

m 10-16-97



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445
702-623-1500

In Reply Refer To:
(NV-22.14)

October 16, 1997

Catherine Barcomb
Commission for the Preservation
of Wild Horses
1105 Terminal Way, Ste. 209
Reno, NV 89502

Dear Ms. Barcomb:

Enclosed, please find the monitoring data for the low elevations of the South Paiute Use Area in response to your letter dated August 28, 1997.

Should you have any questions regarding this data, please contact Mandy McCutcheon at (702) 623-1500.

Sincerely yours,

Colin P. Christensen
ADM-Renewable Resources

Enclosures
monitoring data

KEY PUNCH CONTROL

05-27

(LVL. 70-00)

1-6 7-12 13-17 18-22 23-27 28-32 33-37 38-42 43-47 48-52 53-57 58-62 63-67 68-72 73-75

PLANT NAME	PLANT SYMBOL	PLANT CHAR.	ESTIMATED OR CLIPPED WEIGHT PER SPECIES										WT CLIPPED PLOTS			PCF	% DRY WT	WT ALL PLOTS	AVG YIELD	PCT COMP	
			(CIRCLE PLOTS THAT ARE CLIPPED)										EST	CLIP	DRY						
(1)	(2)	(3)	P-1	P-2	P-3	P-4	P-5	P-6	P-7	P-8	P-9	P-10	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	
ORHY		50% w/	15	1	8	12	15	11	1	8	6	/	/	/	/	.39	.30	92	11	5	
BRTE			2	/	3	/	4	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1.00	.87	9	8	4	
PAFF			2	1	4	2	2	/	/	4	1	/	/	/	/	.50	.57	16	5	2	
SIHY			/	/	2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1.00	.87	2	2	(.92) 1	
IRSP			20	10	35	10	6	4	9	7	5	4	/	/	/	.60	.67	103	41	19	
SAVEB			25	/	120	/	/	/	/	/	8	/	/	/	/	.80	.47	153	58	27	
ATCO			/	/	65	2	4	4	/	2	/	/	/	/	/	.88	.50	77	34	16	
Spaer			/	/	/	5	/	5	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	.67	.17	10	1	(.46) T	
Polygonum			/	/	/	3	1	/	/	1	/	/	/	/	/	.83	.57	5	2	(.92) 1	
Istra			/	/	/	/	16	30	10	4	8	3	/	/	/	.58	.57	71	23	10	
hvi			/	/	/	/	5	8	/	50	/	/	/	/	/	1.00	.50	63	32	15	
																				217	100
	(11)	(12)																			
Arsp	3												3	2	4	8				.60	
SAVEB	20												20	14	7	8				.80	
Astrog	5												5	2	7	5				.58	
Spaer	6												6	4	8	8				.67	
ORHY	10												10	4	20	10				.39	
Polygonum	2												2	2	4	3				.83	
BRTE	1												1	1	1	1				1.00	
PAFF	1												1	1	3	1				.5	
ATCO	/												8	6	4	26				.88	
COMPOSITION TOTALS																					
DUES	MULCH																				
AVERAGE	COVER																				
PERCENT BARE	BARE																				
PERCENT ROCK	ROCK																				

1016

8/8/95

05-27

CHECKED BY

DATE FORWARDED

DATA IDENTIFICATION

CARD ID.

KEY PUNCH CONTROL

(COL. 76-80)

1-6 7-12 13-17 18-22 23-27 28-32 33-37 38-42 43-47 48-52 53-57 58-62 63-67 68-72 73-75

PLANT NAME (1)	PLANT SYMBOL (2)	PLANT CHAR. % (3) dmp	ESTIMATED OR CLIPPED WEIGHT PER SPECIES (CIRCLE PLOTS THAT ARE CLIPPED)										WT CLIPPED PLOTS			PCF (7)	% DRY (8)	WT ALL (9)	AVG YIELD (10)	PCT COMP (11)	
			P-1	P-2	P-3	P-4	P-5	P-6	P-7	P-8	P-9	P-10	EST 11(4)	CLIP 12 11(5)	DRY (6)						
ORNY		16	22	0	—	18	15	55	—	8	5	10	22	25	20	19	.82	.8	133	87	16%
BRTE		5	8	5	8	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	1	.9	32	29	5%
SI.H4		1	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	—	.9	8	7	1%
AAFC		11	15	9	12	5	5	5	3	3	3	5	5	5	6	4	1	.9	165	59	11%
EWLA		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—
APSP		7	25	10	20	15	12	—	10	—	8	—	25	9	15	5	.59	.6	100	35	7%
SAUEB		17	10	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	0	0	0	19	.63	.6	238	90	17%
ATCO		17	—	10	100	35	40	10	—	—	—	—	30	77	65	83	1.38	.35	195	94	17%
SPNER		1	—	—	—	5	—	3	—	—	—	—	0	1	0	1	1	.45	8	4	T
Poligonum		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—
Asplenium		14	—	—	—	13	35	50	6	10	32	3	3	3	3	3	.83	.6	149	74	18%
Ornith		11	—	—	—	—	—	12	30	—	85	—	65	0	81	0	1.25	.40	117	59	11%
		100																			538

