

M 9/15/88

signed  
9/15/88

1. Allotment Information

A. Rodeo Creek (0129) Permittee: Ceresola  
Category (1) Priority (4)

B. Allotment Description

The allotment is located in northern Washoe County with the northern perimeter near Gerlach, Nevada.

The typical physiographic features of the allotment are the high elevation north-south trending Fox and Lake Ranges to the valley floors of the San Emidio, Black Rock and Smoke Creek deserts. The allotment is approximately 25 miles long in a north-south direction and 16 miles wide in a west-east direction.

Vegetation types in the allotment include those from the greasewood-saltbush flats to the sagebrush-Bluegrass-needlegrass vegetative types at the higher elevations.

<u>Land Status</u>		
<u>Public Land</u>		<u>Other Land</u>
193,402 (Acres) 97%		5,373 (Acres) 3% 198,775

C. Livestock Use

1. Total Preference 9,336 (AUMs)  
Active Preference 6,462  
Susp. Preference 2,874

2. season-of-use Yearlong  
03/01-02/28

3. Kind and Class of Livestock Use  
Cow/calf

4. Grazing System

Grazing management is a rest rotation grazing system under a two pasture, winter and summer use area. The period-of-use is yearlong. Grazing treatment is as follows:

Grazing Treatment		Rodeo Creek Allotment									
<hr/>											
5/1	6/1	7/1	8/1	9/1	10/1	11/1	12/1	1/1	2/1	3/1	4/1
Graze Fox Range (5/1-10/31)						Graze east side					
Summer Use Area						(11/1-4/30) Winter Use Area					
835 C						150 C					
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The summer use area is the Fox Range on the west side. The winter use area is the east side and includes the San Fidio Desert, the southern portion of the Black Rock Desert and the Lake Range. There is not an AMP for the allotment.

The majority of livestock use occurs during the late spring-summer-early fall season-of-use. During the period (05/01-10/31) 835 cattle graze in the Fox Mountain summer use area. During the winter early spring period cattle numbers drop to 150 Head for the period (11-1-4/30). Winter use occurs in the east portion of the allotment.

Active grazing preference is 6462 AUMs. For the period 1978-1987 licensed use in the Rodeo Creek Allotment was consistently below active preference. Licensed use has been stable and has ranged from 5153 AUMs to 5851 over the 10 year period except in 1987 where use was 4169 AUMs. Estimated wild horse numbers for the period 1983 to 1987 have varied from 371 numbers to 787.

Based on licensed use dating back to 1981, 835 cattle were licensed during the summer period (5/01-10/31) and 150 cattle licensed during winter (11/1-4/30). The combination of cattle and wildhorse numbers alone total 1200 or more animals utilizing the summer country over the period 1983-1986. The majority of grazing use on the allotment occurs in the summer use area.

Licensed Use (1981-1988)

Total AUMs for Year	
1978/79	5851
1979/80	5851
1980/81	5257
1981/82	5257
1982/83	5153
1983/84	5851
1984/85	5851
1985/86	5851
1986/87	5010
1987/88	4169

D. Allotment Objectives

1. Short Term

- a. Utilization of key plant species in 596 acres of wetland riparian habitat shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan. (WL-1.10)

- b. Total utilization of antelope bitterbrush (POTR2) shall not exceed 50% and 40% on quaking aspen (POTR5) except when adjusted by an approved activity plan. (WL-1.7) and WL-1.9)
- c. Maintain an acceptable allowable use level on key forage species that will provide a sustained yield.

Key forage species whose use serves as an indicator to the degree of use of associated species; or those species which must, because of their importance, be considered in a management program.

