

3/19/84



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO
1601.1
(NV-027.8)

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

March 19, 1984

Dawn Lappin
WHOA
P.O. Box 555
Reno, NV 89504

Dear Ms. Lappin:

Enclosed, please find a copy of the Draft Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs area. This plan is the culmination of many hours of contributed time by the Lovelock CRMP Sub-committee group and other interested parties.

The plan was designed to protect and improve the natural resources found in the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs area, and hopefully meet the needs and desires of all those individuals and groups whose interests will be affected.

The information found within this plan was compiled using the minutes taken from the CRMP meetings and on site field tours, and was molded into specific management objectives and actions necessary to achieve the objectives. The format used is in conformance with the Nevada Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Handbook (1983 Second Edition) and is within the framework of existing laws and regulations governing the Bureau of Land Management.

A meeting of the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Sub-committee group has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m., April 25, 1984, at the Pershing County Extension Office in Lovelock, to go over the plan.

Please review the plan before the meeting to determine if the objectives are in harmony, realistic, and internally consistent. Any remaining contradictions in this plan will hopefully be worked out at the meeting.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Rodger Bryan of my staff. If you are unable to attend the meeting please write down your comments and send them to this office before April 25, so that they may be discussed at the meeting and be incorporated into the plan.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald P. Brandvold
Area Manager

Enclosure

D R A F T

COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

NAME OF PLAN Blue Wing/Seven Troughs DATE OF ADOPTION _____

LOCATION OF PLANNING AREA: Blue Wing and Seven Troughs Allotments in the Blue Wing Planning Unit of the Sonoma/Gerlach Resource Area of the Winnemucca District

Pershing, Churchill, Humboldt and Washoe COUNTY, NEVADA

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ACREAGE:	PRIVATE	227,371	(15%) ACRES
	PUBLIC - SPECIFY MANAGEMENT AGENCY		(85%)
	Bureau of Land Management	1,279,299	ACRES
	_____	_____	ACRES
	_____	_____	ACRES
	_____	_____	ACRES
	TOTAL	1,506,670	ACRES

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

The planning area is comprised of all or part of 10 mountain ranges: 1. Selenite, 2. Lava Beds, 3. Kamma, 4. Antelope, 5. Seven Troughs, 6. Trinity, 7. Blue Wing 8. Nightingale, 9. Shawave, and 10. Truckee. The ranges are typically separated by valley floors ranging from quite small (2-3 miles across) to extremely large (10-15 miles across) in size. The area is bordered on the north by the Western Pacific Railroad tracks and on the west by Highway 34 and the southeastern edge of the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation boundary. The southern and eastern borders of the area are the respective allotment boundary lines.

MAJOR RESOURCE USES IN PLANNING AREA: _____
Livestock grazing (both sheep and cattle), wildlife, wild horses/burros, mining and recreation.

NAME OF PLAN: Blue Wing/Seven Troughs

PLANNING PARTICIPANTS: Sub-Committee Group

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
<u>Wes Cook</u>	<u>Sheep Operator</u>
<u>Bob Bunyard</u>	<u>Sheep Operator</u>
<u>Dawn Lappin</u>	<u>Wild Horse Organized Assistance</u>
<u>Larry Irvin</u>	<u>C-Punch Corporation (Cattle Operator)</u>
<u>Helen Reilly</u>	<u>Intn'l Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros</u>
<u>Phil Benolkin</u>	<u>Nevada Department of Wildlife</u>
<u>Marian McClellan</u>	<u>Mining Industry</u>
<u>John Espil</u>	<u>Sheep Operator</u>
<u>Tina Nappe</u>	<u>Sierra Club - Toiyabe Chapter</u>
<u>Buster Dufurrena</u>	<u>Sheep Operator</u>
<u>Don Greenwell</u>	<u>Cooperative Extension Service</u>
<u>Rodger Bryan</u>	<u>Bureau of Land Management</u>
<u>Ted Fitzpatrick</u>	<u>Southern Pacific Land Co.</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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NAME OF PLAN: Blue Wing/Seven Troughs

