

m 5/7/84

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
4190  
(NV-027.9)



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT OFFICE  
705 East 4th Street  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

May 7, 1984

Dear Buffalo Hills CRMP Sub-Committee Member:

Enclosed you will find a draft Coordinated Resource Management Plan for the Buffalo Hills CRMP area. By now you should have been notified of the meeting to discuss this plan on May 23, 1984, at 1:00 P.M. in the Gerlach High School Library. Please review this plan in depth before the meeting so you are familiar with the contents.

The proposed agenda for the meeting is to have the entire plan presented to the group and then hold a discussion on points of contention or needed modifications. We will also discuss who will be the representative for each special interest group for the final signing off of the plan in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald P. Brandvold  
Area Manager

Enclosure

# DRAFT

## COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

NAME OF PLAN Buffalo Hills DATE OF ADOPTION \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF PLANNING AREA: Buffalo Hills, Calico, and Coyote Allotments in the Buffalo Hills Planning Unit of the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area of the Winnemucca District (see Maps 1 and 2).

Humboldt, Pershing, & Washoe COUNTY, NEVADA

\_\_\_\_\_  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

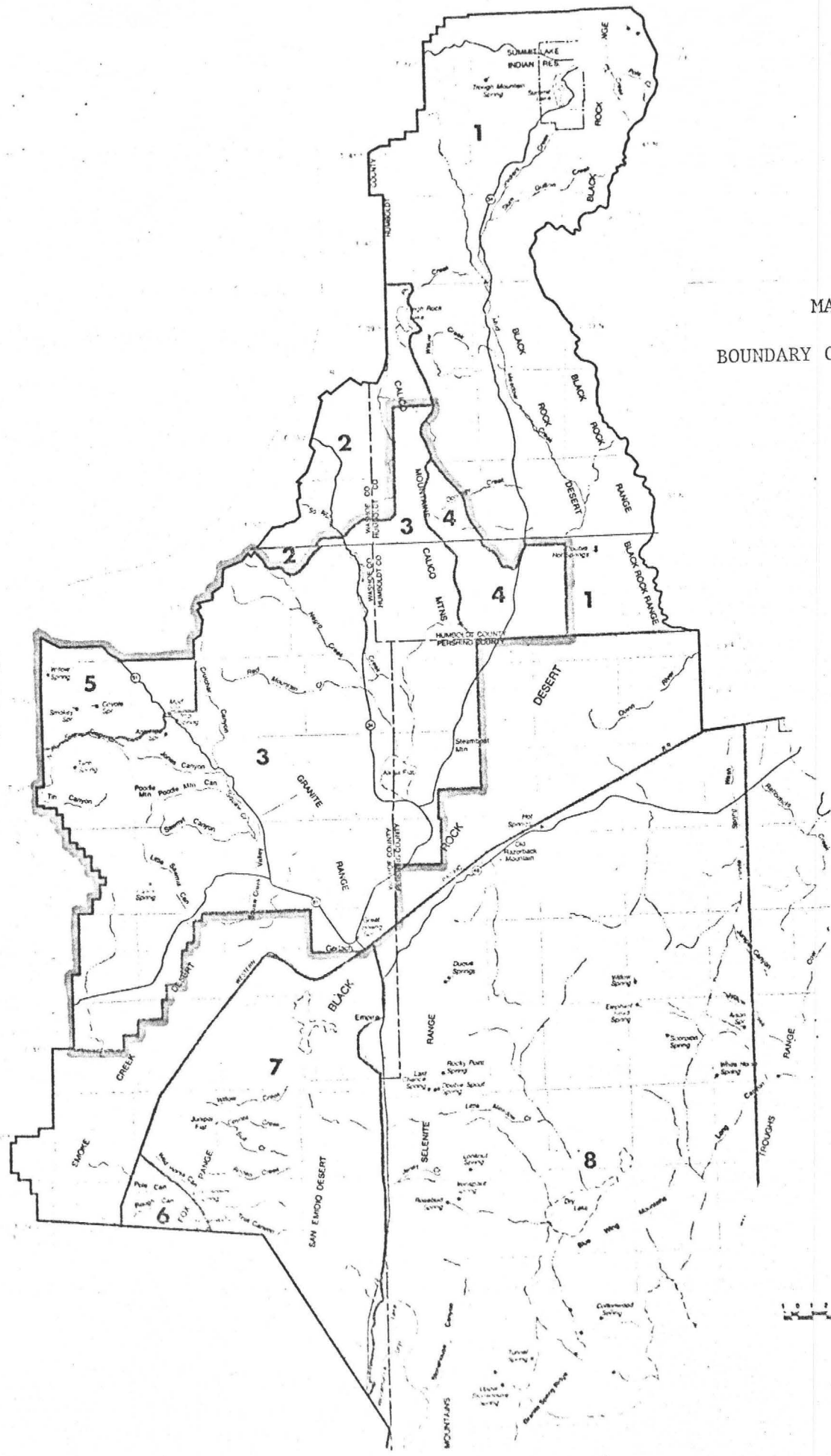
ACREAGE:	PRIVATE	<u>33,808</u>	ACRES (7%)
	PUBLIC - SPECIFY MANAGEMENT AGENCY		
	<u>Bureau of Land Management</u>	<u>465,276</u>	ACRES (93%)
	_____	_____	ACRES
	_____	_____	ACRES
	_____	_____	ACRES
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>499,084</u>	ACRES

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AREA (KEY NATURAL/MAN-MADE CHARACTERISTICS)

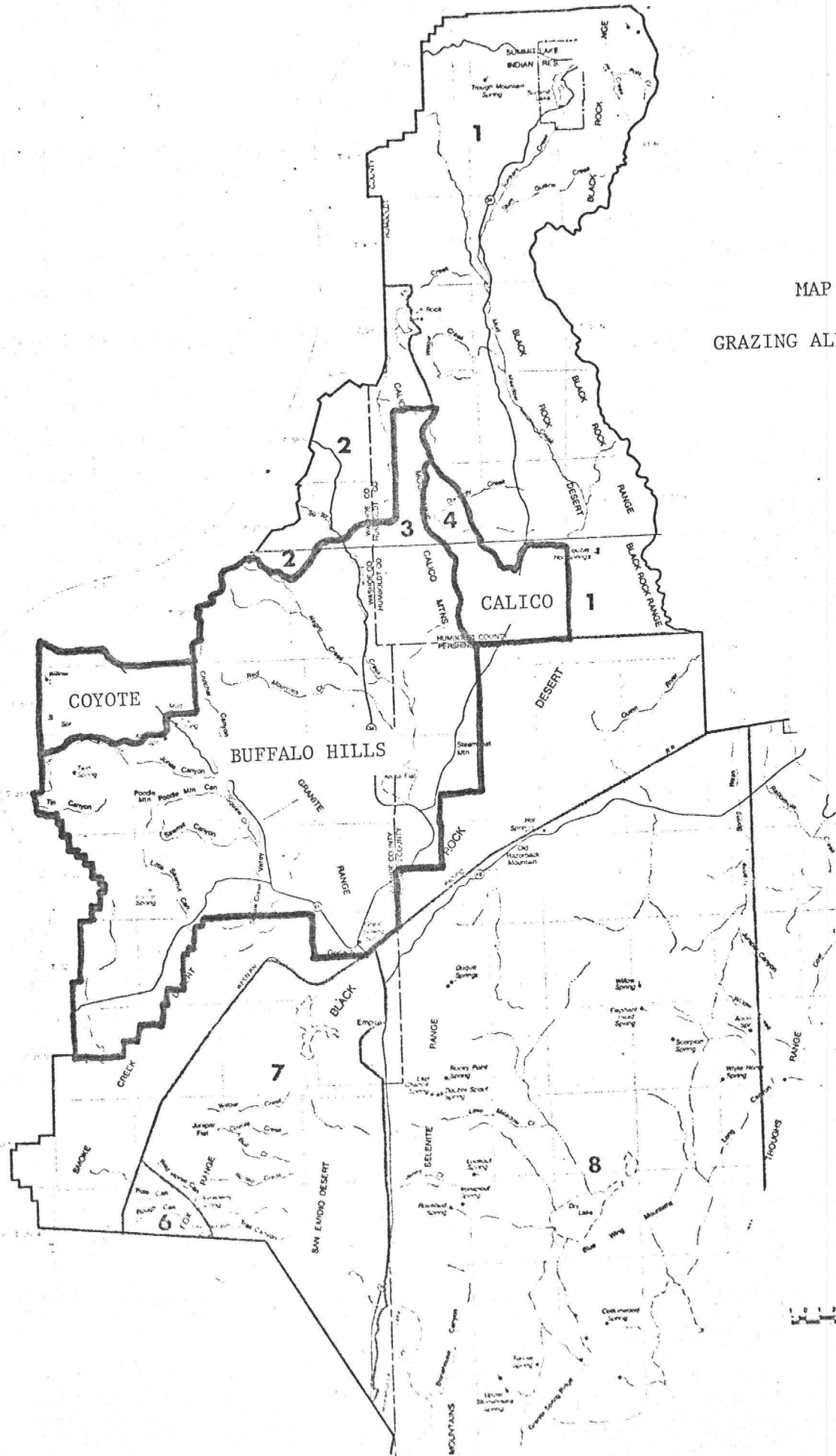
The planning area is comprised of all or part of the following areas: Buffalo Hills, Granite Range, Calico Mountains, Hualapai Valley, Squaw Valley, and the western portion of the Smoke Creek and Black Rock Deserts.

