

m 11/30/88

4160.1
(NV-027.16)

Area Manager's Proposed Decision

Dear :

The Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area is now entering into the final phase of the planning process. This phase is to implement the land use planning decisions as specified in the Management Framework Plan.

This phase includes the monitoring of the available resources through establishing monitoring studies on the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Allotments to measure to what extent the allotment objectives are being accomplished.

Planning for the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Allotments includes development through the Coordinated Resources Management and Planning Process (CRMP), an Allotment Monitoring Plan, Allotment Management Plan (AMP), and a Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP). The land use planning objectives and grazing management decisions for the planning area were developed and implemented through CRMP. This consultation and coordination process established through the multi-disciplinary approach; the identification of allotment issues, conflicts, problems and objectives for the CRMP area. The general resource planning objectives are:

1. Manage domestic livestock grazing to increase 136,318 acres from poor and fair to good, and 3,505 acres from good to excellent ecological condition; improve range condition and forage availability, to reach and sustain 33,852 AUMs of active preference for livestock grazing.
2. Maintain a viable population of wild horses/burros in the planning area.
3. Maintain or improve the condition of wildlife habitat to accommodate the needs of all species of wildlife presently or potentially using the planning area.
4. Protect and enhance the water quality, quantity, and wetland characteristics of selected springs in the planning area.
5. Control unauthorized livestock drift from adjacent allotments.
6. Monitor the resources for attainment of management goals.

The Lovelock CRMP group was established at a public meeting held on September 16, 1981 in Lovelock, Nevada. The Blue Wing/Seven Troughs CRMP plan was approved on July 24, 1984 by the Lovelock CRMP group. The Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Monitoring Plan was approved by the Lovelock CRMP group on August 21, 1985.

The management objectives for the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Allotments as specified in the Sonoma-Gerlach Land Use Plan MFPIII are as shown in Appendix I.

The process for establishing initial and subsequent levels of livestock grazing use and the rangeland monitoring program are discussed in the Rangeland Program Summary (RPS). The method for implementing the rangeland management program in the planning area will occur through monitoring and the selective management approach. The selective management categorization process in the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area has identified Blue Wing/Seven Troughs as "I" allotments. Monitoring will occur on "I" allotments at an intensity needed to help resolve issues and conflicts. Guidelines that apply to monitoring in allotments of this category include; collection of actual use data, utilization studies, use patterns, determining initial seral stages, trend studies, and as needed, other special studies.

Monitoring studies have been established on the Blue Wing and Seven Troughs Allotments and the gathering of data has been initiated. Collection of this data will continue for the next five years (1989) or until sufficient monitoring data is available. These studies will then be evaluated as deemed necessary to determine if resource objectives are being achieved. These studies and evaluations will continue throughout the long-term period.

The monitoring program in the Blue Wing-Seven Troughs Allotment is designed to monitor the effects of grazing on the vegetative resource, provide a basis for assessing the grazing system, vegetative changes, specific objectives and make any necessary adjustments in grazing use. Monitoring will indicate if grazing use is following the grazing plan and provide the decision basis for any immediate adjustments in annual operations. In addition, monitoring will serve to allow the CRMP group to determine if the specific objectives set forth in the plan are being accomplished. The objectives will be evaluated on a long-term basis utilizing permanent transects in key and/or critical areas.

The involvement of the CRMP group and the permittees has been greatly appreciated in the development of the AMP, establishing objectives, establishment of monitoring study locations, and needed range improvements.

My proposed decision is to gather additional monitoring data in accordance with the attached Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Monitoring Plan.

To implement the gathering of additional monitoring data, my proposed decision is to initiate the following management actions which are necessary in order to collect the required data. These management actions are:

1. Studies will be conducted in accordance with the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Task Force minimum standards, the Winnemucca District Coordinated Monitoring Plan guidelines and the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Monitoring Plan. Types of monitoring studies to be used on the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Allotments include use pattern mapping, key area utilization, trend, ecological condition, actual use, and climatological data collection.

2. Key area locations and key management objectives are listed on attached Table I and Table II. The key management objectives are established by my decision.

Table I. Monitoring Studies Location and Base Data
Table II. Key Management Area Objectives

3. The evaluation of the monitoring data will consider all studies information collected and will be conducted through consultation with the affected interests. The evaluation of monitoring data will take place at the end of each grazing season data is collected. The evaluation will consider if the management objectives are being achieved, and if not, how can they be accomplished. Also all monitoring sites will be evaluated for adequacy of data being provided.

Allotment evaluations will occur in three phases. During the interim, evaluate on the third year and at the end of the fifth year. Secondly, the short-term evaluation will occur in the eighth and at the end of ten years. The long-term evaluation will occur every six years after the short-term period, or on an as needed basis.

4. The authorized level of use in the Blue Wing-Seven Troughs Allotments will be the current use as follows:

Blue Wing Allotment Livestock Qualifications

Active grazing preference in the Blue Wing Allotment: 24,329 AUMs. There are currently three operators in the Blue Wing Allotment.

Operator	Grazing Record Number	Preference			Kind of Livestock	Period		% Federal Range
		Total	Suspended	Active		From	To	
C-Punch Corp.	2016	21,460	0	21,460	Cattle	3/1	2/28	80%
B.G. Bunyard	2008	1,505	0	1,505	Sheep	12/15	3/15	100%
Wesley L.Cook	2017	1,470	106	1,364	Sheep	12/7	3/17	100%

Seven Troughs Allotment Livestock Qualifications

Active grazing preference in the Seven Troughs Allotment is 9,523 AUMs. There are currently five operators in Seven Troughs Allotment.

Operator	Grazing Record Number	Preference			Kind of Livestock	Period		% Federal Range
		Total	Suspended	Active		From	To	
C-Punch Corp.	2016	4,404	0	4,404	Cattle	3/1	2/28	92%
John Espil	2032	3,627	0	3,627	Sheep	12/1	3/15	100%
Dufurrena Sheep Co.	2146	746	0	746	Sheep	11/1	3/31	67%
Dufurrena Sheep Co.	2146	373	Exchange-of-Use		Sheep	11/1	3/31	33%
DeLong Ranches Inc.	2115	746	0	746	Cattle	11/1	3/31	67%
DeLong Ranches Inc.	2115	373	Exchange-of-use		Cattle	11/1	3/31	33%
DeLong Ranches Inc.	2115	226	Exchange-of-use		Cattle	11/1	3/31	100%
Tim DeLong	2046	895	Exchange-of-use		Cattle	11/1	6/31	100%

5. Wildlife

Wildlife in the allotment will be monitored by recognizing reasonable numbers demand for AUMs as follows:

Wildlife Reasonable Numbers

(1) Seven Troughs Allotment

Antelope - 12 total reasonable numbers - 26 total AUMs

Mule Deer - 165 total reasonable numbers - 495 total AUMs

(2) Blue Wing Allotment

Antelope - 20 total reasonable numbers - 49 total AUMs

Mule Deer - 234 total reasonable number - 701 total AUMs

Bighorn Sheep - 44 total reasonable number - no bighorns present - potential reintroduction area - Selenite Range - 106 total AUMs

*Refer to the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Allotment Management Plan for further wildlife data.

6. Wild Horses and Burros

Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs), as agreed to by the Lovelock CRMP Subcommittee for the public land on the Blue Wing and Seven Troughs Allotments, are 877 wild horses and 143 wild burros. This management level is thought to be compatible with the livestock operation as planned, wildlife demand, and the available resources on the noncheckerboard lands in the planning area. All excess animals over and above this management number will be removed. See Blue Wing-Seven Troughs Herd Management Area Plan for further details.

It is proposed to reach AML in the planning area based on available funding. The management subunits, number of animals, and AUM demand in the planning area are as follows:

<u>Management Subunits</u>	<u>Number of Animals</u>	<u>AUM Demand</u>
Antelope	0	0
Lava Beds/Seven Troughs/Kamma Mtns.	640 Wild horses 104 Burros	7,680 AUMs 1,248 AUMs
Selenite Range	0	0
Blue Wing Mountain/ Nightingale Mountain/Shawaves	237 Wild horses 39 Burros	2,844 AUMs 468 AUMs
Truckee Range	0	0
TOTALS	877 Wild horses 143 Burros <u>1,020</u>	10,524 Wild horses 1,716 Burros <u>12,240 AUMs</u>

Current numbers in the planning unit as of September 16, 1985, by Herd Use Area (HUA) are:

	<u>Wild Horses</u>	<u>Burros</u>	<u>Mules</u>
Seven Troughs HUA	66	105	0
Kamma Mountain HUA	45	0	1
Lava Beds HUA	1,057	40	0
Selenites HUA	24	1	0
Blue Wing Mountain HUA	52	49	0
Shawave Mountain HUA	180	0	0
Nightingale HUA	174	0	0
Truckee Range HUA	82	0	0
Antelope Range HUA	<u>285</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	1,965	198	1

7. The authorized level of grazing use will remain in effect until monitoring studies indicate there is a need for adjustment. Any adjustments to your authorized stocking level will be based upon the accomplishment or lack of accomplishment of the key management area objectives and AMP objectives. These adjustments to grazing use may include but are not limited to season-of-use, periods-of-use, animal numbers, kind and class of livestock, designated range improvements, or a combination of these.

This decision is issued in accordance with 43 CFR 4110.3-3(a) and (b) which states:

(a) Permanent increases in the allocation of livestock forage (see 4110.3-1(b)) or suspensions of preference (see 4110.3-2(b)) shall be implemented over a 5-year period, unless after consultation with the affected permittees or lessees and other affected interests, an agreement is reached to implement the increase or suspension in less than 5 years.

(b) After consultation, coordination and cooperation, suspensions of preference shall be implemented through a documented agreement or by decision. If data acceptable to the authorized officer are available, an initial reduction shall be taken on the effective date of the agreement or decision and the balance taken in the third and fifth years following the effective date, except as provided in paragraph (a) of this section. If data acceptable to the authorized officer to support an initial reduction are not available, additional data will be collected through monitoring. Adjustments based on the additional data shall be implemented by agreement or decision that will initiate the 5-year implementation period.

