



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT OFFICE
705 EAST 4TH STREET
WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA 89445

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TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA
IN REPLY REFER TO:
4120.7
(NV-026.12)

February 8, 1988

Dear Steering Committee Member:

Please find enclosed for your review, a copy of the Little Owyhee CRMP Technical Review Team (TRT) recommendations.

These issues and recommendations will be discussed at the Steering Committee meeting at 10:00 A.M., February 18th, at the county extension office.

Sincerely,

Scott Billing
Scott Billing
Area Manager, Paradise-Denio

Enclosure

Little Owyhee CRMP
Technical Review Team (TRT)
October 20-21, 1987

Purpose:

To review and discuss the following issues as they relate to achieving the Little Owyhee allotment CRMP planning objectives.

Issues (related CRMP objective) and Recommendations

1. Criteria for determining spring turnout and possibly modifying the pasture turnout schedule for that range (Objective #2).

TRT Rec. - BLM will determine turn out date in conjunction with permittee. At the permittees request, a date for field examination and evaluation for turn out will be set. The turn out date could be earlier or later than current date of April 1st. The recommendation of the TRT is that an earlier turnout is often desirable, and few conflicts are present with an earlier turnout in most years. It is also recommended that the following concerns be considered in that inspection:

1. Soil Moisture
2. Number and where cows are turned out (stagger)
3. Competition with pronghorn and wild horses (winter concentration areas)
4. Water availability
5. Phenology of key species. (Prior years use and current years growth stage)

2. Water development, alternatives, potential sites (Objective #5, #7).

Recommendations:

1. Utilize existing water sources
 - a. Use pipelines, spring developments and wells to maximum capacity.
 - b. Maintain existing reservoirs
 - Develop cooperative effort between CPWH (Heil Commission), Permittee, Nevada First Corp. and BLM.
 - Identify areas that benefit wild horses, livestock and wildlife and determine funding requirements.
 - correlate use patterns and horse use areas with development locations.
3. Riparian and meadow use patterns and heavy utilization (Objective #7).

Recommendation:

Table specific concerns or recommendations until allotment evaluation is completed. Any recommendations will be contingent upon development of key area riparian objectives and progress towards meeting them.

However, it is recommended that the summer pastures be the 1st priority area for wild horse removals. The summer pastures are outside of the herd management area and contain the majority of the riparian areas.

4. Potential areas for vegetative manipulation (prescribed burning/spraying) (Objective #7).

Recommendation:

Potential exists for vegetative manipulation due to vast monotypes of vegetation. There are currently adequate amounts of forage for livestock and horses, however there is a problem with availability due to lack of water. Any initial benefits would be from removing monotypes and possibly increase of forb species. This would have a primary benefit to wildlife. The possibilities for vegetative manipulation is recognized but is of secondary importance to increasing distribution and water development.

5. Winter use (Objective #2).

Winter Use

Charley Amos' proposal for winter use is for 500 cows from 11/15 to the following spring turn-out date. The cows would be split with 250 cows in a pasture. Charley's proposed areas for winter use are:

Lake Creek Pasture - entire pasture
Twin Valley Pasture - very limited - southern end
Fairbanks Pasture - southern end

The following are the conflicts, concerns and possible benefits expressed by the group:

1. Winter use may allow the flexibility to bring cows off the summer pastures earlier. This would be by having to feed less hay and having more forage available on private land in the summer. This may benefit riparian areas. This trade off could be monitored, but it may or may not be evident due such factors as growing seasons, climatic conditions, etc. which could effect the production of forage on both public and private land.
2. Possible concerns with competition between horses, cattle and wildlife.
3. Possible problems with adjudication as spring and summer range and now going to winter.
4. Concerns with livestock management
 - cows must be moved from winter areas at onset of growth of key species.
 - should have flexibility that cattle would be moved within two weeks.
 - movements would be directed as per grazing schedule.

5. Winter use may effect spring turn out date.
6. Access to area from weather conditions
- pumping wells, cattle moves, etc.
7. Possible benefit with better distribution of horses due to wells being pumped in winter.
8. How does winter use impact allotment objectives.

After the discussion of these issues a grazing system was proposed which would entail using a two pasture flip-flop system for winter use, for 500 cows (Figure 1). This would be in the Lake Creek and Fairbanks pastures. The following is an example of how the grazing scheme would work.

Figure 1. Proposed grazing scheme to incorporate winter use within the Spring pastures of the Little Owyhee allotment.

1. Winter Use Area - Fairbanks pasture

That lower elevation area which exists south of the rim in the Mud and Whiskey Springs area of the Fairbanks pasture.

2. Winter use Area - Lake Creek pasture

The southern end of the Lake Creek pasture in the vicinity of McCleary #1 and #2 wells.

	Year							
Pasture	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Fairbanks Spring	Hvy	Light	Rest	Hvy	Light	Rest	Continued	
Lake Creek Spring	Rest	Hvy	Light	Rest	Hvy	Light		
Twin Valley Spring	Light	Rest	Hvy	Light	Rest	Hvy		
Fairbanks Winter	Rest	500 hd	Rest	500 hd	Rest	500 hd		
Lake Creek Winter	500 hd	Rest	500 hd	Rest	500 hd	Rest		

Hvy = Approximately 1,750 head

Light = Approximately 750 head

Rest = Rest during Season of Use for entire grazing season

Livestock would have to be moved from winter use area to spring turnout area unless they can be naturally distributed due to spring turnout in the same pasture.

Winter use would allow flexibility on private land to shorten grazing period or reduce numbers on the Summer pastures.

6. In addition to all of the items and issues discussed by this TRT one additional recommendation was made. This is to look at allowing the flexibility to use the rested pasture if monitoring data shows that areas have been rested during the year(s) scheduled for use. This would occur primarily as a result of available water during the year scheduled for rest.

TRT Participants

<u>Charley Amos</u>	Charley Amos, Rancher
<u>Dawn G. Lappin</u>	Dawn Lappin, WHOA!
<u>Terri Jay</u>	Terri Jay, CPWH
<u>Gary Bengochea</u>	Gary Bengochea, NFC
<u>Tom Smith</u>	Tom Smith, SCS
<u>Carl J. Corey</u>	Carl Corey, BLM
<u>Rick Clark</u>	Rick Clark, BLM
<u>Jim Jeffress</u>	Jim Jeffress, NDOW
<u>Jeff Rawson</u>	Jeff Rawson, BLM
<u>Bob Schweigert</u>	Bob Schweigert, Consultant