LIST OF MAJOR PROBLEMS/ISSUES

1. Approximately 41% of the public lands in the planning area is estimated to be in poor ecological range condition and approximately 37% of the area is in fair ecological range condition (1979 estimate).
2. Approximately 39% of the public lands in the planning area is estimated to be in a downward trend (1979 estimate).
3. The level or intensity of present grazing management is not satisfactory (i.e areas-of-use, season-of-use, distribution, salting, etc.).
4. All but one of the licensed livestock permittees are operating under their active preference.
5. Sheep operators would like to expand their present areas-of-use.
6. Existing rangeland improvements are inadequate.
7. The population of wild horses/burros is currently in excess of management numbers on checkerboard and non-checkerboard lands.
8. Crucial wildlife habitat above the 5,000 foot elevation is in less than desirable condition.
9. Sage grouse populations are being reduced by meadow deterioration and by access of off-road vehicles to ridge tops and brooding areas during crucial periods.
10. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) has identified the southern Selenites as a possible site for the reintroduction of bighorn sheep.
11. The wetland condition is deteriorating around springs and seeps in the planning area.
12. Unauthorized livestock drift from adjacent allotments is not manageable.
13. There are two Wilderness Study Areas in the planning unit: 1. NV-020-200 (Selenites) and 2. NV-020-201 (Mt. Limbo).
14. Public access through private lands in Cow Creek, Seven Troughs Canyon, and Limbo Ranch has not been granted through formal agreements with the land owners.
15. A program to monitor and evaluate changes in rangeland/habitat condition in relation to management practices is not available for the planning area.

NAME OF PLAN: BLUE WING/SEVEN TROUGHSLIST OF PLANNING OBJECTIVES

1. Manage domestic livestock grazing to increase 136,318 acres from poor and fair to good, and 3,505 acres from good to excellent ecological condition; improve range condition and forage availability, to reach and sustain 33,852 AUMs of active preference for livestock grazing as follows:

	<u>Blue Wing Allotment</u>	<u>Seven Troughs Allotment</u>
C-Punch Corp.	21,460 AUMs	4,404 AUMs
B. G. Bunyard	1,505 AUMs	
Wesley Cook	1,364 AUMs	
Dufurrena Sheep Co.		1,492 AUMs
John Espil		3,627 AUMs
TOTAL	<u>24,329 AUMs</u>	<u>9,523 AUMs</u>

This objective will address the major problems/issues numbered 1-6 on page 3 of this plan.

2. Maintain a viable population of wild horses/burros in the planning area.
3. Maintain or improve the condition of wildlife habitat to accommodate the needs of all species of wildlife presently or potentially using the planning area. This objective will address the major problems/issues numbered 8-10 on page 3 of this plan.
4. Protect and enhance the water quality, quantity, and wetland characteristics of selected springs in the planning area.
5. Control unauthorized livestock drift from adjacent allotments.
6. Maintain the integrity of the Wilderness Study Areas.
7. Insure legal access to all public lands.
8. Monitor the resources for attainment of management goals.

NAME OF PLAN: BLUE WING/SEVEN TROUGHSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE: #1. Manage domestic livestock grazing to increase 136,318 acres from poor and fair to good, and 3,505 acres from good to excellent ecological condition; improve range condition and forage availability to reach and sustain 33,852 AUMs of active preference for livestock grazing as follows:

	<u>Blue Wing Allotment</u>	<u>Seven Troughs Allotment</u>
C-Punch Corporation	21,460 AUMs	4,404 AUMs
B. G. Bunyard	1,505 AUMs	
Wesley Cook	1,364 AUMs	
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John Espil		<u>3,627 AUMs</u>
TOTAL	<u>24,329 AUMs</u>	<u>9,523 AUMs</u>

This objective will address the major problems/issues numbered 1-6 on page 3 of this plan.

ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Develop a grazing management plan for C-Punch Corporation to include modifications to current areas and seasons-of-use, and livestock distribution patterns as outlined below:
 - a. Graze 350-400 head of livestock on the Seven Troughs Range from 4/1-10/31. These cattle will be moved north into the Kamma Mountains and Antelope Range and held from 11/1-3/31.
 - b. Graze 150-200 head of livestock on the west side of the Selenite Range from 4/1-10/31. These cattle will be moved south and held in the Slough House area above Nixon from 11/1-3/31.
 - c. Graze 550-600 head of livestock in the Nightingale and Shawave Mountains from 4/1-10/31. These cattle will be moved east to the Granite Springs Valley and held from 11/1-3/31.
 - d. Graze 250-300 head of livestock on the east side of the Selenite Range from 4/1-10/31. These cattle will be held on the flats between the Selenites and the Lava Beds from 11/1-3/31.
 - e. Graze 350-400 head of livestock in the Lava Beds, Blue Wing Mountains, and western slopes of the Seven Troughs Range on a rotating basis throughout the year depending on weather and forage conditions.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
C-Punch Corp.	Develop and implement a grazing plan.	After completion of CRMP Plan, and as range improvements are developed.
BLM	Monitor the impact of this management action on vegetation to determine if management objectives are being obtained.	According to monitoring plan.