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Winnemucca District Office
705 East Fourth Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

In reply refer to:
(NV024.14)

Memorandum

To: Paiute Meadows Monitoring Files
From: Mandy McCutcheon, Range Conservationist
Subject: Monitoring on South Paiute Use Area



On April 12, and 19, 1994, Ron Hall and I conducted monitoring for total horse use on the South Paiute Use Area. The permittee was not contacted, since the ranch is in the process of changing hands. The South Paiute Use Area was closed to livestock grazing by the 1993 Area Managers Full Force and Effect Multiple Use Decision dated 04/12/94. Forage species identified, utilization levels, and observation locations are plotted on the use pattern map and noted in the stop summary.

On April 12, the higher elevations in the southern use area were checked. There were six stops made within the area to assess utilization. Quite a bit of the country was not checked due to limited access by snow.

The utilization on the uplands throughout the area on last year's growth was determined ocularly and appeared to be slight with the main species being Thurber's Needlegrass (STTH2), Bluebunch Wheatgrass (AGSP), Sandberg's Bluegrass (POSE), Needle and Thread Grass (STCO4), and Bottlebrush Squirreltail (SIHY).

Utilization within the seeding was determined in the area with the heaviest use by conducting a key forage plant transect with 9% use on Crested Wheatgrass (AGCR) and 2% use on POSE.

Trough Spring, Drip Spring, Running Water Spring, and Horse Spring were also checked to determine water availability and maintenance needs. All springs, with the exception of Running Water Springs which is a pipeline, were running. The maintenance on these spring has been non-existent. There are pictures in the files from 1977 which show that these developments were in bad condition then.

On April 19, the lower elevations south of the Paiute Meadows Ranch were checked. This area was checked ocularly, with use hard to determine since the main forage species were Shadscale (ATCO), Budsage (ARSP), Ephedra (EPHED), and Greasewood (SAVE) there was an abundance of new leader growth.

When this area was flown previous to the 1994 horse gather, this was the area with the highest concentration of horses. Also horses removed from this area were in poor condition.

Utilization on last years growth on the Sedges (CAREX) and Rushes (JUNCU) at the seeps north of Pidgeon Springs and at Pidgeon Springs itself was determined to be heavy with approximately 60-65% use.

Pidgeon Springs should be assessed for feasibility for reconstruction, since there was no surface water observed. This could be due to the fact that the headbox and enclosure were over grown with sagebrush and willow. There were three dead horses observed at the spring.

The utilization at Indian Springs was less than 10% on Willows (SALIX) and on CAREX and JUNCU. The willow and rose are coming in strong in all age classes and have the riparian area well armored.

The country south of Pidgeon Springs was not checked due to time limitations, however, in June an ESI transect was run in this country, and observations showed that the Indian Ricegrass (ORHY) has been used heavily by horses both presently and in the past.

With the last horse gather and no livestock grazing in the South Use Area the vegetation is starting to recover and our management objectives are within reach.

Amanda L. McCutcheon
8/9/94

UPM STOP SUMMARY

ALLOTMENT: Painte Meadows

OBSERVER: Hall, McCutcheon DATE: 4/12/94

#	KEY SPP.	% USE KEY SPP.	% USE OVERALL	STUDIES TYPE/READ Y/N FORMS ATTACHED	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
①	AGCR P913			KFT #1	Painte Seeding Artrw, Chrys, Pose app 1-2 NG on 1 ger
2	BRTE			Ocular	Trough Spring No water going into trough - goes into reservoir -- needs maintained
3	STH2 POSE SIH4	>10%	LYG	Ocular	Running Water Spring STH2, POSE, SIH4 what water
4	STH2 POSE SIH4 STCO1	>15%	LYG	Ocular	Key area for Horses moved cage same vicinity ARAR8
5	AGSP STH2 Pose	>15%		same ↑	Drip Spring 1/4 gal per minute needs some maintenance Horse spring ARAR8, AGSP, STH2, Pose

