

G. WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT

The appropriate management level for wild horses within the Goldbanks Allotment portion of the East Range Herd Area and the Tobin Range Herd Management Area will be 0 horses and 0 AUMs. Adjustments to the wild horse populations are not warranted. Wild horse populations will remain at the number outlined in the Land Use Plan.

RATIONALE

The Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III (1982) established an initial stocking level of 0 for the East Range Herd Area (HA) that is part of the Tobin Range Herd Management Area (HMA) contained within the allotment. There is 5% of the East Range HA and 10 % of the Tobin Range HMA contained within the allotment.

H. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Adjustments to the wildlife populations are not warranted. Wildlife populations will remain at the reasonable numbers outlined in the Land Use Plan. Reasonable numbers of wildlife are as follows:

Mule Deer	92 AUMs
Bighorn Sheep	18 AUMs

RATIONALE:

Analysis of monitoring data indicates that the utilization objectives, for upland, wetland riparian and streambank riparian habitats have been typically met in most years. Therefore, a change in the existing wildlife populations or the existing wildlife management, within the Goldbanks Allotment, is not warranted.

PROTEST:

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest the livestock grazing portion of this proposed multiple use decision under Sec 43 CFR 4160.1, in person or in writing to:

Colin P. Christensen
AFM Renewable Resources
Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, NV 89445

The protest must be filed within 15 days of receipt of this decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the proposed decision is in error.

Subsequent to the protest period, a final multiple use decision will be issued specifying the appeal procedures.

FUTURE MONITORING AND GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS:

The Winnemucca Field Office will continue to monitor the Goldbanks Allotment. The monitoring data will continue to be collected in the future to provide the necessary information for subsequent evaluations. These evaluations are necessary to determine if the allotment specific objectives are being met and the Standards for Rangeland Health are being achieved under the new grazing management strategy. In addition, these subsequent evaluations will determine if adjustments are required to meet the established allotment specific objectives and standards.

The Goldbanks Allotment is scheduled to be re-evaluated in FY 2010.

Sincerely yours,

Colin P. Christensen
Assistant Field Office Manager
Renewable Resources

CC:	Nevada Cattlemen's Assoc.	7000 1670 0006 9606 4897
	NDOW - Fallon	7000 1670 0006 9606 4910
	NDOW - Winnemucca	7000 1670 0006 9606 4880
	Sierra Club-Toiyabe	7000 1670 0006 9606 4903
	Nevada Woolgrowers Assoc.	7000 1670 0006 9606 4903
	Pershing County Commissioners	7000 1670 0006 9606 4941
	Resource Concepts Inc.	7000 1670 0006 9606 4934
	Mike Maestri	7000 1670 0006 9606 4873
	Frank Maestri	7000 1670 0006 9606 4866
	Agri-Beef Co.	7000 1670 0006 9606 4958

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AFM Renewable Resources
Bureau of Land Management
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	State of Nv. - Dept. of Administration	7099 3220 0009 6610 7610

2/2/01

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WINNEMUCCA FIELD OFFICE

FINAL

Tobin Range

GOLDBANKS ALLOTMENT RE-EVALUATION

February 02, 2001

I. INTRODUCTION

A.	Allotment Name Allotment Number	Goldbanks Allotment 00105
B.	Permittee(s)	Mike Burke Agri Beef Co.
C.	Evaluation Period	1989 - 2000
D.	Selective Management Category Priority	M 5

II. INITIAL STOCKING RATE

A. Livestock Use

The Goldbanks Allotment has a total permitted use of 2,068 AUMs of livestock grazing; 1,907 cattle AUMs and 161 AUMs of sheep use. Cattle use is rotated between five historical use areas within the allotment (Panther Canyon, Pollard Canyon, China Mountain, Mud Springs and Jim Creek Spray Field) See Appendix 1, Map 1. The season of use for cattle is spring through winter with fall use for sheep. (Table 1)

Table 1. Livestock operators, season of use and Permitted Use

Permittee	Livestock		Grazing Begin	Period End	% PL	Permitted Use	Historical Suspended
	#	Kind					
Mike Burke	210	c	04/01	10/31	100	1477	404
	211	c	12/01	01/31	100	430	
AgriBeef	1300	s	10/03	11/03	59	161	48

The average actual use of livestock during the evaluation years (1989 - 2000) was 1,885 AUMs of cattle use and 79 AUMs of sheep use.

Table 2. Existing grazing system for the Goldbanks Allotment

treatment 1	Graze from 5/1 to 7/15

treatment 2	rest until seedripe (July 15) for plant vigor, food storage, forage production, and seed production.	Graze from 7/16 to 9/30
treatment 3	Rest for vigor, food storage, forage production, and establishment of seedlings.	
treatment 4	Graze from 10/1 to 10/31	
treatment 5	Graze from 12/1 to 1/31 and 4/1 to 4/30	

Table 3. Sequence of treatments for the Goldbanks Allotment

Pasture	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Pollard Canyon	5/1 - 7/15	7/16 - 9/30	Rest
Panther Canyon	Rest	5/1 - 7/15	7/16 - 9/30
China Mountain	7/16 - 9/30	Rest	5/1 - 7/15
Jim Creek Spray Field	10/1 - 10/31	10/1 - 10/31	10/1 - 10/31
Mud Springs	12/1 - 1/31 4/1 - 4/30	12/1 - 1/31 4/1 - 4/30	12/1 - 1/31 4/1 - 4/30

B. Wildlife Use:13

1. Reasonable Numbers (from Sonoma-Gerlach MFP-III - 1982)

Mule Deer	(Odocoileus hemionus)	92 AUMs
Bighorn Sheep	(Ovis canadensis nelsoni)	18 AUMs

2. Key or Critical Management Areas within the Allotment

Mule Deer

The following mule deer habitat within the Goldbanks Allotment has been identified in the Sonoma-Gerlach MFP: East Range DY-3b(12)*, Tobin Range DY-4a(12), and Tobin Range DS-4a(6). The following bighorn

sheep habitat areas have been identified: Tobin Range BS-4(6) and Tobin Range BW-3(6).

* The numbers in parenthesis represent the numbers of months of use By mule deer.

Table 4. Number of Acres by Wildlife Use Area Within the Goldbanks Allotment

Wildlife Use Area	Acres Within the Allotment
East Range DY-3b	4,677
Tobin Range DY(Deer Yearlong)	10,821
Tobin Range DS-4a	5,157
Tobin Range BS-4	1,103
Tobin Range BW-3	4,648

Sage grouse

A portion of the allotment falls within sage grouse range which contains two identified sage grouse brooding areas. There is one known strutting ground within the allotment which was identified by Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) in 1992.

C. Wild Horse Use:

The Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III (1982) established an initial stocking level of 0 for the East Range Herd Area (HA) that is part of the Tobin Range Herd Management Area (HMA) contained within the allotment. There is 5% of the East Range HA and 10 % of the Tobin Range HMA contained within the allotment.

III. ALLOTMENT PROFILE

A. Description

The Goldbanks Allotment is within the Sonoma Planning Unit located approximately 30 miles south of Winnemucca Nevada on Grass Valley Road in Northeastern Pershing County. The allotment contains a total of 39,605 acres of which 37,460 acres are public

land. The allotment lies on the Divide between Grass Valley and Pleasant Valley and contains portions of the East and Tobin Ranges. The Goldbanks Hills form the western portion the allotment, with the northwest portion of the Tobin Range dominating the eastern side of the allotment. Elevation on the allotment varies from 4,700 feet to near 8,000 feet. The lower elevations sites are dominated by shadscale, budsage and Indian ricegrass. Intermediate elevation sites contain Wyoming big sagebrush and Sandberg bluegrass with bluebunch wheatgrass and mountain big sagebrush at the higher elevations. There are numerous riparian sites in Panther and Pollard Canyons dominated primarily by Carex and Juncus.

B. Acreage

a. Total 39605

b. Public 37460

c. Private 2145

C. Objectives

The following allotment specific objectives are found in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) Update.

1. Short Term

a. Total utilization of key plant species in 40 acres of wetland riparian habitat shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan.

b. Utilization of key plant species in upland habitats shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan.

2. Long Term

a. Improve or maintain the condition of 40 acres of wetland riparian habitat type to good or higher condition.

b. Protect sage grouse strutting grounds and nesting wintering habitat and improve brooding habitat by:

1. Following NDOW's guidelines for Vegetal Control Programs in

sage grouse habitat in Nevada.

2. Maintain sagebrush canopy at 30% in sage grouse nesting areas where sagebrush does not exceed three (3) feet in height.

c. Manage, maintain, or improve 5 acres of aspen woodland habitat type to good condition.

d. Manage, maintain, or improve public rangeland habitat condition to provide forage on a sustained yield basis with an initial forage demand for big game of 92 AUMs for mule deer, and 18 AUMs for bighorn sheep by:

1. Improving or maintaining to good condition East Range DY-3, Tobin Range DY-4, and Tobin Range DS-4.

2. Improving or maintaining potential bighorn sheep habitat in good condition Tobin Range BS-4 and BW-3.

e. Mange, maintain, and improve public rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis with an initial stocking level of 2,051 AUMs.

f. Improve range/ecological condition from fair to good on 4,100 acres and good to excellent on 112 acres.

g. Remove all wild horses/burros from the East Range Herd Area, (This Herd Area includes the Goldbanks Allotment), unless a cooperative agreement with the affected land owner is obtained.

h. The East Range Herd Area boundary will be retained for administrative purposes.

3. a. Standards For Rangeland Health

The following are Standards for Rangeland Health as developed in consultation with the Sierra Front - Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, other interested publics and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. The terms and conditions of the livestock grazing permit must be in conformance with these approved Standards and Guidelines.

1. Soil processes will be appropriate to soil type, climate and land form.

2. Riparian/wetland systems are in properly functioning condition.

3. Water quality criteria in Nevada State Law shall be achieved or maintained.

4. Populations and communities of native plant species and habitats for native animal species are healthy, productive and diverse.

5. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of special status species.

IV. MANAGEMENT EVALUATION

A. Purpose

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess whether current management practices are meeting the multiple use objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health for the allotment and to determine the appropriate livestock stocking level for the various pastures.

B. Summary of Studies Data

Utilization patterns were mapped for portions of the allotment from 1989 to 1998 and utilization transects have been completed in various use areas within the allotment since 1982. There are eleven key areas identified in this allotment for utilization purposes with frequency trend studies established at eight of the key areas. The locations of identified key areas with trend studies are shown in Appendix I, Map 2. An Ecological Site Inventory was conducted for the allotment in 1988. There is one big game key area/monitoring site located in mule deer winter range on the allotment. Riparian functionality studies and a fishery habitat survey have been conducted on Pollard Creek, which is the one perennial stream located in the allotment.