If you wish to protest this proposed decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.2, you are allowed 15 days from receipt of this notice within which to file such protest with the Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 705 E. 4th Street, Winnemucca, Nevada 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, 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,

Sincerely yours,

Gerald P. Brandvold
Area Manager

Enclosures

Appendix I. Management Objectives for the Blue Wing and Seven Troughs Allotments
As Specified in the Sonoma-Gerlach Land Use Plan

Allotment/ Operator	Selective Management Category	LIVESTOCK		WILDLIFE			
		Initial Stocking Level (AUMs)	Management Objectives	Existing Use (AUMs)			
				Deer	Antelope	Bighorn Sheep	Management Objectives
Blue Wing/ C-Punch Corp. H. B. Bunyard Wesley Cook	I	24,329 21,460 1,505 1,364	<p>Improve range condition and forage availability to sustain 24,329 AUMs for livestock grazing.</p> <p>Combine with Seven Troughs Allotment and consider both allotments as one.</p> <p>Approval of CRMP including monitoring plan through the Lovelock CRMP committee.</p> <p>Management livestock grazing to increase 165,100 acres from poor from good to excellent ecological condition.</p> <p>Consider increasing existing forage by artificial methods wherever appropriate and feasible.</p>	865	0	0	<p>Manage rangeland habitat to provide for wildlife demand as follows:</p> <p>Deer 701 AUMs</p> <p>Antelope 49 AUMs</p> <p>Bighorn sheep 106 AUMs</p> <p>Two months rest during the growth period (4/15-6/15) in critical wildlife areas over 5,000 feet in elevation.</p> <p>The potential to restrict vehicle access to the tops of the Selenite Range during the critical sage grouse brooding season (6/1-8/31).</p> <p>Reintroduce bighorn sheep.</p>
Seven Troughs/ C-Punch Corporation John Espil Dufurrena Sheep Co. Dufurrena Sheep Co. DeLong Ranches Inc. DeLong Ranches Inc. DeLong Ranches Inc. Tim DeLong	I	4,404 3,627 746 373 E/U 746 373 E/U 226 E/U 895 E/U	<p>Improve range condition and forage availability to sustain 9,521 AUMs for livestock grazing.</p> <p>Combine with Blue Wing Allotment and consider both as one allotment.</p> <p>Approval of CRMP including monitoring plan through the Lovelock CRMP committee.</p>	611	0	0	<p>Management rangeland habitat to provide for wildlife demand as follows:</p> <p>Deer 495 AUMs</p> <p>Antelope 26 AUMs</p> <p>Bighorn Sheep 0 AUMs</p> <p>Two months rest during the growth period (4/15-6/15) in critical wildlife areas over 5,000 feet in elevation, in the Seven Troughs Range.</p>

Appendix I. Management Objectives for the Blue Wing and Seven Troughs Allotments
As Specified in the Sonoma-Gerlach Land Use Plan

WILD HORSES AND BURROS

Allotment/ Operator	Existing Use (AUMs)	Management Objectives	Unidentified Monitoring Planning Components
Blue Wing/ C-Punch Corp. H. B. Bunyard Wesley Cook	11,220	<p>Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for 6,240 AUMs of wild horse/burro use on the non-checkerboard land. Remove all wild horses/burros from checkerboard land in accordance with MFP III decision.</p> <p>Perpetuate the existing population of spotted and pinto burros.</p> <p>Establishing a herd monitoring system.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecological site condition and trend 2. Actual Use 3. Climate 4. Range utilization 5. Project maintenance 6. Wildlife habitat 7. Wild horses and burros 8. Riparian and meadow habitat
Seven Troughs/ C-Punch Corp. John Espil Dufurrena Sheep Co. Dufurrena Sheep Co. DeLong Ranches Inc. DeLong Ranches Inc. DeLong Ranches Inc. Tim DeLong	11,736	<p>Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for 6,000 AUMs of wild horse/burro use on the non-checkerboard land in accordance with MFP III decision.</p> <p>Perpetuate the existing population of spotted and pinto burros.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecological site condition and trend 2. Actual use 3. Climate 4. Range utilization 5. Project maintenance 6. Wildlife habitat

Table I. Monitoring Studies Location and Base Data

<u>Key Area Number</u>	<u>Key Area Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Ecological Site 1/</u>	<u>Ecological Status & Seral Stage 2/</u>
134-0001	Mauds Well	T. 34 N., R. 31 E., Sec. 31, SENE	27-028N (Loamy 6-8" p.z.)	25% (Early Seral)
134-0002	Scossa	T. 33 N., R. 30 E., Sec. 16, NWNW	27-028N (Loamy 6-8" p.z.)	45% (Mid Seral)
134-0003	Juniper Canyon	T. 31 N., R. 28 E., Sec. 2, NWNE	27-020N (Claypan 8-10" p.z.)	61% (Late Seral)
134-0006	Cow Creek	T. 31 N., R. 28 E., Sec. 13, SWSE	27-073N (Granitic Upland 12-14" p.z.)	37% (Mid Seral)
134-0007	Seven Troughs Exclosure No. 1	T. 31 N., R. 29 E., Sec. 3, SENW	27-007N (Loamy slope 8-10" p.z.)	36% (Mid Seral)
134-0008	Seven Troughs Exclosure No. 2	T. 32 N., R. 29 E., Sec. 35, NENE	27-013N (Loamy 4-8" p.z.)	62% (Late Seral)
135-0001	Shawave	T. 26 N., R. 25 E., Sec. 13, NWNE	27-054N (Loamy slope 10-12" p.z.)	64% (Late Seral)
135-0002	Lava Beds No. 2	T. 31 N., R. 27 E., Sec. 4, SENW	27-054N (Loamy slope 10-12" p.z.)	58% (Late Seral)
135-0003	Lava Beds No. 3	T. 31 N., R. 26 E., Sec. 36, SESW	27-054N (Loamy slope 10-12" p.z.)	42% (Mid Seral)
135-0004	Bob Spring	T. 27 N., R. 27 E., Sec. 6, NWSW	27-018N (Gravelly loam 4-6" p.z.)	43% (Mid Seral)
135-0005	Stonehouse	T. 27 N., R. 25 E., Sec. 21, SESE	27-020N (Claypan 8-10" p.z.)	44% (Mid Seral)
135-0007	Selenites No. 2	T. 30 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 29, NENE	23-022N (Upland Fan 12-16" p.z.)	33% (Mid Seral)
135-0008	Selenites No. 1	T. 31 N., R. 24 E., Sec. 32, SESE	27-072N (Granitic Upland 8-12" p.z.)	38% (Mid Seral)
135-0010	Shawave Exclosure No. 1	T. 24 N., R. 25 E., Sec. 2, NESW	27-018N (Gravelly loam 4-6" p.z.)	66% (Late Seral)
135-0011	Shawave Exclosure No. 2	T. 24 N., R. 26 E., Sec. 10, NESE	27-018N (Gravelly loam 4-6" p.z.)	57% (Late Seral)
135-0012	Lava Beds No. 3	T. 31 N., R. 26 E., Sec. 36, SESE	27-008N (Loamy 8-10" p.z.)	39% (Mid Seral)

1/Ecological sites listed here can be reference to SCS Ecological Site Descriptions (SCS 1983).

2/Ecological Status is referred to here in terms of the percent potential natural plant community (PNC) present on the study site during site survey in 1984.

Table II. Key Management Area Objectives

Key Area Number	Key Species	Allowable Use Levels	Desired Ecological Status	Interim (5 years)	Short Term (10 years)	Long Term (35 years)		
				Frequency Trend	Frequency Trend	Ecological Status Objectives	Frequency Trend	Ecological Status Objectives
134-0001	SIHY ATCO POA++	40 50 50	Late Seral	Upward (show increase in ATCO & POA++)	Same as interim	Maintain current composition of SIHY; reevaluate objectives; show an increase in ATCO & POA++ to at least 5%	Same as interim	Maintain current composition of SIHY; increase ATCO & POA++ to at least 10%
134-0002	ORHY	50	Late Seral	Upward (show increase in ORHY)	Same as interim	Increase ORHY to at least 5%	Same as interim	Increase ORHY to at least 10%
134-0003	STTH2 SIHY POA++	40 40 50	Late Seral	Static (show no decrease in key species)	Same as interim	Maintain current composition of key species & at least 10% total perennial forb composition	Same as interim	Same as short term
134-0006	SIHY POA++ STTH2	40 50 40	Late Seral	Upward (show increase of STTH2, POA++, and SIHY)		Increase SIHY to at least 5%; increase STTH2 and POA++ to at least 5%	Upward (show no decrease in SIHY; show an increase in STTH2 & POA++)	Maintain SIHY at 5%; increase POA++ and STTH2 to at least 10%
134-0007	SIHY STTH2 POA++ BAHO	40 40 50 5	Late Seral	Upward (show increase of SIHY, STTH2, POA++, and native forbs)	Same as interim	Increase SIHY & STTH2 to 5% each; increase POA++ to 8%	Same as interim	Maintain SIHY at 5%; increase POA++ and STTH2 to at least 10%
134-0008	SIHY ORHY SPHAER	40 50 15	Late Seral	Upward (show increase in SIHY)	Same as interim	Increase SIHY to 40%; if ORHY increases to 1%, reevaluate objectives	Static (show no decrease in key species)	Maintain SIHY at 10%; if ORHY increases to 1%, reevaluate objectives

Table II. Key Management Area Objectives
(Continued)