Benefits: The ecological condition of the native vegetation and watershed resources will improve. The quantity, quality, and diversity of vegetation should be improved. Competition for available forage and habitat should decrease among sheep, cattle, wild horses/burros and wildlife. Over the long-term this (combined with other actions planned to achieve this objective) should allow C-Punch Corp., and the other livestock permittees to graze at 100% of their active preference.

- Expand Wes Cook's and Bob Bunyard's area-of-use to include portions of the old Holland Livestock sheep use area. This will not conflict with the proposed reintroduction of bighorn sheep in the southern end of the Selenite Range.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Permittees	Prepare a rangeline agreement to divide the old Holland livestock sheep use area.	FY 84

Benefits: This action will alleviate repeated concentrated grazing use on the smaller original adjudicated areas-of-use. The expanded area will provide the permittees an opportunity to be more flexible in their operation by allowing them to follow the localized snow storms thus eliminating the need to haul water. This will help to improve the overall ecological condition in the northern Selenite Range and Dry Mountain area.

- Develop a plan which will place salt, mineral, and protein blocks a minimum of one-quarter mile from water sources in areas of ridges and on flat spots near shade and gentle slopes that are accessible by livestock.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Permittees	Salting Plan	March 1984

Benefits: The salting plan will achieve better distribution of domestic livestock and wild horses/burros throughout the planning area. It will help to improve the condition of the vegetation in the wet and riparian areas by reducing the amount of concentrated use.

4. Develop a series of springs, pipelines, and wells throughout the planning area.
- a. Judges Place Spring and Pipeline - Develop the spring at the Judges Place (T. 32 N., R. 29 E., Sec. 20) and construct approximately 5 miles of pipeline in order to provide water on the flats at the north end of the Seven Troughs Range.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Permittees (50%)	Spring and Pipeline Development.	FY 85

- b. Cow Creek Exclosure Spring - Develop the spring located outside the western wildlife exclosure (T. 31 N., R. 28 E., Sec. 12).

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (100%)	Spring Development.	FY 85

- c. Trail Canyon Spring and Pipeline - Develop the springs in Trail Canyon (T. 31 N., R. 26 E., Sec. 1 and 12) and construct approximately 10 miles of pipeline in order to provide water in the vicinity of Middle Mountain.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Permittees (50%)	Spring and Pipeline Development.	FY 86

- d. Twin Buttes Mine Spring and Pipeline - Develop the spring at Twin Buttes (T. 30 N., R. 26 E., Sec. 1) and construct approximately 3 miles of pipeline in order to provide water on the flats south of Middle Mountain.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Permittees (50%)	Spring and Pipeline Development.	FY 87

- e. Nixon Flat Well - Conduct a well site investigation in T. 23 N., R. 24 E., and construct a well if feasible.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Permittees (50%)	Locate and drill well.	FY 85

- f. Rocky Canyon Well - Conduct a well site investigation in the northern half of T. 31 N., R. 30 E., and construct a well if feasible.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Permittees (50%)	Locate and drill well.	FY 86

- g. Toll Rock Canyon Well - Conduct a well site investigation in the southern half of T. 29 N., R. 29 E., and construct a well if feasible.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Permittees (50%)	Locate and drill well.	FY 87

- h. Antelope Siding Well - Conduct a well site investigation in southern half of T. 35 N., R. 30 E., and construct a well if feasible.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Permittees (50%)	Locate and drill well.	FY 87

- i. Hard to Find Well - Conduct a well site investigation in the vicinity of Hard to Find Mine in the southwest portion of T. 25 N., R. 28 E., and construct a well if feasible.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Permittees (50%)	Locate and drill well.	FY 88

- j. Lowry Well - Conduct a well site investigation in T. 27 N., R. 28 E., and construct a well if feasible.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Permittees (50%)	Locate and drill well.	FY 88

Benefits: The development of these springs, pipelines, and wells will yield a better distribution of livestock throughout the planning area and will open up areas to grazing that previously have not been utilized except during wet winters when standing water is available. After these waters are developed they can be used as "tools" to manipulate grazing use at specific times of the year, which should keep utilization levels on key forage species at acceptable levels, and provide periodic rest for the vegetative communities.