1. Actual Use

a. Livestock

Table 5. *Livestock Actual Use from Licensed Use.*

Permittee	Grazing Year	Livestock		Grazing Period		%PL	AUMs
		#	Kind	Begin	End		
	1988						
Mike Burke		203	C	04/01/88	10/31/88	100	1428
		203	C	12/01/88	01/31/89	100	414
TOTAL							**1842**
Agri Beef							0
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**1842**
	1989						
Mike Burke		208	C	04/01/89	10/31/89	100	1463
		208	C	12/01/89	01/31/90	100	424
TOTAL							**1887**
Agri Beef		2150	S	02/10/90	02/28/90	59	159
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**2046**
	1990						
Mike Burke		208	C	04/01/90	10/31/90	100	1463
		208	C	12/01/90	01/31/91	100	424
TOTAL							**1887**
Agri Beef		1500	S	01/05/91	01/15/91	59	64
		1500	S	01/16/91	01/31/91	59	94
TOTAL							**158**
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**2045**
	1991						
Mike Burke		208	C	04/01/91	10/31/91	100	1463
		208	C	12/01/91	01/31/91	100	424

TOTAL							**1887**
Agri Beef		1500	S	01/25/92	02/21/92	59	163
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**2050**
	1992						
Mike Burke		208	C	04/01/92	10/31/92	100	1463
		208	C	12/01/92	01/31/93	100	424
TOTAL							**1887**
Agri Beef							0
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**1887**
	1993						
Mike Burke		208	C	04/01/93	07/31/93	100	834
		208	C	10/01/93	02/28/94	100	1033
TOTAL							**1867**
Agri Beef		810	S	12/31/93	12/31/93	59	3
		1620	S	01/01/94	01/01/94	59	6
		2430	S	01/02/94	01/17/94	59	151
TOTAL							**160**
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**2027**
	1994						
Mike Burke		208	C	04/01/94	10/31/94	100	1463
		208	C	12/01/94	01/31/95	100	424
		208	C	02/01/95	02/28/95	100	191
TOTAL							**2078**
Agri Beef		2520	S	02/11/95	02/26/95	59	156
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**2234**
	1995						

Mike Burke		208	C	03/01/95	03/31/95	100	212
		208	C	06/01/95	10/31/95	100	1046
		208	C	12/01/95	02/29/960	100	622
TOTAL							**1880**
Agri Beef							0
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**1880**
	1996						
Mike Burke		208	C	04/01/96	10/31/96	100	1463
TOTAL							**1463**
Agri Beef							0
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**1463**
	1997						
Mike Burke		208	C	04/01/97	10/31/97	100	1463
		208	C	12/01/97	01/31/98	100	424
		200	C	02/14/98	02/28/98	100	99
TOTAL							**1986**
Agri Beef							0
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**1986**

Permittee	Grazing Year	Livestock		Grazing Period		%PL	AUMs
		#	Kind	Begin	End		
	1998						
Mike Burke		208	C	04/01/98	10/31/98	100	1463
		208	C	12/01/98	01/31/99	100	424
TOTAL							**1887**
Agri Beef		2800	S	04/02/98	04/15/98	100	152
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**2039**

	1999						
Mike Burke		208	C	04/01/99	10/31/99	100	1463
		208	C	12/01/99	01/31/00	100	424
		200	C	02/14/00	02/28/00	100	184
TOTAL							**2071**
Agri Beef							0
ALLOTMENT TOTAL							**2071**

b. Wildlife

1. Mule Deer

Allotment specific estimates of mule deer numbers occurring in the Goldbanks Allotment are not available. Mule deer populations in Northern Nevada increased from an extended period of depressed numbers in the middle 1980's. This trend has not been apparent over the last two years. Over this period, numbers have actually declined slightly. The cause of this shift is unclear.

2. Sage Grouse

Sage grouse densities in the allotment are not known. General trends have been downward over the last several years. There are two known brood rearing areas and one known strutting ground.

3. Big Horn Sheep

Thirty-four head of bighorn sheep were released in the Tobin Range in the summer of 1984 and another nineteen head were released in 1991. By 1993/1994 Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) reported that there were no bighorn sheep left on the Tobin Range.

c. Wild Horses

No wild horses have been reported using this allotment.

2. Climate

The following table describes the amount of annual January - December), water year (October - September), winter (November - February), crop year (September -June), and percent of normal precipitation recorded at the Winnemucca NOAA weather station from 1989 through 1999.

Table #6. Climate Data from the Winnemucca NOAA Weather Station.

YEAR	ANNUAL 8.33"	% of NORMAL	WATER YEAR 8.29"	% of NORMAL	WINTER 3.37"	% of NORMAL	CROP YEAR 7.36	% of NORMAL
1989	5.56	67%	6.27	76%	3.03	90%	5.18	70%
1990	6.37	76%	7.0	84%	1.79	53%	6.66	90%
1991	7.8	954	6.56	79%	1.43	42%	5.57	76%
1992	4.14	50%	4.11	50%	1.74	52%	4.73	64%
1993	7.27	87%	8.33	100%	4.13	123%	8.15	110%
1994	7.58	91%	5.98	72%	1.72	51%	5.40	73%.
1995	9.82	118%	10.72	129%	3.78	112%	10.59	143%
1996	10.70	128%	10.62	128%	5.23	155%	10.47	142%
1997	7.88	95%	14.46	174%	4.23	125%	11.88	161%
1998	15.61	187%	7.23	87%	3.36	100%	9.72	132%
1999	5.34	64%	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Utilization - Utilization was mapped for portions of the allotment from 1989 - 1995. The tables below reflect this data by pasture. Sheep use during the evaluation years only occurred in the Mud Springs Pasture.

a. Upland Utilization

1.) **Mud Springs Pasture**

Table #7. Mud Springs Pasture Utilization

Use Class	**1989** 12/1 -1/31 4/1 - 4/30		**1992** 12/1 - 1/31 4/1 - 4/30		**1994** 12/1- 1/31 4/1 - 4/30	
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
No Apparent Use					1,115	9%
Slight					5,609	47%
Light	6,448	47%			2,706	22%
Moderate	6,883	50%	4,064	80%	523	4%
Heavy	447	3%	985	20%	2,004	17%
Severe						

2.) Panther Canyon Pasture

Table #8. Panther Canyon Utilization

Use Class	**1989** - Rest		**1993** - 4/1 to 6/15		**1994** - 7/16 to 9/30	
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
No Apparent Use	1,573	100%	759	15%	504	8%
Slight			3,964	80%	2,298	39%
Light			230	5%	1,790	31%
Moderate						
Heavy					1,263	22%
Severe						

3.) China Pasture

Table #9. China Pasture Utilization

Use Class	**1990**		**1992** 7/16 to 9/30		**1994** 5/1 -7/15		**1995** 6/16 - 7/31	
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
No Apparent Use					1260	29.6%		
Slight							2519	86%
Light	1076	31%	430	33%	2299	54%		
Moderate	2432	69%	729	56%	697	16.4%	396	14%
Heavy			135	11%				
Severe								

4.) **Pollard Pasture**

Table #10. Pollard Pasture Utilization

Use Class	**1992** - 5/1 to 7/15		**1993** - 6/1 to 7/31		**1995** - 4/1 to 6/15	
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
Use Class						
			36	2%	154	6%
No Apparent Use	1308	80%	763	45%	1875	76%
Moderate	324	20%	611	36%	444	18%
Heavy			268	16%		
Severe			8	1%		

5.) **Jim Creek Spray Field**

No use pattern mapping was conducted in this pasture during the evaluation period..

b. Riparian Utilization

1. 1993 - Pollard Creek

There was slight to light utilization on the majority of the herbaceous riparian along Pollard Creek. Overall the use on the willows was slight with the lower branches heavily used (mechanical damage) where the cows shade up under the larger willows. Moderate use was found on Nebraska sedge at the spring complex at the headwaters of Pollard Creek. The Juncus spp. received no use to slight use where it occurred on the meadow complex. The benches above the riparian zone are areas of high concentration for livestock. The 1985 wildfire removed the woody species from the canyon bottom, which is now dominated by crested wheatgrass, basin wildrye, bottlebrush squirreltail and bluegrass. The area was heavily used and could result in siltation to the creek.

2. 1995 - Pollard Creek

A utilization transect was conducted starting at stream survey station 1. Bluegrass received 60% use and Juncus spp received 32% use. Trespass livestock from the South Buffalo Allotment were found using this pasture after the permittee moved his cows into the next pasture. The trespass livestock concentrated in the riparian area.

4. Trend

Frequency trend transects have been established on eight of the eleven key areas in the allotment. Species frequency has been measured twice on four of the key areas providing an indication of trend in these areas. Statistical significance of changes was determined by comparison of confidence intervals at the 95% confidence level.

The following tables show percent frequency by species by year.

a. Mud Springs Pasture (Key Area 5-1)

SPECIES	1979	1981	1994
POSA	11	45	59

SIHY	28	56	43
BRTE	92	76	91
ATCO	40	23	40
ARSP5	26	15	8
ARTRW			1

b. Panther Canyon Pasture (Key Area 1-1)

SPECIES	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1994
POSA	89	92	94	98	98	99
SIHY	13	36	38	31	22	41
ELCI2	6	1				
BRTE	2		16	4	1	
PHLOX	30	23	19	21	40	38
ASTRA		2	3	3		
AAFF			50	67		
PPFF						4
ARTR	50	14	23	30	35	48
GRSP			1			
Vegetation				29		12
Bare Ground				16		55
Litter				55		33

Rock						

c. China Pasture (Key Area 2-1)

SPECIES	1979	1981	1983	1987	1994
POSA	80	83	85	44	100
SIHY	17	20	20	4	41
STTH2	1	2	14	6	
BRTE	1		4		
LOMAT					1
PHHO		19	11	19	4
ASTRA		4	5	2	4
AAFF				1	5
ARTR	53	25	29	31	37

d. Pollard Pasture

In 1994, the two trend sites within the Pollard Pasture were not found. No trend data has been collected in this pasture since 1981.

e. Jim Creek Spray Field (Key Area 4-1)

SPECIES	1979	1981	1987	1995
POSA	74	83	51	98
SIHY	1	14	18	39
STTH2	2	1	4	
BRTE	45	11	4	37

ASPU		11		
DEPI		2		5
PHLOX			21	26
ARTR	35	19	47	23
TEGL	4	3	5	2

Table 7. Summary of Frequency Trend Transects for Key areas on the Goldbanks Allotment

Key Area	Years Read	Significant Changes	Indicated Trend
5-1	79, 81, 94	Increase in POSA, SIHY Decrease in ARSP, ATCO	Down. There is a significant decrease in ARSP.
1-1	79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 94	Increase in SIHY, POSA Decrease in vegetative cover, Increase in % bare ground	Static
2-1	79, 81, 83, 87, 94	Increase in SIHY, POSA STTH2	Static Static
4-1	79, 81, 87, 95	Increase in SIHY, POSA STTH2	Static Static

5. Ecological Site Inventory

An ecological site inventory was completed in 1988. The following lists the acres and percentage by seral stage for the Goldbanks Allotment:

Seral Stage	Acres	Percentages
Early	1930	5

Mid	19360	50
Late	4963	13
Potential	11799	31
Barren	223	<1
Rock	0	

Table # 11 Summary of the Ecological Site Inventory for the Goldbanks Allotment.

Ecological Site	Seral Stage							
	Early		Mid		Late		PNC	
	acres	percent	acres	percent	acres	percent	acres	percent
024XY002	0	0	523	1	864	2	11302	30
024XY005	0	0	9905	26	0	0	0	0
024XY011	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	<1
024XY016	0	0	168	<1	0	0	0	0
024XY020	630	2	1269	3	1544	4	0	0
024XY021	0	0	0	0	873	2	0	0
024XY023	0	0	0	0	1173	3	0	0
024XY027	0	0	1767	5	0	0	0	0
024XY028	0	0	3351	9	0	0	0	0
024XY029	1300	3	1518	4	0	0	0	0
024XY032	0	0	0	0	509	1	467	1
024XY033	0	0	859	2	0	0	0	0
Barren	223 acres; <1%							

The following paragraphs describe the plant community dynamics of the prevalent ecological sites within the Goldbanks Allotment.

Ecological Site 024XY002

Ecological Site 024XY002 loamy 5-8" p.z. occurs on low hills, fan piedmonts,

alluvial flats on all aspects. Elevations are 4000 to 6000 feet. The plant community is dominated by shadscale, budsage, and Indian ricegrass. The potential vegetative composition is about 25% grasses, 5% forbs, and 70% shrubs. Where management results in abusive use by livestock, shadescale increases in density while Indian ricegrass and budsage compositions are reduced. With further site degradation, shadscale may become dominant to the extent of a nearly pure stand. Cheatgrass, halogeton, and tansy mustard are species likely to invade this site. Ecological site 024XY002 comprises 33 percent of the Goldbanks Allotment. 91% at potential, 6% at late, and 3% at mid seral condition.

Ecological Site 024XY005

Ecological site 024XY005 loamy 8-10" p.z. occurs on lower mountains, hills, and piedmont slopes of all exposures. Elevations are 5000 to 6500 feet. The plant community is dominated by Thurbers needlegrass and Wyoming sagebrush. The potential vegetative composition is 55% grasses, 5% forbs, and 40% shrubs. Where management results in abusive use by livestock, Thurbers needlegrass and bluebunch wheatgrass decrease and are replaced by bluegrasses and bottlebrush squirreltail as the dominant grasses in the understory. Cheatgrass and other annuals will begin to dominate the understory as conditions deteriorate. Wyoming big sagebrush and downy rabbitbrush increase in the overstory and become the dominant vegetation on this site. Where site degradation has been fire induced, broom snakeweed may comprise 30-50% of the total annual yield. Ecological site 024XY005 comprises 26 percent of the Goldbanks Allotment all of which is in mid seral.