Key Area Number	Key Species	Allowable Use		Desired Ecological Status	Interim (5 years)	Short Term (10 years)		Long Term (35 years)	
		1/ Levels	2/ Levels		Frequency Trend	Frequency Trend	Ecological Status Objectives	Frequency Trend	Ecological Status Objectives
135-0001	SIHY STTH2 POA++ FEID	40 40 50 40		Late Seral	Upward (show increase in STTH2; show no decrease in SIHY & POA++)	Same as interim	Increase STTH2 to at least 5%; if FEID increases to 1%, re-evaluate objectives; maintain current % of SIHY and POA++	Same as interim	Increase STTH2 to at least 10%; maintain current % of SIHY and POA++; increase total perennial forbs to 10%
135-0002	SIHY STTH2 POA++ BASA3 CRAC2	40 40 50 30 50		Late Seral	Upward (show increase in STTH2; show no decrease in SIHY & POA++)	Same as interim	Increase STTH2 to at least 9%; maintain current level of SIHY and POA++; increase total perennial forbs to 10%	Same as interim	Increase STTH2 to at least 15%; maintain short term levels of forbs, SIHY, and POA++
135-0003	SIHY STTH2 POA++ ORHY BASA	40 40 50 50 30		Late Seral	Upward (show increase in STTH2; show no decreases in other key species)	Same as interim	Increase STTH2 to at least 6%; maintain levels of other key species	Same as interim	Increase STTH2 to at least 10%; maintain levels of other key species; increase total perennial forbs to at least 10%
135-0004	ORHY	50		Late Seral	Upward (show increase in ORHY)	Same as interim	Increase ORHY to at least 3%; if other perennial forage grasses appear, re-evaluate objectives	Same as interim	Increase ORHY to at least 8%
135-0005	POA++ SIHY	50 40		Late Seral	Upward (show an increase in SIHY and POA++; show an increase of perennial forbs)	Same as interim	Increase SIHY to at least 5% and POA++ to 8%; if STTH2 appears, reevaluate objectives	Upward (show an increase in POA++ and perennial forbs; show no decrease in SIHY)	Increase POA++ to at least 14% and perennial forbs to at least 10%; maintain SIHY at no less than 5%

Table II. Key Management Area Objectives
(Continued)

Key Area Number	Key Species	Allowable Use Levels	Desired Ecological Status	Interim (5 years)	Short Term (10 years)		Long Term (35 years)	
				Frequency Trend	Frequency Trend	Ecological Status Objectives	Frequency Trend	Ecological Status Objectives
135-0007	AGSP STTH2 PUTR2 BASA	50 40 50 30	Late Seral	Upward (show increase in AGSP & STTH2; show no decrease in PUTR2)	Same as interim	Maintain PUTR2 at 20%; increase AGSP, STTH2, & perennial forbs (other than BASA3) to 5%.	Same as interim	Maintain PUTR2 at 20%; increase AGSP, STTH2, & perennial forbs (other than BASA3) to 10%.
135-0008	SIHY STTH2 POA++	40 40 50	Late Seral	Upward (show increase in SIHY, STTH2, & POA++, and perennial forbs)	Same as interim	Increase SIHY, STTH2, & POA++ to 5%; increase perennial forbs to 7%.	Same as interim	Increase SIHY, POA++, & STTH2 to 5%; increase perennial forbs to 10%.
135-0010	ORHY SIHY EULA5 SPHAER	50 40 50 15	Late Seral	Static (show no decreases in key species)	Same as interim	Maintain current ecological status	Same as interim	Same as short term
135-0011	ORHY EULA5	50 50	Late Seral	Static (show no decrease in key species)	Same as interim	Maintain current ecological status; if more perennial forage species appears, reevaluate objectives	Same as interim	Same as short term
135-0012	SIHY STTH2	40 40		<u>Utilization Study Only</u>				

1/ Plant codes are used here base on SCS 1982. These codes are identified in the Plant List (Appendix 2).

2/ Allowable use levels are the objectives established for utilization. They are derived from the Sonoma-Gerlach Grazing Environmental Impact Statement, pp. 1-7.

3/ This is the Seral stage that would have the greatest value for all resources (livestock, wild horses/burros, game species of wildlife).

4/ Frequency identified as static or upward. If an important forage plant species appears on a study that previously was not recorded, then all monitoring objectives for that key area should be reevaluated.

Signed 11/30/88

*Saxoma -
Herlach*

6/12/88

July 12, 1988

Blue Wing/Seven Troughs
Allotment Evaluations

I. Allotment Information

The Blue Wing and Seven Troughs are two separate allotments but for the evaluation process have been combined and evaluated as one.

A. Blue Wing Allotment - 135
Priority - 5, Category I
Permittees: C-Punch Corp. and Wesley Cook

Seven Troughs Allotment - 134
Priority - 6, Category I
Permittees: C-Punch Corp., John Espil, Dufurrena Sheep Co., DeLong Ranches and Tim DeLong

B. The area is comprised of all or part of 11 mountain ranges: Kamma, Antelope, and Seven Troughs within the Seven Troughs Allotment, Selenite, Lava Beds, Antelope, Trinity, Blue Wing, Nightingale, Shawave, and Truckee within the Blue Wing Allotment. The ranges are typically separated by valley floors ranging from quite small (2-3 miles across) to extremely large (10-15 miles across) in size. The area is bordered on the north by the Western Pacific Railroad tracks and on the west by Highway 34 and the southeastern edge of the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation boundary. The southern and eastern borders of the area are the respective allotment boundary lines.

The Blue Wing Allotment is approximately 66 miles long in a north-south direction and 22 miles wide in an east-west direction. The Seven Troughs Allotment is approximately 29 miles long in a north-south direction and 22 miles wide in an east-west direction.

a. Land Ownership Status

	<u>Public</u>	<u>Other</u>	
Blue Wing	976,928	164,973	- 1,141,901
Seven Troughs	<u>302,371</u>	<u>62,398</u>	- <u>364,769</u>
	1,279,299	227,371	- 1,506,670

C. Livestock Use

1. Blue Wing Allotment

Active Grazing preference in the Blue Wing Allotment is 24,329 AUMs. There are currently two operators in the Blue Wing Allotment. C-Punch Corporation is the only cattle operator. Wes Cook is the only sheep operator with a winter season-of-use.

Operator	Grazing Record Number	Preference			Kind Of Livestock	Period		% Federal Range
		Total	Suspended	Active		From	To	
C-Punch Corp.	2016	21,460	0	21,460	Cattle	3/1	2/28	80%*
Wesley L. Cook	2017	2,975	106	2,869	Sheep	12/7	3/17	100%

* C-Punch Corp. exchange-of-use:

21,460 AUMs Federal Range = 80%
 5,349 AUMs Exchange-of-use = 20%
 ✓ 26,809 AUMs Total

2. Seven Troughs Allotment

Active grazing preference in the Seven Troughs Allotment is 9,523 AUMs. There are currently five operators in Seven Troughs Allotment.

Operator	Grazing Record Number	Preference			Kind Of Livestock	Period		% Federal Range
		Total	Suspended	Active		From	To	
C-Punch Corp.	2016	4,404	0	4,404	Cattle	3/1	2/28	*92%
John Espil	2032	3,627	0	3,627	Sheep	12/1	3/15	100%
Dufurrena Sheep Co.	2146	746	0	746	Sheep	11/1	3/31	*67%
Dufurrena Sheep Co.	2146	373	Exchange-of-Use		Sheep	11/1	3/31	*33%
DeLong Ranches Inc.	2115	746	0	746	Cattle	11/1	3/31	*67%
DeLong Ranches Inc.	2115	373	Exchange-of-use		Cattle	11/1	3/31	*33%
DeLong Ranches Inc.	2115	226	Exchange-of-use		Cattle	11/1	3/31	100%
Tim DeLong	2046	895	Exchange-of-use		Cattle	11/1	6/31	100%

* C-Punch Corp. exchange-of-use:

4,460 AUMs Federal Range = 92%
 339 AUMs Exchange-of-use = 8%
 4,803 AUMs Total

* Dufurrena Sheep Co. exchange-of-use:

746 AUMs Federal Range = 67%
 373 AUMs Exchange-of-use = 33%
 1,119 AUMs Total

* DeLong Ranches Inc, exchange-of-use

746 AUMs Parallel Base Base Federal Range = 67%
 373 AUMs Exchange-of-use = 33%
 226 AUMs Exchange-of-use SPL-3266 = 100%

1345

3. Kind and Class of Livestock Use

Cattle - cow/calf
 Sheep - ewe/lamb

4. Grazing System:

C-Punch Corporation - The existing grazing system is basically a yearlong wild cow operation on both the Blue Wing and Seven Troughs Allotments. There are seven (7) areas of use, three (3) winter use and four (4) summer use areas which are listed below:

Winter Use

- a. Sloughhouse/Granite Springs Valley
- b. Kumiva Valley/Lava Beds/Blue Wing Mtn.
- c. Kamma Mtns./Antelope Range/Sage Valley

Summer Use

- a. Selenites
- b. Shawave Mtns./Nightingale Mtns.
- c. Lava Beds/Dry Mtn./Blue Wing Mtn.
- d. Seven Troughs/Sage Valley

The grazing management plan for C-Punch Corporation includes modifications to current areas and seasons-of-use, and livestock distribution patterns as agreed to in CRMP and outlined below:

- a. Graze 350-400 head of livestock on the Seven Troughs Range from 4/1-10/31. These cattle will be moved north into the Kamma Mountains and Antelope Range and held from 11/1-3/31.
- b. Graze 150-200 head of livestock on the west side of the Selenite Range from 4/1-10/31. These cattle will be moved south and held in the Slough House area above Nixon from 11/1-3/31.
- c. Graze 550-600 head of livestock in the Nightingale and Shawave Mountains from 4/1-10/31. These cattle will be held on the flats between the Selenites and the Lava Beds from 11/1-3/31.
- d. Graze 250-300 head of livestock on the east side of the Selenite Range from 4/1-10/31. These cattle will be held on the flats between the Selenites and the Lava Beds from 11/1-3/31.
- e. Graze 350-400 head of livestock in the Lava Beds, Blue Wing Mountains, and western slopes of the Seven Troughs Range on a rotating basis throughout the year depending on weather and forage conditions.