ALLOTMENT: Paints

UPM STOP SUMMARY

OBSERVER: Hall McCutcheon DATE: 4/12/94

#	KEY SPP.	% USE KEY SPP.	% USE OVERALL	STUDIES TYPE/READ Y/N FORMS ATTACHED	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
6	Agar Sily Rose	75%		Ocular	Reservoir & Trough Paints Seeding No H ₂ O in trough Artrus, Dose, Agar, Sily most found under cover of Artrus
4/19/94					
7	Atco Arsp SAVE			Ocular	Atco, Arsp, SAVE -very little Sily can't tell utilization for last year on shrubs as current years growth has already begun.
⑧	Dist			Ocular	Cane Springs - fish up private land Spring -spring running well
⑨	CAREX JUNCUS Salix	> 60-65% 30-35%	heavy	Ocular	Seeps heavy use on last years growth, slight use to date on current years growth Some utilization on willow
⑩	CAREX JUNCUS	> 60-65%	heavy	Ocular	Pigeon Springs heavy use on last years growth -slight on current years growth to date Needs maintenance - clean out exclusive - new pipes and troughs, etc. 3 dead houses

024-4400-12 9/30/92 LAH

UPM STOP SUMMARY

ALLOTMENT: Painte Meadows

OBSERVER: Hall, McCutcheon

DATE: 4/19/94

#	KEY SPP.	% USE KEY SPP.	% USE OVERALL	STUDIES TYPE/READ Y/N FORMS ATTACHED	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
11	Ateo Arsp SAUE	use hard to detect but horses used area	slight	Ocular	Ateo, Arsp, Grsp, Saeu, Chrys No use could be detected on the shrubs though horses were known to inhabit the area
12	Dist Willow CAREX JUNCUS	70%	slight	Ocular	Indian Springs willow and wild rose are coming in well all different stages of growth now both Diparian area fairly well protected due to willow and rose

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

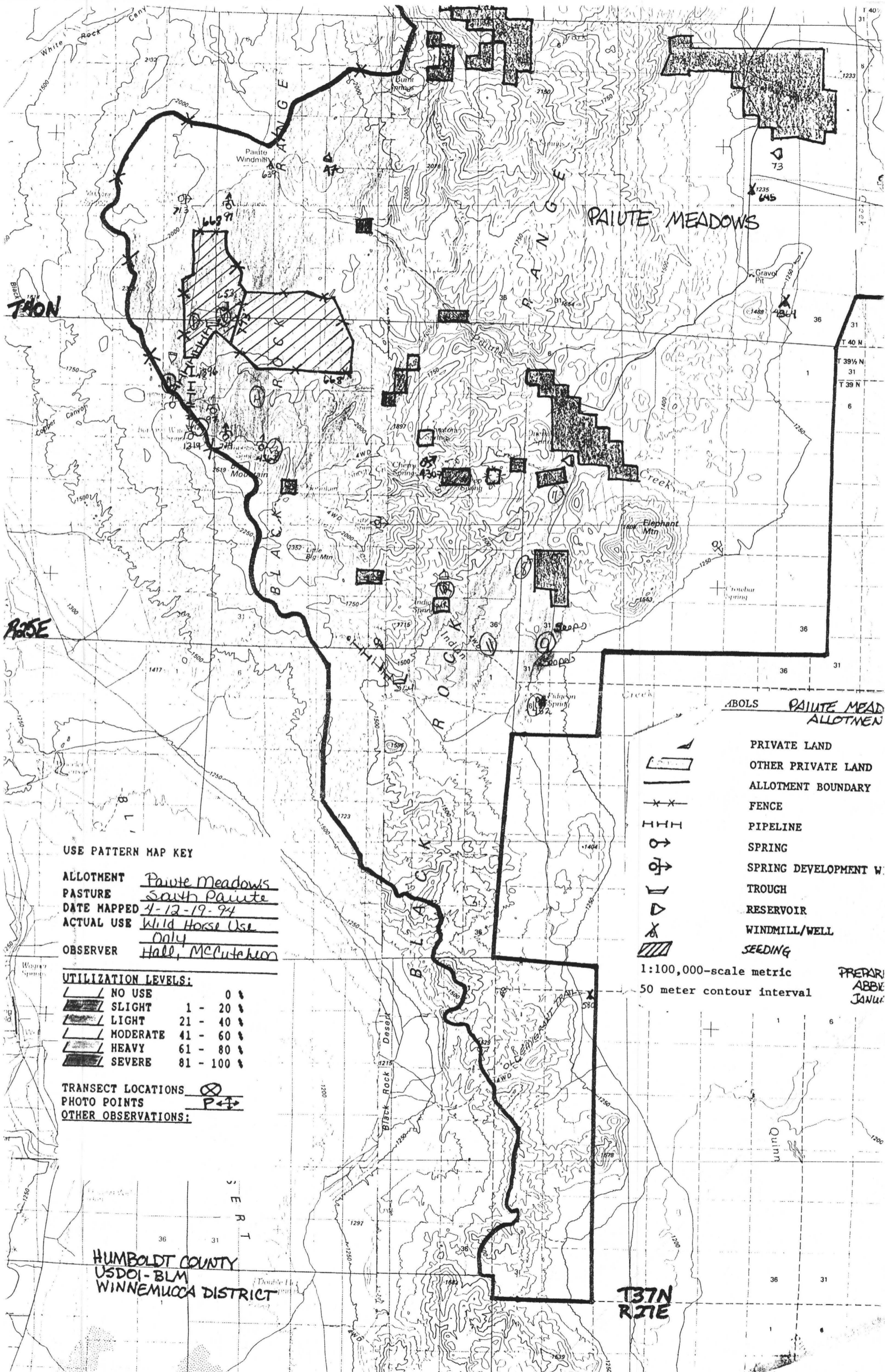
Range Utilization
Key Forage Plant Method