MAJOR RESOURCE USES IN PLANNING AREA: Livestock grazing (both sheep and cattle), wild horses, wildlife (mule deer, pronghorn antelope, California bighorn sheep, sage grouse, chukar), fisheries, hunting, and recreation.

MAP 1  
BOUNDARY OF CRMP AREA



MAP 2  
GRAZING ALLOTMENTS



NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLS

PLANNING PARTICIPANTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
<u>Bob Bunyard</u>	<u>Rancher</u>
<u>Jean Casey</u>	<u>Rancher</u>
<u>Fred Chez</u>	<u>Rancher</u>
<u>Jo Chez</u>	<u>Rancher</u>
<u>Jeanie Conlan</u>	<u>USDA-ASCS - Secretary</u>
<u>Wes Cook</u>	<u>Livestock Permittee</u>
<u>Carl Corey</u>	<u>BLM</u>
<u>Kenny Detweiler</u>	<u>BLM</u>
<u>Tony Diebold</u>	<u>Interested Public</u>
<u>Brent Espil</u>	<u>Rancher</u>
<u>Dean Iveson</u>	<u>Rancher</u>
<u>Andy Jackson</u>	<u>Livestock Permittee</u>
<u>Paul Jancar</u>	<u>BLM</u>
<u>Jim Jeffress</u>	<u>NDOW</u>
<u>Dawn Lappin</u>	<u>WHOA</u>
<u>Dick MacDougall</u>	<u>USDA - SCS</u>



# DRAFT

DRAFT

Page 6 of 39

## COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLS

### LIST OF MAJOR PROBLEMS/ISSUES

1. Approximately 65% (217,890 acres) of the Buffalo Hills Allotment is estimated to be in poor ecological range condition and approximately 15% (59,177 acres) is estimated to be in fair ecological range condition (1979 estimate). These figures may be too high due to livestock closures and reduced livestock use in recent years.
2. Approximately 31% (11,312 acres) of the Calico Allotment is estimated to be in poor ecological range condition and approximately 41% (14,961 acres) is estimated to be in fair ecological range condition (1979 estimate).
3. Approximately 22% (7,143 acres) of the Coyote Allotment is estimated to be in poor to fair ecological range condition (1979 estimate).
4. Approximately 50% (197,258 acres) of the Buffalo Hills Allotment is estimated to be in a downward trend (1982 estimate).
5. The entire Calico Allotment (36,490 acres) is estimated to be in a downward trend (1979 estimate).
6. The majority of the Coyote Allotment (77% or 26,388 acres) is estimated to be in only a static trend (1979 estimate).
7. The level or intensity of present grazing management is not satisfactory. Period-of-use, livestock distribution, and numbers of livestock and wild horses are unsatisfactory in relation to proper range management.
8. Existing range improvements are inadequate in the Buffalo Hills and Calico Allotments.
9. The size of the Calico Allotment is too small for proper livestock management.
10. Current AMP objectives of the Coyote Allotment AMP are not being met or are unrealistic.
11. Excessive erosion has been identified as a problem in the Calico Allotment.
12. Riparian, meadow, and aspen areas are in only poor to fair condition in most areas of the allotments.
13. Identified sage grouse strutting grounds, brooding areas, and crucial winter areas need protection from disturbance and overgrazing.
14. Competition from livestock and wild horses is occurring on crucial deer and antelope ranges.
15. Red Mountain, Cottonwood, Negro, and Donnelly Creeks are in poor to fair condition based on the potential optimum of the aquatic habitat (estimate).

# DRAFT

DRAFT

Page 7 of 39

16. Water quality on perennial streams exceeds Nevada water quality standards for water contact sports and coldwater fisheries (1982 inventory).
17. Crucial bighorn sheep and crucial mule deer habitat will be managed primarily for these wildlife species. Livestock use will be secondary.
18. The reestablishment of bighorn sheep on the Granite Range requires limitations on domestic sheep trailing and grazing.
19. Wild horse populations exceed recommended management levels in the Calico and Buffalo Hills Allotments.
20. There are three Wilderness Study Areas (Poodle Mountain-012, High Rock Lake-007, and Calico Mountains-019) located in the Buffalo Hills and Calico Allotments.
21. Access to public land across private land is a potential problem in the Buffalo Hills Allotment.
22. Recreational use is heavy in the Granite Range.
23. Privately-owned land may inhibit proper management of livestock, wild horses, and wildlife in the Buffalo Hills Allotment.
24. Privately-owned water rights by nonpermittee may inhibit proper management of livestock, wild horses, and wildlife in the Buffalo Hills and Coyote Allotments.



NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLS

LIST OF PLANNING OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a comprehensive grazing management plan which will improve or maintain ecological condition and trend on approximately 41,263 acres of the public lands in the CRMP area. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #1-11.)
2. Improve or maintain the condition of wildlife habitat to accommodate the needs of all species of wildlife presently or potentially using the CRMP area. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #12-14.)
3. Improve the aquatic habitat of perennial streams in the CRMP area to good or excellent to provide good coldwater fisheries. Improve water quality of perennial streams to Nevada water quality criteria for coldwater fisheries and water contact sports. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #15-16.)
4. Manage 7,680 acres to provide crucial mule deer habitat. Manage all or portions of 33 sections to provide crucial bighorn sheep habitat. Livestock use will be secondary and complementary to the wildlife use in these areas. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #17-18.)
5. Maintain a viable population of wild horses within the CRMP area. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #19.)
6. Monitor the resources for attainment of management goals.
7. Maintain the present status of the Wilderness Study Areas. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #20).
8. Maintain current access to public lands across private lands, except during identified time periods critical to wildlife populations. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #21-22.)
9. Acquire privately-owned lands for better management of the public lands in the CRMP area as identified in the Management Framework Plan. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #23.)
10. Secure adequate quantities of water necessary to sustain the proper management of the public lands in the CRMP area through Public Water Reserve identification or acquisition through provisions of Nevada State Law. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #24.)

# DRAFT

DRAFT

Page 9 of 39

NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLS

## ACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE #1: Develop a comprehensive grazing management plan which will improve or maintain ecological condition and trend on approximately 41,263 acres of the public lands in the CRMP area. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #1-11.)

### ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

#### 1. Short- and long-term stocking levels

A. Short-term stocking rate levels for livestock will be as follows:

	<u>AUMs/Kind</u>
Andy Jackson	
Buffalo Hills Allotment:	
Active Preference	739 C
*Suspended Preference	661 C
**Additional TNR	2,352 C
Abolishing Calico Allotment - Active Preference	<u>2,584 C</u>
	6,336 C
Joe Selmi	
Buffalo Hills Allotment:	
Active Preference	69 C
*Suspended Preference	61 C
**Additional TNR	<u>204 C</u>
	334 C
Bill Spoo	
Coyote Allotment - Active Preference	2,734 C
Wes Cook	
Coyote Allotment - Active Preference	317 S

\* Suspended AUMs to be used in the Buffalo Hills Allotment by Andy Jackson and Joe Selmi will be issued as Temporary Nonrenewable Resources until data collected through monitoring studies confirms that the forage is permanently available.

\*\* Additional available AUMs in the Buffalo Hills Allotment which will also be issued as Temporary Nonrenewable Resources until data collected through monitoring studies confirms that the forage is permanently available. These AUMs (2,556) are available for livestock grazing after the adjudicating to wild horse management numbers and wildlife reasonable numbers.

- B. Long-term stocking levels will be based on monitoring data and future adjustments will be made as specified in the monitoring plan. Adjustments will be allocated proportionally to livestock, wildlife, and wild horses. If reductions are determined to be necessary, these adjustments will be made to livestock as reductions in Temporary Nonrenewable Resources.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, CRMP group	Establish short- and long-term stocking levels	Incorporate and implement upon approval of CRMP Plan

Benefits: These actions will allow these livestock operators a temporary increase in AUMs for livestock grazing until monitoring data is gathered to set short-term active preference and long-term stocking levels. The total AUM figure is in accordance with total available AUMs as derived from the 1979 recompilation of the ocular reconnaissance survey, which is the best available data.

