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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
4130, 4160
(NV-023.6)

August 18, 1994

Susan & Irv Brown
P. O. Box 478
Winnemucca, NV 89446

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Brown:

On June 15 and 16, 1994 an evaluation was conducted based on the criteria in the Final Full Force and Effect Multiple Use Decision issued for the Paiute Meadows Allotment, dated April 12, 1993. The double sampling production method evaluated the study sites. This method is described in the National Range Handbook section 604.3.

Each site has been marked with permanent stakes, at the beginning, midpoint and end. The transect is 200 feet long. Hoop size is 9.6 square feet. The first hoop was at 10 feet and a twenty foot interval thereafter. The hoop was placed along the center line of the stretched tape. To keep the integrity of the site, the two clipped plots used for calibration were adjacent to the site.

Studies

1 Upper Elevations: South Slope 12 to 16 inch precipitation zone, NV023X016, write-up number DJ-60:

<u>Species</u>	<u>% Composition by weight</u>	
	<u>1992</u>	<u>1994</u>
Cheatgrass	3	6
Bluebunch wheatgrass	6	25*
Thurber's needlegrass	1	1
Idaho Fescue	2	1
Sandberg bluegrass	3	2
Basin wildrye	Tr.	1
Unknown perennial forbs	4	Tr.
Aster	-	Tr.
Phacelia	-	1
Lupine	1	7
Unknown annual forbs	-	Tr.
Groundsel	-	Tr.
Buckwheat	-	1
Mountain big sagebrush	66	51
Rabbitbrush	12	2
Currant	2	2
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Total annual air dry production:	950	1195

* The bluebunch wheatgrass appears to be a hybrid cross between bottlebrush squirreltail and bluebunch wheatgrass.

Criteria: Increase bluebunch wheatgrass from 6% present by weight in the monitoring site to 15% by weight. The criteria has been met and exceeded. Slight utilization was observed on Idaho fescue, Thurber's needlegrass and rabbitbrush.

2 Mid Elevation: Loamy Slope 10 to 14 inch precipitation zone, NV023X039, write-up number DJ-63:

<u>Species</u>	<u>% Composition by weight</u>	
	<u>1992</u>	<u>1994</u>
Thurber's needlegrass	3	10
Cheatgrass	24	23
Sandberg bluegrass	10	4
Idaho fescue	Tr.	-
Bottlebrush squirreltail	Tr.	Tr.
Needleandthread	-	8
Basin wildrye	1	-
Bluebunch wheatgrass	2	10
Lupine	1	6
Unknown perennial forbs	1	1
Unknown annual forbs	-	Tr.
Locoweed	-	Tr.
Buckwheat	-	Tr.
Longleaf phlox	-	Tr.
Big sagebrush	48	38
Rabbitbrush	10	-
Green ephedra	Tr.	-
Currant	Tr.	-
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Total annual air dry production:	550	536

Criteria: Increase bluebunch wheatgrass from 2% present by weight in the monitoring site to 15% by weight and Thurber's needlegrass from 3% present to 5% by weight. The criteria has not been met for bluebunch wheatgrass, the present weight is 10% of the composition. The criteria has been met and exceeded for Thurber's needlegrass, the present weight is 10 percent of the composition. Slight utilization was observed on the Thurber's needlegrass.

3 Low Elevations: Sandy 5 to 8 inch precipitation zone, NV027X009, write-up number DJ-27:

<u>Species</u>	<u>% Composition by weight</u>	
	<u>1992</u>	<u>1994</u>
Indian ricegrass	6	5
Bottlebrush squirreltail	2	1
Cheatgrass	-	4
Unknown annual forbs	-	2
Scarlet globemallow	-	-
Knotweed	-	1
Locoweed	-	10

Littleleaf horsebrush	15	-
Bailey greasewood	35	27
Budsage	7	19
Shadscale	20	16
Rabbitbrush	2	15
Whitesage	2	-
Spiny hopsage	5	-
Nevada ephedra	6	-
Nevada dalea	<u>Tr.</u>	<u>-</u>
	100	100
 Total annual air dry production:	 350	 217

Criteria: Increase Indian ricegrass from 6% present by weight in the monitoring site to 15% by weight. The criteria has not been met. Moderate utilization was observed on the mature Indian ricegrass.

The criteria for the South Paiute Use Area has not been met. In 1995, no grazing schedule will be issued for this area. Livestock will not be authorized in the South Paiute Use Area.

Study site 3 has remained static for the Indian ricegrass. This area is a winter horse use area. Moderate utilization has occurred on the mature ricegrass plants. Wild horse numbers were reduced in February, 1994. A trap site was located near the vicinity of the study. Released horses may have increased utilization levels. This winter should reflect normal horse movements and utilization rates should be lower. If this does not happen, it would appear that winter use areas may be a limiting factor.

Study site 3 is located at a key area. The trend study should be read to determine if any changes have occurred.

During the evaluation, a brief tour of the Paiute Seeding was conducted. In 1992, the condition class of the seeding was rated poor (27 acres/AUM). The condition appears to have improved with two years of rest. It is estimated that portions of the seeding are in fair condition (10 to 15 acres /AUM). The extent of these areas has not been determined. The seeding should be reevaluated to determine present condition and forage availability.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda McCutcheon at (702) 623-1500.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Zilinski
Acting Area Manager,
 Paradise-Denio Resource Area