Ecological Site 024XY020

Ecological site 024XY020 droughty loam 8-10" p.z. occurs on hills, mid to upper piedmont slopes and on inset fans on lower piedmont slopes. Elevations are 4000 to 6000 feet. The plant community is dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush, spiny hopsage, Thurber needlegrass, and Indian ricegrass. Sandberg bluegrass and bottlebrush squirreltail are important grasses on this site. Potential vegetative composition is about 50% grasses, 5% forbs, and 45% shrubs. Where management results in abusive livestock use, Wyoming big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, snakeweed, and other shrubs increase in density, as Thurber needlegrass and Indian ricegrass decrease in the understory. Cheatgrass, halogeton, and annual mustard are species likely to invade this site. Ecological site 024XY020 comprises 9 percent of the Goldbanks Allotment. 45% is late, 33% is mid, and 22% is in early seral condition.

Ecological Site 024XY028

Ecological site 024XY028 south slope 8-12"p.z. occurs on southerly exposed side slopes of upper piedmont slopes, hills, and lower mountains. Elevations are 5500 to 7000 feet. The plant community is dominated by bluebunch wheatgrass. Big sagebrush, Thurber needlegrass and basin wild rye are other important species associated with this site. Potential vegetative composition is about 65% grasses, 10% forbs, and 25% shrubs. Where management results in abusive use by livestock, bluebunch wheatgrass and Thurber needlegrass decrease and Sandberg and bottlebrush squirreltail increase in understory. Big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, horsebrush, and arrowleaf balsamroot increase in density and become dominant overstory vegetation. Cheatgrass and thistles are species likely to invade this site. Ecological site 024XY028 comprises 9 percent of the Goldbanks Allotment. All of this site is in mid seral condition.

6. Wildlife Habitat

a. Mule Deer

Mule deer habitat in the Goldbanks Allotment is varied and includes spring, yearlong, and summer ranges. The Goldbanks Allotment includes portions of two mountain ranges the East and Tobins. As a result, two different habitat associations occur. The East range portion of the allotment contains yearlong range which is predominantly used in the winter. Within this habitat there are two use situations which occur. The extreme western portion of the range west of the Quicksilver road is the traditional winter range. East of there extending out into the Goldbanks hills, is lower elevation habitat used in the most difficult years when snow accumulations drive them from the higher elevation areas to the west.

Portions of the allotment along the Tobin Range contain yearlong range used primarily in the winter and spring. In addition, a significant amount of summer habitat also occurs within the allotment in the higher elevations.

A key area was established in the Tobins portion of the range in deer yearlong habitat in 1990. The following table summarizes conditions found at key area 105-4.

105-4 winter range	key browse age class:	poor
Range Site 024XY005NV	key browse form class:	good
Loamy 8-10"	average veg. height:	11"
key browse species: ARTRW	Disturbance Rating:	good
Overall Habitat Rating:		poor

Species	Species % comp.	Canopy Cover %	Frequency of Occurrence	Forage Preference Value
POSE	16.7	4.1	92	good
SIHY	7.3	1.8	38	fair
BRTE	2.2	0.5	22	fair
TOTAL GRASS	26.2	6.4		
PHLOX	1.8	0.5	18	poor
TOTAL FORB	1.8	0.5		
ARTRW	51.6	12.7	44	fair
TEGL	20.3	4.9	28	poor
TOTAL SHRUB	71.9	17.6		

The overall mule deer habitat condition rating for approximately 3,000 acres represented by the key area is poor. Key area 105-4 is located in a sagebrush/grass community at an elevation of 5,650 feet. The range site description for this area suggests a potential vegetation community of 55% grass, 5% forb and 40% shrubs could occur. Based on the above data, the current condition of the vegetative community is poor both in terms of diversity and quality.

A total of six species were encountered at 105-4. Of these, only one was rated as good forage for yearlong range.

The disturbance/interference rating was good as a result of the relative inaccessibility of most of the range. Sagebrush was selected as the key browse species and was evaluated for age and form class condition. Age class distribution was poor. This was again attributed to the natural characteristic of a sagebrush community which is over mature. Form class was good. Thermal and protective cover was poor over this portion of the range as a result of low vegetation heights (11 inches) and topography tending toward a north and west aspect which is the origin of prevailing winter storms.

Habitat conditions in the Goldbanks Hills portion of the allotment has not been evaluated.

b. Sage grouse

The following parameters have been found to constitute optimum (good) conditions for sage grouse use :

Strutting Habitat

1. Low sagebrush or brush free areas for strutting, and nearby areas of sagebrush having 20-50% canopy cover for loafing.

Nesting Habitat

1. Sagebrush between seven (7) and 31 inches in height (optimum= 16 inches)
2. Sagebrush canopy coverage 15-30% (optimum = 27%)
3. 25-35% basal ground cover
4. Average understory height of 6-7 inches

Brood Rearing Habitat

Early Season

1. Sagebrush canopy cover 10-21% (optimum = 14%)

Late Season

1. Meadow areas that are in functioning condition
2. Residual meadow vegetation of no less than 3-6 inches in height

Winter Habitat

1. Greater than 20% sagebrush canopy cover

Habitat Conditions using Wildlife Study Areas

Specific sage grouse habitat condition studies have not been established. However, data collected from key area 105-4 can provide limited information in regard to existing habitat suitability of sage grouse. Studies data was evaluated with respect to the criteria identified above for nesting brood rearing and wintering habitats and the suitability of this habitat for these sage grouse

uses was determined. Based on the above criteria, the habitat represented by 105-4 would seem to be only marginally suitable for nesting and winter use by sage grouse.

Wildlife Study area 105-4 is a sagebrush dominated community representing 30-40% of the identified habitat in the allotment. Species richness and forb composition are poor. Sagebrush canopy cover is 12.7% and average vegetation height is 11 inches. Water is fairly limited, but available in several of the drainage. Understory nesting cover was present, but was dominated by cheatgrass, and was at less than its potential, based on the range site description.

a) Nesting Habitat Quality

Nesting habitat quality is fair. Sagebrush canopy cover is below standard, and sagebrush height is slightly below optimum. Meadow habitats are limited in their occurrence, but are available in some of the drainage within an average distance of 1.5 to 2 miles. Understory nesting cover was present but was dominated by cheatgrass

b) Winter Habitat Quality

Sagebrush canopy cover is below the minimum recommended value. Snow accumulations along the western front of the Tobin mountains are generally higher than along other nearby ranges, and may be limiting in some years due to the limited height of the sagebrush. Winter habitat quality is fair.

c. Bighorn sheep

Specific studies to evaluate the condition and trend of bighorn sheep habitat in the allotment have not been established.

7. Riparian/Fisheries

Goldbanks Allotment contains one perennial stream. Pollard Creek is located on the north end of the Tobin Range at an elevation of 6,300 feet. Perennial flow begins at a large spring complex at an elevation of 8,113 feet. The creek flows a

total of four miles; 3.4 miles is privately owned. Publicly administered portions of Pollard Canyon Creek occur in two larger and three smaller sections. The two larger sections are located approximately midway down the creek and collectively include just under one half mile of stream. The creek terminates at a diversion on private land at an elevation of 5,230 feet.

Pollard Canyon Creek contains a self sustaining brook trout fishery. Population density data has not been collected on this stream

Riparian habitat on the creek is dominated over much of its length by herbaceous riparian vegetation with a few scattered willow and rose shrubs. There is one small aspen stand along the creek. Approximately one third of the stream channel is deeply incised and has confined flood plain widths being only slightly larger than channel widths.

A fishery habitat survey was conducted on Pollard Canyon Creek in August, 1995. The two larger public sections of creek were surveyed during this study. Refer to the following table for summarized habitat conditions by station.

Table # 12 *Comparison Of Stream Habitat Conditions For the Public Lands Portion of Pollard Canyon Creek August, 1995, Pershing County, Nevada*

	overall % habitat optimum	% stream width in pools	pool/ riffle ratio	pool quality % optimum	% stream bottom desirable material	bank cover % Optimum	bank stab. % Optimum	Average Stream Depth (feet)	Average Stream Width (feet)	Width/ depth Ratio
1	27.6	68.9	62.1	0	13.4	25	37.5	0.14'	5.2'	37.1
2	39.9	85.9	28.2	16.8	100	25	29.7	0.28'	7.8'	27.8

Overall, habitat conditions for Pollard Canyon Creek are very poor. The greatest limiting factors to habitat condition on Pollard Canyon Creek are bank cover, bank stability, width/depth ratio, and pool quality.

8. Riparian Functionality

Lotic riparian functionality was conducted on Pollard Canyon Creek in 1993 and 1999. Both the 1993 and 1999 study showed that the creek was functioning at risk with a static trend. The primary limiting factors determined to be contributing to the condition were: effects of a 1980 wildfire which removed much of the native shrub cover on the uplands, and a lack of woody vegetation or well developed herbaceous streambanks to provide structure to the flood plain and encourage development of sinuosity and for the dissipation of runoff energy.

Floods which occurred in 1983 and 1984 may have further impacted stream condition as well as yearlong wild horse use prior to 1986.

There are approximately 40 acres of wetland-riparian (lentic) habitat in the Goldbanks Allotment. Lentic functionality has not been completed on these acres.

9. Wild Horse Distribution

No wild horses have been observed within the Goldbanks Allotment.

10. Wild Horse Removal Data

Removal records do not indicate the specific allotment where wild horses were removed. The number of horses shown below is the total number of horses that were removed from the East Range Herd Area (HA).

East Range HA	
1977	296 horses
1980	374 horses
1981	557 horses
Sept. 1985	77 horses
Nov./Dec. 1986	580 horses 7 mules

11. Threatened/Endangered Species

There are no known threatened or endangered species in the Goldbanks Allotment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species of concern and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sensitive species for the Goldbanks Allotment are listed below:

Mammals

Pygmy rabbit	*Brachylagus idahoensis*
Spotted bat	*Euderma maculatum*
Small-footed myotis	*Myotis ciliolabrum*
Long-eared myotis	*Myotis evotis*
Fringed myotis	*Myotis thysanodes*
Long-legged myotis	*Myotis volans*
Pale Townsend's big-eared bat	*Plecotus townsendii pallescens*
Pacific Townsend's big-eared bat	*Plecotus townsendii townsendii*

Birds

Northern goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*
Western burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia hypugea*
Black tern	*Chlidonias niger*
Least bittern	*Ixobrychus exilis hesperis*
White-faced ibis	*Plegabis chihi*

BLM Sensitive Species

Western sage grouse	*Controcercus urophasianus*

Plants

Windloving buckwheat	*Eriogonum anemophium*
Nevada oryctes	*Oryctes nevadensis*

12. Mining Activity

The Kinross Goldbanks Mining Company had originally proposed to operate a mine located approximately 35 miles south of Winnemucca in the Goldbanks Hills. The project area of the mine would have encompassed all of the Mud Springs Pasture west of Grass Valley Road and would have impacted a well and two spring developments within the Goldbanks Allotment. Presently, implementation of the mine is on hold. The company has contacted BLM and requested that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be discontinued.

13. Noxious Weeds

A complete noxious weeds inventory has not been completed for the Goldbanks Allotment. However, noxious weeds have been documented near springs and roadsides. Control measures will be implemented as manpower and funds are made available.

14. Range Improvements

In order to protect the reseeded areas that were burned in the Grass Valley #1 Fire in August of 1999 a temporary fence has been constructed.

15. Wildlland Fire

In August of 1999 the Grass Valley #1 Fire burned the northeast portion of the Mud Spring Pasture and the entire Jim Creek Spray Field. Due to the impacts of the fire, a total of 122 AUMs in the Mud Spring Pasture and 120 AUMs in the Jim Creek Spray Field have been suspended. These areas will remain closed to livestock grazing until the rehabilitation objectives have been achieved.