5. Treat approximately 20,000 acres of sagebrush by burning or chemical control.

- a. Mule Canyon Sagebrush Control - Treat approximately 10,000 acres of sagebrush by the most cost effective and/or least detrimental method in the eastern half of T. 32 N., R. 38 E.. Construct an electric fence around the treated area and allow it to receive two years rest.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM	Arrange for funding of treatment and fencing materials. Conduct treatment.	FY 86
Permittees	Install electric fence.	FY 86

- b. Sagehen Wash Sagebrush Control - Treat approximately 10,000 acres of sagebrush in the northern half of T. 26 N., R. 25 E., by the most cost effective and/or least detrimental method. Construct an electric fence around the treated area and allow it to receive two years rest.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM	Treat approximately 10,000 acres of sagebrush.	FY 88
Permittees	Remove electric fence from Mule Canyon project and install it here.	FY 88

Benefits: These projects should produce more forage for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses/burros. The quality, quantity, and diversity of the native grasses and forbs should be enhanced once the sagebrush is removed, the canopy is opened up, and the competition for ground water is reduced. The increase in forage should allow the livestock permittees to go beyond their active preference with proportionate increases to wildlife and wild horses/burros.

NAME OF PLAN: BLUE WING/SEVEN TROUGHSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

Planning Objective: #2. Maintain a viable population of wild horses/burros in the planning area.

ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Manage a herd of 877 wild horses and 143 wild burros. This number was agreed to by the Lovelock CRMP Sub-committee group as being compatible with livestock operations as planned, wildlife demand, and the available resources on the non-checkerboard lands in the planning area. All excess animals over and above this management number will be removed according to the following priority:

- a. First--Remove approximately 411 horses and 29 burros from the two checkerboard Herd Use Areas (HUAs); 309 horses and 29 burros from the Antelope Range and 102 horses from the Truckee Range.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Permittees	Horse/Burro Removal	FY 85

- b. Second--Remove approximately 794 horses and 139 burros from the crucial wildlife habitat areas; 640 horses and 104 burros will remain in the Lava Beds, Seven Troughs, and Kamma Mountain HUAs.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Permittees	Horse/Burro Removal	FY 86*

- c. Third--Remove approximately 340 horses and 59 burros from the southern half of the planning area; 237 horses and 39 burros will remain in the Blue Wing Mountains and Nightingale/Shawave HUAs.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, Permittees	Horse/Burro Removal	FY 87*

*If the adoption demand exists and funding is available, the second and third priority gatherings will take place in FY 85.

Benefits: This management number should insure that a viable population of wild horses/burros will be maintained in the planning area. The adjustment in animal numbers will reduce the competition for available forage with livestock and

wildlife, and should result in a positive impact to those horses/burros remaining in the area. This impact will be observed in the form of healthier horses and burros and a possible increase in adult and foal survival and productivity. 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 vegetative condition and an increase in plant production.

2. Prepare a Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) for the non-checkerboard HUAs which will address the following management goals:
 - a. Maintain the wild free-roaming characteristics of the horses/burros in the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Herd Management Area (HMA).
 - b. Preserve and perpetuate the unique spotted and pinto burro population. The management herd of 143 burros will primarily be composed of spotted and pinto animals.
 - c. Provide and develop water for wild horses/burros throughout the HMA, where possible.
 - d. Establish studies to acquire additional data on the wild horse/burro population to include information on sex ratios, age structures, mortality, rates of increase, habitat conditions, actual use, movement patterns, and validity of total population counts.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM	Prepare HMAP	FY 84

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

NAME OF PLAN: BLUE WING/SEVEN TROUGHSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE: #3. Maintain or improve the condition of wildlife habitat to accommodate the needs of all species of wildlife presently or potentially using the planning area. This objective will address the major problems/issues numbered 8-10 on page 3 of this plan.

ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Prepare a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for the planning area which will address the following management goals:

- a. Inventory the planning area for the purpose of identifying the key and crucial wildlife habitat (i.e. winter ranges, brooding areas, potential lambing and fawning grounds, etc.).