## 2. Long Term

- a. Improve to and maintain the condition of 596 acres of wetland riparian habitat type to good or better. (WL-1.10)
- b. Protect sage grouse strutting grounds and nesting wintering habitat and improve brooding habitat by: (WL-1.11)
  - 1) Following NDOW's guidelines for Vegetal Control Programs in Sage Grouse Habitat in Nevada.
  - 2) Maintain sagebrush canopy at 30% in sage grouse nesting and wintering areas where sagebrush does not exceed (3) feet in height.
- c. Manage, maintain and improve public rangeland habitat condition to provide forage on a sustained yield basis, with an initial forage demand for big game of 177 AUMs for mule deer, 137 AUMs for pronghorn and 150 AUMs for bighorn sheep by:
  - 1) Improve or maintaining Fox Range DY-1 (16,224 acres) mule deer habitat to good condition.
  - 2) Improving or maintaining Fox Range AY-5 (38,100 acres) pronghorn habitat to good condition.
  - 3) Improving or maintaining Fox Range BY-3 (32,530 acres) potential California bighorn habitat at 75% of optimum.
  - 4) Improve bitterbrush from severely hedged form class to lightly hedged form class.
- d. Manage, maintain and improve rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis with an initial stocking level of 6,462 AUMs.
- e. Improve range/ecological condition 1/ from: poor to fair on 162,458 acres fair to good on 27,076 acres good to excellent on 1,934 acres.

- f. Manage, maintain and improve public rangeland conditions to provide an initial level of 4,020 AMLs of forage on a sustained yield basis for 335 (AMLs) 2/ wild horses in the Fox and Lake Range Herd Use Area.

1/ The range/ecological conditions in this document are forage condition that will be replaced with ecological status condition as information becomes available. The objective will be redefined/ quantified to obtain a particular ecological status when site potential and identified uses are combined to meet vegetative objectives.

2/ AML refer to adult horses and burros (i.e. two years or older).

- g. Maintain and improve the free-roaming behavior of wild horses and burros by protecting and enhancing their home range.
- h. Maintain/Improve wild horse/burro habitat by assuring free access to water.

E. Monitoring Data

1. Climatological Data

Four weather stations are available for data; Leonard Creek, Dufurrena Ponds, Dry Canyon RAWS station and Denio.

Leonard Creek station is located approximately 15 miles northeast of Soldier Meadows Ranch. Dufurrena station is located approximately 30 miles west of Denio on Sheldon Antelope range.

The Remote Automated Weather Systems (RAWS) meteorological station (Dry Canyon) is approximately nine miles north of Soldier Meadows Ranch on the west side of the Black Rock Range at an elevation of 4,900'.

The following table depicts moisture received at Leonard Creek Station for the period 1977-1987.

Leonard Creek Station

Year	Precipitation in Inches		Departure From Normal*	
	Growing Season	Annual Total	Growing Season	Annual
1977	4.33	8.23	+ .09	-1.99
1978	4.81	10.20	+ .57	- .02
1979	5.84	12.26	+1.60	+2.04
1980	3.45	8.55	- .79	-1.67
1981	4.29	11.43	+ .05	+1.21
1983	6.94	17.74	+2.70	+7.52

1986	3.00	8.50	-1.24	-1.72
1987	2.49	6.82	-1.76	-3.40
1988	4.85	9.60	+ .61	-.62

\* - Normal = 10 year average = 10.22" Annual  
= 4.24" Growing Season

The following chart depicts moisture received at Dry Creek (RAWS) station since July 1986 when it was established and compares readings with those at Denio, Nevada.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1986 (RAWS)								.0	.7	-	.1	.3	1.2
1986 (Denio)				2.05	1.68	.69	.00	.08	.24				
1987 (RAWS)	.9	.6	.7	1.3	2.7	1.1	.1	.0	.4	.3	.3	.3	8.7
1987 (Denio)			1.17	1.05		2.61	.61	T					

The following chart depicts moisture received at Dufurrena Ponds for the period 1977-1985.

#### Dufurrena Ponds

Year	Precipitation in Inches
1977	7.35
1978	10.33
1979	11.10
1980	8.18
1981	7.19
1982	4.13
1983	11.18
1984	10.77
1985	3.53
1986	8.56
1987	

The 10 year average = 8.23 Annual

#### 2. Utilization

Utilization data in the winter country indicates use is generally below AULs. However, moderate and heavy use has occurred in the White Sage Flat area and in Rodeo Creek Canyon area. No data is available for the Summer Use area. Based on field observation from SLS and wild horse inventory personnel moderate and heavy use has occurred in the Fox Range repeatedly over the past several years (1977-1987).

