



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
CARSON CITY DISTRICT OFFICE  
1535 Hot Springs Rd., Ste. 300  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

4130  
(NV-03480)

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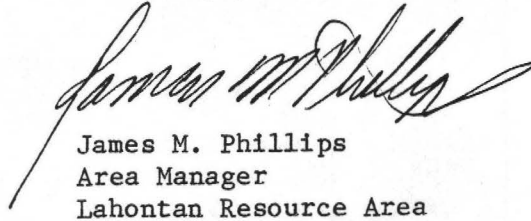
Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed you will find a Draft Copy of the Proposed Hole-In-The-Wall Allotment Agreement for your 30-day review and comments.

This review period will end on September 15, 1988, and your comments will be considered in the final Draft.

Thank you for your cooperation and input to our activity plan.

Sincerely yours,



James M. Phillips  
Area Manager  
Lahontan Resource Area

Hole-in-the-Wall Allotment

Grazing Agreement

Lahontan Resource Area  
Carson City District  
Bureau of Land Management

# Hole-in-the-Wall Allotment Grazing Agreement

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## Hole-in-the-Wall Grazing Agreement

### I. INTRODUCTION

This agreement documents the changes in livestock grazing use which results in a change in available livestock forage (active grazing preference) or changes in existing livestock grazing practices on the Hole-in-the-Wall Allotment.

The agreed upon changes in livestock use, as documented below, are made in order to achieve the management objectives for the public lands identified in the Lahontan Land Use Plan, which are specifically related to authorized livestock grazing use on the Hole-in-the-Wall Allotment.

This agreement was prepared in careful and considered consultation, cooperation, and coordination with Permittee Jerry Kelly, the Carson City District Grazing Advisory Board, and other affected interests.

### II. ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES & PLANNED ACTIONS

#### A. Allotment Objectives

The following Allotment Management Objectives are specific to this allotment and are based on potential resources available within the allotment. These objectives were established to meet goals of our multiple land use plan and are not specific to just livestock

management. With reference to the Lahontan Grazing Environmental Impact Statement of January 3, 1984, and the Lahontan Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) dated October 1985, and as clarified and refined in the 1988 Hole-in-the-Wall Allotment evaluation, the following objectives are to be considered in this Grazing Agreement.

1. Vegetation Objectives

- a. Maintain current ecological condition on key sites (stabilize sites). (Ref. to Allotment Evaluation 1988)
- b. Obtain proper utilization on key species in key areas, 55% current years growth on grasses, 50% on shrubs.
- c. Obtain proper spring growing season utilization on key grass species in key areas on 11/1 to no more than 25% current years growth.

2. Livestock Objectives

- a. Initially provide forage for the grazing preference of 2,675 AUMs. Long term cattle use will be determined through analysis of monitoring data and will be consistent with the attainment of vegetation and multiple use objectives. (Ref. to Allotment Evaluation 1988)

3. Wildlife Objectives

- a. Provide forage for reasonable numbers of deer (57 AUMs) in habitat rated in good condition.

b. Fence to protect two spring sources.

4. Wild Horse Objectives

a. Initially provide habitat for 155 horses in herd area (that portion within Carson City District). Long term horse use will be determined through analysis of monitoring data and will be consistent with the multiple use objectives for the allotment.

B. Planned Actions

To stabilize and maintain current ecological condition on key vegetation sites, a reduction in utilization is needed.

Since we cannot effectively rest any portion of the allotment from grazing use by wild horses, we must reduce use during the early greenup through seed ripe period (critical for the physiological needs of the plant) by reducing utilization levels during this period. Utilization levels at 11/1 will be managed and evaluated to allow no more than 25% use of key grass species on key areas. This level of use will be regulated by management of the numbers of wild horses within the allotment. The initial numbers of wild horses managed on the allotment will begin at 155 head. By evaluating the monitoring data and utilization rates wild horse numbers will be adjusted until vegetation objectives are met for this season of use. Future evaluations will allow us to identify the

proper number of wild horses which can use this habitat during this period of use and still accomplish the vegetation objectives. The second step is to accomplish a maximum 55% utilization on key grass species in all key areas at 4/1. This will be started by authorizing livestock use no earlier than 11/1 each season. This season of use by livestock if properly managed will not cause the key species any physiological harm if utilization rates are adhered to. Future evaluations during this period of use will show the combination of use by both wild horses and livestock and livestock numbers will be adjusted to accomplish the vegetation objectives for the allotment.