16. Standards and Guidelines of Rangeland Health

The following are the standards of Rangeland Health as developed in consultation with the Sierra Front-Northwest Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, other interested publics, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. The terms and conditions of the livestock grazing permit must be in conformance with these approved Standards and Guidelines.

1. Soil processes will be appropriate to soil type, climate and land form.

2. Riparian/wetland systems are in properly functioning condition.

3. Water quality criteria in Nevada or California State Law shall be achieved or maintained.

4. Populations and communities of native plant species and habitats for native animal species are healthy, productive and diverse.

5. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of special status species.

These standards will be addressed as to whether they are met or not met in the conclusion section.

17. Cultural Resources

During the evaluation period there were several areas of heavy use recorded within the allotment which is documented in the monitoring section of this document. There are no records indicating there are significant cultural resources in any of these areas of heavy use. Any proposed range improvement projects will follow existing policies and consider any impacts to cultural resources.

V. CONCLUSIONS

A. Short Term

1. Total Utilization of key plant species in 40 acres of wetland riparian habitat shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan.

   Met along Pollard Creek in 1993. Not met on bluegrass in 1995, but was met on Juncus in 1995.

2. Utilization of key plant species in upland habitats shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan.

   a. Mud Spring Pasture:

      Met throughout the evaluation period except for a couple of areas that received heavy use. The heavy use areas include the area immediately around the ranch east to the pasture boundary and adjacent to a spring development in the East Range.

   b. Panther Pasture:

      Met throughout the evaluation period.

   c. China Pasture:

      Met except for the area immediately around Petain Spring.

   d. Pollard Pasture:

      Met in 1992 and 1995. Not met in 1993 in the bottom along Pollard Creek.

B. Long Term

1. Improve or maintain the condition of 40 acres of wetland riparian habitat type to good or higher condition.

   The BLM portion of Pollard Creek was functioning at risk with static trend. No other condition monitoring was done.

2. Protect sage grouse strutting grounds and nesting wintering habitat and improve brooding habitat by:

   a. Following NDOW's guidelines for Vegetal Control Programs in sage grouse habitat in Nevada.

   b. Maintain sagebrush canopy at 30% in sage grouse nesting areas where sagebrush does not exceed three (3) feet in height.

      The Vegetal Control Program guideline identified by Nevada Division Of Wildlife (NDOW) has been met. There has been no vegetal manipulations as a result of new range improvement projects such as fencing, brush control, or pipelines. The sagebrush canopy cover objective has not been met. Monitoring data shows that canopy cover within the key area was 12.7%; the objective is to maintain sagebrush canopy at 30%. It is unclear whether the vegetative communities present in the allotment are capable of obtaining the recommended sagebrush canopy cover adjacent to strutting areas and for nesting and brood rearing habitat. Passe et al. (1982) in: "Relation Between Soil, Plant Communities, and Climate on Rangelands of the Intermountain West", while working in the Sagebrush Steppe ecoregion, found that total vegetative canopy coverage under Potential Natural Community conditions, in Wyoming Big Sagebrush communities, ranged from 8% to 24% with an average plant cover of 17%. Sage grouse habitat condition is not dependent solely on the availability of sagebrush canopy cover. Several authors have verified this conclusion while working to determine the conditions best suited to sage grouse production. Factors such as understory nesting cover, abundance of herbaceous forage, height of the overstory canopy, and condition and utilization of meadows have been found to be equally important in determining sage grouse habitat condition. Based on this information, the current objective for sage grouse habitat is in need of requantification.

3. Manage, maintain, or improve 5 acres of aspen woodland habitat type to good condition.

   Unknown. Five acres of aspen does not exist on the Goldbanks Allotment. Approximately a half acre exists on private land within the allotment in the Pollard Pasture.

4. Manage, maintain, or improve public rangeland habitat condition to provide forage on a sustained yield basis with an initial forage demand for big game of 92 AUMs for mule deer, and 18 AUMs for bighorn sheep by:

   a. Improving or maintaining to good condition East Range DY-3, Tobin Range DY-4, and Tobin Range DS-4.

      Not met on the Tobin portion of mule deer winter range. The current habitat condition rating was poor. The objective states that we will maintain to good condition mule deer habitat in the Tobin Range; at potential the habitat condition rating for key area 105-4 is only fair. It is unknown if this objective is met for mule deer habitat in the East Range.

   b. Improving or maintaining potential bighorn sheep habitat in good condition Tobin Range BS-4 and BW-3.

      Unknown. No bighorn sheep habitat studies have been done in the Goldbanks Allotment.

5. Mange, maintain, and improve public rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis with an initial stocking level of 2,051 AUMs.

   Met. The actual use has been within the 2,051 AUMs, except for 1994 and 1999 when Temporary Non-Renewable (TNR) was issued. Upland utilization has been at or below acceptable levels for the allotment except for an area adjacent to Mud Springs Ranch which has received repeated heavy use.

6. Improve range/ecological condition from fair to good on 4,100 acres and good to excellent on 112 acres.

Met. The exact location of the above acreages are unknown and the objective is being measured as forage condition rather than ecological condition. An ecological site inventory (ESI) was completed for the allotment in 1988. Based on this ESI a majority of the area is within the mid to late seral condition, with approximately one third of the allotment is in the Potential Natural Community (PNC) class.

7. Remove all wild horses/burros from the East Range Herd Area, (This Herd Area includes the Goldbanks Allotment), unless a cooperative agreement with the affected land owner is obtained.

   Met.

8. The East Range Herd Area boundary will be retained for administrative purposes.

   Met.

C. Standards For Rangeland Health

Standard 1.- Soils processes will be appropriate to soil types, climate and land form.

Conclusions:

This standard is being met based on ESI and utilization data. The majority of the allotment is within the mid to later seral stages, with approximately one third of the allotment at PNC. Overall, livestock management is meeting short term upland utilization levels, therefore there is adequate plant material left to provide surface litter and be available for nutrient cycles and energy flows. The ESI data documents the communities are diverse and vigorous.

Standard 2. - Riparian/Wetlands: Riparian/Wetland systems are in properly functioning condition.

Plant species diversity is appropriate to riparian-wetland systems.

Conclusions:

The standard is not being met. The Goldbanks Allotment contains one perennial stream, Pollard Creek which is located at the north end of the Tobin Range. The total length of the stream is approximately four miles

with 3.4 miles (85%) of the stream occurring on private land.

Based on lotic riparian functionality collected on Pollard Creek in1993, the public portion of the creek was classified as functioning at risk with a static trend. There were several factors which contributed to this rating. As a result of fire in 1980 much of the native shrub cover on the uplands as well as the streambanks was removed and was replaced by cheatgrass. The majority of the stream is now characterized by a lack of woody vegetation or well developed herbaceous streambanks which results in riparian vegetation which is not adequate to dissipate high energy flow and protect banks. This vegetative makeup also fails to provide structure to the flood plain and does not encourage the development of sinuosity or provide for the dissipation of runoff energy. The flood events occurring in 1983 and 1984 may have contributed to present conditions.

Monitoring indicates that on years when livestock use is extended past the middle of July, herbaceous utilization objectives are not being met along Pollard Creek and the woody vegetation along the creek is receiving mechanical damage.

An additional functionality study was conducted on the public portion of Pollard Creek on 3/4/99. The study indicated that the reach was still functioning at risk with a static trend.

Standard 3. - Water Quality: Water quality criteria in Nevada State Law shall be achieved or maintained.

Conclusions:

It is unknown if this standard has been met.

Standard 4. - Plant and Animal Habitat: Populations and communities of native plant species and habitats for native animal species are healthy, productive and diverse.

Conclusions:

This standard is being met based on ESI and trend data. Over 90% of the allotment has vegetative cover that is appropriate for site potentials. The ESI and trend data documents that these communities are diverse and self perpetuating.

Standard 5. - Special Status Species Habitat: Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of special status species.

Conclusions:

Unknown. Sage grouse are the most likely special status species which would occur on the allotment. We do not have specific key areas established at this time to determine habitat condition ratings for sage grouse or have specific data relating to the actual use of the existing habitat by sage grouse populations.

VI. TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Carrying Capacity

The total carrying capacity was determined for the Goldbanks Allotment using the potential stocking level calculation from BLM TR 4400-7 (See Appendix II). The potential stocking level is the level of use that could be achieved on a management unit, at the desired utilization figure, assuming utilization could be completely uniform. The potential stocking level calculation is:

$$\frac{\text{actual use}}{\text{average utilization}} = \frac{\text{potential actual use}}{\text{desired average utilization}}$$

Use area utilization was calculated by averaging use by year.

The potential stocking level for each use area is as follows:

1. Mud Springs Pasture (winter) - 1,263 AUMs

   This included sheep actual use. This is the only pasture that the sheep used during the evaluation period.

2. Summer Pastures

   a. Panther - 1607 AUMs
   b. China - 747 AUMs
   c. Pollard - 508 AUMs

3. Jim Creek Spray field - No utilization during the evaluation period.

Of the 4,125 AUMs available 91.7% or 3,783 AUMs will be allocated for cattle and 8.3% or 342 AUMs will be allocated for sheep use. Allocations were based on original proportions from permitted use identified in the Land Use Plan which includes Historical Suspended AUMs.

Cattle Use - A total of 2,597 AUMs will be authorized on a yearly basis due to the grazing system. This includes two of the summer pastures and the Mud Springs winter pasture. The proposed recommendation is to set the stocking level for the Panther Canyon pasture at 747 AUMs based upon the existing grazing system and limited utilization data collected during the evaluation period. All three summer pastures, Panther, China and Pollard potential stocking levels were averaged to determine the stocking level. The proposed average annual stocking level would be 667 AUMs per summer pasture.

Of the 1,263 AUMs identified in the Mud Springs Pasture 120 AUMs (identified in the range survey) will be used within the Jim Creek Spray field. The Jim Creek Spray field burned in the summer of 1999 and the area has been closed to livestock grazing for two years and/or until rehabilitation objectives have been achieved. Once the objectives are obtained the grazing system will revert to the schedule identified through the allotment evaluation process.

Sheep Use - The season of use for sheep will be set at 1/1 - 4/30. Proportionate to the increase for the cattle permit, the sheep permit would be increased from 161 AUMs to 342 AUMs. Sheep may use only those pastures in the rotation system previously used by cattle (before seedripe pasture, after seedripe pasture and the winter use pasture (Mud Springs). There will be no sheep use in the rested pasture, except to trail to or from a use area.

The 342 AUMs allocated annually for sheep will be divided between the Mud Springs winter pasture and the two non-rested summer pastures with 114 AUMs of grazing use in each pasture.

B. LIVESTOCK

ALTERNATIVE 1 Existing Permit/Grazing System. Includes Fire Closure Decision Suspending 242 AUMs.

BURKES

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2295
B.	Historical Suspended	404
C.	Permitted Use	1891
D.	Authorized	1649
E.	Non-use **(1999 Fire)***	242

Season of Use

Spring/Summer	04/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 01/31

2. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

3. Percent Federal Range — 100%

4. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2001	Pollard Cyn.	182	04/01 to 07/15	634
	Panther Cyn.	182	07/16 to 09/30	461
	China Mtn.	Rest		
	Jim Ck. Field	182	10/01 to 10/31	185
	Mud Springs	181	12/01 to 01/31	369

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2002	Pollard Cyn.	182	04/01 to 07/15	634
	Panther Cyn.	Rest		
	China Mtn.	182	07/16 to 09/30	461
	Jim Ck. Field	182	10/01 to 10/31	185
	Mud Springs	181	12/01 to 01/31	369

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2003	Pollard Cyn.	Rest		
	Panther Cyn.	182	07/16 to 09/30	461
	China Mtn.	182	04/01 to 07/15	634
	Jim Ck. Field	182	10/01 to 10/31	185
	Mud Springs	181	12/01 to 01/31	369

* These AUMs were suspended due to the wildland fires of 1999 (Grass Valley #1). Once the rehabilitation objectives have been met, these AUMs will be reinstated.

