



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office  
705 East 4th Street  
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

MAR 16 1993

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AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4110.3  
(NV-026.12)

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. P477566013  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Stan Ceresola  
P.O. Box 98  
Wadsworth, NV 89442

### PROPOSED FULL FORCE AND EFFECT DECISION Rodeo Creek Allotment

Dear Mr. Ceresola:

It has been determined through our monitoring of the Rodeo Creek Allotment that the forage production for 1992 was far below what was noted in previous years monitoring studies. This was due to the lack of spring moisture in 1992 as well the accumulative impacts of the six previous years of drought. As a result the level of utilization found showed larger areas of heavy use on grass species and more extensive heavy to severe use on shrub species than what had been observed in previous years. The Bureau of Land Management recognizes that you took a voluntary 10% reduction as a result of the 1988 Evaluation and subsequent Livestock Agreement signed on September 15, 1988, and that you voluntarily took 3732 AUMs of nonuse during the 1992 grazing season for conservation and protection of the public lands. The Bureau of Land Management also recognizes that the wild horse numbers have been 140 to 160 percent over the recommended number throughout this same time period. An emergency gather was conducted on the Fox and Lake HMA (92% falls within the Rodeo Creek Allotment) during January and February of 1993 with 324 wild horses and 1 burro gathered to prevent major death losses due to starvation. Approximately 125 wild horses remain on the allotment.

Based on this, my Proposed Full Force and Effect Decision is to temporarily close the Rodeo Creek Allotment to livestock grazing to maintain or restore the vegetative condition and to prevent further deterioration of the vegetative resource in order to be able to provide a sustained yield of forage and maintaining a thriving natural ecological balance for livestock, wild horses, and wildlife for the future.

Changes in authorized livestock use are as identified below:

FROM:

1. Grazing Preference (AUMs)
  - a. Total Preference 6462
  - b. Suspended Preference 642
  - c. Active Preference 5820
2. Season of Use 3/1 to 2/28 (yearlong)
3. Number and Class of Livestock 485, cow/calf

TO:

Temporary Closure of livestock grazing in the Rodeo Creek Allotment until the following criteria is met. This decision will be in effect until the Multiple Use Decision based upon the Rodeo Creek Allotment Re-evaluation is issued. The Multiple Use Decision will include an interim grazing system designed to improve and restore the vegetative condition on the allotment.

- 1) close livestock grazing until seedripeness (approximately July 15).

**RATIONALE:** No residual forage exists and the vigor and overall vegetative production in 1992 was substantially below an average year.

- 2) AND close livestock grazing until the growth requirements are met on the primary forage species. The growth requirements for cool season grasses, which includes: needlegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, Idaho fescue, and Indian ricegrass, is a minimum of three inches of leaf growth. Bluegrass should have the seedhead emerging from the boot.

**RATIONALE:** To insure that there is adequate plant growth to satisfy vegetative requirements of the perennial plants.

- 3) AND adjust livestock numbers according to the amount of use that has already occurred by wild horses and wildlife:

- a) on the summer country (the Fox Range), so that the estimated use will not exceed 50% before livestock are removed from the Fox Range portion of the allotment or at the end of the summer grazing season (October 31). (See attached map for summer and winter range.)

**RATIONALE:** In order to protect the long term health and productivity of the range. Studies show that 50% use on grasses during the growing season does not hinder the plant physiologically and by waiting until seedripe in conjunction with limiting the total use to 50%, plant vigor should increase. Furthermore, a grass plant produces twice the volume of leaves that it needs to complete its growth functions and remain productive (vigor along with carbohydrates reserves are not depleted). Increased plant vigor means better protection to the soil surface and assures greater root volume.

b) on the winter country (the flats east of the Fox Range and on the Lake Range), so that the estimated use will not exceed 60% before livestock are removed from the winter country at the end of the winter grazing season (April 30).

**RATIONALE:** 60% use during the winter does not effect the plant physiologically because the plant is dormant.

**METHODS:** Primary forage species will be analyzed for range readiness and utilization levels at the existing utilization cages. Utilization data collected at these sites in previous years is available for comparison. Protected plants within existing utilization cages will provide a direct comparison of grazed and ungrazed plants to more accurately determine utilization levels and current year's growth. The primary forage species analyzed will depend on which are present at the utilization cages.

These key species growth requirements represent the earliest that use can begin on ranges with continuous use. Leaf height is the average of all leaves, except the few longest or the few shortest, when held upright and measured from the center bunch.

A final decision will be issued at the end of the protest period and I propose to issue that final decision Full Force and Effect in accordance with:

43 CFR 4160.3(c) - "The authorized officer may place the final decision in full force and effect in an emergency to stop resource deterioration. Full force and effect decisions shall take effect on the date specified, regardless of an appeal."

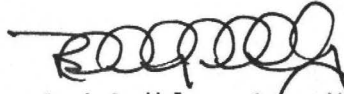
The rationale to implement this decision as Full Force and Effect is to restore the vegetative health and to prevent further deterioration of the vegetation and to improve the condition of the wild horses.