1. Grazing Practices

There is no systematic movement of livestock proposed, rather a method of use by cattle to achieve management objectives. This method is to divide the herd in approximately 1/3 and locate them on each of the three wells. Grazing use of the allotment will be based on the dependency of water (much like water base allotments). The three wells are; Tom's Well, T. 24 N., R. 38 E., Sec. 28, Hole-in-the-Wall Well No. 2, T. 23 N., R. 39 E., Sec. 2, and McCoy Mine Well, T. 23 N., R. 40 E., Sec. 16. To maximize use in each area, but remain within utilization levels all three wells must be serviceable during the grazing season and provide sufficient amounts of water during the period of 11/1-3/30. If for any reason sufficient water is not available at these sites, it is agreed that the authorized grazing use will be reduced for the remainder of the grazing year as

follows: For each inserviceable well, the cattle grazing use will be reduce by 1/3.

Additional water hauling is encouraged within the McCoy Well area to help extend use in this area and reduce utilization adjacent to waters. The permittee has full responsibility for the maintenance of these waters which are key to his operation and the success of meeting these management objectives.

To accomplish well dependability, each water will be improved by increasing the water storage capacity and additional troughs will be added. A water haul trough site will also be added to increase use on the northeast side of the allotment, presently showing slight use. (See Proposed Range Improvement Section).

a. Key Species

There are key species for both the Winter & Summer periods. These species are the primary grazing species for both wild horses and cattle on the allotment. The key species (decreasers) are also the indicators of current trend and range condition which have been reduced in the past due to heavy grazing use.

Our goal is to increase the frequency of these key plant species in identified key areas. This progress will be measured by ongoing monitoring performed by the permittee, BLM and other interested groups. These key



species are either the major plant species and/or associated species in the plant community and indicators of the potential native vegetation in each range site.

Key forage species and associated Key Species used to monitor utilization are:

Spring/Summer - Indian ricegrass, Thurber needlegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, \*Sandberg bluegrass, \*pine bluegrass and \*bud sagebrush.

Fall/Winter - Indian ricegrass, Thurber needlegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, \*Sandberg bluegrass, \*pine bluegrass, \*bud sagebrush, fourwing saltbush and winterfat.

Maximum allowed utilization for these key species during these seasons of use will be Spring/Summer 25% at key areas and Fall/Winter 55% at key areas for grasses and 50% for shrubs.

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\* Associated Key Species are: Vegetation species used to monitor grazing use of a key area when the primary key species is not present in sufficient amounts to properly sample, but is the species which must be increased to meet the long term management objectives.

The key areas and key species used in monitoring specific areas can be found in the Hole-in-the-Wall allotment monitoring plan as updated.

b. Phenology

Grasses begin to grow as early as March with all species greening up by April 15. By the end of May, all grass species are fully headed out and seedripe as early as June 1st. Unless there are late spring rains, these grasses will continue to cure leaving very little green by late July. Grasses are the primary vegetation used during this period. Use on shrub species begins when cattle are added to the allotment.

c. Flexibility

Flexibility in the grazing season length is limited due to the intensive management needed to limit utilization and maintain current ecological condition. No extension of the season of use on either end (November 1 to March 30) will be authorized nor will preference be exceeded under normal circumstances. Flexibility will be allowed upon request by the permittee to run less than full preference without jeopardizing his preference.

d. Authorized Grazing Use and Billing Procedures

Grazing use will be authorized and licensed for active grazing preference for the following:

535 Cattle - 11/1 to 3/31 - 100% Fed. Range = 2675 AUMs

This use is contingent upon adequate water being available at all wells. It is agreed that reduction in cattle grazing will be made if water is not available for each well which is not operational. The current years active use will be reduced by 1/3.

C. Monitoring

Monitoring studies as listed below, are designed to measure progress toward the achievement of the allotment management objectives. These studies serve as indicators of resource condition within the allotment. Each key area contains key vegetation species which will be the source of documented information that will be used to determine the effectiveness of this grazing agreement. Components of monitoring as outlined in the RPS include Actual Use, Utilization, Trend (photo trend, frequency transects) and climate. All monitoring methods are approved BLM procedures and will be done in accordance with the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook.

1. Studies

a. Actual Use

The permittee will keep accurate records of actual use made in each area (number of animals, dates entered, and dates removed) and submit the report to BLM within 15 days after the end of the authorized grazing period. This requirement will be a stipulation of, and will be listed at the bottom of, the grazing license.

The BLM will conduct actual use of the horse herd by yearly census for three years.

b. Utilization

Utilization studies will be conducted in the allotment and will be accomplished at least twice annually (before the livestock grazing period and at the end - 11/1 & 3/31).

These data will be used directly to develop use pattern maps.

c. Trend

There are two photo trend plots within the allotment which are photographed on a five-year cycle.