DeLong Ranches, Inc. - DeLong Ranches Inc. operate within the Dufurrena adjudicated area-of-use, which includes the Kamma Mountains, Antelope Range and the northwest corner of the Seven

Troughs Range. Grazing will continue each year as winter use from November 1 through March 31, Livestock will then be moved out of the allotment.

Tim DeLong - Livestock grazing use will occur in the former Tharalson and Duncan area for exchange-of-use within the Seven Troughs Allotment. Grazing use will continue each year from November 1 through June 30 when cattle will be moved out of the allotment allowing some regrowth prior to late fall grazing.

Dufurrena Sheep Co. - The sheep operation of Dufurrena Sheep Co. has been managed in accordance with area-of-use and season-of-use that reflects the undivided 1/2 interest with DeLong Ranches, Inc. Sheep grazing will continue during the winter season from November 1 through March 31 on the northern portion of the Seven Troughs Allotment in the Kamma Mountains, Seven Troughs and Antelope Range. During the start of growth of the key species sheep will be trailed out of the allotment.

John Espil - The sheep operation of John Espil has continued as winter season-of-use in the southern half of the Seven Troughs Allotment. He has grazed approximately 2,000 head of sheep from December 1 through March 15 when the sheep will be removed prior to the critical growth period.

Wesley Cook - has winter sheep use in the Kumiva Valley/Lava Beds/Blue Wing Mountain area and the west side of the Selenite Range on the Blue Wing Allotment. He winters approximately two thousand (2,000) sheep from December 7 through March 17.

D. Allotment Objectives (Short and Long Term)

1. Short Term

- a. Utilization of streambank riparian plant species shall not exceed 30% in Jenny Creek except where adjusted by an approved activity plan. (WLA-1.3)
- b. Total utilization plant species in 358 acres of wetland riparian habitat shall not exceed 50%. (WL-1.10)
- c. Total utilization shall not exceed the allowable use for the following wildlife key species. (WL-1.7 & WL-1.9)

Antelope bitterbrush (PUTR2)	50%
Quaking aspen (POTR5)	40%
Serviceberry (AMAL)	40%
Snowberry (SYMPH)	40%
Winterfat (EULA5)	50%
Cinquefoil (POTEN)	20%
Sandberg bluegrass (POSE)	30% (winter & spring)
- d. Utilization of key plant species on upland rangeland/ habitat shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan. (WL 1.7, WL 1.9, RM 1)

2. Long Term:

- a. Improve and maintain the overall stream habitat in 2 miles of Jenny Creek from poor to 60% of optimum or better. (WLA-1.3)
- b. Improve or maintain the condition of 358 acres of wetland riparian habitat to good or higher. (WL-1.10)
- c. Improve or maintain 24 acres streambank riparian habitat at good condition from poor condition. (WLA-1.3 & WL-1.9)
- d. Protect sage grouse strutting grounds and brooding habitat and improve nesting and wintering 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 areas where sagebrush does not exceed three (3) feet in height.
- e. Maintain or improve 40 acres of aspen woodland to good status or equivalent. (WL-1.9)
- f. Manage, maintain or improve public rangeland habitat condition to provide forage on a sustained yield basis with an initial forage demand for big game of 1,196 AUMs for mule deer, 75 AUMs for pronghorn and 106 AUMs for bighorn sheep by:
 - 1) Improving overall mule deer habitat as follows:
 - a) From fair to good 113,719 acres: Lava Beds DY-4; Selenite Range DY-1; Seven Troughs DS-2; Seven Troughs DY-5.
 - b) From poor to fair 22,107 acres: Nightingale Mts. DY-2 and Shawave Mts. DY-3.
- g. Improving potential pronghorn habitat 308,900 acres from fair to good condition.
- h. Improving 9,485 acres of potential bighorn sheep habitat (Selenite Range BY-1) to 90% of optimum.
- i. Manage, maintain and improve rangeland conditions on a sustained yield basis with an initial stocking level of 33,852 AUMs.
- j. Manage domestic livestock grazing to increase 136,318 acres from poor and fair to good, and 3,505 acres from good to excellent ecological condition; improve range condition and forage availability, to reach and sustain 33,852 AUMs of active preference for livestock grazing.

Table 11

<u>Key Species</u>	<u>Allowable Use Levels</u>
SIHY	40
STTH2	40
POA++	50
FEID	40
BASA3	30
CRAC2	50
ORHY	50
BASA	30
AGSP	50
PUTR2	50
SPHAER	15
EULA5	50

- k. Manage, maintain and improve rangeland conditions to provide an initial level of 12,240 AUMs of forage on a sustained yield basis for 877/143 (AMLs) 1/ wild horses and burros in the following Herd Use Areas:

<u>Current</u>		<u>AML</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Progress</u>
413/94	Lava Beds <u>2</u> /	375/40	4500/480	999/24 head of horses
50/22	Blue Wing Mtns.	50/39	600/468	and burros removed from
124/0	Nightingale Mtns.	87/0	1044/0	Lava Beds, Seven Troughs,
169/0	Shawave Mtns.	100/0	1200/0	Selenite Range and Kamma
237/149	Seven Troughs	215/64	2580/768	Mtns. in November/
56/0	Kamma Mtns.	50/0	600/0	December 1987.

- l. Maintain and improve the free-roaming behavior of wild horses and burros by protecting and enhancing their home ranges.
- m. Maintain/Improve wild horse/burro habitat by assuring free access to water.
- n. Improve or maintain the water quality of Jenny Creek to the state criteria for livestock drinking and wildlife propagation.

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

2/Northeast corner of the Herd Area is in the Seven Troughs Allotment.

State Water Quality Criteria

<u>constituent/use</u>	<u>Livestock drinking</u>	
	<u>water</u>	<u>Wildlife Propagation</u>
TDS (total dissolved solids)	3000 mg/l	-
NO ₃ (N)	100 mg/l	100 mg/l
Fecal coliform	1000/100 ml.	1000/100 ml.
pH	5.0-9.0	5.0-9.2
D.O. (dissolved oxygen)	aerobic	aerobic
Alkalinity	-	30-130 mg/l
Alkalinity		

L. Monitoring and Inventory Data

1. Climatological Data

The Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Allotments are within the Basin and Range physiographic province. The typical features of the area are the broad, flat valleys and north-south trending mountain ranges. Elevation varies from 3,800 feet on the desert floor to 8,200 feet in the mountain peaks. The climate is characteristic of the high, cold desert with highly variable precipitation patterns and extreme variations in temperatures. Precipitation ranges from 3.80 inches on the valley floor to 20"+ in the higher mountains. The average annual precipitation at Lovelock, Nevada, for a 12 year average is 5.78 inches. Seasonal temperatures range from below freezing to 100° F. The average growing season is approximately 130 days from May to September.

Precipitation: (NOAA 1982-1986, Lovelock)

Year	Precipitation (inches)		Departure from normal	
	Growing Season	Ann. total	Growing Season	Ann. total
1982	1.5	5.61	- 1.22	- .15
1983	4.79	12.27	2.18	6.79
1984	2.35	5.72	- .26	.24
1985	.72	4.85	- 1.89	- .63
1986	.60	1.88	- 2.01	- 3.60

Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Allotments
Livestock Use 1981-1988

Year	Active AUMs	Trail AUMs	Total AUMs
1981	20,970	-	20,970
1982	18,730	-	18,730
1983	18,402	-	18,402
1984	20,122	503	20,625
1985	20,469	1,031	21,500
1986	21,640	857	22,497
1987	21,075	1,020	22,095
1988	20,487	658	21,145

3. Utilization

The Blue Wing Allotment has an allotment Monitoring Plan (AMP) which is a compliance with the Winnemucca District Coordinated Monitoring Plan. The Blue Wing AMP was approved by the Lovelock Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) in August of 1985.

Prior to 1985 monitoring data was collected dating back to 1978. The data collected prior to 1985 includes:

Key Area Utilization
Frequency Trend
Frequency Exclosure

a. Seven Troughs Allotment

Utilization was collected using the "Key Forage Plant Method" and was conducted at six (6) site locations in the Seven Troughs Allotment.

Plot 0134-0001 - Mauds Well - Key Species (ARSP5 and SIHY) years 84, 85, 86, 87.

Light use on all species in all years except for heavy use on ARSP5 in 84.

Plot 0134-0002 - SCOSSA - Key Species (SIHY, ORHY, ARSP5, and EULA5) years 84, 85, 86, 87.

Light use on all species in all years.

Plot 0134-0003 - Juniper Canyon - Key Species (STTH2, POSC PHHO) years 84, 85, 86.

Light use on all species in all years.

Plot 0134-0006 - Cow Creek - Key Species (SIHY, STTH2, LOMAT) years 85, 86.

Light use on all species in all years.

Plot 0134-0007 - Seven Troughs Exclosure #1 - Key Species (POSC, SIHY), STTH2) years 85, 86, 87.

Light use on all species in all years, approaching moderate use (41-69%) on STTH2 and SIHY in 86.

Plot 0134-0008 - Seven Troughs Exclosure #2 - Key Species (SIHY, ARSP5, ATCO) years 84, 85, 87, 87.

Light use on all species in all years except for moderate use (41-60%) on SIHY in 86.

b. Blue Wing Allotment

Utilization as collected by the "Key Forage Plant Method" and was conducted at eight (8) site locations in the Blue Wing Allotment.

Plot 0135-0001 - Shawave - Key Species (STTH2, SIHY, POSE) years 82, 85, 86, 87.