(1) District <i>Wmca</i>	(2) Date <i>4/12/94</i>	(3) Observer <i>McC...ker</i>		
(4) Resource Area	(5) Allotment	(6) Operator/Allottee	(7) Field Name or No.	
(8) Vegetation Type	(9) Range Site	(10) Kind(s) & Class(s) of Grazing Animal(s)		
(11) Use Period	(12) Grazing Management System			
(13) Transect Location/Key Area No.				

(14) Use Rating of Current Year's Growth	Mid-Point (x)	<i>Asce</i> Key Species		<i>Pose</i> Key Species		<i>Siky</i> Key Species	
		Frequency (f)	(f) X (x)	Frequency (f)	(f) X (x)	Frequency (f)	(f) X (x)
<small>No Use (0%): The rangeland shows no evidence of use by grazing animals.</small>	0	• •	∅	□	∅	• •	• •
<small>Slight (1-20%): The rangeland has the appearance of very light grazing. The key herbaceous forage plants may be topped or slightly used. Current seedstalks and young plants of key herbaceous species are little disturbed. The available leaders of key browse plants are little disturbed.</small>	10	• — •	60	•	20	•	•
<small>Light (21-40%): The rangeland may be topped, thinned, or grazed in patches. The low value herbaceous plants are ungrazed and 60 to 80 percent of the number of current seedstalks of key herbaceous plants remain intact. Most young plants of the key species are undamaged. Little or no use of low value plants. There is obvious evidence of leader use. The available leaders appear cropped or browsed in patches and 21 to 40 percent of the available leader growth of the key browse plants has been removed.</small>	30	•	30				
<small>Moderate (41-60%): The rangeland appears entirely covered as uniformly as natural features and facilities will allow. Fifteen to 25 percent of the number of current seedstalks of key herbaceous species remain intact. No more than 10 percent of the number of low value herbaceous forage plants are utilized. Browse plants appear rather uniformly utilized and 41 to 60 percent of the available leader growth of key browse plants has been removed.</small>	50						
<small>Heavy (61-80%): The rangeland has the appearance of complete search. Key herbaceous species are almost completely utilized with less than 10 percent of the current seedstalks remaining. Shoots of thimbleweed grasses are missing. More than 10 percent of the number of low value herbaceous forage plants have been utilized. The preferred browse plants are hedged and some plant clumps may be slightly broken. Nearly all available leaders are used and few terminal buds remain on key browse plants. Approximately 61 to 80 percent of the available leader growth of the key browse plants has been removed.</small>	70						
<small>Severe (81-100%): The rangeland has a worn appearance and there are indications of repeated coverage. There is no evidence of reproduction of current seedstalks of key herbaceous species. Key herbaceous forage species are completely utilized. The remaining stubble of preferred grasses are grazed to the soil surface. There is no evidence of terminal buds and 81-100% of available leader growth on the key browse plants has been removed. Some, and often much, of the 2nd and 3rd year's growth of the browse plants has been utilized. Hedging is readily apparent, and the browse plants are more frequently broken.</small>	90						
TOTAL		10	90	10	20		
Average Utilization = $\frac{\sum fx}{\sum f}$ *		9%		2%			

REMARKS (Use back of sheet)

* Where f = the frequency or number of observations within each class interval (f column), x = the class interval midpoint (x column), and Σ = the summation symbol.