RATIONALE:

This grazing system utilizes a three summer pastures, Panther, Pollard and China rest/rotation plan with one pasture used early (04/01 to 07/15), the second pasture used later (07/16 to 09/30 and the third pasture rested. The Pollard pasture is always grazed early (04/01 to 07/15) during the cooler portion of the summer when livestock are not as likely to concentrate on the riparian sites along the creek. Using the Panther pasture later (07/16 to 09/30) allows rest until seedripe (July 15) increasing plant vigor, food storage, forage production and seed production. A complete season of rest increases plant vigor, food storage, forage production and establishment of seedlings. The winter and early spring use areas, Jim Creek Spray Field and Mud Springs are grazed from (10/01 to 10/31 and 12/01 to 01/31. Grazing these areas during the winter season and early spring when most of the vegetation is dormant or starting to green up should not have an adverse impact on the vegetative resources.

ALTERNATIVE 2 Existing Grazing System, except early or late season use in Jim Creek Spray Field. Includes Fire Closure Decision Suspending 242 AUMs.

BURKES

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2295
B.	Historical Suspended	364
C.	Permitted Use	1931
D.	Authorized	1689
E.	Non-Use **(1999 Fire)***	242

2. Season of Use

Spring/Summer	04/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 01/31

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

4. Percent Federal Range — 100%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2001	Pollard Cyn.	196	04/01 to 07/15	683
	Panther Cyn.	196	07/16 to 09/30	496
	China Mtn.	Rest		
	Jim Ck. Field	196	10/01 to 10/17	110
			or 04/01 to 04/17	
	Mud Springs	196	12/01 to 01/31	400

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2002	Pollard Cyn.	196	04/01 to 07/15	683
	Panther Cyn.	Rest		
	China Mtn.	196	07/16 to 09/30	496
	Jim Ck. Field	196	10/01 to 10/17	110
			or 04/01 to 04/17	
	Mud Springs	196	12/01 to 01/31	400

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2003	Pollard Cyn.	Rest		
	Panther Cyn.	196	07/16 to 09/30	496
	China Mtn.	196	04/01 to 07/15	683
	Jim Ck. Field	196	10/01 to 10/17	110
			or 04/01 to 04/17	
	Mud Springs	196	12/01 to 01/31	400

* These AUMs were suspended due to the wildland fires of 1999 (Grass Valley #1). Once the rehabilitation objectives have been met, these AUMs will be reinstated.

RATIONALE:

This alternative is the same as Alternative #1 except that it allows early (spring) or late (fall) grazing of the Jim Creek Spray Field once fire rehabilitation objectives have been achieved. Range survey records indicate there is a total of 120 AUMs that will be available once the area is open to livestock grazing.
The grazing system schedule shows 110 AUMs being grazed by 196 cows from 10/01 to 10/17 or 04/01 to 04/17 the reduction is a result of suspended AUMs due to the 1999 fire.

This grazing system utilizes a three summer pastures, Panther, Pollard and China rest/rotation plan with one pasture used early (04/01 to 07/15), the second pasture used later (07/16 to 09/30 and the third pastured rested. The Pollard pasture is always grazed early (04/01 to 07/15) during the cooler portion of the summer when livestock are not as likely to concentrate on the riparian sites along the creek. Using the Panther pasture later (07/16 to 09/30) allows rest until seedripe (July 15) increasing plant vigor, food storage, forage production and seed production. A complete season of rest increases plant vigor, food storage, forage production and establishment of seedlings. The winter and early spring use areas are grazed as follows: Jim Creek Spray Field (04/01 - 04/17 or 10/01 - 10/17) and Mud Springs (12/01 to 01/31). Grazing these areas during the winter season and early spring when most of the vegetation is dormant or starting to green up should not have an adverse impact on the vegetative resources. This grazing system allows some flexibility when moving livestock from the winter to the summer pastures. Depending upon the range readiness and vegetative green up the cattle may move into the summer pasture on or about 04/01 or a month later about 05/01.

ALTERNATIVE 3 Increases Permitted Use and extends winter season of use by one month. Includes Fire Closure Decision Suspending 242 AUMs.

BURKES

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2597
B.	Historical Suspended	0
C.	Permitted Use	2597
D.	Authorized	2355
E.	Non-Use **(1999 Fire)***	242

2. Season of Use

Spring/Summer	04/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 02/28

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

4. Percent Federal Range — 100%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2001	Pollard Cyn.	249	05/01 to 07/15	622
	Panther Cyn.	249	07/16 to 09/30	630
	China Mtn.	Rest		
	Jim Ck. Field	249	04/01 to 04/14	112
		or 249	10/01 to 10/14	
	Mud Springs	249	10/01 to 10/31	254
		249	12/01 to 02/28	737

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2002	Pollard Cyn.	249	05/01 to 07/15	622
	Panther Cyn.	Rest		
	China Mtn.	249	07/16 to 09/30	630
	Jim Ck. Field	249	04/01 to 04/14	112
		or 249	10/01 to 10/14	
	Mud Springs	249	10/01 to 10/31	254
		249	12/01 to 02/28	737

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2003	Pollard Cyn.	Rest		
	Panther Cyn.	249	07/16 to 09/30	630
	China Mtn.	249	05/01 to 07/15	622
	Jim Ck. Field	249	04/01 to 04/14	112

	or 249	10/01 to 10/14	
Mud Springs	249	10/01 to 10/31	254
	249	12/01 to 02/28	737

* These AUMs were suspended due to the wildland fires of 1999 (Grass Valley #1). Once the rehabilitation objectives have been met, these AUMs will be reinstated.

RATIONALE:

This alternative is the same as Alternative #2 except that it extends the winter season of use in the Mud Springs pasture by one month until 02/28 and increases permitted use by 37%.

This grazing system utilizes a three summer pastures, Panther, Pollard and China rest/rotation plan with one pasture used early (05/01 to 07/15), the second pasture used later (07/16 to 09/30 and the third pasture rested. The Pollard pasture is always grazed early (05/01 to 07/15) during the cooler portion of the summer when livestock are not as likely to concentrate on the riparian sites along the creek. Using the Panther pasture later (07/16 to 09/30) allows rest until seedripe (July 15) increasing plant vigor, food storage, forage production and seed production. A complete season of rest increases plant vigor, food storage, forage production and establishment of seedlings. The winter and early spring use areas are grazed as follows: Jim Creek Spray Field (04/01 - 04/14 or 10/01 - 10/14) and Mud Springs (10/01 to 10/31 & 12/01 to 02/28). Grazing these areas during the winter and early spring seasons when most of the vegetation is dormant or starting to green up and after livestock removal on 04/28 allows the vegetation time for regrowth. This grazing system allows some flexibility when moving livestock from the winter to the summer pastures. Depending upon the range readiness and vegetative green up the cattle may move into the summer pasture on or about 04/01 or a month later about 05/01.

ALTERNATIVE 1 Existing Permit/Grazing System. Includes Fire Closure Decision Suspending 12 AUMs

AGRI-BEEF

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	208
B.	Historical Suspended	48
C.	Permitted Use	160
D.	Authorized Use	148

E. Non-Use **(1999 Fire)*** 12

2. Season of Use

Fall 10/03 to 11/03

3. Kind and Class of Livestock Sheep

4. Percent Federal Range 59%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2001	Mud Springs	1195	10/03 to 11/03	148

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2002	Mud Springs	1195	10/03 to 11/03	148

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2003	Mud Springs	1300	10/03 to 11/03	160

* These AUMs were suspended due to the wildland fires of 1999 (Grass Valley #1). Once the rehabilitation objectives have been met, these AUMs will be reinstated.

RATIONALE:

This is the existing grazing system for Agri-Beef which allows the sheep to graze during the fall within the Mud Springs Pasture. Grazing during the fall when most of the vegetation is dormant provides early rest which increases plant vigor, food storage, forage production and seed production prior to being used the following year. Sheep use different areas in this pasture than cattle so competition between these ungulates should be minimal. Since sheep tend to graze more shrubs and forbs while cattle prefer grasses there should be very little dietary overlap.

ALTERNATIVE 2 Season of use changed and extended from (10/03 - 11/03) to 01/01 - 03/31. Includes Fire Closure Decision Suspending 12 AUMs

AGRI-BEEF

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	208
B.	Historical Suspended	48
C.	Permitted Use	160
D.	Authorized	148
E.	Non-Use **(1999 Fire)***	12

2. Season of Use

Winter/Spring	01/01 to 03/31

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Sheep

4. Percent Federal Range — 59%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2001	Mud Springs	425	01/01 to 02/28	97
		425	03/01 to 03/31	51

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2002	Mud Springs	425	01/01 to 02/28	97
		425	03/01 to 03/31	51

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2003	Mud Springs	460	01/01 to 02/28	105
		460	03/01 to 03/31	55

* These AUMs were suspended due to the wildland fires of 1999 (Grass Valley #1). Once the

rehabilitation objectives have been met, these AUMs will be reinstated.

RATIONALE:

This grazing system for Agri-Beef is the same as Alternative #1 except the season of use is from January 1 until March 31. Sheep grazing during the winter and early spring within the Mud Springs winter use area should allow attainment of the allotment objectives and standards. This is based on grazing occurring primarily in the winter months when the vegetation is dormant with the sheep being removed by March 31 shortly after vegetation green up. Sheep use areas differ from cattle use areas in this pasture so competition between these ungulates should be minimal. Since sheep tend to graze more shrubs and forbs while cattle prefer grasses there should be very little dietary overlap.

ALTERNATIVE 3 Increases Permitted Use. Includes Fire Closure Decision Suspending 12 AUMs

AGRI-BEEF

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	342
B.	Historical Suspended	0
C.	Permitted Use	342
D.	Authorized Use	330
E.	Non-Use **(1999 Fire)***	12

2. Season of Use

Winter/Spring	01/01 to 03/31

2. Kind and Class of Livestock — Sheep

3. Percent Federal Range — 59%

4. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2001	Pollard Cyn.	944	01/01 to 01/31	114
	Panther Cyn.	944	02/01 to 02/28	103
	China Mtn.	Rest		

	Mud Springs	942	03/01 to 03/31	113

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2002	Pollard Cyn.	944	01/01 to 01/31	114
	Panther Cyn.	Rest		
	China Mtn.	944	02/01 to 02/28	103
	Mud Springs	942	03/01 to 03/31	113

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2003	Pollard Cyn.	Rest		
	Panther Cyn.	977	01/01 to 01/31	118
	China Mtn.	977	02/01 to 02/28	106
	Mud Springs	977	03/01 to 03/31	118

* These AUMs were suspended due to the wildland fires of 1999 (Grass Valley #1). Once the rehabilitation objectives have been met, these AUMs will be reinstated.

RATIONALE:

This grazing system for Agri-Beef is for use from January 1 until March 31, a 53% increase in permitted use. This system also allows the sheep to graze within two of the summer pastures following the same schedule as the cattle. Grazing the sheep during the early spring within the Mud Springs Pasture at green up should not have a negative impact on the vegetative resources. Once the sheep are removed on 03/31 there will be 3 ½ months of growing season rest to allow for regrowth. Use of Pollard Canyon, Panther Canyon and China Mountain pastures by sheep should not conflict with cattle use since the cows use these areas from May 1 to September 30. Sheep use in Mud Springs is in a different portion of the pasture than areas that cattle are scheduled to use. Since sheep tend to graze more shrubs and forbs while cattle prefer grasses there should be very little dietary overlap.

Sheep Use (Agri-Beef)

The season of use for sheep will be set at 1/1 - 4/30. Proportionate to the increase for the cattle permit, the sheep permit would be increased from 161 AUMs to 339 AUMs. Sheep may use only those pastures in the rotation system previously used by cattle

(before seedripe pasture, after seedripe pasture and the winter use pasture (Mud Springs). There will be no sheep use in the rested pasture, except to trail to or from a use area.

The 339 AUMs will be split between the Mud Springs Pasture and the two non-rested pastures with 113 AUMs in each pasture.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The terms and conditions must be in conformance with the Standards and Guidelines for the Sierra Front - Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997.

1. "Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and protect it from your activities for 30 day or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer."

2. The authorized officer may modify annual grazing authorization as long as the modification is consistent with management objectives and remains within the permitted season of use.