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW	Inventory wildlife habitat.	FY 84 and 85

- b. Develop specific management objectives for the previously identified management species: aspen stands; meadow habitat; riparian areas; and mahogany stands. Fencing of some of these areas may be necessary to achieve management goals. Incorporate these objectives into the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Monitoring Plan.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW	Set management objectives for crucial species.	FY 85

- c. Develop specific management objectives for the remainder of the wildlife habitat in the planning area, including the bitterbrush stand in T. 30 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 19-21 and 28-30. Incorporate these objectives into the Blue/Wing Seven Troughs Monitoring Plan.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW	Set management objectives for non-crucial species.	FY 85

- d. Cooperatively develop an enclosure around the Last Chance Spring complex at the south end of Texas Basin in T. 31 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 33 NW1/4SW1/4.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Permittees	Construct Enclosure	FY 86

- e. Reestablishment of bighorn sheep will not be considered in areas where domestic sheep are currently utilizing potential bighorn habitat.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Permittees	Coordinate potential release of bighorn sheep	As necessary

Benefits: The implementation of the HMP should restore the vegetative diversity, vigor, and quality of wildlife habitat for small game, big game, and non-game species. The long-term goal of the HMP would be to provide forage for reasonable numbers of big game animals.

2. Limit vehicle use within specific areas during time periods critical to wildlife populations as determined through consultation with BLM, NDOW, and the livestock permittees.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Permittees	Determine areas where vehicle use should be limited; then provide temporary or permanent road closure signs.	FY 85

Benefits: This action will help to protect wildlife populations during critical periods from harassment and stress caused by human activity.

NAME OF PLAN: BLUE WING/SEVEN TROUGHSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE: #4. Protect and enhance the water quality, quantity, and wetland characteristics of selected springs and other water sources in the planning area.

ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Inventory all water resources in the planning area and identify all water quality, quantity, and wetland problems. Plan and implement protection or enhancement practices such as fencing for identified problem areas.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BIM	Inventory water resources	FY 85
	Plan and implement protection measures	FY 86 and beyond

Benefits: Full implementation of this action should improve water quality by reducing sediment, increase available water for public uses, and improve wetland function of important springs and other water resources.

NAME OF PLAN: BLUE WING/SEVEN TROUGHSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE: #5. Control unauthorized livestock drift from adjacent allotments.

ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Construct a series of fences on the northern, western, and southern boundaries of the planning area.

- a. Highway 34 Fence and Cattleguard Project - Construct approximately 32.5 miles of fenceline and five cattleguards on both sides of Highway 34 from Gerlach to the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, to separate the planning area from the Rodeo Creek Allotment.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Nevada Dept. of Transportation (50%)	Construct 65 miles of fence and install 10 cattleguards.	FY 84

- b. Desert Queen Fence - Construct approximately 31 miles of fenceline and four cattleguards on the southern boundary, to separate the planning area from the Desert Queen Allotment.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Nevada Grazing Advisory Board (50%)	Construct 31 miles of fence and install four cattleguards.	FY 84 and FY 85

- c. Jungo-Sulphur Fence - Construct approximately 35 miles of fenceline and eight cattleguards on the northeast boundary, to separate the planning area from the Jackson Mountain and Humboldt Valley Allotments.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM (50%) Nevada Grazing Advisory Board (50%)	Construct 35 miles of fence and install eight cattleguards	FY 85 and FY 86

Benefits: The construction of these fencelines is basic for the success of the grazing management plan. The fences will enable the cattle operator to rotate his livestock to different use areas throughout the planning area and be able to hold them there with a minimum amount of effort. This will also provide rest for the utilized areas. The fencelines will also help to control unauthorized livestock drift from adjacent allotments. Competition for available forage should be reduced as only authorized livestock will be utilizing the planning area. This will also provide accurate actual use data, to incorporate into the monitoring plan.

2. Use administrative remedies whenever possible to deter unauthorized livestock use.

Who
BLM

What
Deter unauthorized use. When
Ongoing

Benefits: Control of unauthorized livestock use will provide more accurate data to evaluate monitoring studies.

NAME OF PLAN: BLUE WING/SEVEN TROUGHS

ACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE: #6. Maintain the integrity of the Wilderness Study Areas.

ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

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

Who
BLM, Permittees,
NDOW

What
Management Actions
conducted in WSAs.

When
Until final
determination
by Congress.

Benefits: Management under the nonimpairment standard will insure that both the Selenites and Mt. Limbo WSAs will satisfy the definition of wilderness (as described in the Wilderness Act) when the Secretary sends his recommendations to Congress.