ABOLS PAIUTE MEAD ALLOTMEN

USE PATTERN MAP KEY

ALLOTMENT Paiute Meadows
 PASTURE South Paiute
 DATE MAPPED 4-12-19-94
 ACTUAL USE Wild Horse Use
only
 OBSERVER Hall, McCutcheon

UTILIZATION LEVELS:

	NO USE	0 %
	SLIGHT	1 - 20 %
	LIGHT	21 - 40 %
	MODERATE	41 - 60 %
	HEAVY	61 - 80 %
	SEVERE	81 - 100 %

TRANSECT LOCATIONS

PHOTO POINTS

OTHER OBSERVATIONS:

- PRIVATE LAND
 - OTHER PRIVATE LAND
 - ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY
 - FENCE
 - PIPELINE
 - SPRING
 - SPRING DEVELOPMENT W. TROUGH
 - RESERVOIR
 - WINDMILL/WELL
 - SEEDING
- 1:100,000-scale metric
 50 meter contour interval
- PREPARED BY
 ABBIE
 JANUARY

HUMBOLDT COUNTY
 USDOI-BLM
 WINNEMUCCA DISTRICT

T37N
 R21E

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

In Reply Refer To:
(NV-024.14)

July 9, 1996

Memorandum

To: Paiute Meadows Monitoring File

From: Mandy McCutcheon, RMS

Subject: Utilization Studies

On May 7, 8, and 28, 1996, Ron Hall and I rode several areas of the Paiute Meadows Allotment to assess the amount of wild horse utilization from the 1995 winter. The course of the rides, wild horses observed, and utilization are plotted on the map.

Utilization on last years vegetative growth, could not be determined for the most part since we could not get out into the area until May due to scheduling conflicts and the spring runoff and precipitation.

May 7, 1996

Ron Hall and I rode up Sheep Creek, then went south across the uplands to an un-named canyon just north of Indian Creek, where we observed a small band of three horses.

Utilization found throughout this area on the current years growth was considered to be slight (less than 20%) on bluebunch wheatgrass (AGSP), Sandberg's bluegrass (POSE), Thurber's needlegrass (STTH2), and bottlebrush squirreltail (SIHY).

May 8, 1996

On May 8th, Ron and I rode from Bartlett Creek south towards Rough Canyon to look at the stringer meadows within the area and determine whether or not there had been any horse use north of Rough Canyon.

Observations showed a little horse use north of the road to Rough Canyon. Utilization within this area was slight with less than 10% use.