## 2. Areas and Periods-of-use

The Coyote Allotment will continue to be grazed under the current grazing system as specified in the Coyote Allotment Management Plan. Revision or modification of this AMP can be made, if necessary, as long as the Coyote Allotment remains intact. All revisions or modifications must be approved by the Area Manager prior to implementation. Wes Cook and Bill Spoo will continue to graze livestock in this allotment according to their active preferences.

The Calico Allotment will be combined with the Buffalo Hills Allotment and will be grazed in conjunction with one of the use areas of the Buffalo Hills Allotment as specified below. The Buffalo Hills Allotment (including the Calico Allotment) will be divided into four use areas (see Map 3), described generally as follows:

Buffalo Hills Use Area: This use area includes the Buffalo Hills proper, which is north and west of the Smoke Creek Road, and south and west of State Highway 81 and the Crutcher Canyon Road (5,145 AUMs available for livestock grazing).

Granite Use Area: This use area includes the Granite Range south of the Crutcher Canyon and Granite Mountain drift fences, and east of the Crutcher Canyon Road (1,701 AUMs available for livestock grazing).

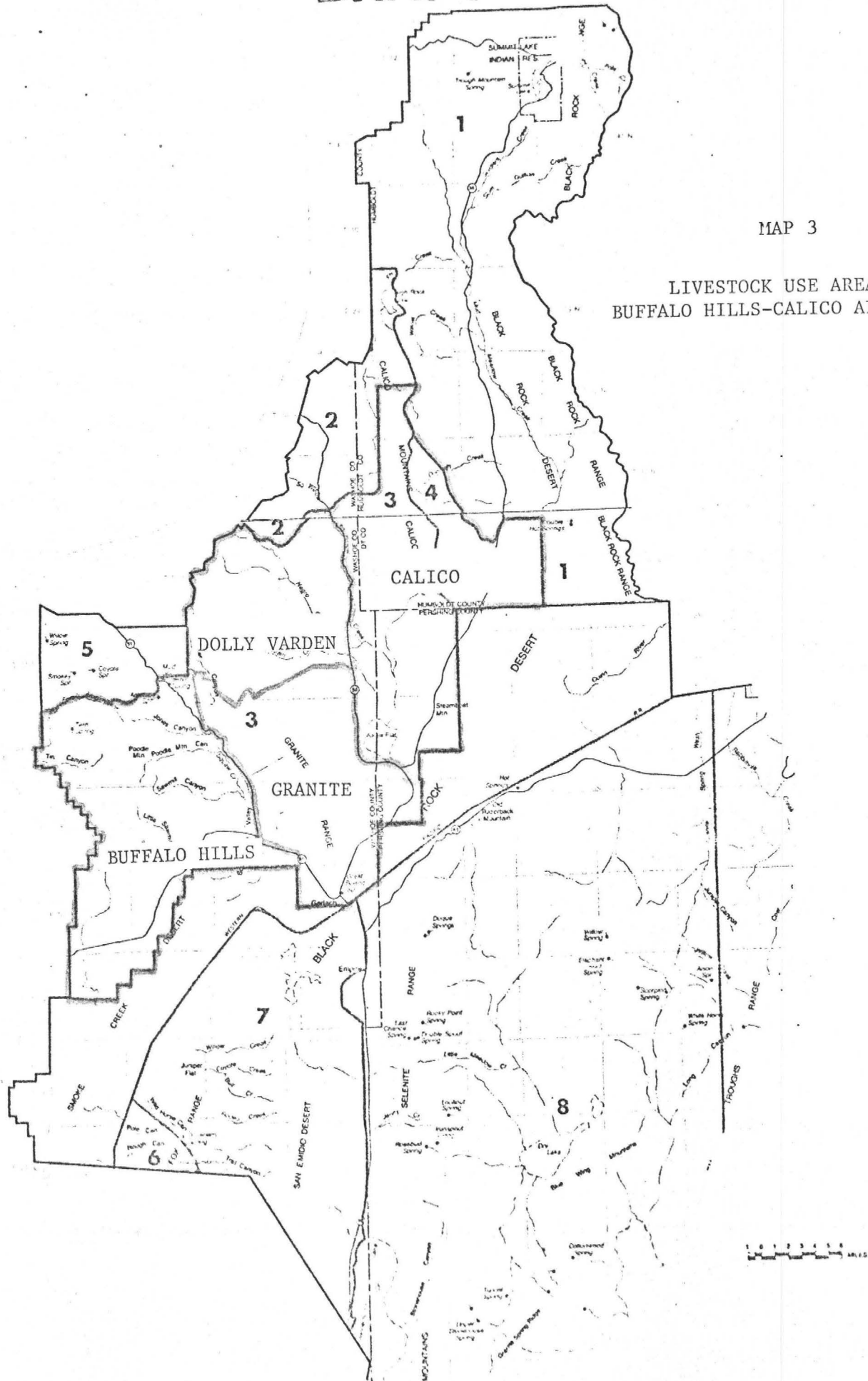
Calico Use Area: This use area includes the Calico Allotment and that portion of the Buffalo Hills Allotment east of Highway 34 (2,988 AUMs available for livestock grazing).

Dolly Varden Use Area: This use area includes that part of the Buffalo Hills Allotment north of the Crutcher Canyon and Granite Mountain drift fences, and west of Highway 34 (3,682 AUMs available for livestock grazing).

DRAFT

MAP 3

LIVESTOCK USE AREAS  
BUFFALO HILLS-CALICO ALLOTMENTS



The following grazing management system will be implemented within the Buffalo Hills Allotment (including the Calico Allotment) with respect to the above-designated use areas:

- Year 1: Graze approximately 2,986 AUMs in the Calico Use Area by turning out on the east side of Hualapai Valley at the base of the Calico Mountains on April 1. On approximately July 5, move the cattle west into the Dolly Varden Use Area and graze approximately 3,685 AUMs in that use area until October 31. Three weeks will be allowed for moving the livestock to the Dolly Varden Use Area (10 days either side of July 5).
- Year 2: Same as Year 1.
- Year 3: Graze 5,146 AUMs in the Buffalo Hills Use Area starting April 1. One week will be allowed for trailing cattle across the Granite Use Area through Cottonwood Creek and Squaw Valley to the Buffalo Hills Use Area at this time. On approximately September 13, cattle will be moved into the Granite Use Area to graze 1,525 AUMs in this use area until October 31. Ten days will be allowed on either side of the September 13 date for the moving of cattle into the Granite Use Area.
- Year 4: Same as Year 3.

This system results in a grazing cycle of four years, illustrated as follows:

GRAZING YEARS 1 AND 2		GRAZING YEARS 3 AND 4	
<u>Calico Use Area</u>	<u>Dolly Varden Use Area</u>	<u>Calico Use Area</u>	<u>Dolly Varden Use Area</u>
Graze 4/1 to 7/4	Graze 7/5 to 10/31	Complete Rest	Complete Rest
<u>Buffalo Hills Use Area</u>	<u>Granite Use Area</u>	<u>Buffalo Hills Use Area</u>	<u>Granite Use Area</u>
Complete Rest	Complete Rest	Graze 4/1 to 9/12	Graze 9/13 to 10/31

The livestock operators in the Buffalo Hills Allotment will run in common and will be responsible for the required movements of livestock.

As indicated above, the livestock operators in the Buffalo Hills will have a seven-month grazing period. This period of use will begin April 1 and end October 31. The numbers, class, dates, and AUMs of use by operator will be as follows:

# DRAFT

DRAFT

Page 13 of 39

<u>Operator</u>	<u>#/Kind</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>AUMs</u>
<u>Years 1 and 2:</u>			
<u>Calico Use Area</u>			
Jackson	905 C	4/1 to 7/4	2,836
Selmi	48 C	4/1 to 7/4	150
	<u>953 C</u>		<u>2,986</u>
<u>Dolly Varden Use Area</u>			
Jackson	905 C	7/5 to 10/31	3,499
Selmi	48 C	7/5 to 10/31	186
	<u>953 C</u>		<u>3,685</u>
<u>Years 3 and 4:</u>			
<u>Buffalo Hills Use Area</u>			
Jackson	905 C	4/1 to 9/12	4,887
Selmi	48 C	4/1 to 9/12	259
	<u>953 C</u>		<u>5.146</u>
<u>Granite Use Area</u>			
Jackson	905 C	9/13 to 10/31	1,448
Selmi	48 C	9/13 to 10/31	77
	<u>953 C</u>		<u>1,525</u>

Some flexibility is built into this grazing system to allow for anticipated problems of the livestock operators. Other flexibility may be needed for unforeseen problems after this plan is implemented. Flexibility in the system will be taken on a case by case basis and will generally be authorized only to meet other objectives of this plan. Any flexibility in the system will require prior authorization by the Area Manager.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Livestock permittees	Use areas-of-use and described	Upon approval of CRMP Plan periods-of-use as

Benefits: This grazing system will allow for rest from livestock grazing of the entire Buffalo Hills Allotment (including Calico) for two years. The Granite Use Area, except for that area used for trailing, will receive no livestock use during the growing season. A seven month period-of-use will allow for better distribution of livestock and will limit fall and winter competition with wildlife and wild horses.. It will also be more economical for the livestock operators than a shorter period-of-use. The long-term benefits that come from two years rest are maintaining or improving riparian habitat and upland sites; which will reduce runoff of precipitation, retaining soil moisture longer, and will aid in the restoration of the Hualapai Valley ground water table.