- Light use on all species in all years except for moderate use on STH2 in 82.
- Plot 0135-0002 - Lava Beds #2 - Key Species (STTH2, SIHY) Years 82, 84, 85, 86, 87.
- Light use on SIHY for all years 82, 84, 85. Light use on STH2 in 84, 85, 87 and moderate use in 82, heavy in 86. Allowable use levels were exceeded in 82 and 86.
- Plot 0135-0003 - Lava Beds #3 - Key Species (STTH2, SIHY) years 82, 84, 85, 86, 87.
- Light use on SIHY for all years except moderate use in 82. Light use on STH2 in 84, 85, 87 with moderate use in 82, 86 exceeding allowable use levels.
- Plot 0135-0004 - Bob Spring - Key Species (ORHY, ARSP5, GRSP) - years 84, 85, 86, 87.
- Light use on all species for all years.
- Plot 0135-0005 - Stonehouse - Key Species (SIHY, POA++ & POSC) years 84, 85, 86.
- Light use on all species for all years.
- Plot 0135-0006 - Jayhawk - No data.
- Plot 0135-0007 - Selenites #2 - Key Species (AGSP5, STCO4, STH2, PUTR) years 84, 85, 86.
- Light use on all species for all years except moderate use on AGSP5 and STOC4 in 86, and heavy use on PUTR2 for all years from 85 on Cole browse and extensive utilization.
- Plot 0135-0008 - Selenites #1 - Key Species (SIHY, STH2, LOMAT) Years 85, 86.
- Light use on all species for all years.
- Plot 0135-0009 - No Data.
- Plot 0135-0012 - Lava Beds #3 - Key species (STTH2, years 82, 85, 86, 87.
- Light use in 82, 85, 87 with moderate use in 86.

4. Use Pattern Mapping (UPM)

Use Pattern Mapping (UPM) was conducted on the Blue Wing and Seven Troughs allotments during 1986 and 1987. UPM information is gathered twice a year to record use in the winter and summer areas. The use areas, mapping schedule and utilization classes are listed below.

Winter Use - map April 1 to April 10

- a. Sloughouse/Granite Springs Valley
- b. Kumiva Valley/Lava Beds/Blue Wing Mtn.
- c. Kamma Mtns./Antelope Range/SAGE Valley
- *d. Mauds Well/Poker Brown (map 6-300
*Tim DeLong exchange of use area

Summer Use - map October 20 to November 10

- a. Selenites
- b. Shawave Mtns./Nightingale Mtns.
- c. Lava Beds/Dry Mtn./Blue Wing
- d. Seven Troughs/Sage Valley

Three utilization classes will be used; light (0-40%), moderate (41-60%) and heavy (61-100%); except at key areas where the standard six utilization classes will be used.

1986-87 Winter Use

- * - Sage Valley/Granite Springs
Utilization was within allowable use levels (AULs) except for the areas adjacent to perennial sources of water where the use was heavy (61-100%).
- * - Kumiva Valley/Blue Wing Mtn.
Utilization was within allowable use levels (AULs) except for areas adjacent to perennial sources of water where the use was heavy (61-100%).
- * - Kumiva Valley/Blue Wing Mtn.
Utilization was within allowable use levels (AULs) except for areas adjacent to perennial sources of water where the use was heavy (61-100) and a few scattered areas of moderate (41-60%) use on Bottlebrush Squirreltail (SIHY).

1987 Summer Use

- * - Lava Beds/Blue Wing Mtn./Dry Mtn.
Utilization was within allowable use levels (AULs) except primarily the areas of water which was heavy (61-100%).
- * - Shawave Mtns./Nightingale Mtns.
Utilization was within allowable use levels (AULs) except for the areas adjacent to sources of water which was heavy (61-100%).

* - Shawave
Utilization was within allowable use levels (AULs) except for the areas adjacent to perennial sources of water where the use was heavy (61-100%).

* - Selenites
Utilization was within allowable use levels (AULs) except for the areas adjacent to perennial sources of water where the use was heavy (61-100%)

✓ 1987-88 Winter Use

* Kumiva Valley/Lava Beds/Blue Wing Mtn. (Southern portion)
Utilization on key species exceeded the Allowable Use Levels (AUL) on Bottlebrush Squirreltail (SIHY) Indian Ricegrass (ORHY) and Winterfat (EULA5). In large areas observed utilization levels were heavy (61-100%), or there was no available forage.

Granite Spring Valley

Utilization on key species were within Allowable Use Levels (AULs) for the area observed. Use did exceed AUL on Bluegrass (Poa), Indian Ricegrass (Orhy) and Bottlebrush Squirreltail (Sihy) in areas adjacent to sources of water. (Cottonwood, Blue Wing and Granite Springs in the western portion and Top Well and Lowry Well in the eastern portion.)

1987-88 Winter Use

* - Kamma Mtns./Antelope Range/Sage Valley
Utilization levels fell mainly into the moderate (41-60%) category with heavy use occurring near water sources (Rabbit hole, Barrel and Rosebud Springs. Allowable Use Levels (AULs) were exceeded on Bottlebrush, Squirreltail (SIHY) in the moderate (41-60%) areas and on Bluegrass (Pott++) Indian Ricegrass (ORHY) as well as Bottlebrush Squirreltail (SIHY) in the heavy use areas.

* - Kamma Mtns./Antelope Range/Sage Valley (major portion)
Light use with a few moderate areas primarily associated with water sources on the southern third of the area. Heavy and moderate use on the central third of the area with heavy use adjacent to water sources. Moderate and heavy use in the northern third of the use area with most of the heavy use associated with water sources. Exceeded Allowable Use Levels (AULs) on Bottlebrush Squirreltail (SIHY) Indian Ricegrass (ORHY) Bluegrass (POA++) and Thurber Needlegrass (STTH2).

1987-1988 Winter Use

* - Kumiva Valley/Lava Beds/BlueWing Mtn. (northern area)
Light (0-40%) to moderate (41-60%) use on the northern and western portion of the area with moderate (41-60%) to heavy (61-100%) use on the remaining portion of the use area. Allowable Use levels (AULs) were exceeded on Bottlebrush

Squirreltail (SIHY) and Bluegrass (POA++). There was substantial areas of heavy use (61-100%) on Winterfat (EULA5).

- * - Sloughhouse/Granite Spring Valley (Sloughhouse area)
Light use (0-40%) was recorded on the majority of the area (65%) with some areas of moderate (41-60%) use (25%) and a little heavy (61-100%) use on the area. The heavy use (61-100%) was adjacent to the water sources. Telephone Well and Creel Spring. Allowable Use Levels (AULs) were exceeded on Indian Ricegrass (ORHY) Bottlebrush Squirreltail (SIHY) Needle and Thread (STCO4) and Winterfat (EULA5).

5. Trend

Trend data has been collected on two sites in the Blue Wing Allotment. The data that was collected was inconclusive since it was collected for two years only. This short period of time does not allow any conclusions to be drawn from the data.

6. Ecological Status Inventory

Seven Troughs Allotment Ecological Status Inventory

Summary:

Total Acres in Survey Area - 364,769
Total Acres Surveyed - *294,921

The *69,848 acre difference between total acres and surveyed acres reflect fenced private lands, mining operations, small inclusions and rock outcrop.

Ecological Status - Expressed in acres and percentage of total surveyed by seral stage.

<u>Late Seral</u>	<u>Mid Seral</u>	<u>Early Seral</u>
50,506 (17.1%)	237,110 (80%)	7,305 (2.5%)

* Acreage total a close approximation

The Ecological Status Inventory is presently being conducted on the Blue Wing Allotment. The information should be compiled and available by the spring of 1989.

7. Monitoring and Inventory Data Analysis

Stream Survey

a. Inventory

No quantifiable data has been gathered on Jenny Creek to date. Field observations have been noted and Jenny Creek

is referred to as poor condition in the Sonoma-Gerlach RA
MEP III.

b. Habitat Evaluation

No data are available to quantify trend.

8. Stream Survey

Jenny Creek was sampled during April, July and September, 1980 and the water quality analyzed by a lab. Temperatures ranged from 32 to 65° F, pH 7.7 to 8.8, and turbidity 11 to 27 TUS. Alkalinity and phosphates were high, 110 to 166 mg/L and 0.08 to 0.53 mg/l, respectively. Nitrate ranged from 0.02 to 1.4 mg/l and TDS from 217 to 349 mg/l.

9. Past Inventories

	Census 9/84	Census 7/87	Census 12/87	Est 2/88 #'s after gather	Est 7/88
Lava Beds/ Seven Troughs Mtns.	1108/ 296	<u>1/</u> 1711/ 245	-	<u>2/</u> 636/ 219	<u>2/</u> 706/24
Blue Wing Mtns.	90/ 77	<u>3/</u> 50/22	-	-	50/22
Nightingale Mtns.	794/9	-	112	-	124
Shawave Mtns.		-	152	-	169
Selenite Range	51/13	6/0	-	0	0
TOTALS	2043/ 395	1767/ 267	-	636/219	1049/ 26

1/ Includes Seven Troughs Allot. animals.

2/ Includes Kamma Mtn. Animals (Seven Troughs Allot) and Selenite (Blue Wing).

ESTIMATED TREND
From Sonoma-Gerlach EIS

Allotment	Total Acres <u>a/</u>	Trend Direction					
		Upward		Stable		Downward	
		Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
Blue Wing	976,928	0	0	762,004	78	214,924	22
Seven Troughs	302,371	0	0	15,118	5	287,253	95

ESTIMATED ECOLOGICAL RANGE CONDITION
From Sonoma-Gerlach EIS

Allotment	Total Acres <u>a/</u>	Range Condition Class							
		Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor	
		Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres	%
Blue Wing	772,006	15,440	2	154,401	20	293,363	38	308,802	40
Lava Beds HMA	204,922	4,098	2	40,985	20	77,870	38	81,969	40
(Total)	976,928	19,538	2	195,386	20	371,233	38	390,771	40
Seven Troughs	275,549	13,777	5	41,333	15	96,442	35	123,997	45
Lava Beds HMA	26,822	1,341	5	4,023	15	9,388	35	12,070	45
(Total)	302,371	15,118	5	45,356	15	105,830	35	136,067	45

9. Habitat Inventory and Evaluation

a. Inventory

- 1) A big game habitat inventory was completed during 1986. The data was used to establish the long term objectives for California bighorn sheep, mule deer and pronghorn. Long term trend data are gathered in conjunction with the standard rangeland frequency information. One browse utilization study has been established.
- 2) To date 11 brooding areas have been identified. these are located in the following ranges:

Lava Beds:	2 brooding areas
Kamma Mtns:	1 brooding area
Selenite Range:	2 brooding areas
Seven Troughs:	6 brooding areas

3) Crucial habitats

Streambank riparian	24 acres
Wetland riparian	358 acres
Aspen woodlands	40 acres

4) Herd management area size, wild horse and burro densities, habitat suitability ratings (HSR), and limiting factors

Herd Management Area	Size (acres)	Density (No./mi. ²)	HSR	Limiting Factor
Blue Wing Mtns.	21,411	2	0.45	Food
Shawave Mtns.	98,386	1	0.41	Water
Lava Beds	256,637	1	0.48	Food
Nightingale Mtns.	85,630	1	0.3	Water

5) Percentage of HMA within the Blue Wing Allotment

Lava Beds	88%
Blue Wing Mountains	100%
Nightingale Mountains	100%
Shawave Mountains	100%
Seven Troughs	27%

HSR has not been completed on the Seven Troughs Allotment.

