



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca Field Office

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In Reply Refer To:

4100

(NV-022.15)

**MAY 14 2003**

CERTIFIED MAIL NO.7003 0500 0000 9632 3879

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Irv and Sandy Brown  
P.O. Box 478  
Winnemucca, NV. 89445

Dear Mr. and Ms. Brown:

This letter is a follow up to our meeting on May 2, 2003 related to authorizing livestock grazing within the Paiute Meadows Allotment (PMA) for 2003.

As you are aware, Paiute, Battle, Bartlett and Butte Creeks and Burnt Springs are not meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health (SRH) and BLM has determined that livestock grazing is a significant factor in that non-attainment. As indicated in the Paiute Meadows Allotment Environmental Assessment (No. NV-020-03-12) and Final Allotment Re-evaluation, the North Fork of Battle Creek is currently occupied by a population of Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) and Bartlett and Paiute Creeks are identified in the 1995 Recovery Plan as LCT recovery streams. Due to the status of these creeks, BLM is required to implement more intensive management to insure fisheries habitats are improved in a manner to sustain viable populations of LCT in the future and to achieve the SRH. The channel type, instability of this system, and riparian condition, combined with its status as a recovery stream, warrant increased protection from adverse impacts that would potentially result from livestock grazing in the area.

Your willingness to implement the interim grazing system and apply the terms and conditions (which are contained in the attachment) in the management of your livestock will lessen the potential to adversely impact all associated habitats. As was discussed with you and Mr. Alexander, it is essential that you employ herding to insure that your livestock do not impact the riparian areas of Paiute, Battle, Bartlett and Butte Creeks and Burnt Springs. Utilizing the temporary livestock watering facilities, grazing in accordance with the interim grazing system, along with active herding, should allow for progress to be made toward attainment of allotment specific objectives and SRH.

Your attention to properly manage your livestock and protecting the resources is appreciated. We look forward to working with you as we analyze and select a compatible grazing alternative resulting in sustaining rangeland resources and providing adequate livestock forage.

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Pearson or Gene Seidlitz at (775) 623-1500.

Sincerely,



Les W. Boni  
Assistant Field Manager  
Renewable Resources

Attachment: Interim Grazing System  
cc: Interested Publics

## **PAIUTE MEADOWS ALLOTMENT INTERIM GRAZING SYSTEM**

### DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### **North Paiute Low Elevation Use Area – (March 15, 2003 to October 6, 2003)**

From March 15th to May 1st, 524 cows would graze the North Paiute Low Elevation Use Area. After May 1st, 225 cows would be herded to the North Paiute High Elevation Use Area. The remaining 299 cows would remain in the North Paiute Low Elevation Use Area until May 30th, extending the season of use by 2 weeks in this use area. Temporary livestock watering troughs would be installed throughout the use area to better distribute livestock and minimize drift into the high elevation use area. The permittee would employ a very intensive herding program to ensure that livestock do not drift into the North Paiute High Elevation Use Area and impact Battle Creek Basin LCT Area. Livestock use would not be authorized within the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area (e.g. west of the Foothill Boundary, South of Rough Canyon Creek, or north of the Ridge Road) (see Map 2). The permittee would have the flexibility to move livestock through this use area until October 6, 2003. This flexibility would be necessary to allow for the removal of livestock from areas adjacent to the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area that drift into the North Paiute High Elevation Use Area from other use areas. This flexibility would allow the permittee to trail livestock from the upper portion of the North Paiute High Elevation Use Area to the South Paiute High Elevation Use Area while maintaining a greater distance from the NFBC, thereby minimizing the opportunity for livestock to drift into the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area.

#### **North Paiute High Elevation Use Area – (May 1, 2003 to June 30, 2003)**

From May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 225 cows would be authorized to graze the area south of the Battle Creek LCT area (south of the ridge road) and also the area north of the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area (north of Rough Canyon Creek) (see Map 2). No livestock grazing would be authorized within the Battle Creek LCT area or in the vicinity of Bartlett and Paiute Creeks. Livestock use in the riparian areas of Bartlett, Battle, Butte and Paiute Creeks, Burnt Springs and Rough Canyon would occur in a manner to ensure progress towards attainment of the Standards for Rangeland Health. The permittee would employ a very intensive herding program to ensure that livestock do not drift into these areas.