3. Livestock Distribution Patterns

Livestock will be distributed throughout the appropriate use area during the grazing period to achieve even distribution and proper utilization levels. Even distribution will require an extensive riding program and a high degree of cooperation between the livestock permittees.

Alternatives may be required as part of this action. If appropriate distribution is not achieved and the other objectives of the plan are not being met, range improvements will be implemented to correct specific problems. Potential problem areas and possible corrective measures have been identified as follows:

Problem #1: Excessive livestock drift is occurring between the Calico Use Area and the Dolly Varden Use Area.

Solution: Construct a drift fence between the two use areas in the vicinity of South Willow Creek (Leadville Canyon) and extend the fence along Highway 34 to the fenced private land in Hualapai Valley (see Action #5).

Problem #2: Excessive livestock drift is occurring between the Buffalo Hills Use Area and the Granite Use Area.

Solution: Construct a drift fence between the two use areas from the private land in Squaw Valley along Highway 81 and then north to tie off on the rocky ridge on the west side of Squaw Valley (see Action #5).

Problem #3: Livestock drift is occurring from the Dolly Varden Use Area back down to the private fields of Hualapai Valley early in the grazing period.

Solution: Construct a fence along the foothills of the Granite Range to separate the "fall and winter" country from the "summer" country. This will restrict the livestock to using the higher country and could also be used as a drift fence to hold livestock on the "winter" country for a period at the end of the grazing period before roundup. This fence would extend from the Granite Mountain drift fence north to Negro Creek and east to the mouth of Leadville Canyon (see Action #5).

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
Livestock permittees, BLM	Proper livestock distribution by riding or range improvements	Upon approval of CRMP Plan

Benefits: Even distribution will result in better utilization of forage, thus help in meeting other objectives of this plan. Livestock use patterns will be more consistent and easier to ascertain.

4. Salting Plan

Develop a salting plan with the livestock permittees which will place salt, mineral, and protein blocks a minimum of one-quarter mile from water sources, meadows, streams, riparian habitats, or aspen stands. Blocks should be placed in areas of ridges or saddles, on flat spots near shade, and on gentle slopes that are accessible by livestock.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Livestock permittees	Salting Plan	Incorporate as part of CRMP Plan

Benefits: The salting plan will achieve better distribution of livestock and wild horses throughout the CRMP area. It will help to improve vegetative condition in these important areas by reducing the amount of concentrated use.

5. Allotment Management Plan

After the CRMP plan has been approved and the grazing system has been implemented, incorporate the plan into an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) for the Buffalo Hills Allotment. Include specific management objectives in the AMP from the CRMP plan and the monitoring plan.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Livestock permittees	Develop AMP based on CRMP plan	Incorporate as part of CRMP Plan

Benefits: Developing an AMP based on the CRMP plan will allow for the inclusion of specific management objectives for improving the range resources. The AMP will be the decision document which will be specific about livestock and grazing management objectives.

6. Range Improvements

A. Develop the following range improvements in the CRMP area:

1. Barley Road Spring - Develop the spring located between Leadville Canyon and the Barley Road in T. 37 N., R. 23 E., Section 36, SE1/4SE1/4. Fence the spring source to protect it and associated riparian vegetation.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM	Spring development	FY 86

2. Hualapai Drift Fence - If necessary, construct a fence on the upper fan on the west side of Hualapai Valley from the Granite Mountain drift fence north to Negro Creek and then east to the mouth of Leadville Canyon. Approximate starting point would be the east 1/4 corner of Sec. 30, T. 35 N., R. 23 E., going north approximately seven miles and then east for approximately four miles to end at Highway 34 on the north boundary of Section 25, T. 36 N., R. 23 E. Actual survey and design will take place if the need for this fence occurs.



<u>Who</u> BLM, Livestock permittees	<u>What</u> Fence construction	<u>When</u> After FY 87
--	-----------------------------------	----------------------------

3. Squaw Valley Drift Fence - If necessary, construct a fence from the private land of Squaw Valley Ranch northwest along Highway 81 for a distance of approximately two miles and tie it off into the large rock outcrops. This would restrict movement of livestock between the Buffalo Hills Use Area and the Granite Use Area. Actual survey and design will take place if the need for this fence occurs.

<u>Who</u> BLM, Livestock permittees	<u>What</u> Fence construction	<u>When</u> After FY 88
--	-----------------------------------	----------------------------

4. Leadville Canyon Drift Fence - If necessary, construct a fence from the private land in Hualapai Valley north along Leadville Canyon to the Leadville Allotment to restrict livestock movement between the Calico and Dolly Varden Use Areas. The actual survey and design of this fence will be completed if the need for this fence occurs.

<u>Who</u> BLM, Livestock permittees	<u>What</u> Fence construction	<u>When</u> After FY 88
--	-----------------------------------	----------------------------

Benefits: The development of this spring and, if necessary, these fence projects will yield better distribution of livestock in the CRMP area. Increased proper livestock utilization of forage will be achieved by having fenced boundaries of the use areas.

- B. Develop a burn plan which will provide needed information to allow prescribed burning or natural ignition fires to be used as management tools to achieve the objectives of this plan.
  1. Specify areas suitable for prescribed burning to manipulate vegetation which are the best option rather than other alternative land treatments.
  2. Incorporate "let burn" areas into the burn plan where resources would benefit from natural ignition fires. Use this management tool through assigning BLM resource advisors to wildfires to achieve objectives of this plan.

<u>Who</u> BLM, CRMP Group, NDOW, Livestock permittees	<u>What</u> Develop burn plan	<u>When</u> FY 84
---	----------------------------------	----------------------

Benefits: Prescribed burns may help increase production and manipulate vegetative composition to achieve the objectives of this plan. Specific areas, if identified, will allow for greater benefits to be achieved and will eliminate a haphazard approach to prescribed burns. Having identified "let burn" areas and knowing specific objectives to achieve will allow resource advisors the opportunity to use natural ignition fires to change vegetative composition to benefit other resources.

# DRAFT

DRAFT

Page 17 of 39

NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLS

## ACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE #2: Improve or maintain the condition of wildlife habitat to accommodate the needs of all species of wildlife presently or potentially using the CRMP area. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #12-14.)

### ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Obtain wildlife habitat condition data for the planning area. Emphasis will be placed on getting data in crucial areas.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW	Obtain wildlife habitat condition data in accordance with Winnemucca District policy and Range Task Group standards	FY84+

Benefits: Habitat condition data will be the basis for setting management objectives for habitat types.

2. Maintain total utilization of key wildlife forage species by all herbivores at or below the allowable use level (AUL) for each key forage species. Key wildlife forage species and allowable use levels are as follows:

	<u>Total</u>
	<u>AUL</u>
<u>Bighorn sheep</u>	
Bluebunch wheatgrass - <u>Agropyron spicatum</u>	50%
Curlleaf mountain mahogany - <u>Cercocarpus ladifolius</u>	50
Idaho fescue - <u>Festuca idahoensis</u>	40
Mountain brome - <u>Bromus marginatus</u>	50
Needlegrass - <u>Stipa spp.</u>	40
 <u>Mule deer</u>	
Antelope bitterbrush - <u>Purshia tridentata</u>	50
Curlleaf mountain mahogany - <u>Cercocarpus ledifolius</u>	50
Quaking aspen - <u>Populus tremuloides</u>	40
Sandberg's bluegrass - <u>Poa secunda</u>	30
Snowberry - <u>Symphoricarpos spp.</u>	40
 <u>Pronghorn antelope</u>	
Antelope bitterbrush - <u>Purshia tridentata</u>	50
Low sage - <u>Artemesia arbuscula</u>	-
Rabbitbrush - <u>Chrysothamnus spp.</u>	15
Sandberg's bluegrass - <u>Poa secunda</u>	30
Shadscale - <u>Atriplex confertifolia</u>	20

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM	Monitor utilization of key forage species	After growing season of key forage species

Benefits: Maintaining proper utilization levels of key species will insure adequate forage for wildlife.

2. Revise the Fox Mountain-Granite Range Habitat Management Plan (HMP) after completion of the Buffalo Hills CRMP. The HMP will include specific management objectives for habitat sites within wildlife use areas. Wildlife habitat improvement projects will be included in plan.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW	Revise Fox Mountain-Granite Range HMP	After completion of the Buffalo Hills CRMP

Benefits: Revision of the HMP will include objectives from the completed CRMP and should therefore be a more comprehensive plan.