3. The permittees must make application for extended livestock use in the pasture(s). The request for additional use must be made two weeks prior to the end of the scheduled use. This additional use will be authorized if the short tem utilization objectives for upland, streambank riparian and wetland riparian habitats are 35% or less and if the standards for rangeland health are being achieved.

4. Salt and/or mineral blocks shall not be placed within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, riparian habitats or aspen stands.

5. The permittees are required to perform maintenance on range improvements as per their signed cooperative agreements and section 4 permits prior to livestock turnout.

6. The permittees certified actual use report, by pasture, is due 15 days after the end of the authorized grazing period.

7. The grazing authorization with the schedules of use outlined in this evaluation will be the only approved use and all other schedules, flexibilities and terms and conditions addressed in the Goldbanks Allotment Management Plan dated January 31, 1972 are

suspended unless revised.

C. WILDLIFE

Adjustments to the wildlife populations are not warranted. Wildlife populations will remain at the reasonable numbers outlined in the Land Use Plan. Reasonable numbers of wildlife are as follows:

Mule Deer	92 AUMs
Bighorn Sheep	18 AUMs

RATIONALE

Analysis of the monitoring data determined that wildlife use did not contribute to the non-attainment of any of the objectives. Therefore, any changes in the existing wildlife populations or the existing wildlife management within the Goldbanks is not warranted.

D. Objectives:

1. Revise the short term objectives to the following:

   a. The objective for utilization of key wetland riparian plant species is 50% for POA, JUNCUS, CAREX and SALIX.

   b. The objective for utilization of key upland plant species is 50% for SIHY, ELCI2, FEID, and STTH2.

2. Revise the long term objectives to the following:

   a. Improve to and maintain 40 acres of riparian and meadow habitat types to ensure species diversity and quality, and to maximize reproduction and recruitment of woody riparian species.

   b. Improve or maintain suitable sage grouse strutting, nesting, brood rearing, and/or wintering habitat in good condition.

   The following parameters have been found to constitute optimum (good) conditions for sage grouse use :

Strutting Habitat

1. Low sagebrush or brush free areas for strutting, and nearby areas of sagebrush having 20-50% canopy cover for loafing.

Nesting Habitat

1. Sagebrush between seven (7) and 31 inches in height (optimum= 16 inches)
2. Sagebrush canopy coverage 15-30% (optimum = 27%)
3. 25-35% basal ground cover
4. Average understory height of 6-7 inches

Brood Rearing Habitat

Early Season

1. Sagebrush canopy cover 10-21% (optimum = 14%)

Late Season

1. Meadow areas that are in functioning condition
2. Residual meadow vegetation of no less than 3-6 inches in height

Winter Habitat

1. Greater than 20% sagebrush canopy cover

c. Manage, maintain, and improve public rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis with an initial stocking level of 2,051 AUMs.

Change to a DPC objective.

d. Improve range/ecological condition from fair to good on 4,100 acres and good to excellent on 112 acres.

E. Desired Plant Community Objectives

1. Mud Springs Pasture

Key Area 5-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the shadscale/ bud sage community for livestock. The site is 024XY002 which represents approximately 33% of the allotment. Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) data collected in 1982 places this site in late condition.

Objective: Maintain the site in late condition with no significant decrease in key forage species.

Monitoring: Continue to read the quadrat frequency study established in 1979 and reread in 1994 for key species as follows: bottlebrush squirreltail, shadscale, and bud sage. Establish a production study to determine the percent composition of budsage. The ESI data collected in 1982 places this site in late condition, however, trend data collected in 1994 indicates that a significant decline in bud sage has taken place since 1979.

Key Area 5-2

Purpose: To determine trend of the Wyoming sagebrush/stipa community for livestock and habitat suitability for mule deer yearlong range (DY-3). The site os 024XY005 which represents approximately 26% of the allotment.

Objective: To increase this site from mid seral condition to late condition. Manage for key species bottlebrush squirreltail, Thurbers needlegrass, Indian ricegrass, and Wyoming sagebrush.

Monitoring: Establish quadrat frequency baseline, production, cover density board, and line intercept studies.

Key Area 5-4

Purpose: To determine trend of the shadscale/bud sage community

for livestock. The site is 024XY002 which represents approximately 33% of the allotment.

Objective: Maintain the site in late condition with no significant decrease in key forage species.

Monitoring: Reread trend study established in 1979 and establish a production study.

2. Panther Canyon Pasture

Key Area 1-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the Wyoming sagebrush/stipa community for livestock. The site is 024XY005 which represents approximately 26% of the allotment.

Objective: Maintain this site in mid seral condition with no significant decrease in key species.

Monitoring: Continue to read the trend study established in 1979 and reread in 1994. Establish a production study.

3. Pollard Pasture

Key Area 3-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the bluebunch wheatgrass/Thurbers needlegrass community (024XY029) for livestock and habitat suitability for sage grouse, mule deer summer (DS-4) and big horn sheep winter range (BW-3).

Objective: To increase the site from mid seral to late seral condition. Manage for key species bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurbers needlegrass and mountain big sagebrush.

Monitoring: Continue to read the quadrat frequency established in 1979. Establish line intercept, cover density board and production studies.

Key Area 3-2

Purpose: To determine trend of the bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurbers needlegrass and Wyoming sagebrush community (024XY035) for livestock and habitat suitability for sage grouse.

Objective: To increase the site from mid seral to late seral condition. Manage for key species bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurbers needlegrass and Wyoming sagebrush.

Monitoring: Continue to reread the quadrat frequency established in 1981 and establish a production study. Establish a line intercept study to monitor cover.

4. China Mountain Pasture

Key Area 2-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the Wyoming sagebrush/Thurber needlegrass community for livestock. The site is 024XY005 which represents approximately 26% of the allotment.

Objective: Maintain this site in mid seral condition with no significant decrease in key species.

Monitoring: Continue to read the quadrat frequency established in 1979 and reread in 1994. Establish a production study.

5. Jim Creek Spray Field

Since the entire Jim Creek Spray Field burned in August of 1999 and has been fenced and reseeded this year it will not be addressed using a Desired Plant Community objective. The objective, once rehabilitation objectives have been achieved, will be to maintain the seeding (Jim Creek Spray Field) in good condition. Forage production should range from five (5) to ten (10) acres per AUM.

F. Range Improvements

1. Add sheep troughs to Panther Canyon pipeline

Rationale: To make water accessible to sheep as well as cattle, so that livestock can be better distributed within the allotment.

2. Construct exclosures in the China Pasture to protect wetland riparian habitat. Exact location of exclosures will be determined during the survey and design stage of the project process in coordination with all interested publics.

Rationale: To protect and improve wetland riparian habitat, so that the utilization and condition objective for wetland riparian habitat can be met.

3. Recommend fencing the headwater meadow of Pollard Creek. This area is private land belonging to Agri Beef, we will pursue a cooperative effort to construct this project.

Rationale: To protect the headwater meadow from trampling and to provide good wetland riparian habitat.

4. Recommend reconstructing the boundary fence between the South Buffalo Allotment and Goldbanks Allotment.

Rationale: To prevent unauthorized livestock from drifting from the South Buffalo Allotment into the Pollard Canyon pasture.

G. Monitoring

The following types of monitoring data are needed to make a determination of attainment of allotment objectives and standards for rangeland health.

1. Condition and Trend - Wildlife Habitat

2. Establish an additional study to monitor big horn sheep summer range (BS-4)

3. Establish Key Areas and collect utilization/trend data.

4. Continue to monitor livestock and wildlife actual use.

5. Continue to collect Climatological, Stream Survey and Lotic/Lentic riparian functionality data.

6. Establish sites and monitor Water Quality.

VII. CONSULTATION

On July 7, 2000 the Draft Goldbanks Re-evaluation was sent to:

Pershing Co. Commissioners
Sierra Club - Toiyabe Chapter
Nevada Woolgrowers
Nv. Div. of Wildlife - Winn.
Agri-Beef, John Philips
Frank Maestri
Craig Downer
Desert Bighorn Council
Black Elk Ranch L.L.C.
Resource Concepts Inc.
Nv. Div. of Wildlife - Fallon
Nevada Cattleman's Assoc.
Mike Burke
Michael Maestri
Comm. for Preservation of Wild Horses
Natl. Resource Defense Council
Intermountain Range Consultants

Comments were received from Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) on August 18, 2000.

VIII. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

A. Livestock

BURKES - CATTLE - 2001

The first year (2001) livestock use will be limited to the existing authorized AUMs since the fire closure Decision is in effect. An increase of 706 cattle AUMs will be phased in over a period of five years (2002-2007) assuming all the allotment objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health are being achieved. Assuming the Fire Rehabilitation Objectives, Allotment Objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health are being accomplished the phasing in process will begin in 2002. An additional 235 AUMs will be activated in 2002 with subsequent increases of 235 and 236 AUMs in 2004 and 2006 respectively in accordance with the following schedule.

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2295
B.	Historical Suspended	404
C.	Permitted Use	1891
D.	Authorized	1649

E. Non-Use - Fire 242

2. Season of Use

Spring/Summer	05/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 02/28

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

4. Percent Federal Range — 100%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2001	Pollard Cyn.	183	05/01 to 07/15	457
	Panther Cyn.	183	07/16 to 09/30	463
	China Mtn.	Rest		
	Mud Spring	183	10/01 to 10/31	187
	Mud Springs	183	12/01 to 02/28	541

BURKES - CATTLE - 2002 & 2003

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2295
B.	Historical Suspended	169
C.	Permitted Use	2126
D.	Authorized	2126

2. Season of Use

Spring/Summer	05/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 02/28

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

4. Percent Federal Range — 100%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #		SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2002	Pollard Cyn.	221		05/01 to 07/15	552
	Panther Cyn.	Rest			
	China Mtn.	221		07/16 to 09/30	559
	Jim Ck. Field	221		04/01 to 04/19	138
			OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	221		10/01 to 10/31	225
	Mud Springs	221		12/01 to 02/28	654

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #		SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2003	Pollard Cyn.	Rest			
	Panther Cyn.	221		07/16 to 09/30	559
	China Mtn.	221		05/01 to 07/15	552
	Jim Ck. Field	221		04/01 to 04/19	138
			OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	221		10/01 to 10/31	225
	Mud Springs	221		12/01 to 02/28	654

BURKES - CATTLE - 2004 & 2005

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2361
B.	Historical Suspended	0
C.	Permitted Use	2361
D.	Authorized	2361
E.	Non-Use	

2. Season of Use

Spring/Summer	05/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 02/28

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

4. Percent Federal Range — 100%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #		SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2004	Pollard Cyn.	245		05/01 to 07/15	612
	Panther Cyn.	245		07/16 to 09/30	620
	China Mtn.	Rest			
	Jim Ck. Field	245		04/01 to 04/19	153
			OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	245		10/01 to 10/31	250
	Mud Springs	245		12/01 to 02/28	725

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #		SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2005	Pollard Cyn.	245		05/01 to 07/15	612
	Panther Cyn.	Rest			
	China Mtn.	245		07/16 to 09/30	620
	Jim Ck. Field	245		04/01 to 04/19	153
			OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	245		10/01 to 10/31	250
	Mud Springs	245		12/01 to 02/28	725

BURKES - CATTLE - 2006 & 2007

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	2597
B.	Historical Suspended	0
C.	Permitted Use	2597
D.	Authorized	2597

2. Season of Use

Spring/Summer	05/01 to 10/31
Winter	12/01 to 02/28

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Cow/Calf

4. Percent Federal Range — 100%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #		SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2006	Pollard Cyn.	Rest			
	Panther Cyn.	269		07/16 to 09/30	672
	China Mtn.	269		05/01 to 07/15	681
	Jim Ck. Field	269		04/01 to 04/19	168
			OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	269		10/01 to 10/31	274
	Mud Springs	269		12/01 to 02/28	796

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #		SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2007	Pollard Cyn.	269		05/01 to 07/15	672
	Panther Cyn.	269		07/16 to 09/30	681
	China Mtn.	Rest			
	Jim Ck. Field	269		04/01 to 04/19	168
			OR	10/01 to 10/19	
	Mud Spring	269		10/01 to 10/31	274
	Mud Springs	269		12/01 to 02/28	796

RATIONALE:

This grazing system extends the winter season of use within the Mud Springs pasture by one month until 02/28 and increases the allotment permitted use by 37%. The grazing system utilizes a three summer pastures, Panther, Pollard and China rest/rotation plan with one pasture used early (05/01 to 07/15), the second pasture used later (07/16 to 09/30 and the third pasture rested. The Pollard pasture is always grazed early (05/01 to 07/15) during the cooler portion of the summer when livestock are not as likely to concentrate on the riparian sites along the creek. Using the Panther pasture later (07/16 to 09/30) allows rest until seedripe (July 15) increasing plant vigor, food storage, forage production and seed production. A complete season of rest increases plant vigor, food storage, forage production and establishment of seedlings. The winter and early spring use areas are grazed as follows: Jim Creek Spray Field (04/01 - 04/19 or 10/01 - 10/19) and Mud Springs (10/01 to 10/31 & 12/01 to 02/28). Grazing these areas during the winter and early spring seasons when most of the vegetation is dormant or starting to green up and after livestock removal on 04/28 allows the vegetation time for

regrowth. This grazing system allows some flexibility when moving livestock from the winter to the summer pastures. Depending upon the range readiness and vegetative green up the cattle may move into the summer pasture on or about 04/01 or a month later about 05/01.