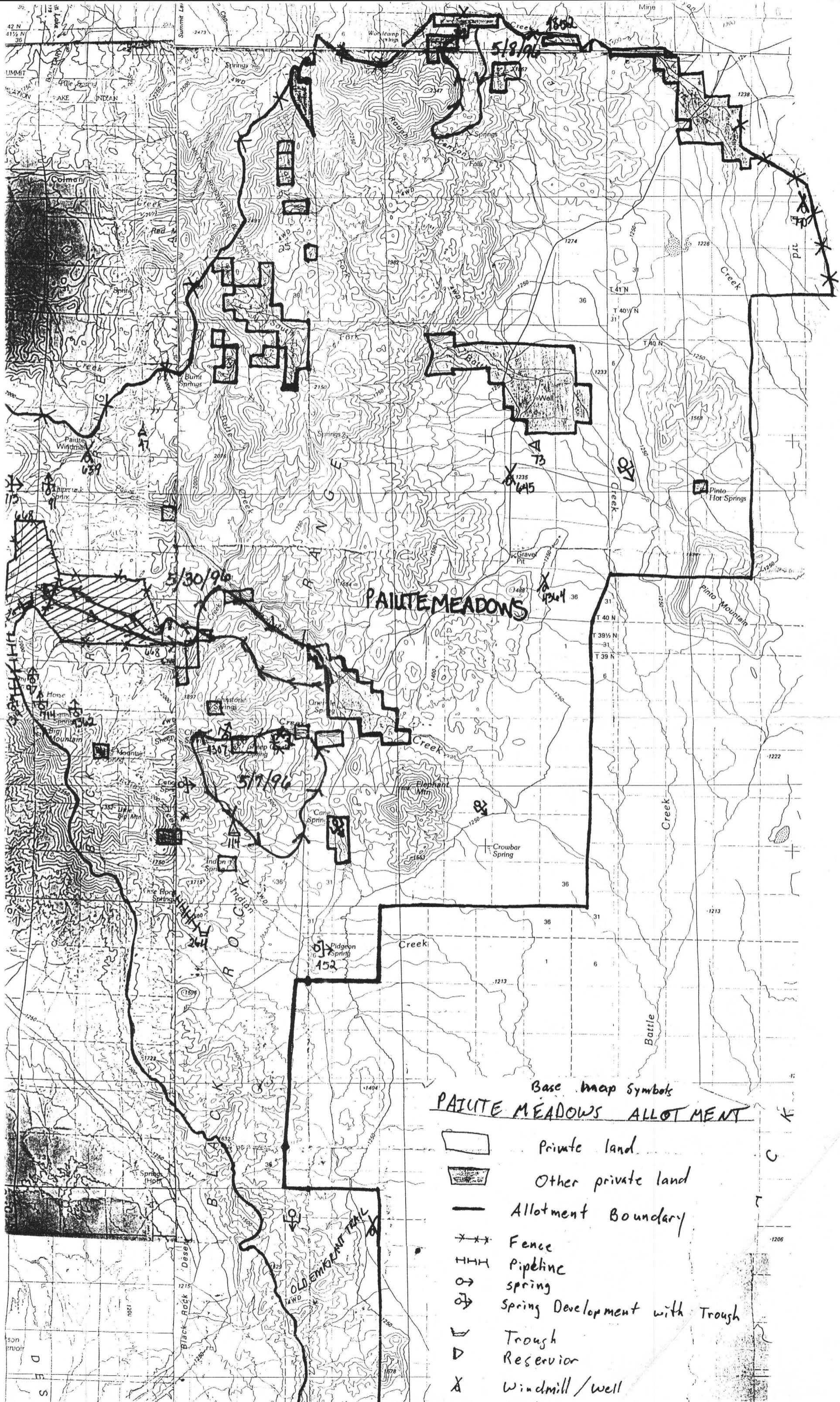
May 28, 1996

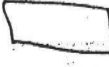









Sandy Brown, Ron Hall, and I rode from the Paiute Meadows Ranch, to the Paiute Seeding, then returned through Deer Creek to Paiute Creek. Utilization in the seeding was slight on the crested wheatgrass with less than 10% use, no use was observed in the Deer Creek Canyon.

There was only one small band of horses and one lone stud observed in the Paiute Seeding. There were 10 adults and 3 foals in the band.

Utilization within the South Paiute and North Paiute Use Areas at this time was at an acceptable level which should allow for the meeting of the short term utilization objectives.

Mandy L. McCutcheon
7/9/96



- Base Map Symbols
- PAIUTE MEADOWS ALLOTMENT**
-  Private land
 -  Other private land
 -  Allotment Boundary
 -  Fence
 -  Pipeline
 -  Spring
 -  Spring Development with Trough
 -  Trough
 -  Reservoir
 -  Windmill/Well

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Winnemucca District Office
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

In Reply Refer To:
(NV-024.14)

April 25, 1997

Memorandum

To: Paiute Meadows Monitoring File

From: Mandy McCutcheon, RMS

Subject: Utilization Studies

On April 2 & 3, 1997, Ron Hall and I visited several areas of the Paiute Meadows Allotment to assess the amount of wild horse utilization from the 1996 winter. Forage species identified, utilization levels, and sample locations are plotted on the Use Pattern Map and the Stop Summary.

On April 2, Ron and I monitored south of the Paiute Meadows Ranch, in the lower elevations of the Paiute Meadows Allotment. There were three stops made within the southern use area. The first spot we visited was the key area that was monitored during the South Paiute Use Area closure. We also visited the southern most windmill of the Paiute Meadows Allotment. The windmill blades, casing, pump, and sucker rod were laying on the ground. The trough was in good condition, but there was no project marker.

Utilization in this area was slight (<10%), on ORHY, SIHY, EULA, ATCO, ARSP, and GRSP. The horse sign found within this area was very old, with the exception of a pair of fresh tracks from a mare and foal that went down the road towards the windmill. Livestock use in this area was almost nonexistent, due to the fact that the cattle are removed in October and are still in the upper elevations of the South Paiute Use Area.

No horses were observed within low elevations of the South Paiute Use Area. Due to the recent gather the population on the southern end of the allotment has been decreased.

On April 3, Ron and I visited the flat between the Battle Creek Ranch and the Paiute Meadows Ranch. We drove out towards Pinto Mountain and the hot springs. The flat was very dry for this time of the year, the only standing water on the flat was right at the Battle Creek channel itself.

We also visited the meadow areas between Rough Canyon and Bartlett Creek. There was no observed use on the uplands or the meadows.

Utilization on last year's growth was undeterminable in the lower elevations of the North Paiute Use Area since the key species within the area was Sandberg's bluegrass (POSE) and budsage (ARSP).

Utilization within the South Paiute and North Paiute Use Areas at this time was very slight which should allow for the meeting of the short term utilization objectives.