3. Riparian areas and meadows will be considered as crucial management areas. Aspen and mountain mahogany will be considered as crucial management species. These areas and species will be identified and inventoried. Specific management objectives for these areas and species will be included in the monitoring plan and HMP.

Fencing may be necessary to achieve management objectives for these areas and species.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW	Identify and inventory riparian areas and meadows. Monitor utilization on riparian areas, meadows, aspen, and mountain mahogany	Identify and inventory prior to completion of plan

Benefits: These crucial areas and crucial management species are very important to wildlife. Proper management will benefit game and nongame species.

4. Reestablish bighorn sheep in the following areas:

Buffalo-North Granites - BY-2;  
Division Peak - BY-5;  
Calico Mountains - BY-6.

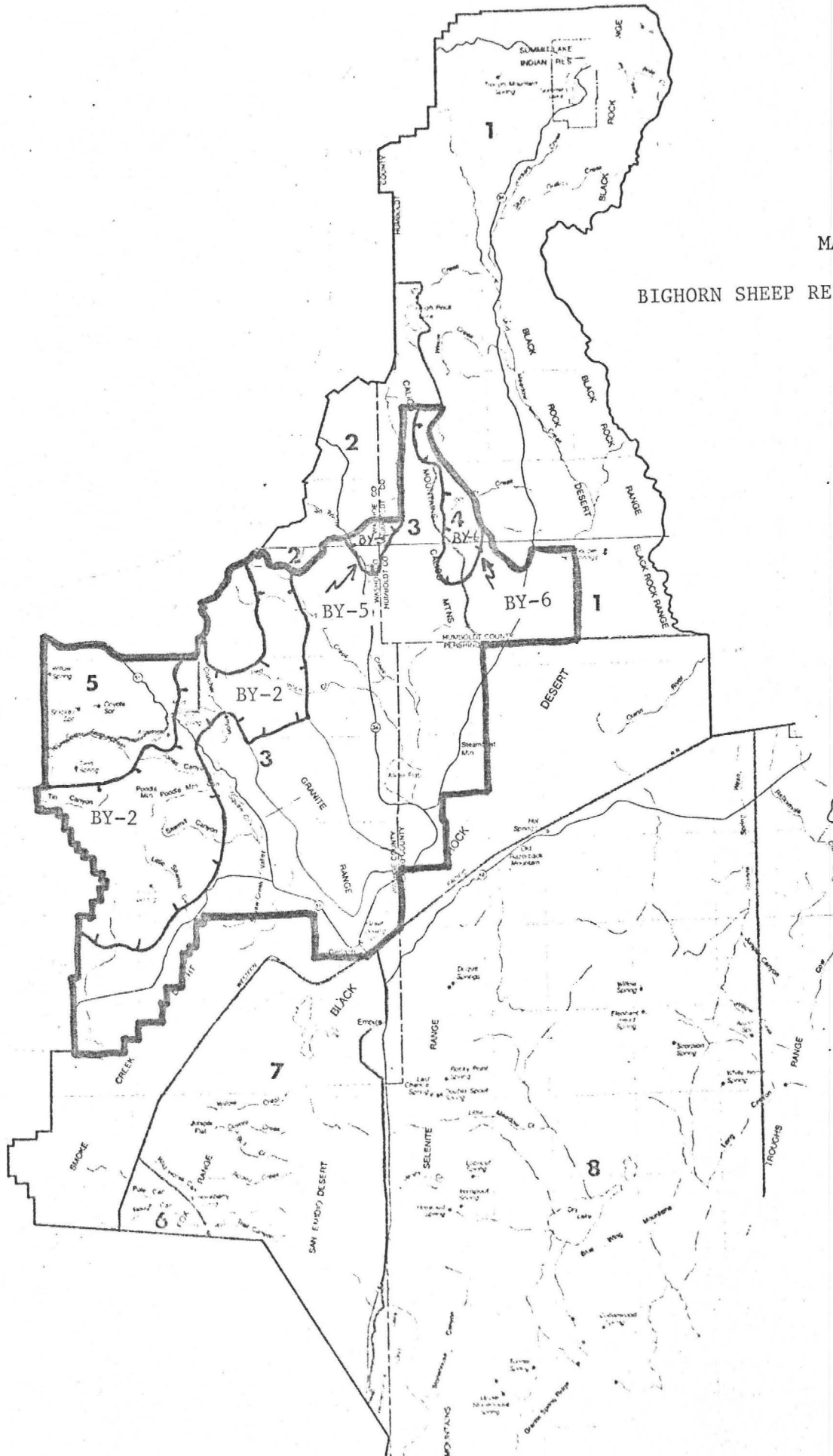
These areas have been identified as potential bighorn sheep habitat. Domestic sheep use is not permitted at this time and will not be allowed in these areas.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW	Reestablish bighorn sheep in the potential habitat areas BY-2, BY-5, and BY-6 (see Map 4).	Release bighorn sheep as they become available.

Benefits: Reestablishing bighorn sheep will provide an important recreational resource for hunters and sightseers. Reestablishment will also be an indication of sound resource management.

MAP 4

BIGHORN SHEEP REINTRODUCTION AREAS



5. Establish reasonable numbers as the adjudication level for wildlife in the Buffalo Hills Allotment. Provide habitat for reasonable numbers of wildlife in the Calico and Coyote Allotments. Reasonable numbers of wildlife for each allotment are as follows:

### BUFFALO HILLS ALLOTMENT

<u>Seasonal Use Areas</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Numbers</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Antelope</u> - 461 total reasonable number.			
AW-1 (6) West Granites	20	24	
AW-2 (6) South Buffalo Hills	46	55	
AY-3 (12) Duck Flat	47	112	
AY-4 (12) East Granite Range	111	269	
AY-6 (12) Hog Ranch	14	33	
AY-7 (12) Dolly Varden	119	285	
AY-8 (12) Poodle Mountain	137	328	1,106
 <u>Mule deer</u> - 2,098 total reasonable number.			
DY-2 (12) Buffalo Hills	394	1,181	
DY-3 (12) Hog Ranch Mountain	3	10	
DY-5 (12) Calico Mountains	21	64	
DY-4 (12) Granite Range	928	2,785	
DW-3 (12) Granite Range	50	150	
DW-4 (12) Granite Range	59	176	
DW-5 (12) Granite Range	442	1,326	
DW-6 (12) Granite Range	6	19	
DW-1 (5) Buffalo Hills	35	44	
DW-2 (5) Buffalo Hills	92	115	
DS-1 (8) Granite Range	125	251	
DSP-1 (3) Granite Range	163	122	
DSP-2 (3) Granite Range	68	51	6,295
 <u>Bighorn sheep</u> - 180 total reasonable number.			
BY-1 (12) South Granites	180	432	432

### CALICO ALLOTMENT

<u>Seasonal Use Areas</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Numbers</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Antelope</u> - 18 total reasonable number.			
AY-1 (12) Calico Mountains	18	44	44
<u>Mule deer</u> - 15 total reasonable number.			
DY-5 (12) Calico Mountains	15	46	46
<u>Bighorn sheep</u> - 36 total reasonable number - no bighorns present - potential reintroduction area.			
BY-6 (12) Calico Mountains	36	86	86

### COYOTE ALLOTMENT

<u>Seasonal Use Areas</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Numbers</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Antelope</u> - 171 total reasonable number.			
AY-3 (12) Duck Flat	162	388	
AY-8 (12) Poodle Mountain	10	23	411
<u>Mule deer</u> - 12 total reasonable number.			
DW-3 (12) Granite Range	9	27	
DSP-1 (3) Granite Range	11	8	35
<u>Bighorn sheep</u> - 3 total reasonable number.			
BY-2 (12) Buffalo-North Granites	3	7	7

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
CRMP committee	Establish proper initial stocking rates	Upon completion of CRMP plan

Benefits: This action would ensure adequate forage is made available for big game.

6. Long-range stocking rates for wildlife will be cooperatively determined by BLM and NDOW at the time stocking rate adjustments are made. Wildlife will be allocated a proportionate share of any forage increases as determined by monitoring. BLM will make recommendations to NDOW to increase harvest levels if downward forage adjustments are made and overutilization is attributable to wildlife.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW	Determine long-term stocking rates	At the time stocking rate adjustments are made.

Benefits: This action will ensure adequate forage is made available for big game.

7. Inventory planning area for sage grouse strutting grounds that have not been identified.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW	Identify additional strutting grounds	As soon as funding becomes available.

Benefits: Strutting grounds can be properly managed and protected only when their location is known.

8. Provide water for wildlife in areas where a shortage of water can be identified. This includes the development of springs and artificial watering devices such as guzzlers.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW	Develop water	When funding becomes available.

Benefits: Some areas do not support wildlife because of a lack of permanent water. Providing a source of water could allow wildlife to occupy suitable habitat not currently occupied by wildlife.