F. Management Actions and Other Factors

1. Animal Removals

	Lava Bed	Blue Wing Mtn.	Shawave	Nightingale	Selenite
1987	952/24	-	-	-	2/
1985	482/94	50-28	204/9	256	30/12
1981	592/19		553		
2026/137		50/28	1013/9		30/12

2. Change in Wildlife Population

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) does not provide wildlife population data by allotment. However, overall populations trends in the management units involved appear to be static after past increases. Based on density data provided by NDOW we have the following AUM demand in the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Allotments.

California bighorn sheep: 0 AUMs

Mule deer: 2,717 AUMs

Pronghorn: 105 AUMs

Note: The methodology used in calculating reasonable numbers versus existing numbers and the redefinition of use area boundaries does not allow for a determination of significance of change in forage demand at this time.

4. Empire Burn

In the summer of 1985 a fire burned approximately 6,000 acres in the Blue Wing and Rodeo Creek Allotments. The area was closed to exclude grazing in January of 1986 and active grazing preference was reduced by a total of 169 AUMs on the Blue Wing Allotment. In May of 1986 two key area sites were established in the burn and monitoring shows that annuals dominate with a low occurrence of perennial species. The area remains closed to date.

The primary water sources for the Blue Wing Allotment consists of 12 developed wells, 52 developed springs, 69 undeveloped springs, 4 pipelines, 8 reservoirs, and 1 ephemeral stream.

The primary water sources for the Seven Troughs Allotment consist of 3 developed wells, 29 developed springs, 33 undeveloped springs, 2 pipelines, and 17 reservoirs. Two of the wells and two developed springs are presently inoperable.

These water sources alone are not adequate to provide water for the livestock, wildlife and wild horses/burros on these allotments. Water projects have been identified through CRMP, but to date there has not been any constructed. This is a major problem in these allotments.

II. Management Evaluation

A. Short Term Objectives

1. Utilization of streambank riparian plant species shall not exceed 30% in Jenny Creek except where adjusted by an approved activity Plan. (WLA-1.3)

Use pattern mapping indicates this objective is not being met. The general tendency of cattle is to heavily utilize streambank riparian areas.

2. Total utilization plant species in 358 acres of wetland riparian habitat shall not exceed 50%. (WL-1.10)

✓ Use pattern mapping indicates this objective is not being met. Livestock distribution and apparent lack of following the grazing system has concentrated cattle on the wetland areas throughout these allotments on a continual basis.

3. Total utilization shall not exceed the allowable use for the following wildlife key species. (WL-1.7) & WL-1.9)

Antelope Bitterbrush (PUTR2)	50%
Quaking Aspen (POTR5)	40%
Serviceberry (AMAL)	40%
Snowberry (SYMPH)	40%
Winterfat (EULA5)	50%
Cinquefoil (POTEN)	20%
Sandberg bluegrass (POSE)	30% (winter and spring)

Browse utilization studies indicate this objective is not being met for bitterbrush in the Selenite Range and snowberry throughout the allotments. Bitterbrush areas are experiencing 64% utilization and 60% on snowberry. More importantly reproduction is down and the hedging of key species is increasing to severe. Loss of habitat has concentrated mule deer into a smaller area.

4. Utilization of key plant species on upland rangeland/habitat shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan. (WL 1.7, WL 1.9, RM 1)

✓ Use Pattern Mapping indicates that utilization on winterfat is being exceeded in the areas around Twin Butte Well, the west side of the Seven Troughs, the flats east of Rocky Canyon and the east side of Granite Springs Valley.

Utilization studies indicate the objective has been met in the Seven Troughs Allotment with the exception of exceeding Allowable Use Levels (AULs) on Bottlebrush Squirreltail (SIHY) in the Mauds Well site.

Utilization objective was met on half (4 out of 8) of the study sites in the Blue Wing Allotment and Allowable Use Levels (AULs) were exceeded on four species in the other half of the sites. The sites that exceeded AULs were PUTR2 in the Selenites and STH2 in the Lava Beds in three areas.

B. Long Term Objectives

1. Improve and maintain the overall stream habitat in 2 miles of Jenny Creek from poor to 60% or better. (WLA-1.3)

Baseline and trend data are not available to quantify to what extent this objective is not being achieved. Field observations, however, indicate it is not.

2. Improve or maintain the condition of 358 acres of wetland riparian habitat to late seral or high. (WL-1.10)

Baseline and trend data are not yet sufficient to determine if this objective is being met. Non-attainment of short-term objective (2), however, indicates this objective is not being achieved. Causes for this are discussed in A2 above.

3. Improve and maintain 24 acres of streambank riparian habitat at good condition from poor condition. (WLA-1.3 & WL-1.9)

Baseline and trend data are not yet sufficient to determine if this objective is being met. Non-attainment of short-term objective 1b(2), however, indicates this objective is not being achieved. Causes for this are discussed in A2 above.

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

Baseline and trend data do not exist to determine if the objective for strutting grounds is being met or not. Present trend and baseline data do indicate the nesting habitat objective is being met.

5. Maintain or improve 40 acres of aspen woodland to good status or equivalent. (WL-19)

Baseline and trend data indicate this objective is being met within the management system.

6. Manage, maintain or improve public rangeland habitat condition to provide forage on a sustained yield basis with an initial forage demand for big game of 1,196 AUMs for mule deer, 75 AUMs for pronghorn and 106 AUMs for bighorn sheep by:

- a. Improving overall mule deer habitat as follows:
 - 1) From fair to good 113,719 acres: Lava beds DY-4; Selenite Range DY-1; Seven Troughs DS-2; Seven Troughs DY-5.
 - 2) From poor to fair 22,107 acres: Nightingale Mtns. DY-2 and Shawave Mtns. DY-3.
- b. Improving potential pronghorn habitat 308,900 acres from fair to good condition.
- c. Improving 9,485 acres of potential bighorn sheep habitat (Selenite Range BY-1) to 90% of optimum.

Baseline data indicates this objective has not been achieved. Long term trend data are not sufficient to date to determine if the objective is being moved toward achievement.

7. Manage, maintain and improve rangeland conditions on a sustained yield basis with an initial stocking level of AUMs (33,852 AUMs Active Preference).

Data is available, but not correlated at this time. Inventory not completed at this time on Blue Wing.

8. Manage domestic livestock grazing to increase 136,318 acres from poor and fair to good, and 3,505 acres from good to excellent ecological condition; improve range condition and forage availability, to reach and sustain 33,852 AUMs of active preference for livestock grazing.

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.

There is inadequate information at this time to determine if the long term objectives are being met. The Ecological Status Inventory (ESI) is being conducted on the Blue Wing/Seven Troughs Allotments during the 1988 field season. Upon completion of ESI the information will be used to quantify the achievement of this objective.

9. Manage, maintain and improve public rangeland conditions to provide an initial level of 12,240 AUMs of forage on a sustained yield basis for 877/143 (AMLs) 1/ wild horse, and burros in the following Herd Use Areas:

Current				
413/94	Lava Beds 2/	375/40	4500/480	999/24 head of horse
50/22	Blue Wing Mtns.	50/39	600/468	and burros removed from
124/0	Nightingale Mtns.	87/0	1044/0	Lava Beds, Seven Trough
169/0	Shawave Mtns.	100/0	1200/0	Selenite Range and Kam
237/149	Seven Troughs	215/64	2580/768	Mtns. in November/
56/0	Kamma Mtns.	50/0	600/0	December 1987.

The Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs) for the HMA's within the Blue Wing and Seven Troughs Allotments were established in the Lovelock CRMP plan approved July 24, 1984. Herd numbers allotment wide have varied from 3 to 154% above AML for burros. The objective has not been met.

Variation in AML - %

	AML	Horses	Burros
Allotment Wide (Blue Wing/Seven Troughs)	877/143	3/254	10/227
Lava Bed/Seven Troughs Subunit	640/104	10/205	6/249
Nightingale/Shawave Subunit	237/39	45/273	10/121

Animal removals conducted in 1981, 1985 and 1987 resulted in bringing the Lava Beds-Seven Trough subunit 1% below AML for horse and 11% above AML for burros. The Nightingale-Shawave subunit was 30% above AML for horses and 49% below AML for burros. The burro numbers in the Nightingale-Shawave subunit used to calculate these percentages do not accurately reflect the true number of animals present. There was a total removal of horses and burros from the Selenite Range and Antelope Range in 1987.

- Maintain and improve the free-roaming behavior of wild horses and burros 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.

- Maintain and improve wild horse/burro 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.

- Improve or maintain the water quality of Jenny Creek to the state criteria set for livestock drinking water and wildlife propagation.

State Water Quality Criteria

constituent/use	<u>Livestock drinking</u>	
	water	Wildlife Propagation
TDS (total dissolved solids)	3000 mg/l	-
NO ₃ (N)	100 mg/l	100 mg/l
Fecal coliform	1000/100 ml.	1000/100 ml.
pH	5.0-9.0	5.0-9.2
D.O. (dissolved oxygen)	aerobic	aerobic
Alkalinity	-	30-130 mg/l

The objective is being met for livestock drinking water and not being met for wildlife propagation because of high alkalinity.