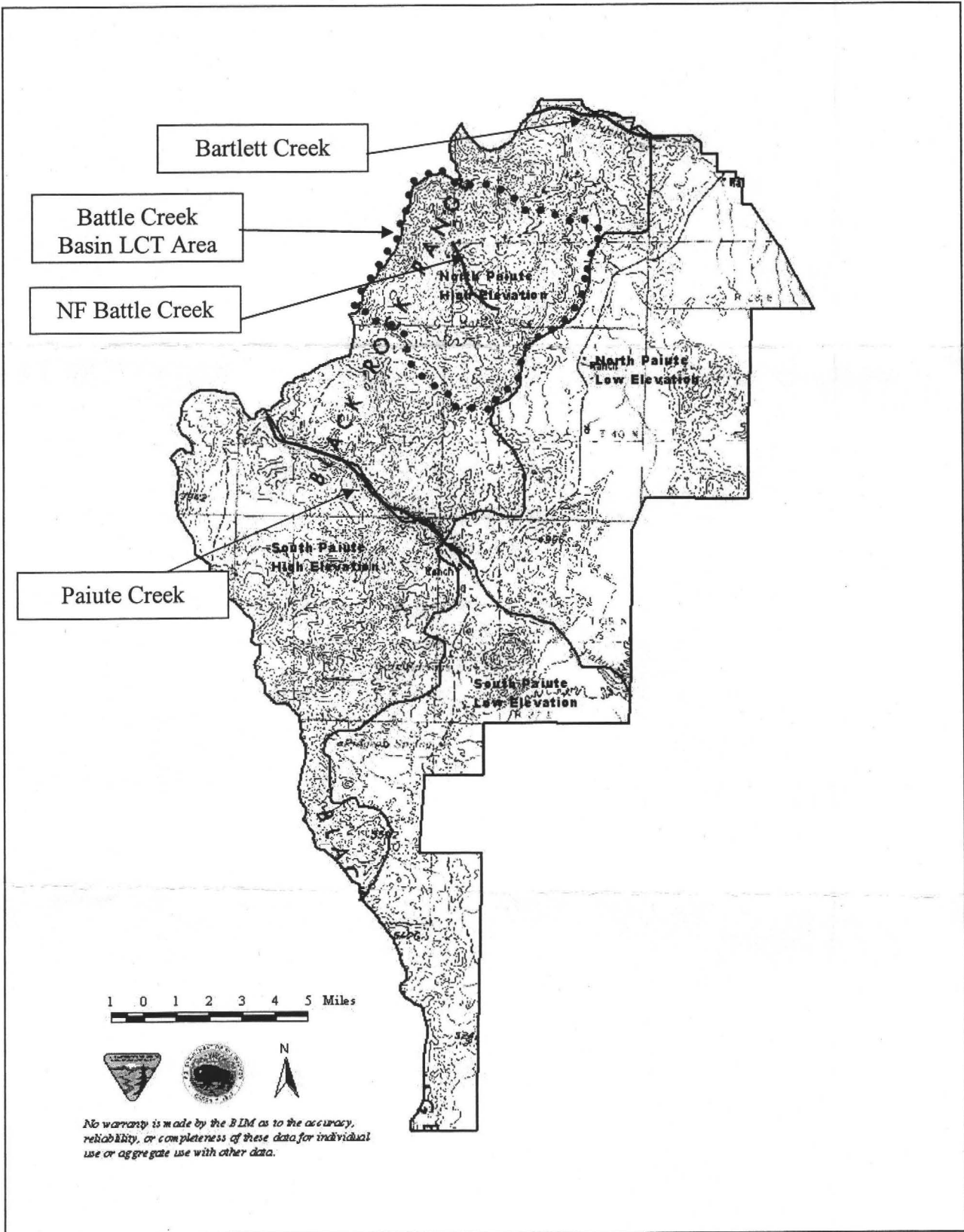
#### **South Paiute High Elevation and Low Elevation Use Areas – (May 1, 2003 to October 6, 2003)**

From May 1<sup>st</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>, 299-524 livestock would be authorized to graze within the South Paiute High Elevation and/or Low Elevation use areas. The permittee would employ a very intensive herding program to ensure that livestock do not graze in the vicinity of Paiute Creek or drift into North Paiute High Elevation Use Area and the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area. No livestock would be authorized north of Paiute Creek after June 30, 2003. All 524 livestock would be removed from public lands within the PMA by October 6, 2003.

## PROPOSED INTERIM SYSTEM TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1) Compliance checks in the form of BLM personnel on the ground and/or aerial reconnaissance would be conducted to ensure that livestock are not within the Battle Creek Basin LCT area. Compliance checks would occur once per week in the North Paiute Low Elevation, South Paiute High Elevation, and South Paiute Low Elevation Use Areas during each use areas authorized livestock grazing period. Compliance checks would occur twice per week on Monday and Thursday within the North Paiute High Elevation use area to ensure livestock do not drift into the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area. If livestock, which are only authorized within the North Paiute-Low Elevation, South Paiute-High Elevation, and South Paiute-Low Elevation Use Areas cross any of the boundaries of the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area, compliance monitoring will be stepped up from once to twice per week on Monday and Thursday. The following actions shall be implemented if livestock are documented within the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area:
  - a. If livestock are found within the Outer Protective Zone of the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area, the permittee shall be given notice to remove the livestock from the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area within 1 day.
  - b. If livestock are documented during three different compliance checks within the Outer Protective Zone of the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area during the period that livestock are authorized within the North Paiute Low Elevation, North Paiute High Elevation, South Paiute High Elevation, and/or South Paiute Low Elevation use areas the permittee shall be given a notice to remove all livestock from the affected use area within 5 days.
  - c. If through the biweekly compliance checks, livestock are noted within the Inner Protective Zone of Battle Creek Basin LCT Area during the period livestock are authorized to graze the North Paiute High Elevation Use Area, the permittee shall immediately be given notice to remove those livestock from the area within 1 day and to remove all livestock from the entire use area within 5 days.
  - d. If through weekly compliance checks, livestock are noted within the Inner Protective Zone of Battle Creek Basin LCT area during the period livestock are authorized to graze the North Paiute Low Elevation, South Paiute High Elevation, and/or the South Paiute Low Elevation Use Area(s), the permittee shall immediately be given notice to remove those livestock from the area within 1 day and to remove all livestock from the affected use area(s) within 5 days.
  - e. If the permittee is notified to remove livestock due to a single incident of non-compliance within the Inner Protective Zone or three incidents of non-compliance within the Outer Protective Zone of the Battle Creek Basin LCT Area during the period authorized for livestock grazing within the South Paiute High Elevation and/or the South Paiute Low Elevation Use Area(s), the permittee shall remove all livestock from the public land portion of the allotment.

Map 1. Allotment Boundary Map and LCT recovery streams



Map 2. Battle Creek Basin LCT Area