One frequency transect has been established in the allotment and is read on a five-year basis. These studies were established in accordance with BLM Technical Reference 4400-4, Quadrat Frequency Method and Photo Plot Method Pamphlet P-208.

d. Climate

Temperature and precipitation data will be collected as available at the nearest weather stations at Fallon and Lovelock for the allotment and will be accomplished on a yearly basis.

e. Use and Distribution Transects

As a form of study, road transects are in place which plots each type of animal use in an area (wild horse or cattle). These transect are run periodically to determine season of use and aids in use pattern mapping.

D. Proposed Range Improvements

The following Range Improvements are proposed to meet the land use objectives for the allotment. These improvements will allow us to better management of the resources within the allotment. The improvements are listed as to their importance in rangeland management and will be constructed in this order.

#4233 Hole-in-the-Wall Well #2-Cooperative

Agreement-Reconstruction

- . needs work on well to properly pump
- . install new 5,000 gallon storage tank
- . install new troughs with approx. 1,000 gal. capacity (3 troughs)
- . fence well & storage tank area

#4120 Tom's Well - Cooperative Agreement - Reconstruction

- . install 5,000 gallon storage tank
- . install troughs with approx. 1,000 gal. capacity (3 troughs)
- . fence to protect well and storage tank area

McCoy Mine Well - Cooperative Agreement - New Project

- . install new 5,000 gallon storage tank
- . install new troughs with approx. 1000 gallon capacity (3 troughs)
- . fence to protect well and storage tank area

Hole-in-the Wall Spring - Old Cooperative Agreement - New Project

- . install head box and pipeline to approx. 3 troughs
- . fence source - Permit No. 28249 Cert. #9237 - Dahl

Rose Spring Protection fence - (T. 24 N., R. 40 E., Sec. 6)

- . approximately one acre will be fenced around source

Water Haul - (T. 24 N., R. 40 E., Sec. 33)

- . Set three troughs

### III. EVALUATION

An evaluation of data from 1976 through the present has shown an excess of grazing use over the allotment as a whole. These data reflect use by both wild horses and livestock. Utilization from 1976 through the present shows use in excess of proper (55%) on key species in key areas. Licensed use since 1985 has been reduced, but key areas continue to show excessive use due to the buildup of the wild horse herd.

A current ecological condition status was run reflecting current status of seven key areas with the following results. Since the original conditioning in 1982, the range sites have not significantly changed. This is to be expected in the 4-8" precipitation zone. The sites remain in poor ecological condition.

There will be annual collections of the monitoring studies (actual use utilization and use pattern mapping, and climate data) to determine if any changes are needed in the management of wild horses or livestock. Use by cattle around the livestock watering area will be monitored to adjust usage and distribute this use between the 3 major waters. There will be a complete evaluation made in 3 years to document results of our management efforts towards meeting allotment objectives. Contained in the analysis will be the effectiveness of the grazing method by livestock and further recommendations on proper horse management levels to maintain habitat objectives. Any needed adjustments in use, either livestock or wild horses, would be identified and implemented. Another complete evaluation will be made in 5 years which would identify any further needed adjustments, followed by their implementation the following season.



Adjustments in the Authorized Preference or management levels of wild horses, if necessary, will be determined by evaluating the monitoring studies over a five-year period. The Area Manager will determine when there is adequate data available to warrant any adjustments in the authorized preference or management levels of wild horses.

Computation of overall utilization will be calculated by using the weighted average method, excluding areas livestock would be unable to use even after construction of range improvements. (Reference Page 52, Uniform Production Levels BLM TR 4400-7 Pamphlet P-209).

Based on the utilization figure, the Stocking Level will be computed using the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Actual Use}}{\text{Average or Weighted Average Utilization}} = \frac{\text{Potential Actual Use}}{\text{Desired Average Utilization}}$$

Actual Use is the number of animals that have used an area (pasture) for a specified period of time (days). Average or Weighted Average Utilization is the percent use that has occurred on the key plant species in each use class (no use, slight, light, moderate, heavy and severe) by acres and degree of use (%) of the key plant species desired for the use area (pasture) assuming uniform utilization. Potential Actual Use is the level of use (%) required to achieve the Desired Average Utilization assuming area (pasture) use to be uniform. (Reference Page 55, Potential Stocking Level, BLM 4400-7 Pamphlet P-209).



IV. GRAZING AGREEMENT ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL

We, the undersigned permittee and manager of the public lands within the Hole-in-the-Wall Allotment, concur and agree upon changes in available livestock forage and/or livestock use adjustments identified above are binding on any successor interest or future transferees with such modifications as approved or required by the authorized officer.