C. Summary

The use pattern information gathered in 1986 and 1987 indicated the following problems:

1. Uneven livestock distribution little use in some areas with heavy use trailing to and from water or salt sources. Areas of moderate to heavy use is expanding.
2. Heavy use areas adjacent to water sources appear to be expanding in size.
3. Utilization on key species in some areas greatly exceed Allowable Use levels (AULs) especially on Bottlebrush Squirreltail (SIHY) and Winterfat (EULA5)
4. Use in winter sheep use areas appear to be heavy prior to sheep trailing into these areas.
5. Lack of water sources.
6. Prior horse number problems.

III. Conclusions

Short Term Objectives 1-3 Long Term Objectives 1-7

Utilization objectives on wetland and streambank riparian areas and upland sites associated with water are not being met.

Factors contributing to conditions:

- A. Poor livestock distribution.
- B. Failure to maintain livestock in designated areas of use as outline in the AMP.
- C. Salt on the water (within 1/4 mile).
- D. Poor water distribution and inadequate water sources.
- E. Wild horse and burro numbers have been above AML until the winter of 1987.
- F. Livestock and wildlife competition have restricted wildlife numbers to small concentrations at higher elevations.
- G. Lack of maintenance on range improvements.

Utilization is within Allowable Use levels (AUL) on most species in upland sites because distribution problems keep cattle near waters. Lack of water results in over obligation of forage around waters and riparian areas. Sonoma-Gerlach EIS stated that 163,953 acres of these allotments are not suitable because of lack of water.

Horse numbers contributed to the overutilization of areas (as mentioned above) until 1987 when they were reduced to appropriate AML.

IV. Recommendation:

- A. Eliminate AUMs associated active preference in those areas not serviced by water.
- B. Improve water distribution.
- C. Change the present grazing system to meet the objectives of key forage species (including season of use).
- D. Allow wetland riparian to reach late seral status then graze to the benefit of sage grouse.
- E. Allow wild horse and burro numbers to increase 25 percent above Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs) before removal, and then remove animals to a level 25 percent below AMLs. By utilizing a 25 percent fluctuation around the AMLs horse removals would be required very fifth year.
- F. Fence Jenny Creek in accordance with the riparian implementation schedule.
- G. Negotiate season of use to allow for spring rest for key species.

V. Schedule for Conducting Allotment Evaluation

A. Evaluation Schedule

Reevaluate at the end of two years. Evaluation schedules of monitoring data will be based on Resource Area priorities. A basic schedule is shown below, specific dates are to be filled in on the approval of this plan.

1987 (year 3)
1989 (year 5)
1992 (year 8)
1994 (year 10)
2000 (year 16)

VI. Monitoring Strategy

- A. Include winterfat (EULA5) as a key species

- B. Use extensive utilization method for browse species.
- C. Monitor streambank riparian in relation to terrestrial species diversity potential.
- D. Document horse movement within HMAs with a combination of aerial and ground censusing.
- E) NDOW needs to provide BLM with sage grouse strutting grounds so that management practices can be monitored.
- F. Complete HSI in Seven Troughs and Kamma Mountains HMA's.
- G. Quantify streambank riparian data on Jenny Creek.

VII. General Information

A. Documents Reviewed

- 1. Sonoma-Gerlach EA Management Framework Plan II.
- 2. Draft Habitat Management Plan for Selenite Range and Seven Troughs Range. WHA-T-10 & WHA-T-15.
- 3. Evans, Carol. 1985. Effects of Cattle Grazing on Sage Grouse Use on Meadows in the Sheldon NWR. Thesis.
- 4. Wildlife Habitat in Managed Rangelands - The great Basin of Southeastern Oregon.
- 5. Sonoma-Gerlach RA Method for Evaluating and Monitoring Riparian Habitat in Relation to Terrestrial Needs.
- 6. BLM Manual Supplement 6630-Big Game Studies.
- 7. BLM Manual Supplement 6671-Stream Surveys.
- 8. Armentrout and Gardetto. Habitat Suitability Rating System for California Bighorn Sheep.
- 9. Allotment Monitoring Plan
- 10. Allotment Management Plan
- 11. Area Managers' Proposed Decision
- 12. Lovelock Coordinated Resource Management Plan
- 13. Sonoma-Gerlach Rangeland Program Summary
- 14. Riparian Implementation Schedule
- 15. Ecological Site Inventory
- 16. Sonoma-Gerlach WH&B Census and Population Estimate data

B. Participants Involved in This Evaluation

1. Area Manager - Gerald Brandvold
2. Supervisory Range Conservationist - Paul Jancar
3. Range Conservationist - Ron Pearson
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
SEVEN TROUGHS ALLOTMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

This agreement is based on the Seven Troughs Allotment Evaluation attached, and documents the change in existing livestock practices on the Seven Troughs Allotment.

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

This agreement was prepared in consultation, cooperation, and coordination with The Lovelock CRMP Committee.

II. ALLOTMENT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

A. Allotment Objectives

1. Short Term

- a. Total utilization on plant species in approximately 215 acres of riparian habitat shall not exceed 50%.
- b. Total utilization shall not exceed the allowable use for the following wildlife key species. *(above) J.D.*

Antelope bitterbrush (PUTR2)	50%
Quaking aspen (POTR5)	40%
Serviceberry (AMAL)	40%
Snowberry (SYMPH)	40%
Winterfat (EULA5)	50%
Cinquefoil (POTEN)	20%
Sandberg bluegrass (POSE)	30% (winter & spring)

- c. Utilization of key plant species on upland rangeland/ habitat shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan. *during the growing season and not exceeding 60% yearlong. J.D.*

2. Long Term

- a. Manage, maintain and improve rangeland conditions on a sustained yield basis with an initial stocking level of 9,523 AUMs.

III. AGREED UPON CHANGES IN AVAILABLE LIVESTOCK FORAGE AND/OR LIVESTOCK USE ADJUSTMENTS

A. From (Description of Existing Use)

1. DeLong Ranches, Inc. - DeLong Ranches Inc. operate within the Dufurrena adjudicated area-of-use, which includes the Kamma Mountains, Antelope Range and the northwest corner of the Seven Troughs Range. Grazing will continue each year as winter use from November 1 through ~~March 31~~ ^{APRIL 15}, Livestock will then be moved out of the allotment. *J.D.*

<u>Total</u>	<u>Preference</u>		<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>% F.R.</u>
	<u>Suspended</u>	<u>Active</u>			
746	0	746	C	11/01- 03/31 04/15	67%

B. To (Description of Agreed Upon Changes)

The grazing system will continue as previously described. DeLong Ranches agree to investigate and develop, if feasible, water in the following areas.

- Antelope Spring - To develop water at the source. T. 35 N., R. 30 E.

-Sulphur Seep - To develop water at the source. T. 34 N., R. 29 E.

- Crazy Jack Seep - To develop water at the source. T. 34 N., R. 31 E.

- Mauds Well - To develop a more reliable water source.

- *Box Canyon #2 - maintain & develop. AB J.D.*

All ground work would be completed by DeLong Ranches, the BLM would complete the Environmental Assessment and Archaeological clearance.

It is agreed that there would be a yearly monitoring review meeting to discuss any problems that may occur and make adjustments accordingly.

IV. SPECIFIC MONITORING PROGRAM

Refer to the monitoring section of the Seven Troughs AMP for specific details. This plan is designed to describe the rangeland monitoring program and methodology that will be implemented in the Seven Troughs Allotment. Standardized monitoring studies have been established on the Seven Troughs Allotment and the gathering of data was initiated in 1984. Rangeland monitoring was conducted prior to 1984. The earliest studies conducted were 3 x 3 photo trend plots. These earlier studies will either be updated to present standards or if unsuitable, files will be maintained for future reference.

The process for establishing initial and subsequent levels of livestock grazing use and the rangeland monitoring program are discussed in the

Rangeland Program Summary (RPS). The method for implementing the rangeland management program in the planning area will occur through monitoring and the selective management approach.

The monitoring program in the Seven Troughs Allotment is designed to determine if the established management objectives are being met. Grazing use is one of the tools being used to meet these objectives. Monitoring will indicate if grazing use is following the grazing plan and provide the decision basis for any adjustments in annual operations. The objectives will be evaluated on a long-term basis utilizing permanent transects in key and/or critical areas. Short and long term management actions, adjustments and/or decisions will be based on the evaluation of the results of these monitoring studies.

Types of Studies

All studies in this plan will be conducted in accordance with the "Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook" (September 1984, the Winnemucca District Coordinated Monitoring Plan" (April 1985) and the appropriate BLM Manuals. Aquatic study methods will be performed to Bureau Manual Supplement (6671-NSO 6-38) standards. Special bighorn habitat monitoring will be in accordance with the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area Monitoring Plan.

V. FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS

A. Evaluation Process

Analysis will be based on the attainment of both key area and management objectives, identifying which objectives were or were not met (if applicable) and identifying why the objectives were or were not met (if applicable).

Techniques used or types of data collected for short-term monitoring and evaluation include: (1) grazing use records, (2) weather information, (3) use maps, and (4) key forage plant utilization using cages for comparison.

Techniques used or types of data collected periodically for long-term monitoring and evaluation include: (1) frequency, (2) percent composition by weight of the vegetation, (3) key forage plant utilization, (4) resource value ratings, (5) photography (photo plots), and (6) evaluation of permanent exclosures.

At the completion of the five year evaluation period, long-term time frames for further evaluations and schedules will be determined and included in the monitoring plan update.

Ecological status data will be analyzed and interpreted using standard SCS and BLM methodology.

Subsequent analysis and changes to the grazing system or Monitoring Plan will be made on a case by case basis, as directed by the Area Manager and Supervisory Range Conservationist in consultation with the permittees and other affected interests.