#### 3. Trend

Trend data has been collected at two exclosure sites. The Rodeo Creek data indicates a decreasing trend for the period (1978-1981). The Rattlesnake Canyon data indicates changes are erratic being both up and down and are inconclusive for the period (1978-1981).

4. Habitat Inventory and Evaluation

a. Inventory

No baseline data has been collected since the general overview provided for the Sonoma-Gerlach Grazing EIS. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), however, has reported in their big game investigations and hunting season recommendations the habitat continues to be in fair to poor condition. Although 35,907 acres of sage grouse habitat has been delineated in the allotment no strutting grounds or specific brood areas have been identified to the BLM.

5. Past Inventories

Sonoma-Gerlach EIS Condition and Trend

The estimated ecological range condition class as cited from the Sonoma-Gerlach EIS for the Rodeo Creek Allotment is as follows:

Total Acres	<u>Range Condition Class</u>							
	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor	
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
193,402	1,934	1%	1934	1%	27,076	14%	162,458	84%

The estimated trend as indicated from the Sonoma-Gerlach EIS is as follows:

Total Acres	<u>Trend Direction</u>		
	Upward Acres	Stable Acres	Downward Acres
193,402	0	0	193,402 (100%)

F. Management Actions

1. Wild Horse and Burros

A total of 790 head have been removed from Rodeo Creek Allotment.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Animals Removed</u>
1980	312
1986	478

Population Data (Wild Horse and Burro)

	Est July 1983 #	Est July 1984 #	Est July 1985 #	Est July 1986 #	Census June 86 #	Est 1/87 after gather	Est July 1987 #	Est July 1988 #
Rodeo Creek	371/1	412/1	457/1	508/1	787	442	491	545

2. Fox and Lake Range Herd Management Area (HMA) includes the Rodeo Creek and Pole Canyon Allotments.

	<u>AML</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>% HMA</u>
Rodeo Creek	334/1	4,020	92
Pole Canyon	100	1,200	8
Total	434/1	5,220	100%

3. Change in Wildlife Populations

No specific population data are available for this allotment. Present estimates, however, indicate 334 AUMs demand for mule deer, 210 AUMs for pronghorn and 0 for bighorn sheep.

## II. Management Evaluation

### A. Short Term

1. Utilization of key plant species in 596 acres of wetland riparian habitat shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan. (WL-1.10)

The purpose of this objective is to determine progress toward achievement of long term goal 2b(1) and to help determine progress toward achievement of long term goal 2b(2).

SCS and wild horses inventory personnel report moderate to heavy use in the Fox Range, but no data has been gathered on the wetland riparian sites.

2. Total utilization shall not exceed 50% for antelope bitterbrush (PUTR2) and 40% on quaking aspen (POTR5) except where adjusted by an approved activity plan. (WL-1.7 and WL-1.9).

The purpose of this objective is to determine progress toward the attainment of long term goal 2b(3). Utilization on PUTR2 and POTR5 has not been determined.

3. Maintain an acceptable allowable use level on key forage species what will provide a sustained yield.

Use Pattern Mapping and utilization data are not available for the summer use country. Use Pattern Mapping and utilization data in the winter country indicates use levels are below AUL's



except in White Sage Flat and Kodeso Creek Canyon. Utilization data is not available to quantify the achievement of this objective.

4. Improve range/ecological condition 1/ from poor to fair on 162,450 acres and from fair to good on 27,076 acres and good to excellent on 1,934 acres.

1/ The range/ecological conditions in this document are forage condition that will be replaced with ecological status condition as information becomes available. The objective will be redefined/quantified to obtain a particular ecological status when site potential and identified uses are combined to meet vegetative objectives.

#### B. Long Term

1. Improve or maintain the condition of 596 acres of wetland riparian habitat from early seral to late seral or higher. (WL-1.10)

No baseline or trend data are available to evaluate this objective.