Amanda R. McCutcheon
4/25/97

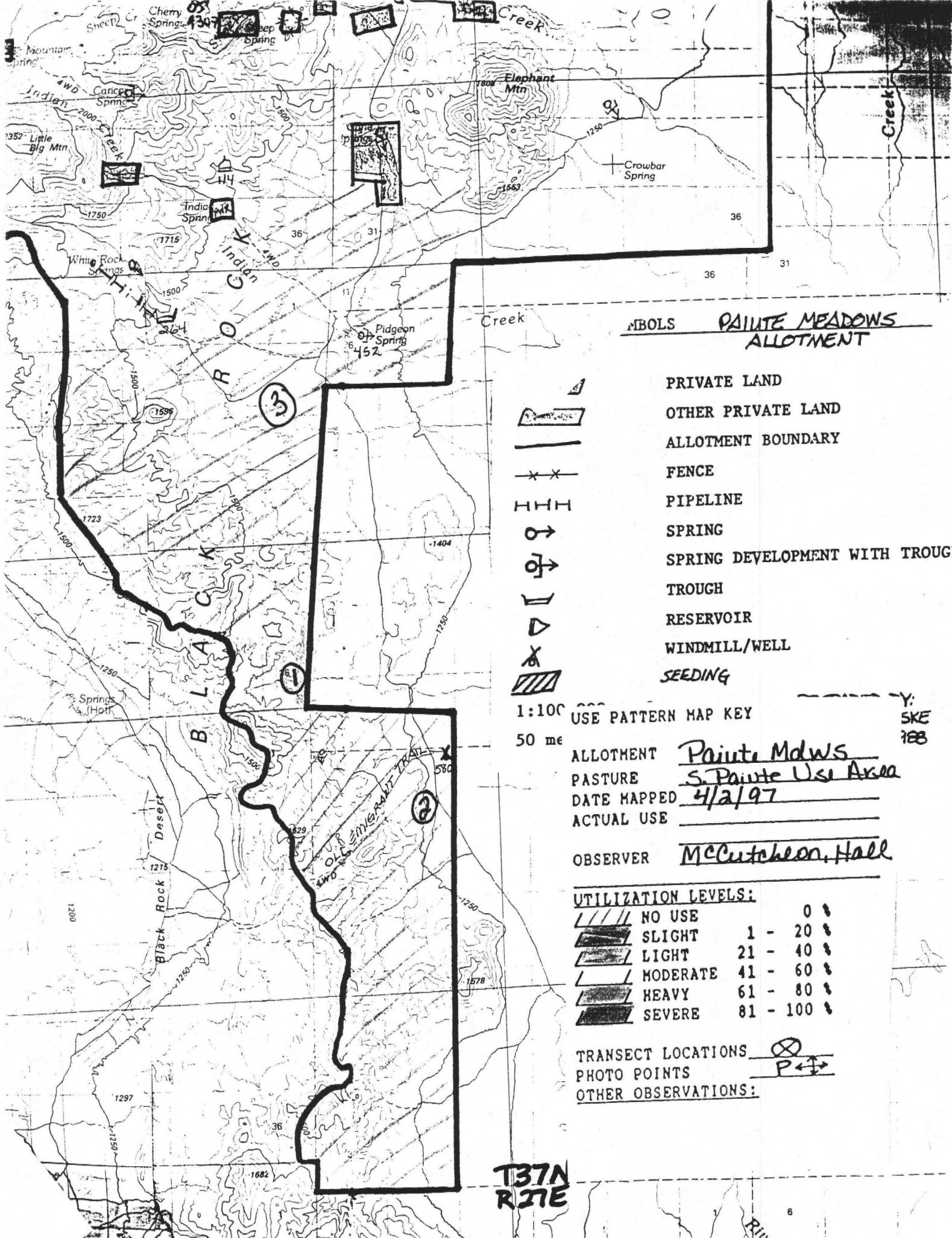
UPM STOP SUMMARY

ALLOTMENT: Paints Meadows

OBSERVER: Hall McCutcheon

DATE: 4/2/97, 4/3/97

#	KEY SPP.	% USE KEY SPP.	% USE OVERALL	STUDIES TYPE/READ Y/N FORMS ATTACHED	GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
4-2-97 ①	Drhy Sihy Eula	>20%	Slight	Ocular	- horse sign - very old key area used for monitoring of S. Paints closure Ateo, Arsp, Grsp, Save Pose, Ephedra - Not much Brts
②	Drhy Eula	NOU	No observed use		Windmill - casing & pump on ground, trough OK No project tracks Ateo, Arsp, save, Grsp - 2 tracks - mare & foal
③	Drhy Eula Sihy	NOU	no observed use		Pose, ateo, Arsp, Grsp. No horses observed
4-3-97 ④	Arsp	NOU	no observed use		Flats going toward Paints Meadows. very dry for this time of year, could draw to Battle Creek channel save, Ateo
⑤					North Paints - low elevations



MBOLS PAIUTE MEADOWS
ALLOTMENT

- PRIVATE LAND
- OTHER PRIVATE LAND
- ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY
- FENCE
- PIPELINE
- SPRING
- SPRING DEVELOPMENT WITH TROUGH
- TROUGH
- RESERVOIR
- WINDMILL/WELL
- SEEDING