B. Evaluation Schedule

Evaluation schedules of monitoring data will be based on Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area priorities. Monitoring data will be evaluated at the end of the initial consecutive three year period and again after the fifth year, which will complete the initial baseline data establishment period. During the initial establishment period evaluate all studies data (frequency trend, ecological status, utilization, actual use and climatological data). However, utilization studies data and Use Pattern Mapping will be the prime data used for analysis and making any needed adjustments during the short-term. Evaluate studies data as follows:

_____ year 3
_____ year 5

If baseline and monitoring data are sufficient to make management adjustments at the end of the third and fifth years, adjustments to management practices can be made. At the end of the initial five year evaluation, subsequent evaluation time frames will be determined, agreed to by the permittee(s) and included as an update to the monitoring plan.

VI. AUTHORITY

The authority for this agreement given through 43 CFR 4110.3-2, 4110.3-3, 4120.2

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

John D. Long

Nov 30, 1988
Date

Gerald P. Brandvold
Gerald P. Brandvold
Area Manager, Sonoma-Gerlach RA

11-30-88
Date

AGREEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND CHANGES IN
AVAILABLE LIVESTOCK FORAGE AND LIVESTOCK
GRAZING USE ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE
BLUE WING ALLOTMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

This agreement is based on the Blue Wing Allotment Evaluation attached, and documents the change in existing livestock practices on the Blue Wing Allotment.

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

This agreement was prepared in consultation, cooperation, and coordination with The Lovelock CRMP Committee.

II. ALLOTMENT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

A. Allotment Objectives

1. Short Term

- a. Utilization of key streambank riparian plant species shall not exceed 30% in the following streams except where adjusted by an approved activity plan.
- b. Total utilization of plant species in approximately 143 acres of riparian habitat shall not exceed 50%.
- c. Total utilization shall not exceed the allowable use for the following wildlife key species. (WL-1.7 & WL-1.9)

Antelope bitterbrush (PUTR2)	50%
Quaking aspen (POTR5)	40%
Serviceberry (AMAL)	40%
Snowberry (SYMPH)	40%
Winterfat (EULA5)	50%
Cinquefoil (POTEN)	20%
Sandberg bluegrass (POSE)	30% (winter & spring)

- d. Utilization of key plant species on upland rangeland/ habitat shall not exceed 50% except where adjusted by an approved activity plan.

*during the growing season and
expect 60% yearlong. JTB (10)*

2. Long Term

- a. Manage, maintain and improve rangeland conditions on a sustained yield basis with an initial stocking level of 24,329 AUMs.

- d. Graze 350-400 head of livestock in the Lava Beds, Blue Wing Mountains, and western slopes of the Seven Troughs Range on a rotating basis throughout the year depending on weather and forage conditions.

B. To (Description of Agreed Upon Changes)

C Punch agrees to reduce a total of 300 head of cattle for the 1989 grazing season in the following areas:

- 50 head from the West Selenites. This would lower the number using that area to 150 cattle maximum.
- 100 head from the east side of the Selenites. This would lower the number there to 200 cattle maximum.
- 100 head from the Nightingale and Shawave area. This would lower the number there to 500 head maximum.
- 50 head from the West Seven Troughs area. This would lower the maximum number there to 350 head.

C Punch has agreed to fence the meadows at Jenny Creek, and also agree that riparian areas identified as needing protection will be fenced by BLM on public land. It was also agreed that the BLM would provide signs for these fenced areas to help in their protection.

BLM and C Punch Corporation agree that riparian and key vegetation utilized by wildlife as identified in II.A.1. comprise a small percentage of the total forage in the allotment and that BLM and C Punch Corporation agree to maintain those utilization levels through fencing. Fences will be constructed by BLM on public lands.

Data gathered through procedures set in paragraph IV shall be used to determine location and schedules for fences.

C Punch will begin work on the proposed Vernon f2 pipeline which would run five miles south from the existing well. C Punch will stake the location of the project and obtain necessary easements from the railroad. BLM will complete the environmental assessment and the archaeological clearance for the proposed project. C Punch will construct the pipeline under a section 4 permit.

Future projects that C Punch will pursue are: Antelope spring and pipeline, Ten Mile spring and pipeline, Desert Spring and pipeline. Once the Vernon f1 well and pipeline are completed this will provide water to an area previously not watered and will hold livestock in this area longer.

This in turn will reduce the grazing pressure on the Shawave and Nightingale area of the allotment. C Punch and BLM agree to have a yearly monitoring review to evaluate how the 300 head reduction is benefiting the area. We will also identify any areas that are above the 50% utilization level.

III. AGREED UPON CHANGES IN AVAILABLE LIVESTOCK FORAGE AND/OR LIVESTOCK USE ADJUSTMENTS

A. From (Description of Existing Use)

1. Allotment Preference Summary

<u>Total</u>	<u>Preference</u>		<u>Kind</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>% F.R.</u>
	<u>Suspended</u>	<u>Active</u>			
21,460	0	21,460	C	03/01-02/28	80%

2. Grazing System:

C-Punch Corporation - The existing grazing system is basically a yearlong wild cow operation on both the Blue Wing and Seven Troughs Allotments. There are seven (7) areas of use, three (3) winter use and four (4) summer use areas which are listed below:

Winter Use

- a. Sloughhouse/Granite Springs Valley
- b. Kumiva Valley/Lava Beds/Blue Wing Mtn.
- c. Kamma Mtns./Antelope Range/Sage Valley

Summer Use

- a. Selenites
- b. Shawave Mtns./Nightingale Mtns.
- c. Lava Beds/Dry Mtn./Blue Wing Mtn.
- d. Seven Troughs/Sage Valley

The grazing management plan for C-Punch Corporation includes modifications to current areas and seasons-of-use, and livestock distribution patterns as agreed to in CRMP and outlined below:

- a. Graze 150-200 head of livestock on the west side of the Selenite Range from 4/1-10/31. These cattle will be moved south and held in the Slough House area above Nixon from 11/1-3/31.
- b. Graze 550-600 head of livestock in the Nightingale and Shawave Mountains from 4/1-10/31. These cattle will be held on the flats between the Selenites and the Lava Beds from 11/1-3/31.
- c. Graze 250-300 head of livestock on the east side of the Selenite Range from 4/1-10/31. These cattle will be held on the flats between the Selenites and the Lava Beds from 11/1-3/31.

IV. SPECIFIC MONITORING PROGRAM

Refer to the monitoring section of the Blue Wing AMP for specific details. This plan is designed to describe the rangeland monitoring program and methodology that will be implemented in the Blue Wing Allotment. Standardized monitoring studies have been established on the Blue Wing Allotment and the gathering of data was initiated in 1984. Rangeland monitoring was conducted prior to 1984. The earliest studies conducted were 3 x 3 photo trend plots. These earlier studies will either be updated to present standards or if unsuitable, files will be maintained for future reference.

The process for establishing initial and subsequent levels of livestock grazing use and the rangeland monitoring program are discussed in the Rangeland Program Summary (RPS). The method for implementing the rangeland management program in the planning area will occur through monitoring and the selective management approach.

The monitoring program in the Blue Wing Allotment is designed to determine if the established management objectives are being met. Grazing use is one of the tools being used to meet these objectives. Monitoring will indicate if grazing use is following the grazing plan and provide the decision basis for any adjustments in annual operations. The objectives will be evaluated on a long-term basis utilizing permanent transects in key and/or critical areas. Short and long term management actions, adjustments and/or decisions will be based on the evaluation of the results of these monitoring studies.

Types of Studies

All studies in this plan will be conducted in accordance with the "Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook" (September 1984, the Winnemucca District Coordinated Monitoring Plan" (April 1985) and the appropriate BLM Manuals. Aquatic study methods will be performed to Bureau Manual Supplement (6671-NSO 6-38) standards. Special bighorn habitat monitoring will be in accordance with the Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area Monitoring Plan.

V. FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS

A. Evaluation Process

Analysis will be based on the attainment of both key area and management objectives, identifying which objectives were or were not met (if applicable) and identifying why the objectives were or were not met (if applicable).

Techniques used or types of data collected for short-term monitoring and evaluation include: (1) grazing use records, (2) weather information, (3) use maps, and (4) key forage plant utilization using cages for comparison.

Techniques used or types of data collected periodically for long-term monitoring and evaluation include: (1) frequency, (2) percent composition by weight of the vegetation, (3) key forage plant utilization, (4) resource value ratings, (5) photography (photo plots), and (6) evaluation of permanent exclosures.

At the completion of the five year evaluation period, long-term time frames for further evaluations and schedules will be determined and included in the monitoring plan update.

Ecological status data will be analyzed and interpreted using standard SCS and BLM methodology.

Subsequent analysis and changes to the grazing system or Monitoring Plan will be made on a case by case basis, as directed by the Area Manager and Supervisory Range Conservationist in consultation with the permittees and other affected interests.

B. Evaluation Schedule

Evaluation schedules of monitoring data will be based on Sonoma-Gerlach Resource Area priorities. Monitoring data will be evaluated at the end of the initial consecutive three year period and again after the fifth year, which will complete the initial baseline data establishment period. During the initial establishment period evaluate all studies data (frequency trend, ecological status, utilization, actual use and climatological data). However, utilization studies data and Use Pattern Mapping will be the prime data used for analysis and making any needed adjustments during the short-term. Evaluate studies data as follows:

_____ year 3
_____ year 5

If baseline and monitoring data are sufficient to make management adjustments at the end of the third and fifth years, adjustments to management practices can be made. At the end of the initial five year evaluation, subsequent evaluation time frames will be determined, agreed to by the permittee(s) and included as an update to the monitoring plan.

VI. AUTHORITY

The authority for this agreement given through 43 CFR 4110.3-2, 4110.3-3, 4120.2

VII. The agreed upon changes and agreement to reduce total number of cattle by 300 head for the 1989 season as identified above are binding on any successor interest or future transferees with such modifications as approved or required by the authorized officer.

VIII. SIGNATURES

Ruwanee A. ...

11-30-88
Date

Gerald Brandvold

Gerald P. Brandvold
Area Manager, Sonoma-Gerlach RA

11-30-88
Date

AMR is not an objection
of the allot.