2. Protect sage grouse strutting grounds and nesting and wintering habitat and improve brooding habitat by: (WL-1.11)
  - a. Following NDOW's guidelines for Vegetal Control Programs in Sage Grouse Habitat in Nevada.
  - b. Maintain sagebrush canopy cover at 30% in sage grouse nesting areas where sagebrush does not exceed (3) feet in height.

No baseline or trend data are available to evaluate achievement of this objective. Higher utilization could be a benefit to brooding areas providing the meadows are not disappearing while sagebrush canopy in nesting habitat is probably being helped by over utilization of the understory. However, higher utilization of the understory will lower nesting success.

3. Manage, maintain and improve public rangeland habitat condition to provide forage on a sustained yield basis, with an initial forage demand for big game of 177 AUMs for mule deer, 137 AUMs for pronghorn and 150 AUMs for bighorn sheep by:
  - a. Improving or maintaining Fox Range DY-1 (16,224 acres) mule deer habitat to good condition.
  - b. Improving or maintaining Fox Range AY-5 (38,100 acres) pronghorn habitat to good condition.
  - c. Improving and maintaining Fox Range BY-3 (32,530 acres) potential California bighorn habitat at 75c% of optimum.



No baseline or trend data are available to evaluate if the objective is being achieved.

4. Improve bitterbrush from severely hedged form class to lightly hedged form class.

A special report completed 1980 showed heavy utilization of bitterbrush throughout the allotment. No additional data has been collected.

Heavy utilization of forage throughout the allotment could be an indication of overly high mule deer and pronghorn populations as well as livestock grazing practices and excessive wild horse and burro numbers. (Personal communication Dobel and Armentrout).

5. Manage, maintain and improve rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis with an initial stocking level of 6,462 AUMs.

Trend data indicates that for the period (1978-1981) at Rodeo Creek Enclosure trend is decreasing while at Rattlesnake Canyon trend is erratic in change. Although trend data has not been collected since 1981, the grazing system has not changed and conditions are probably continuing in the same direction. Utilization data is not available to evaluate achievement of this objective.

6. Manage, maintain and improve public rangeland conditions to provide an initial level of 4,020 AUMs of forage on a sustained yield basis for 335 (AML's) 1/ wild horses in the Fox and Lake Range Herd Use Area.

The Appropriate Management Level for the Fox and Lake Range HMA was established in July 1982. Herd numbers have been above AML since 1982, ranging from 11% to 135% above AML in the Rodeo Creek Allotment. This objective has not been met.

A post removal census conducted after the 1986 horse removal showed the Rodeo Creek portion of the Fox and Lake Range HMA to be 107 animals above AML. However, the Pole Canyon portion of the HMA was 49 head below AML. The AML for the whole HMA after the 1986 removal was exceeded by 58 horses (13% above AML).

7. Maintain and improve the free-roaming behavior of wild horses by protecting and enhancing their home ranges.

Range improvements and other developments have not restricted the free roaming behavior of the wild horses and burros within the allotment. The objective has been met.

8. Maintain and improve wild horse habitat by assuring free access to water.

Wild horses and burros within the allotment have free access to all waters. The objective has been met.

### III. Conclusion

- A. Based on field observations it appears that the upland and wetland riparian utilization objectives are not being met.
- B. Use pattern mapping on the winter range show that the objectives are being met except for White Sage Flat and Rodeo Creek Canyon.
- C. Wild horse numbers are above AMLs.

### IV. Recommendations

- A. No recommendations can be made based on existing data. However, the livestock permittee has recognized the imbalance between summer and winter use areas and will agree to the following modifications:

1. A five year reduction in the active preference from 6,462 AUMs to 5,816 AUMs and reduce livestock numbers in the summer country. The 10% reduction would total 646 AUMs. The yearlong stocking rate at 10% reduction would be 485 cattle. Livestock use will then maintain 485 cattle yearlong rather than changing numbers in the summer and winter use areas. The 485 cattle would be a reduction from past use in the summer country from 835 cattle. This would increase numbers in the winter country from the historical use of approximately 150. This management change would reduce stocking level in the summer country where a reduction is needed, but would increase use in the winter country where forage can withstand more grazing pressure.