If you wish to protest this Proposed Full Force and Effect Decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.2, you are allowed fifteen (15) days from receipt of this notice within which to file such protest in person or in writing with the Area Manager. Protests should be sent to:

Area Manager  
Sonoma Gerlach Resource Area  
Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca District  
705 E. 4th Street  
Winnemucca, NV, 89445

In the absence of a protest within the time allowed, the above proposed decision shall constitute my final decision. Should this notice become the final decision and if you wish to appeal this decision for the purpose of a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.470 and 4160.3 you are allowed thirty (30) days from receipt of this notice within which to file such appeal with the Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, at the above address. The appeal should specify the reasons, clearly and concisely, as to why you think this decision is in error.

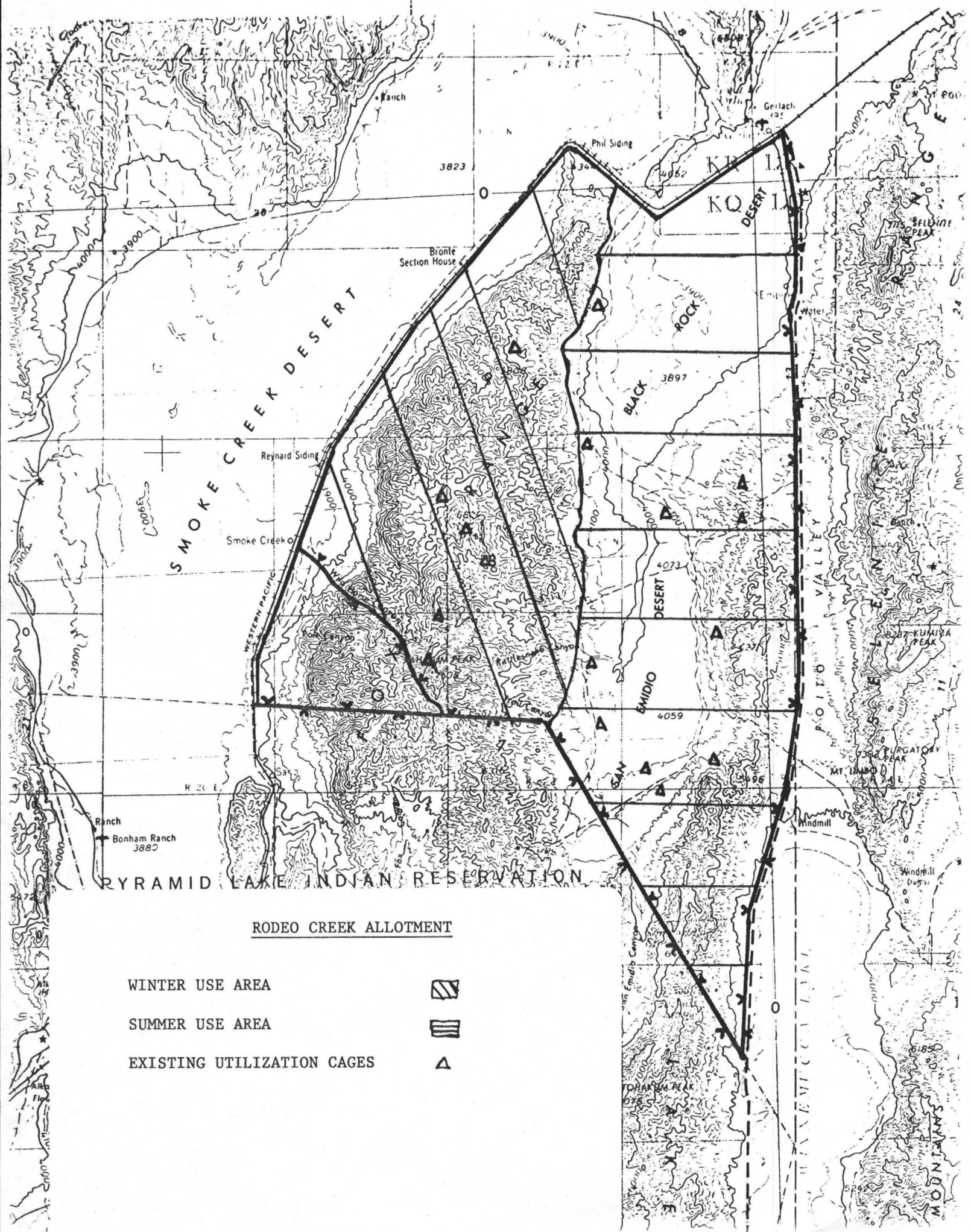
Sincerely yours,



Bud Cribley, Area Manager  
Sonoma Gerlach Resource Area

Certified cc:

Intermountain Federal Land Bank Assoc. P477566014  
Cathy Barcomb, Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses P477566015  
Richard Heap, Department of Wildlife, State of Nevada P477566016  
John Torvick P477566017  
Trout Unlimited P477566018



RODEO CREEK ALLOTMENT

WINTER USE AREA



SUMMER USE AREA



EXISTING UTILIZATION CAGES