NAME OF PLAN: BLUE WING/SEVEN TROUGHS

ACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE: #7. Insure legal access to all public lands.

ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Identify all roads currently on private land which provide access to public lands; then follow the necessary steps for easement acquisition.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Private Landowners	Negotiate easements for public access.	FY 85, 86, 87

Benefits: This will insure public and administrative access to public lands.

2. If easements cannot be obtained, build alternate access roads around private lands.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Interested publics	Build alternate access roads.	As necessary if unable to obtain easement.

Benefits: This will ultimately ensure that public and administrative access is guaranteed.

NAME OF PLAN: BLUE WING/SEVEN TROUGHSACTION PLANNING WORKSHEET

PLANNING OBJECTIVE: #8. Monitor the resources for attainment of management goals.

ACTIONS PROPOSED TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE:

1. Prepare an interdisciplinary coordinated resource monitoring plan which will address specific management objectives for livestock, wild horses/burros, and wildlife, and will conform with Bureau policy and regulations as well as the 1981 Nevada Range Monitoring Procedures developed by the Range Studies Task Group. The plan will address all the necessary studies to effectively monitor management actions. The studies conducted will include actual use, utilization, climatic, and vegetative condition and trend.

<u>Who</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
BLM, NDOW, Permittees, Wild Horse/Burro Groups	Prepare the Blue Wing/ Seven Troughs Coordinated Resource Monitoring Plan.	FY 84

Benefits: The monitoring plan will provide the basis for evaluating changes in rangeland and habitat condition in relation to management practices and to determine if the management objectives outlined in this plan are being accomplished within the established time frames. It will also provide the information necessary to set both the short-term and long-term stocking levels for livestock and wild horses/burros, as well as provide the Nevada Department of Wildlife base line data with which to make adjustments in wildlife populations if necessary.

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, Permittees, NDOW	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, and the Habitat Management Plan are achieved within the desired time frames.

DRAFT

TABLE I. POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS THROUGH EVALUATION OF MONITORING DATA

Evaluation Period 1/	Livestock Distribution 2/	Climate 3/	Utilization Objectives 4/	Trend Objectives 1/	Condition Objectives 1/	Management Actions 5/
Interim	Good	Favorable	<AUL	N/A	N/A	May indicate understocking. Adjust livestock numbers or periods-of-use.
	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 2 years, adjust livestock numbers or 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 or 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 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.

APPENDIX I

Standard Operating Procedures

*Memorandum*DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1608
(N-024)

To : All Employees

FROM : District Manager, Winnemucca

Date: September 7, 1982

SUBJECT: Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) For the Winnemucca District

During the MFP process many of the resource specialists and area manager recommendations were rejected and not carried forward into MFP III. In most instances the recommendations were rejected because a decision was not required to implement the recommendation or the recommendation addressed something that should be considered in the normal course of our work. In addition, there were MFP recommendations that involve survey and design aspects for which no decision is necessary.

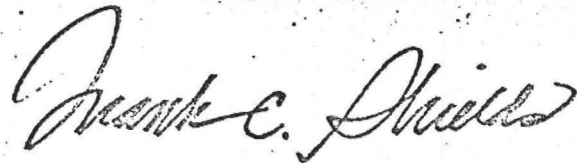
Rather than drop these recommendations, we chose the best ones to make up as standard operating procedures for the district.

In addition, we have included some of the more pertinent MFP III decisions as District SOPs. These standard operating procedures assume the same importance as the major land use decisions made in the MFP III and are made a part of each MFP as Appendix I.

The standard operating procedures are not all inclusive and include only those that were carried through the MFP process and those that were identified by the resource specialists or others through the comments that they made last February.

Each employee should familiarize himself or herself with these procedures and implement them immediately.

Attachment



.41 Lands

1. Review all withdrawn lands for either retention or revocation as per the public laws. Withdrawal review will be completed by 10/21/91 as required by the public land laws. After review, recommend either revocation or retention of the withdrawal, consistent with land use plans of the Winnemucca District
2. Prior to disposal of long term commitment of public lands, review them for agricultural potential. "Lands found to be valuable for public purposes will be considered chiefly valuable for public purposes (43 CFR 2430.2(b))." This determination will be made on a case-by-case basis by the District Manager.
3. Review all proposed disposals of public lands and retain any needed legal access to the remaining public lands.
4. Check boundaries of all expanding subdivisions and of isolated dwellings for encroachment onto public lands and take action as necessary.
5. Check utility lines, roads, communication sites, sanitary landfills, etc. for unauthorized use. If unauthorized uses are found, either authorize or abate them.