2. Maintain the past winter and summer use areas and initiate use in the spring area. Make use as follows;

Turnout will be made in the winter use area of the Rodeo Creek Allotment. The winter use area includes the eastern portion of the Rodeo Creek Allotment and that area east of the Fox Range to include the San Emidio Desert, the Lake Range and the southern portion of the Black Rock Desert.

For the period 05/01 - 05/30 cattle will utilize the spring use area which includes the foothills of the Fox Range along both the east and west sides.

On 06/01 cattle will be moved into the summer use area which includes the high country of the Fox Range and will remain on the Fox Range until 10/30.

On 11/01 cattle will be moved back to the winter use area as described above and will remain until 04/30.

Range Improvements will continue to be identified for better distribution and livestock control in all areas. Livestock

will be distributed and controlled by horseback and placement of mineral supplements during the grazing period to achieve even distribution and proper utilization levels. This will reduce the concentration of animals on White Sage Flat and Rodeo Creek Canyon.

3. Develop and AMP for the allotment.
4. Allow habitat types in key sage grouse brooding areas to improve to good or better and then graze to the benefit of sage grouse within the prescribed grazing schedule.
5. Remove wild horses from the HMA in the allotment to AML's.

V. Monitoring and Inventory Needs

A. Monitoring

1. Actual Use
2. Utilization/Use Pattern Mapping
3. Trend
4. Wild horse distribution and seasonal movements and population estimates.
5. Complete Habitat Suitability Index
6. Collect climate data from existing stations
7. Water quality

B. Inventory

1. Wildlife habitat condition
2. Ecological Status
3. Riparian/Wetland/Aspen Condition
4. Soil Survey

VI. General Information

- A. The following documents have been reviewed for the evaluation:
1. Sonoma-Gerlach Environmental Impact Statement (1981).
  2. Sonoma-Gerlach Land Use Plan/MFP III.
  3. Sonoma-Gerlach RPS.

4. Sonoma-Gerlach BPA and W&B Inventory and Population estimate records.
5. Rodeo Creek Study File.
6. Winnemucca District Coordinated Monitoring Plan.
7. Evans, Carol. 1986. Effects of Cattle Grazing on Sage Grouse Use on Meadows in the Sheldon NWR. Thesis.
8. Wildlife Habitat in Managed Rangelands - The Great Basin of Southeastern Oregon.
9. Sonoma-Gerlach RA Method for Evaluating and Monitoring Riparian Habitat in Relation to Terrestrial Needs.
10. Bighorn Sheep Habitat Monitoring Plan for Sonoma-Gerlach R.A.
11. BLM Manual Supplement 6630-Big Game Studies.
12. Armentrout & Gardetto. Habitat Suitability Rating System for California Bighorn Sheep.

B. Participants involved with this evaluation:

1. Area Manager - Gerald Brandvold
2. Supervisory Range Conservationist - Paul Jancar
3. Range Conservationist - Chris Mayer
4. Wildlife Biologist - Don Armentrout
5. Wild Horse Specialists - Tom Seley/Dick Wheeler
6. District Wildlife Biologist - Dennis Tol
7. District Range Staff Officer - Ron Kay

AGREEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND CHANGES IN  
AVAILABLE LIVESTOCK FORAGE AND LIVESTOCK  
GRAZING USE ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE  
RODEO CREEK ALLOTMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

This agreement is based on the Rodeo Creek Allotment Evaluation dated \_\_\_\_\_ and documents the changes in existing livestock grazing practices on the Rodeo Creek allotment.

The agreed upon changes in livestock use, as documented below, are made in order to achieve the management objectives for the public lands under Bureau of Land Management control identified in the Sonoma-Gerlach land use plan, which are specifically related to authorized livestock grazing use on the Rodeo Creek allotment.

This agreement was prepared in consultation cooperation, and coordination with affected permittee, Stan Ceresola.