AGRI-BEEF - SHEEP - 2001

The first year (2001) sheep use will be limited to the existing authorized AUMs since the fire closure Decision is in effect. An increase of 182 sheep AUMs will be phased in over a period of five years (2002-2007) assuming all the Allotment Objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health are being achieved. Assuming the Fire Rehabilitation Objectives, Allotment Objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health are being accomplished the phasing in process will begin in 2002. Sixty-one (61) AUMs will be activated in 2002 with subsequent increases of Sixty-one (61) and sixty (60) AUMs in 2004 and 2006 respectively in accordance with the following schedule.

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	208
B.	Historical Suspended	48
C.	Permitted Use	160
D.	Authorized Use	148
E.	Non-Use	12

2. Season of Use

Winter	01/01 to 03/31

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Sheep

4. Percent Federal Range — 59%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2001	Pollard Cyn.	426	01/01 to 01/31	'51
	Panther Cyn.	426	02/01 to 02/28	46
	China Mtn.			
	Mud Springs	426	03/01 to 03/31	51

AGRI-BEEF - SHEEP - 2002 & 2003

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	221
B.	Historical Suspended	0
C.	Permitted Use	221
D.	Authorized Use	221

2. Season of Use

Winter	01/01 to 03/31

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Sheep

4. Percent Federal Range — 59%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2002	Pollard Cyn.	635	01/01 to 01/31	76
	Panther Cyn.	Rest		
	China Mtn.	635	02/01 to 02/28	69
	Mud Springs	635	03/01 to 03/31	76

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2003	Pollard Cyn.	Rest		
	Panther Cyn.	635	02/01 to 02/28	69
	China Mtn.	635	01/01 to 01/31	76
	Mud Springs	635	03/01 to 03/31	76

AGRI-BEEF - SHEEP - 2004 & 2005

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	282
B.	Historical Suspended	0
C.	Permitted Use	282
D.	Authorized Use	282

2. Season of Use

Winter	01/01 to 03/31

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Sheep

4. Percent Federal Range — 59%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2004	Pollard Cyn.	805	01/01 to 01/31	97
	Panther Cyn.	805	02/01 to 02/28	88
	China Mtn.	Rest		
	Mud Springs	805	03/01 to 03/31	97

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2005	Pollard Cyn.	805	01/01 to 01/31	97
	Panther Cyn.	Rest		
	China Mtn.	805	02/01 to 02/28	88
	Mud Springs	805	03/01 to 03/31	97

AGRI-BEEF - SHEEP - 2006 & 2007

1. Grazing (AUMs)

A.	Total	342
B.	Historical Suspended	0
C.	Permitted Use	342
D.	Authorized Use	342

2. Season of Use

Winter	01/01 to 03/31

3. Kind and Class of Livestock — Sheep

4. Percent Federal Range — 59%

5. Grazing System

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2006	Pollard Cyn.	Rest		
	Panther Cyn.	979	02/01 to 02/28	106
	China Mtn.	979	01/01 to 01/31	118
	Mud Springs	979	03/01 to 03/31	118

YEAR	PASTURE	LIVESTOCK #	SEASON OF USE	AUMs
2007	Pollard Cyn.	979	01/01 to 01/31	118
	Panther Cyn.	979	02/01 to 02/28	106
	China Mtn.	Rest		
	Mud Springs	979	03/01 to 03/31	118

RATIONALE:

This system allows the sheep to graze within two of the summer pastures following the same schedule as the cattle. Grazing the sheep during the early spring within the Mud Springs Pasture at green up should not have a negative impact on the vegetative resources. Once the sheep are removed on 03/31 there will be 3 ½ months of growing season rest to allow for regrowth. Use of Pollard Canyon, Panther Canyon and China Mountain pastures by sheep should not conflict with cattle use since the cows use these areas from May 1 to September 30. Sheep use in Mud Springs is in a different portion of the pasture than areas that cattle are scheduled to use. Since sheep tend to graze more shrubs and forbs while cattle prefer grasses there should be very little dietary overlap.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS - AGRI-BEEF & BURKES

The terms and conditions must be in conformance with the Standards and Guidelines for the Sierra Front - Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997.

1. "Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and protect it from your activities for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer."

2. The authorized officer reserves the authority to modify annual grazing authorization as long as the modification is consistent with management objectives and remains within the designated season of use.

3. Continuation of grazing and implementation of scheduled increases will be contingent on the attainment of the utilization objectives and standards for uplands within the Goldbanks Allotment. Verification of utilization objectives and standards will be made at the end of the grazing season through monitoring. If utilization objectives and standards are not met, scheduled increases in AUMs will not occur.

4. The permittees are required to perform normal maintenance on range improvements as per their signed cooperative agreements and section 4 permits prior to livestock turnout.

5. Salt and/or mineral blocks shall not be placed within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, streams, meadows, riparian habitats or aspen stands.

6. The permittees certified actual use report, by pasture, is due fifteen (15) days after the end of the authorized grazing period.

7. The grazing authorization with the schedules of use outlined in this evaluation will be the only approved use and all other schedules, flexibilities and terms and conditions addressed in the Goldbanks Allotment Management Plan dated January 31, 1972 are suspended. unless revised.

B. Wild Horses

The appropriate management level for wild horses within the Goldbanks Allotment portion of the East Range Herd Area and the Tobin Range Herd Management Area will be 0 horses and 0 AUMs. Adjustments to the wild horse populations are not warranted. Wild horse populations will remain at the number outlined in the Land Use Plan. The Sonoma-Gerlach MFP III (1982) established an initial stocking level of 0 for the East Range Herd Area (HA) that is part of the Tobin Range Herd Management Area (HMA) contained within the allotment. There is 5% of the East Range HA and 10 % of the Tobin Range HMA contained within the allotment.

RATIONALE

Since there are no horses within the Goldbanks Allotment it is obvious that they did not contribute to the non-attainment of any of the objectives. Therefore there are no proposed changes to the management of wild horses within the allotment.

C. Wildlife

Adjustments to the wildlife populations are not warranted. Wildlife populations will remain at the reasonable numbers outlined in the Land Use Plan. Reasonable numbers of wildlife are as follows:

Mule Deer	92 AUMs
Bighorn Sheep	18 AUMs

RATIONALE

Analysis of the monitoring data determined that wildlife use did not contribute to the non-attainment of any of the objectives. Therefore, any changes in the existing wildlife populations or the existing wildlife management within the Goldbanks is not warranted.

D. Range Improvement Projects

The following projects are scheduled to be evaluated through the project planning process. Construction of projects is dependent upon funding, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and project priorities.

1. Add sheep troughs to Panther Canyon pipeline

   Rationale: To make water accessible to sheep as well as cattle, so that livestock can be better distributed within the allotment.

2. Construct exclosures in the China Pasture to protect wetland riparian habitat. Exact location of exclosures will be determined during the survey and design stage of the project process in coordination with all interested publics.

   Rationale: To protect and improve wetland riparian habitat, so that the utilization and condition objective for wetland riparian habitat can be met.

3. Recommend fencing the headwater meadow of Pollard Creek. This area is private land belonging to Agri Beef, we will pursue a cooperative effort to construct this project.

   Rationale: To protect the headwater meadow from trampling and to provide good wetland riparian habitat.

4. Recommend reconstructing the boundary fence between the South Buffalo Allotment and Goldbanks Allotment.

   Rationale: To prevent unauthorized livestock from drifting from the South Buffalo Allotment into the Pollard Canyon pasture.

E. Objectives:

A. Short Term Objectives:

1. The objective for utilization of key wetland riparian plant species is 50% for POA, JUNCUS, CAREX and SALIX.

2. The objective for utilization of key upland plant species is 50% for SIHY, ELCI2, FEID, and STTH2.

B. Long Term Objectives:

1. Improve to and maintain 40 acres of riparian and meadow habitat types to ensure species diversity and quality, and to

maximize reproduction and recruitment of woody riparian species.

2. Improve or maintain suitable sage grouse strutting, nesting, brood rearing, and/or wintering habitat in good condition within the ecological potential of the rangeland habitat.

   The following parameters have been found to constitute optimum (good) conditions for sage grouse use :

   Strutting Habitat

   1. Low sagebrush or brush free areas for strutting, and nearby areas of sagebrush having 20-50% canopy cover for loafing.

   Nesting Habitat

   1. Sagebrush between seven 7 and 31 inches in height (optimum= 16 inches).
   2. Sagebrush canopy cover of 15-30% (optimum = 27%).
   3. 25-35% basal ground cover.
   4. Average understory height of 6-7 inches (grasses).

   Brood Rearing Habitat

   Early Season

   1. Sagebrush canopy cover 10-21% (optimum = 14%)

   Late Season

   1. Meadow areas that are in functioning condition
   2. Residual meadow vegetation of no less than 3-6 inches in height

   Winter Habitat

   1. Greater than 20% sagebrush canopy cover.

3. Manage, maintain, and improve public rangeland conditions to

provide forage on a sustained yield basis for big game, with an initial forage demand of 92 AUMs for mule deer and 18 AUMs for Bighorn Sheep.

4. Manage, maintain, and improve public rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis for livestock, with an initial forage stocking level of 2939 AUMs.

5. Improve range/ecological condition from fair to good on 4,100 acres and good to excellent on 112 acres.

C. Desired Plant Community Objectives (DPC)- These DPC objectives will apply to areas of native rangeland that have not been recently altered by wildland fires. Any establishment of new key areas will be within undisturbed sites.

Mud Springs Pasture

Key Area 5-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the shadscale/ bud sage community for livestock. The site is 024XY002 which represents approximately 33% of the allotment. Ecological Site Inventory (ESI) data collected in 1982 places this site in late condition.

Objective: Maintain the site in late condition with no significant decrease in key forage species.

Monitoring: Continue to read the quadrat frequency study established in 1979 and reread in 1994 for key species as follows: bottlebrush squirreltail, shadscale, and bud sage. Establish a production study to determine the percent composition of budsage. The ESI data collected in 1982 places this site in late condition, however, trend data collected in 1994 indicates that a significant decline in bud sage has taken place since 1979.

Key Area 5-2

Purpose: To determine trend of the Wyoming sagebrush/stipa community for livestock and habitat suitability for mule deer yearlong range (DY-3). The site os 024XY005 which represents approximately 26% of the allotment.

Objective: To increase this site from mid seral condition to late condition. Manage for key species bottlebrush squirreltail, Thurbers needlegrass, Indian ricegrass, and Wyoming sagebrush.

Monitoring: Establish quadrat frequency baseline, production, cover density board, and line intercept studies.

Key Area 5-4

Purpose: To determine trend of the shadscale/bud sage community for livestock. The site is 024XY002 which represents approximately 33% of the allotment.

Objective: Maintain the site in late condition with no significant decrease in key forage species.