# DRAFT

DRAFT

Page 23 of 39

9. Change vegetation composition to achieve habitat management objectives. This includes conversion of existing habitat sites to more desirable sites. The antelope winter range at Crutcher Canyon might be improved by planting desirable forage shrubs. Deer winter range at the Granite burn might be improved by planting desirable forage shrubs.

Who  
BLM,  
NDOW

What  
Treat vegetation for  
desired results

When  
As sites are identified  
and funding becomes  
available.

Benefits: Conversion of habitat sites is one method of improving wildlife habitat. The improvement consists of increasing the abundance of desirable forage species.

10. Remove unauthorized and/or Section 4 fences which are no longer serving the purpose for which they were installed. This includes fences on public land located in big game habitat. The following fences will be removed:

T. 34 N., R. 22 E., Sections 2 and 3  
T. 34 N., R. 22 E., Sections 14, 15, 22, 23, 27, and 28

Benefits: Removal of the fences will eliminate any adverse impacts the fences may have on big game movements.



NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE #3: Improve the aquatic habitat of perennial streams in the CRMP area to good or excellent to provide good coldwater fisheries. Improve water quality of perennial streams to Nevada water quality criteria for coldwater fisheries and water contact sports. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #15-16.)

## ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Cottonwood Creek and Red Mountain Creek have the highest potential for fisheries improvement. These streams will be included in the monitoring plan and they will be monitored annually.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM	Monitor stream condition	Bi-annually

Benefits: Monitoring will identify stream condition and subsequent management actions.

2. Fence Cottonwood Creek to improve the stream to excellent condition (see Map 5). Fencing is the only means known to provide the protection from grazing use required by riparian areas.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM	Fence Cottonwood Creek	FY 86

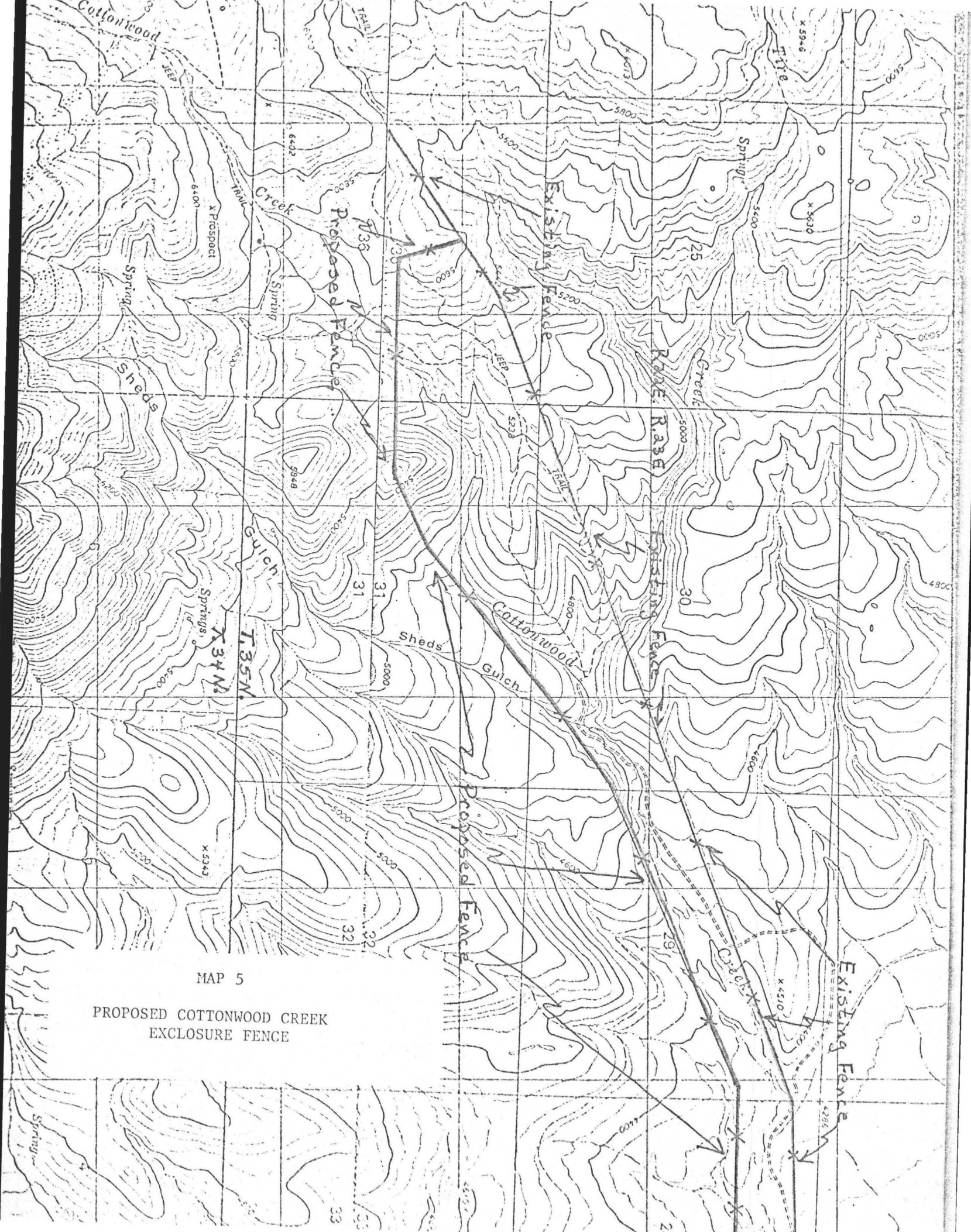
Benefits: Cottonwood Creek will provide a good, viable fishery when its condition improves. Improvement in associated riparian habitat will benefit all wildlife.

- 3a. The livestock permittees will push cattle out of Red Mountain Creek as necessary to improve the condition of the stream. This is the livestock permittee's proposal. This stream will be fenced if the stream condition does not improve to good within five years of the implementation of the proposed grazing plan.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
Livestock permittees	Move livestock out of Red Mountain Creek	As needed to protect the stream.

BLM	Fence Red Mountain Creek	Five years after plan is implemented, if livestock control by riding and moving cattle does not meet objectives.
-----	--------------------------	--

Benefits: Red Mountain Creek is a proven fishery and will increase in production as a fishery when its condition improves. Improvement in associated riparian habitat will benefit all wildlife.



MAP 5

PROPOSED COTTONWOOD CREEK  
ENCLOSURE FENCE

- 3b. Monitor utilization on woody species and grass species in the riparian zone along Red Mountain Creek.

<u>Who</u> BLM, NDOW	<u>What</u> Monitor utilization in Red Mountain Creek riparian area.	<u>When</u> FY 85+
----------------------------	---	-----------------------

Benefits: Utilization levels on riparian vegetation will be used to determine the intensity of livestock grazing. This can be used to determine what level of livestock use was made along Red Mountain Creek.

- 4. Other perennial streams in the CRMP area may require special management in the future if resource issues are identified.

<u>Who</u> BLM, NDOW	<u>What</u> Identify other perennial streams where resource conflicts are occurring	<u>When</u> As needed after completion of plan
----------------------------	--	--

Benefits: Perennial streams and associated riparian habitat can be protected if resource conflicts or if deterioration is identified.

NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE #4: Manage 7,680 acres to provide crucial mule deer habitat. Manage all or portions of 33 sections to provide crucial bighorn sheep habitat (see Maps 6A, B, C). Livestock use will be secondary and complementary to the wildlife use in these areas. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #17-18.)

## ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. The portion of these areas south of the Crutcher Canyon-Granite Mountain drift fences (Granite Use Area) will be considered a special use pasture for cattle and use will be restricted to the fall months (see Objective #1). Wild horse use will be yearlong.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW Livestock permittees	Cattle use restricted to fall use.	After completion of CRMP and grazing system is implemented.

Benefits: Cattle will not be in these areas during the growing season and will not compete with bighorn sheep or mule deer for forage except for a short period in the fall.

2. Specific objectives will be included in the monitoring plan for these areas to specifically provide for the crucial mule deer and bighorn sheep habitat.