This agreement may be modified if data from range studies (monitoring) indicate that changes are necessary to meet the management objectives.

Authorized grazing privileges herein are subject to all provisions of the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4000).

PREPARED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
R. H. Wolfe  
Range Conservationist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ACCEPTED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Kelly  
Permittee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPROVED BY:

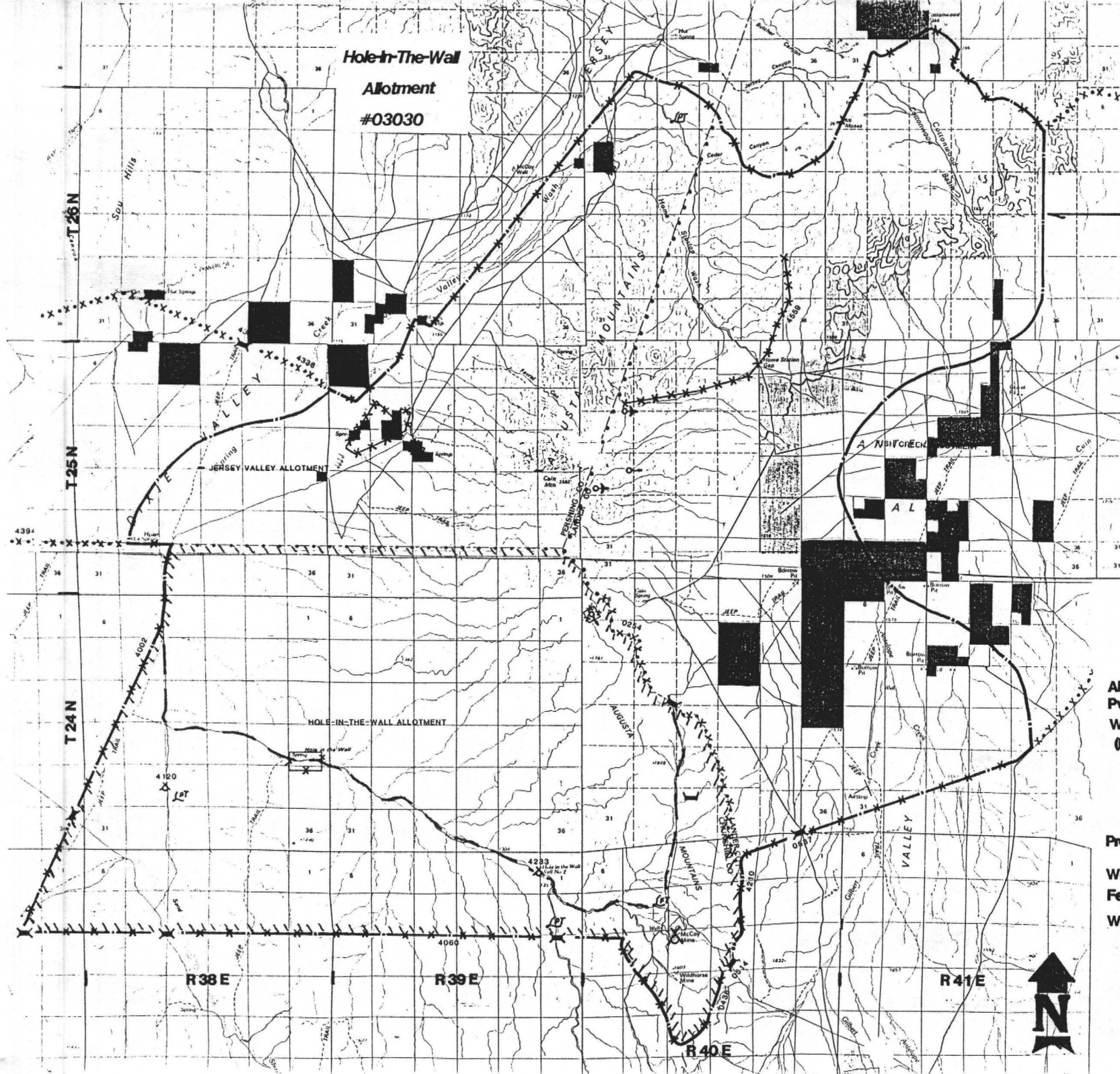
\_\_\_\_\_  
James M. Phillips  
Area Manager  
Lahontan Resource Area

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date




Hole-In-The-Wall

Allotment



#03030



Herd Management Area Boundary (HMA)

Allotment Boundary   
Pvt. Lands   
WSA Boundary (in allotment) 

Proposed Projects

Wells   
Fences   
Water Haul 