Monitoring: Reread trend study established in 1979 and establish a production study.

Panther Canyon Pasture

Key Area 1-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the Wyoming sagebrush/stipa community for livestock. The site is 024XY005 which represents approximately 26% of the allotment.

Objective: Maintain this site in mid seral condition with no significant decrease in key species.

Monitoring: Continue to read the trend study established in 1979 and reread in 1994. Establish a production study.

Pollard Pasture

Key Area 3-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the bluebunch wheatgrass/Thurbers needlegrass community (024XY029) for livestock and habitat suitability for sage grouse, mule deer summer (DS-4) and big horn sheep winter range (BW-3).

Objective: To increase the site from mid seral to late seral condition.
Manage for key species bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurbers needlegrass and mountain big sagebrush.

Monitoring: Continue to read the quadrat frequency established in 1979. Establish line intercept, cover density board and production studies.

Key Area 3-2

Purpose: To determine trend of the bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurbers needlegrass and Wyoming sagebrush community (024XY035) for livestock and habitat suitability for sage grouse.

Objective: To increase the site from mid seral to late seral condition.
Manage for key species bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurbers needlegrass and Wyoming sagebrush.

Monitoring: Continue to reread the quadrat frequency established in 1981 and establish a production study. Establish a line intercept study to monitor cover.

China Mountain Pasture

Key Area 2-1

Purpose: To determine trend of the Wyoming sagebrush/Thurber needlegrass community for livestock. The site is 024XY005 which represents approximately 26% of the allotment.

Objective: Maintain this site in mid seral condition with no significant decrease in key species.

Monitoring: Continue to read the quadrat frequency established in 1979 and reread in 1994. Establish a production study.

Jim Creek Spray Field

Since the entire Jim Creek Spray Field burned in August of 1999 and has been fenced and reseeded this year it will not be addressed using a Desired Plant Community objective. The objective, once rehabilitation has been achieved, will be to maintain the seeding (Jim Creek Spray Field) in good condition. Forage production should range from five (5) to ten (10) acres per AUM.

D. Standards and Guidelines of Rangeland Health

1. Soil processes will be appropriate to soil type, climate and land form.

2. Riparian/wetland systems are n properly functioning condition.

3. Water quality criteria in Nevada or California State Law shall be achieved or maintained.

4. Populations and communities of native plant species and habitats for native animal species are healthy, productive and diverse.

5. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of special status species.

E. Grazing Permit

A ten year grazing permit will be issued to Agri-Beef and Mike Burke upon completion of the decision process. The permit will reflect this decision and all other grazing permits will become null and void.

F. Monitoring

The following types of monitoring data are needed to make a determination of attainment of allotment objectives and standards for rangeland health.

1. Condition and Trend - Wildlife Habitat

2. Establish an additional study to monitor big horn sheep summer range (BS-4)

3. Establish Key Areas and collect utilization/trend data.

4. Continue to monitor livestock and wildlife actual use.

5. Continue to collect Climatological, Stream Survey and Lotic/Lentic riparian functionality data.

6. Establish sites and monitor Water Quality.

IX. FUTURE MONITORING AND GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

The Winnemucca Field Office will continue to monitor the Goldbanks Allotment. The monitoring data will continue to be collected in the future to provide the necessary information for subsequent evaluations. These evaluations are necessary to determine if the allotment specific objectives are being met and the Standards for Rangeland Health are being achieved under the new grazing management strategy. In addition, these subsequent evaluations will determine if adjustments are required to meet the established allotment specific objectives and standards. The Goldbanks Allotment will be re-evaluated in 2011.

X. NEPA REVIEW

The selected management actions for grazing in the Goldbanks Allotment conforms with the environmental analysis of grazing impacts described in the Final Sonoma-Gerlach Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) dated September 18, 1982.

The EIS and NEPA Compliance Record are on file in the Winnemucca Field Office, located at 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV, 89445.

APPENDIX I

Utilization, Actual Use and Stocking Rate Calculations for the Goldbanks Allotment

Data was analyzed and proper stocking levels calculated on a use area/pasture basis.

Mud Springs Pasture

1. **1989**

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(6448 \times .30) + (6883 \times .50) + (447 \times .70)}{13{,}778} = .41$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Sheep	Total AUMs
611	159	530

Stocking Rate Calculation

$$\frac{530}{.41} = \frac{x}{.50} = 939 \text{ AUMs}$$

2. **1992**

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(4064 \times .50) + (985 \times .70)}{5{,}049} = .54$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Sheep	Total
629	163	792

Stocking Rate Calculation

$$\frac{792}{.54} = \frac{x}{.50} = 733 \text{ AUMs}$$

3. **1994**

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(5609 \times .10) + (2706 \times .30) + (523 \times .50) + (2004 \times .70)}{10{,}842} = .28$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Sheep	Total
1026	160	1186

Stocking Rate Calculation

$$\frac{1186}{.28} = \frac{x}{.50} = 2118 \text{ AUMs}$$

The average proper stocking level for the Mud Spring pasture is 1263 AUMs

b. **Panther Canyon Use Area**

1. **1993**

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(3964 \times .10) + (230 \times .30)}{4{,}194} = .11$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Total
520	520

Stocking Rate Calculations

$$\frac{520}{.11} = \frac{x}{.50} = 2363 \text{ AUMs}$$

2. **1994**

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(2298 \times .10) + (1790 \times .30) + (1263 \times .70)}{5351} = .31$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Total
527	527

Stocking Rate Calculations

$$\frac{527}{.31} = \frac{x}{.50} = 850 \text{ AUMs}$$

The average proper stocking level for the Panther Canyon Use Area is 1607 AUMs.

c. **China Mountain Use Area**

1. **1990**

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(1076 \times .30) + (2432 \times .50)}{508} = .44$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Total AUMs
520	520

Stocking Rate Calculation

$$\frac{520}{.44} = \frac{x}{.50} = 591 \text{ AUMs}$$

c. **1992**

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(430 \times .30) + (729 \times .50) + (135 \times .70)}{1294} = .45$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Total AUMs
527	527

Stocking Rate Calculation

$\frac{527}{.45} = \frac{x}{.50}$ = 586 AUMs

3. **1994**

Weighted Average Utilization

$\frac{(2299 \times .30) + (697 \times .50)}{2996} = .35$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Total AUMs
520	520

Stocking Rate Calculation

$\frac{520}{.35} = \frac{x}{.50}$ = 743 AUMs

4. **1995**

Weighted Average Utilization

$\frac{(2519 \times .10) + (396 \times .50)}{2915} = .15$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Total AUMs
315	315

Stocking Rate Calculation

$\frac{315}{.15} = \frac{x}{.50}$ = 1050 AUMs

1998

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(341 \times .10) + (751 \times .30) + (682 \times .50)}{1774} = .34$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Total AUMs
520	520

Stocking Rate Calculation

$$\frac{520}{.34} = \frac{x}{.50} = 764 \text{ AUMs}$$

The average proper stocking level for the China Mountain Use Area is 747 AUMs.

d. **Pollard Canyon Pasture**

1. **1992**

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(324 \times .50)}{324} = .50$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Total AUMs
520	520

Stocking Rate Calculation

$$\frac{520}{.50} = \frac{x}{.50} = 520 \text{ AUMs}$$

2. **1993**

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(611 \times .50) + (268 \times .70) + (8 \times .90)}{887} = .56$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Total AUMs
417	417

Stocking Rate Calculations

$$\frac{417}{.56} = \frac{x}{.50} = 372 \text{ AUMs}$$

3. **1995**

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(444 \times .50)}{444} = .50$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

Cattle	Total AUMs
520	520

Stocking Rate Calculation

$$\frac{520}{.50} = \frac{x}{.50} = 520 \text{ AUMs}$$

1998

Weighted Average Utilization

$$\frac{(735 \times .30) + (1179 \times .50) + (6 \times .70)}{1920} = .42$$

Livestock Actual Use (AUMs)

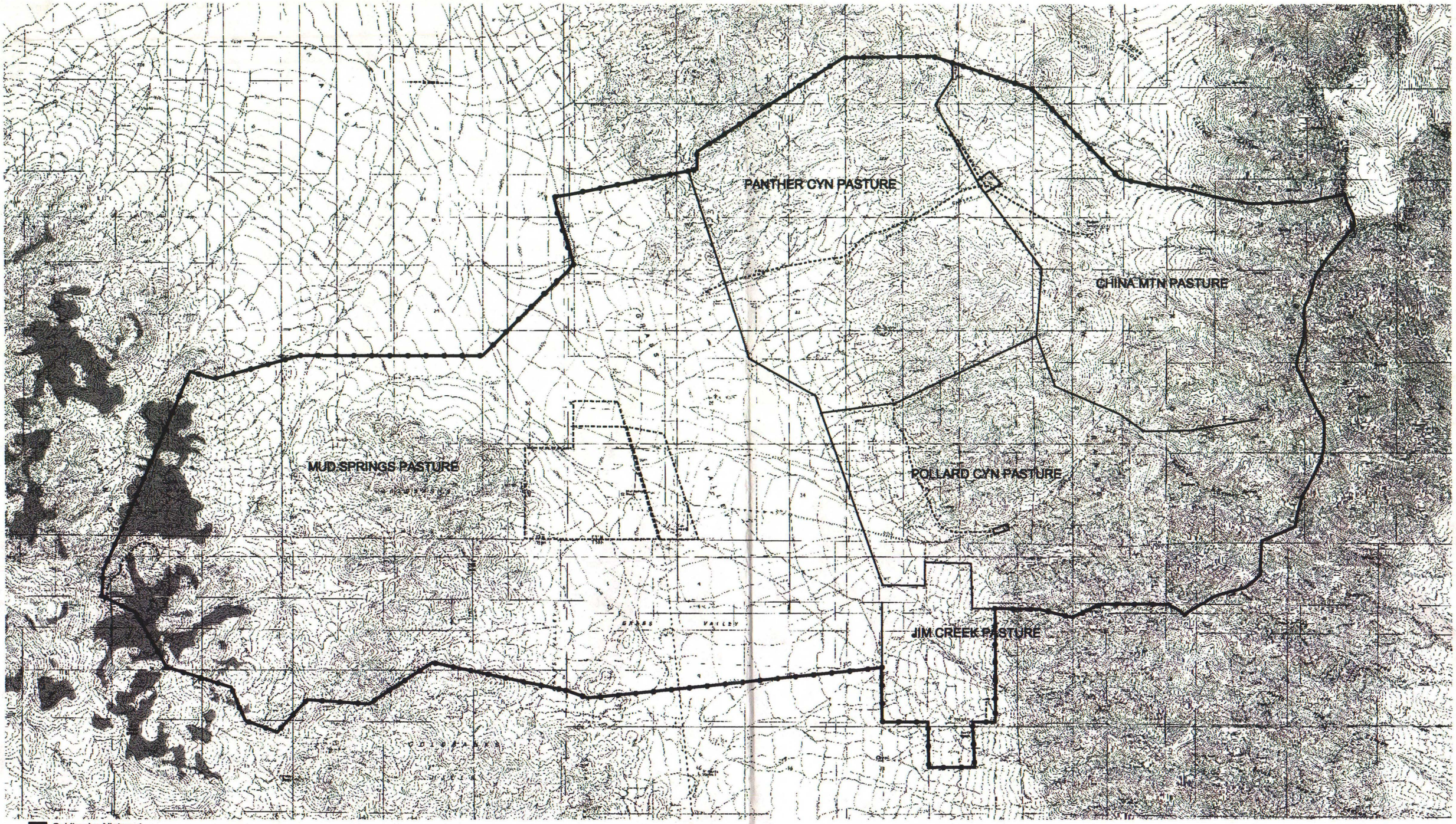
Cattle	Total AUMs
520	520

Stocking Rate Calculations

$$\frac{520}{.42} = \frac{x}{.50} = 619 \text{ AUMs}$$

The average proper stocking level for the Pollard Pasture is 508 AUMs.

GOLDBANKS ALLOTMENT



Goldbanks Allotment
ALLOTMENT FENCE
FENCE
PIPELINE
PRIVATE FENCE

1 0 1 2 Miles

1:62500

N