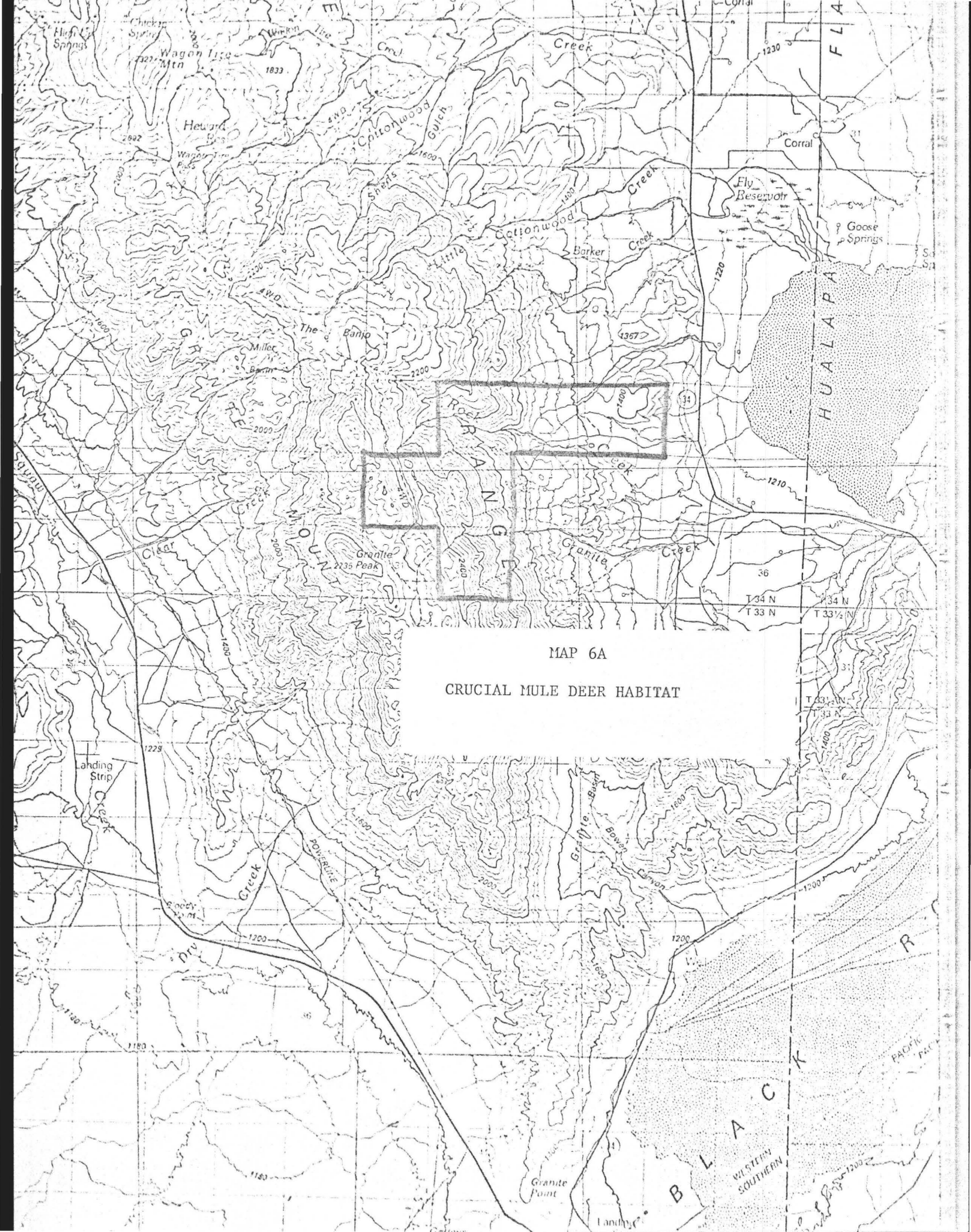
<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW,	Develop specific objectives for these areas and include in monitoring plan.	In conjunction with development of monitoring plan.

Benefits: Specific objectives for these areas will insure that these areas are being managed to provide crucial mule deer and bighorn sheep habitat. The evaluation portion of the monitoring data will show if these objectives are being achieved.

3. Domestic sheep will not be licensed in the crucial bighorn sheep habitat area (Granite Use Area, Map 6C).

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Livestock permittees	No domestic sheep use in described area to be managed for bighorn sheep habitat.	Upon approval of the plan.

Benefits: Will reduce or eliminate contact between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep in this area.



MAP 6A  
CRUCIAL MULE DEER HABITAT



MAP 6B

CRUCIAL MULE DEER HABITAT



MAP 6 B



NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEETPLANNING OBJECTIVE #5: Maintain a viable population of wild horses within the CRMP area. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #19.)

## ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Manage a base level of approximately 542 wild horses in the CRMP area. Provide 6,504 AUMs of forage for wild horses in the Buffalo Hills Allotment (including 504 AUMs in the old Calico Allotment). This base herd is divided into the following Herd Use Areas (HUAs):

Calico Mountains HUA	149 head
Granite Range HUA	121 head*
Buffalo Hills HUA	272 head

\* This number reflects a management level of 72 wild horses north of the Crutcher Canyon and Granite Mountain drift fences and a management level of 49 wild horses south of said fences in the Granite Range HUA.

Remove excess animals over and above these management numbers in each HUA according to the following priority:

- a. Remove approximately 223 horses from the Calico Mountains HUA in FY 86.
- b. Remove approximately 146 horses from the southern portion of the Granite Mountains HUA in FY 86.
- c. Remove approximately 77 horses from the northern portion of the Granite Mountains HUA in FY 87.\*
- d. Remove approximately 824 horses from the Buffalo Hills HUA in FY 88.\*

\* If the adoption demand exists and funding is available, the third and fourth priority gatherings will take place in FY 86.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM	Horse removal as detailed above	a, b = FY 86 c = FY 87 d = FY 88

Benefits: These management numbers should insure that a viable population of wild horses will be maintained in the planning area. The adjustment in animal numbers will reduce the competition for available forage with wildlife and livestock, and should result in a positive impact to those wild horses remaining in the area. This impact will be observed in the form of healthier wild horses and a possible increase in adult and foal survival. In the short term this action will provide an increase in plant vigor, production, and forage diversity. The long-term effects will be realized in the form of an upward trend in ecological vegetative condition and an increase in production.



# DRAFT

DRAFT

Page 32 of 39

2. Set a management level of zero burros in the CRMP area in accordance with the Winnemucca District's Management Framework Plan (MFP III). As necessary, remove all burros that may stray into the CRMP area.

Who  
BLM

What  
Continue to allow no  
burro use in the CRMP  
area in line with MFP III

When  
FY 85

Benefits: Will eliminate all competition from burros in the CRMP area.

3. Set a management level of zero wild horses in the Coyote Allotment in accordance with the Winnemucca District's Management Framework Plan (MFP III). As necessary, remove all wild horses that may stray into this allotment.

Who  
BLM

What  
Continue to allow no  
wild horse use in the  
Coyote Allotment in line  
with MFP III

When  
FY 85

Benefits: Will eliminate competition for forage from wild horses in the Coyote Allotment.

4. Prepare a Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) for the Buffalo Hills Herd Management Area.

Who  
BLM

What  
Prepare HMAP

When  
FY 85

Benefits: The preparation and implementation of this HMAP will provide subsequent biological data needed to build the foundation for sound management of the wild horse population. The data are necessary to achieve and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands.

NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEETPLANNING OBJECTIVE #6: Monitor the resources for attainment of management goals.

## ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Develop a coordinated (interdisciplinary) resource monitoring plan which will address specific management objectives for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses. This plan will conform with Bureau policy and regulations as well as the Nevada Range Monitoring Procedures developed by the 1981 Range Studies Task Group and the Winnemucca District's Monitoring Plan.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Livestock permittees, Wild horse groups	Develop Buffalo Hills Coordinated Resource Monitoring Plan-Incorporate into CRMP plan	FY 84

Benefits: Monitoring plan will provide needed data to set appropriate stocking levels for the allotments in the short and long terms. The monitoring plan will determine if management objectives are being accomplished within established time frames.

2. The monitoring data will be summarized, analyzed, and interpreted in accordance with the evaluation schedule outlined in the monitoring plan to determine if significant progress is being made towards meeting the management objectives for the resource values identified in this plan. If these objectives are not being met within the established time frames, the alternative management actions outlined in Table I of this plan will be implemented accordingly.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Livestock permittees	Evaluate results of monitoring data to effect alternative management actions if necessary	In accordance with evaluation schedule outlined in monitoring plan

Benefits: This action should ensure that the management objectives outlined in this plan, the monitoring plan, the Herd Management Area Plan, the Habitat Management Plan, and the Allotment Management Plan are achieved within the desired time frames.

TABLE I. POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS THROUGH EVALUATION OF MONITORING DATA

Evaluation Period 1/ Interim	Livestock Distribution 2/ Good	Climate 3/ Favorable	Utilization Objectives 4/ AUL	Trend Objectives 1/ N/A	Condition Objectives 1/ N/A	Management Actions 5/
	Poor	Favorable	AUL	N/A	N/A	Indicates poor distribution. Change distribution patterns through range improvements, salting, etc.
	Good	Unfavorable	AUL	N/A	N/A	Indicates unfavorable climatic conditions. If conditions exist for more than two years, adjust livestock numbers of periods-of-use until climatic conditions, range condition, and utilization are favorable.
	Good	Favorable	AUL	N/A	N/A	May indicate overstocking. Adjust livestock numbers or periods-of-use.
Short-term and long-term	Good	Favorable	AUL	Met	Met	Indicates understocking. Adjust livestock numbers or periods-of-use.
	Poor	Favorable	AUL	Met	Met	Indicates poor distribution. Change distribution patterns through range improvements, salting, etc.
	Poor	Favorable	AUL	Met	Met	Indicates poor distribution. Change distribution patterns.
	Good	Unfavorable	AUL	Not Met	Not Met	Indicates unfavorable climatic conditions. If conditions exist for more than two years, adjust livestock numbers of periods-of-use until monitoring indicates conditions are more favorable.
	Good	Favorable	AUL	Not Met	Not Met	May indicate overstocking. Adjust livestock numbers or periods-of-use.
	Good	Favorable	AUL	Not Met	Not Met	Trend and condition objectives not being met, but for unknown reasons. Reevaluate monitoring procedures and/or intensify monitoring.