.42 Minerals

1. The following steps should be employed in eliminating hazards related to mining activities.
 - a. Identification of hazardous adits, shafts, tunnels, structures, and wastes.
 - b. Investigate ownership status of the hazardous site to determine responsibility for hazard reduction.
 - c. If mine workings are both accessible and safe, map the workings for geologic and hazards information.
 - d. Determine the best methods of hazard reduction (i.e. closure of adit or tunnel entries filling or fencing of shafts, contouring of waste piles, signing, etc.).
 - e. Publish in local newspaper for three consecutive weeks, location(s) and type(s) of hazardous condition(s) to be eliminated.
 - f. Eliminate hazards after legal notification.

Note: Due to scarce manpower and funds, Area Managers will have to determine which hazards should be eliminated and to what extent.

2. No activity that disturbs bedrock material or unconsolidated materials will be permitted in areas with known significant paleontological resources until a paleontological clearance has been conducted.

.43 Forest Products

1. Where mountain mahogany stands are adjacent to streams, heavy equipment and fire retardant will not be used. In other mountain mahogany stands, the use of fire retardant and heavy equipment will be used with caution and only with the approval of the Area Manager or resource advisor.

.44 Range Management - Wild Horses and Burros

1. As feasible and practical all waters that are available to wild horses and burros and cattle will remain available yearlong for wild horse and burro use.

Develop a water distribution system that is suited for horse use and compatible with wildlife use. All new water developments within HUAs will be required to apply this system. Exceptions may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis (e.g. deep wells requiring pump jacks and certain windmills outside of the livestock grazing season-of-use).

2. License domestic horses and burros only in those areas where such domestic animals would not be expected to mix with populations of wild horses and/or burros.

.45 Soil-Water-Air

1. Disposal recommendations within flood-prone areas will consider the implication of disposal as it is related to potential flooding and flood damage. Use of such disposed lands should avoid development which could risk significant loss of property or life.
2. Consider rehabilitating areas which have had protective vegetative cover destroyed by wildfire, flood, or mechanical disturbance. For wildfires, treatment should be initiated on the ground within 90 days of the fire. For others, action should begin as soon as possible after the event. Utilize seeding and other watershed stabilization techniques as required. Seed mixture should include native perennial grasses and/or exotic species which have previously been introduced into the ecosystem. Rehabilitation must be protected from grazing until adequate seedling establishment has been attained. A minimum of two years is normally required for seedling establishment.

3. Prevent any surface disturbing action or other management action which would result in the destruction of existing populations of federally listed or state listed endangered, threatened, or sensitive plant or any plant proposed for such status. Establish the locations of occurrence of plants of particular importance as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. Prevent Bureau and Bureau-authorized activities from degrading air quality beyond established standards as specified in the Nevada Ambient Air Quality Standards.

.46 Wildlife-Aquatic Wildlife

1. Protect sage grouse strutting grounds and give proper consideration to other sage grouse habitat by accepting as guidance Nevada Department of Wildlife's Guidelines For Vegetal Control Programs In Sage Grouse Habitat In Nevada. Nevada Department of Wildlife must be given a minimum of two years notice of any proposed large-scale vegetal manipulations in order that they might inventory the area for sage grouse use and thus provide appropriate input.

In addition, sage grouse strutting grounds and associated use areas must be given similar consideration and protection in the planning and permitting of other types of projects and uses (fences, pipelines, roads, gravel pits, rock gathering, powerline rights-of-way, land exchanges, mining, mineral leasing, etc.).

2. Provide water for wildlife at existing water sources by adhering to multiple use principles in the maintenance, use, and development of water sources on public land. This will be done by:
 - a. Developing only those water sources absolutely essential for meeting management objectives;
 - b. leaving water at the source of all water developments;
 - c. leaving pipelines operational in all years and in all seasons except where weather damage may occur;
 4. providing wildlife water outlets along pipelines at regular intervals where feasible;
 5. providing water at ground level at all troughs where feasible;
 6. installing escape ramps in all troughs;
 7. piping excess water at each trough into a fenced enclosure where feasible;
 8. not allowing diversion of water sources for other uses.