II. ALLOTMENT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION, AND EVALUATION OF EXISTING MONITORING DATA

A. Allotment Objectives

1. Short Term

- a. Utilization of key plant species in 596 acres of wetland riparian habitat shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan. (WL-1.10)
- b. Total utilization of antelope bitterbrush (PUTR2) shall not exceed 50% and 40% on quaking aspen (POTR5) except where adjusted by an approved activity plan. (WL-1.7) and WL-1.9)
- c. Maintain an acceptable allowable use level on key forage species 1/ that will provide a sustained yield.

1/ Key forage species whose use serves as an indicator to the degree of use of associated species; or those species which must, because of their importance, be considered in a management program.

2. Long Term

- a. Improve to and maintain the condition of 596 acres of wetland riparian habitat type to good or better. (WL-1.10)
- b. Protect sage grouse strutting grounds and nesting wintering habitat and improve brooding habitat by: (WL-1.11)
  - 1) Following NDOW's guidelines for Vegetal Control Programs in Sage Grouse Habitat in Nevada.

- 2) Maintain sagebrush canopy at 30% in sage grouse nesting and wintering areas where sagebrush does not exceed (3) feet in height.
- c. Manage, maintain and improve public rangeland habitat condition to provide forage on a sustained yield basis, with an initial forage demand for big game of 177 AUMs for mule deer, 137 AUMs for pronghorn and 150 AUMs for bighorn sheep by:
    - 1) Improve or maintaining Fox Range DY-1 (16,224 acres) mule deer habitat to good condition.
    - 2) Improving or maintaining Fox Range AY-5 (38,100 acres) pronghorn habitat to good condition.
    - 3) Improving or maintaining Fox Range BY-3 (32,530 acres) potential California bighorn habitat at 75% of optimum.
    - 4) Improve bitterbrush from severely hedged form class to lightly hedged form class.
  - d. Manage, maintain and improve rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis with an initial stocking level of 6,462 AUMs.
  - e. Improve range/ecological condition 1/ from: poor to fair on 162,458 acres fair to good on 27,076 acres good to excellent on 1,934 acres.
  - f. Manage, maintain and improve public rangeland conditions to provide an initial level of 4,020 AUMs of forage on a sustained yield basis for 335 (AMLs) 2/ wild horses in the Fox and Lake Range Herd Use Area.
    - 1/ The range/ecological conditions in this document are forage condition that will be replaced with ecological status condition as information becomes available. The objective will be redefined/ quantified to obtain a particular ecological status when site potential and identified uses are combined to meet vegetative objectives.
    - 2/ AML refer to adult horses and burros (i.e. two years or older).
  - g. Maintain and improve the free-roaming behavior of wild horses and burros by protecting and enhancing their home range.
  - h. Maintain/Improve wild horse/burro habitat by assuring free access to water.

A. From (Description of Existing Use)

1. Kind, Class and number of Livestock:

Cow-calf	Cattle
835 C	(05/01 - 10/31)
150 C	(11/01 - 04/30)

2. Period of Use:

03/01 - 02/28 Yearlong

3. The Allotment to be Used:

Rodeo Creek Allotment

4. The Amount of Use (AUMs):

Total Preference	9,336 (AUMs)
Active Preference	6,462
Susp. Preference	2,874

5. Percent Federal Range:

99%

6. Grazing System

Grazing management is a rest rotation grazing system under a two pasture, winter and summer use area. The period-of-use is yearlong. Grazing treatment is as follows:

Grazing Treatment											Rodeo Creek Allotment			
5/1	6/1	7/1	8/1	9/1	10/1	11/1	12/1	1/1	2/1	3/1	4/1			
Graze Fox Range (5/1-10/31)						Graze east side								
Summer Use Area						(11/1-4/30) Winter Use Area								
835 C						150 C								

The summer use area is the Fox Range on the west side. The winter use area is the east side and includes the San Emidio Desert, the southern portion of the Black Rock Desert and the Lake Range.

The majority of livestock use occurs during the late spring-summer-early fall season-of-use. During the period (05/01-10/31) 835 cattle graze in the Fox Mountain summer use area. During the winter early spring period cattle numbers drop to 150 Head for the period (11-1-4/30). Winter use occurs in the east portion of the allotment.