1/ Specific time frames and objectives will be outlined in the monitoring plan.

2/ Distribution is identified as "good" (livestock well distributed throughout pasture) and as "poor" (livestock concentrated near riparian, watering sites, on flats, etc.).

3/ Climate is identified as "favorable" or "unfavorable." Favorable and unfavorable conditions can be derived from deviations in normal temperature and precipitation patterns.

4/ AUL - less than the allowable use levels on any key species as shown in the monitoring plan.

AUL - greater than the allowable use levels on any key species as shown in the monitoring plan.

5/ This column shows the conclusions that can be derived from the combination of monitoring results from the other columns, as well as what management actions could be used to help the range meet monitoring objectives.

NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE #7: Maintain the present status of the Wilderness Study Areas.  
(This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #20.) (See Map 7.)

## ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

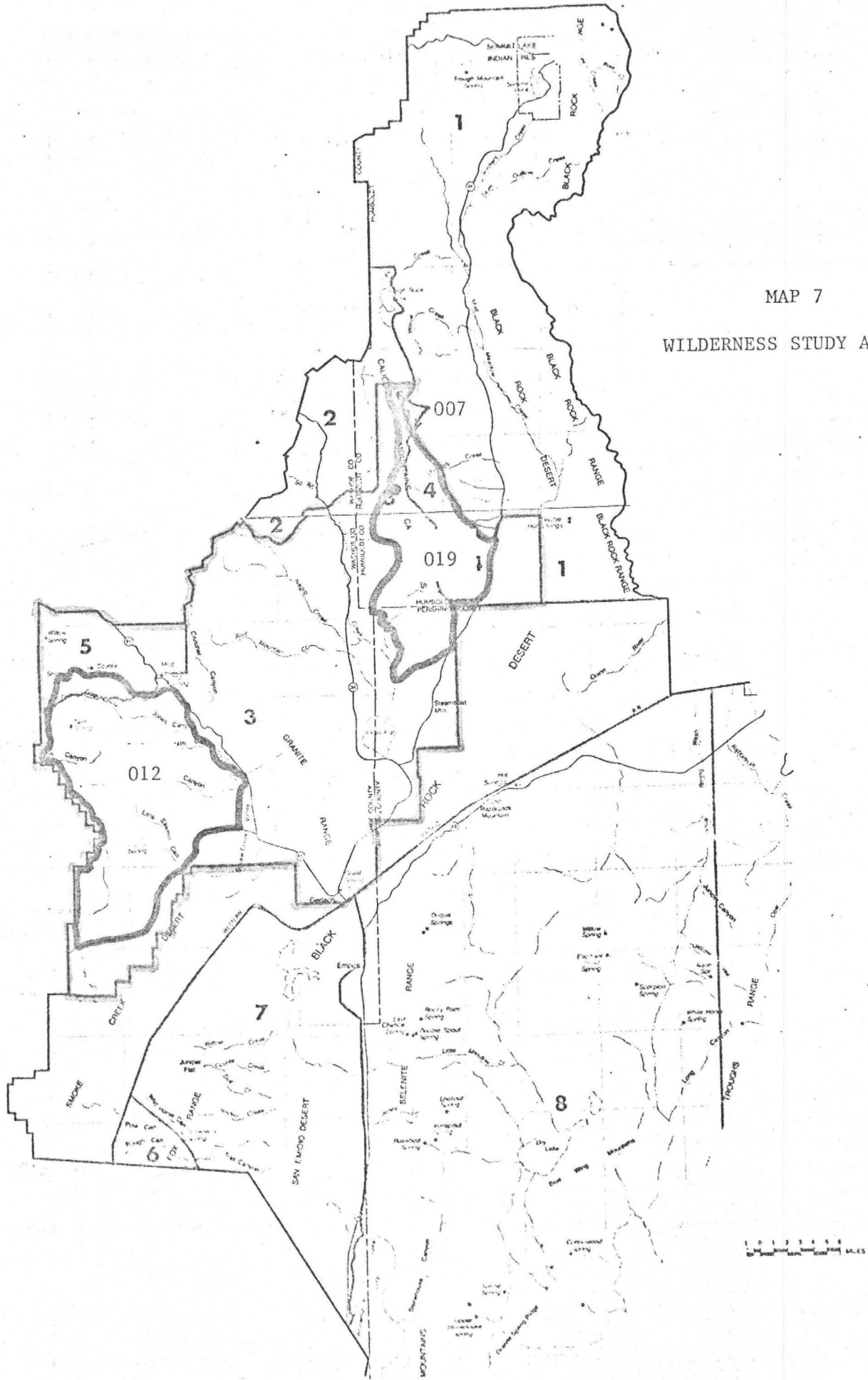
1. All management actions undertaken to accomplish any of the management objectives will be in conformance with the "Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review" (revised July 12, 1983).

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Livestock permittees	Management actions conducted in WSAs will be in conformance with regulations and policy	Until final determination

Benefits: Will insure that potential wilderness areas will not have wilderness characteristics impaired and will allow Congress to make decisions based on current situations.

MAP 7

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS



NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE #8: Maintain current access to public lands across private lands, except during identified time periods critical to wildlife populations. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #21-22.)

## ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Acquire easements through private lands for important access roads as necessary.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Private landowners	Negotiate easements for public access	As necessary

Benefits: Will insure public and administrative access to public lands.

2. If easements cannot be obtained, build alternate access roads as necessary.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW Interested publics	Build alternate access roads	As necessary if action 1 fails

Benefits: Will insure public and administrative access to public lands if easements cannot be obtained.

3. If necessary, encourage county action to ensure legal access.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Washoe County	Legal action or assume certain access roads in county road system	If action 1 fails and 2 is not feasible

Benefits: County action may be required if actions one and two are not obtainable. The county would then have maintenance responsibility. Should only be used as a last resort.

4. Limit vehicle use within specific areas during time periods critical to wildlife populations as determined through consultation with BLM, NDOW, and livestock permittees (e.g., bighorn sheep lambing areas).

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Livestock permittees	Determine areas where vehicle use should be limited and sign and inform the public of these areas	Designate areas during development of CRMP plan and implement upon approval of the plan

Benefits: Will protect wildlife populations during critical periods from harassment and stress caused by human encroachment.

# DRAFT

DRAFT

Page 38 of 39

NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLS

## ACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE #9: Acquire privately-owned lands for better management of the public lands in the CRMP area as identified in the Management Framework Plan. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #23.)

### ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Identify private lands that should be acquired by exchange or other means (although primarily by exchange) that contain high resource values. This includes lands identified in MFP III to be given priority for acquisition as part of the Gerlach municipal hydrologic basin. Actively seek to acquire these lands in accordance with MFP III.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Livestock permittees, CRMP group	Identify private lands with high resource values for acquisition; actively work to acquire these lands	FY 84 on

Benefits: Will provide for better management of the CRMP area for all resources and will protect high resource areas.

NAME OF PLAN: BUFFALO HILLSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE #10: Secure adequate quantities of water necessary to sustain the proper management of the public lands in the CRMP area through Public Water Reserve identification or acquisition through provisions of Nevada State Law. (This objective will address Major Problems/Issues #24.)

## ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Natural springs or water holes which meet the current criteria for a public water reserve and which produce water needed to support authorized animal and/or human consumptive uses will be identified to the State Director. After receiving State Director concurrence the State Engineer will be notified of the amount of water at each location being used for public purposes.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Livestock permittees, CRMP group	Identify public water reserves	FY 84 and 85

Benefits: Will insure that water is reserved to meet all consumptive needs on the public lands in the CRMP area. Adequate water will be available to fulfill other objectives of this plan.

2. For water sources which are not specifically reserved for public uses and which are necessary to protect and support authorized public uses, a water right will be sought in accordance with Nevada State Water Law.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Livestock permittees	Acquire state water rights for important waters as necessary, including range improvements	FY 85 or as necessary

Benefits: Water rights need to be acquired according to state law to secure water for all consumptive uses on public lands in the CRMP area. In the case of critical water sources, obtaining the water right or a portion of a water right will guarantee the availability of water for livestock, wild horses, wildlife, and other uses. The acquisition of a water right on certain waters will enable more adequate protection of the water and ensure that it is available to meet the other objectives of this plan.