Exceptions may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis (e.g. deep wells requiring pump jacks and certain windmills outside of the grazing season-of-use).

3. Coordinate the development of new Habitat Management Plans (HMP) and revision of existing deficient ones, so that completion coincides or precedes completion of their companion Allotment Management Plans (AMP).
4. When carrying out large-scale crested wheatgrass seedings or herbicidal spray projects, wildlife areas to be given special consideration include, but are not limited to:

Big game concentration areas;

Big game wintering grounds;

Sage grouse habitat (follow NDOW Guidelines);

Riparian and wetland habitat;

Meadows;

Mountain browse vegetative types;

Raptor concentration areas, especially winter use areas.

Mitigating measures include, but are not limited to:

Leaving islands of undisturbed brush within manipulated areas;

Leaving strips of undisturbed brush along draws and gullies;

Leaving a buffer strip of undisturbed brush around meadows and water sources;

Making no disturbed area wider than 1/4 mile;

Disturbing any large areas in wide strips or irregular blocks;

Reseeding with seed mixtures containing desirable wildlife forage species;

Carefully considering the management scheme for vegetative manipulations in order not to produce pest havens.

5. Modify existing fences on public lands to minimize conflicts with wildlife.
6. Initiate any necessary fire rehabilitation measures immediately after suppression of fires affecting significant areas of important wildlife habitat. Significance and/or importance will be determined by the Area Manager, in consultation with the District and Area Wildlife Biologists.

Rehabilitation will be accomplished as outlined in BLM Draft Manual 7441, or its successors, and will include, but not be limited to the following:

Waterbarring of fire control lines;

Closure to livestock and/or wild horse use (allotment or pasture closure, or protective fencing);

Reseeding of burned areas (using native plant seed, if possible).

All rehabilitation projects will be fully coordinated with the range and Soil-Water-Air programs.

7. The District's Fire Management Plan will include provisions for conducting prescribed burns for the benefit of wildlife habitat.
8. All powerline rights-of-way granted in the future within raptor areas in the district will contain stipulations requiring that powerline support structures be designed to minimize the possibility of bird electrocution from contacting two or more wires simultaneously, or a hot wire and ground simultaneously. In addition, where feasible and possible, such rights-of-way will not be permitted within 400 yards of roads. This will minimize shooting of raptors perching on power poles.

Where possible, this recommendation also applies to existing rights-of-way when power companies apply for permits to modify existing lines. This standard operating procedure is not designed to limit access during the construction phase.

9. Protect from unnecessary disturbance or destruction all raptor nest sites that are presently active or which are known to have been active in the last five years.
10. Critical wildlife habitat will be retained in public ownership.
11. Exotic fish species will not be introduced into the water of the Winnemucca District except through specific agreements between BLM and NDOW and only after extensive analysis through the environmental assessment system. No exotic species will be introduced into those drainages containing endangered, threatened, or potentially threatened species. Mahogany Creek contains the Lahontan cutthroat trout which has been identified as a threatened species (URA). Warm springs in the Soldier Meadows basin contain the Soldier Meadows desert dace which have been proposed as an endangered species.
12. Fire lines will not be constructed by heavy equipment on riparian stream zones and fire retardant will not be applied to water.
13. Roads adjacent to all district streams will be water barred to prevent erosion.

.47 Recreation-Cultural Resources-Wilderness

1. Prior to disposal of public lands, the recreational value of the proposed parcel should be analyzed. Those parcels determined to have high recreation value should not be disposed of except to other public ownership under suitable recreation and public purpose disposals.
2. A visual contrast rating will be completed on all projects where there will be surface disturbance. The contrast rating will be included with the environmental assessment or categorical exclusion.
3. As manpower and funds are available, establish regular patrol of cultural resources, seeking to apprehend vandals who conduct illegal excavation or vandalism, and monitor activities of surface collectors.
4. By 1983 check all developed water sources for cultural resources. By 1988 modify those developments which are resulting in serious impacts.
5. Determine sources of deterioration and priorities for preservation through field checks of all cultural resource sites.
6. Complete an intensive (Class III) cultural resources survey prior to any activity which will result in new surface disturbance or transfer of land from public ownership.
7. Obtain data needed to fully assess significance of all archeological and historical resources. This should be accomplished under area level Cultural Resource Management Plans, and will be fully coordinated with all other activity plans for the area.
8. All Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) will be managed in accordance with the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines For Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP) of December 12, 1979.