Active grazing preference is 6462 AUMs. Licensed use has been stable and has ranged from 5153 AUMs to 5851 over the 10 year period except in 1987 where use was 4169 AUMs. Estimated wild horse numbers for the period 1983 to 1987 have varied from 371 numbers to 787.

Based on licensed use dating back to 1981, 835 cattle were licensed during the summer period (5/01-10/31) and 150 cattle licensed during winter (11/1-4/30). The combination of cattle and wildhorse numbers alone total 1200 or more animals utilizing the summer country over the period 1983-1986. The majority of grazing use on the allotment occurs in the summer use area.

7. Wildlife

No specific wildlife population data area available for this allotment. Present estimates, however, indicate 334 AUMs demand for mule deer, 210 AUMs for pronghorn and 0 for bighorn sheep.

8. Wild horses

Population Data  
Est. July 1987

Est. July 1988

491

545

B. To (Description of Agreed Upon Changes)

1. Kind, Class, and Number of Livestock:

Cattle        cow/calf  
485 C

2. Period of Use:

No change  
03/01 - 02/28    Yearlong

3. The Allotment to be Used:

Rodeo Creek Allotment

4. The Amount of Use AUMs:

Total Preference        9,336  
Suspended Preference    3,520  
Active Preference        5,816

5. Percent Federal Range:

100%

## 6. Grazing System

Initiate a five year reduction in the active preference from 6,462 AUMs to 5,816 AUMs and reduce livestock numbers in the summer country. The five year reduction will be for the period (04/01/88 - 02/28/93). The 10% reduction would total 646 AUMs. The yearlong stocking rate at 10% reduction would be 485 cattle. Livestock use will then maintain 485 cattle yearlong rather than changing numbers in the summer and winter use areas. The 485 cattle would be a reduction from past use in the summer country from 835 cattle. This would increase numbers in the winter country from the historical use of approximately 150. This management change would reduce stocking level in the summer country where a reduction is needed, but would increase use in the winter country where forage can withstand more grazing pressure.

Grazing management would be a rest-rotation grazing system under a three use area system.

Maintain the past winter and summer use areas and initiate use in the spring area. Make use as follows;

Turnout will be made in the winter use area of the Rodeo Creek Allotment. The winter use area includes the eastern portion of the Rodeo Creek Allotment and that area east of the Fox Range to include the San Emidio Desert, the Lake Range and the southern portion of the Black Rock Desert.

For the period 05/01 - 05/30 cattle will utilize the spring use area which includes the foothills of the Fox Range along both the east and west sides.

On 06/01 cattle will be moved into the summer use area which includes the high country of the Fox Range and will remain on the Fox Range until 10/30.

On 11/01 cattle will be moved back to the winter use area as described above and will remain until 04/30.

Range Improvements will continue to be identified for better distribution and livestock control in all areas. Livestock will be distributed and controlled by horseback and placement of mineral supplements during the grazing period to achieve even distribution and proper utilization levels. This will reduce the concentration of animals on White Sage Flat and Rodeo Creek Canyon.

Foothills of Fox Spring Spring Use Area	Graze 05/01 to 05/30 485 C		REST
Fox Range Summer Use Area	REST	Graze 06/01 to 10/30 485 C	REST
East Portion Winter Use Area		REST	Graze 11/01 to 04/30 485 C

IV. SPECIFIC MONITORING PROGRAM

- A. Utilization and actual use studies will be conducted annually to determine whether or not utilization levels on key species are exceeding proper use levels identified in the objectives.
- B. Frequency and production studies will be read to evaluate trend and ecological condition.
- C. An evaluation will be conducted in 5 years (1993) to analyze the changes in management described in this agreement.

V. FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS

An evaluation will be conducted in 5 years (1993) to analyze the results of the changes made in management described in this agreement and at this time a change in management and/or preference may be made.

VI. AUTHORITY

43 CFR 4110.3-3, 4130-6

VII. The agreed 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.

VIII. SIGNATURES

Steve Gerlach

9/15/88  
Date

Sherald Brandvold  
Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area Manger

9/15/88  
Date