1:100,000 USE PATTERN MAP KEY
50 m

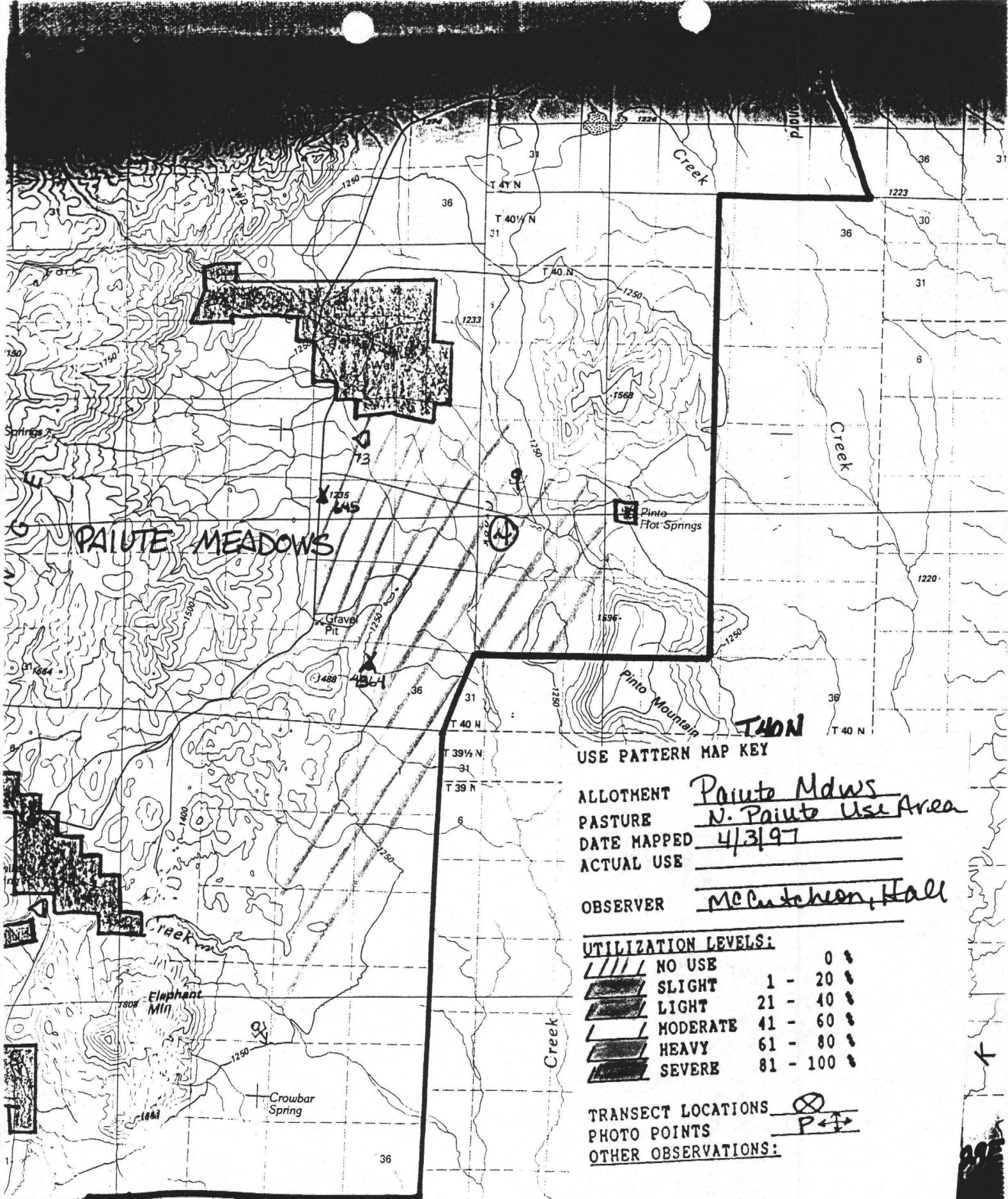
ALLOTMENT Paiute Mdws
 PASTURE S. Paiute Use Area
 DATE MAPPED 4/2/97
 ACTUAL USE _____
 OBSERVER McCutcheon, Hall

UTILIZATION LEVELS:

	NO USE	0 - 20 %
	SLIGHT	21 - 40 %
	LIGHT	41 - 60 %
	MODERATE	61 - 80 %
	HEAVY	81 - 100 %
	SEVERE	

TRANSECT LOCATIONS
 PHOTO POINTS
 OTHER OBSERVATIONS: _____

T37N
R21E



PAIUTE MEADOWS

USE PATTERN MAP KEY

ALLOTMENT Paiute Mdws
 PASTURE N. Paiute Use Area
 DATE MAPPED 4/3/97
 ACTUAL USE _____
 OBSERVER McCutcheon, Hall

UTILIZATION LEVELS:

	NO USE	0 %
	SLIGHT	1 - 20 %
	LIGHT	21 - 40 %
	MODERATE	41 - 60 %
	HEAVY	61 - 80 %
	SEVERE	81 - 100 %

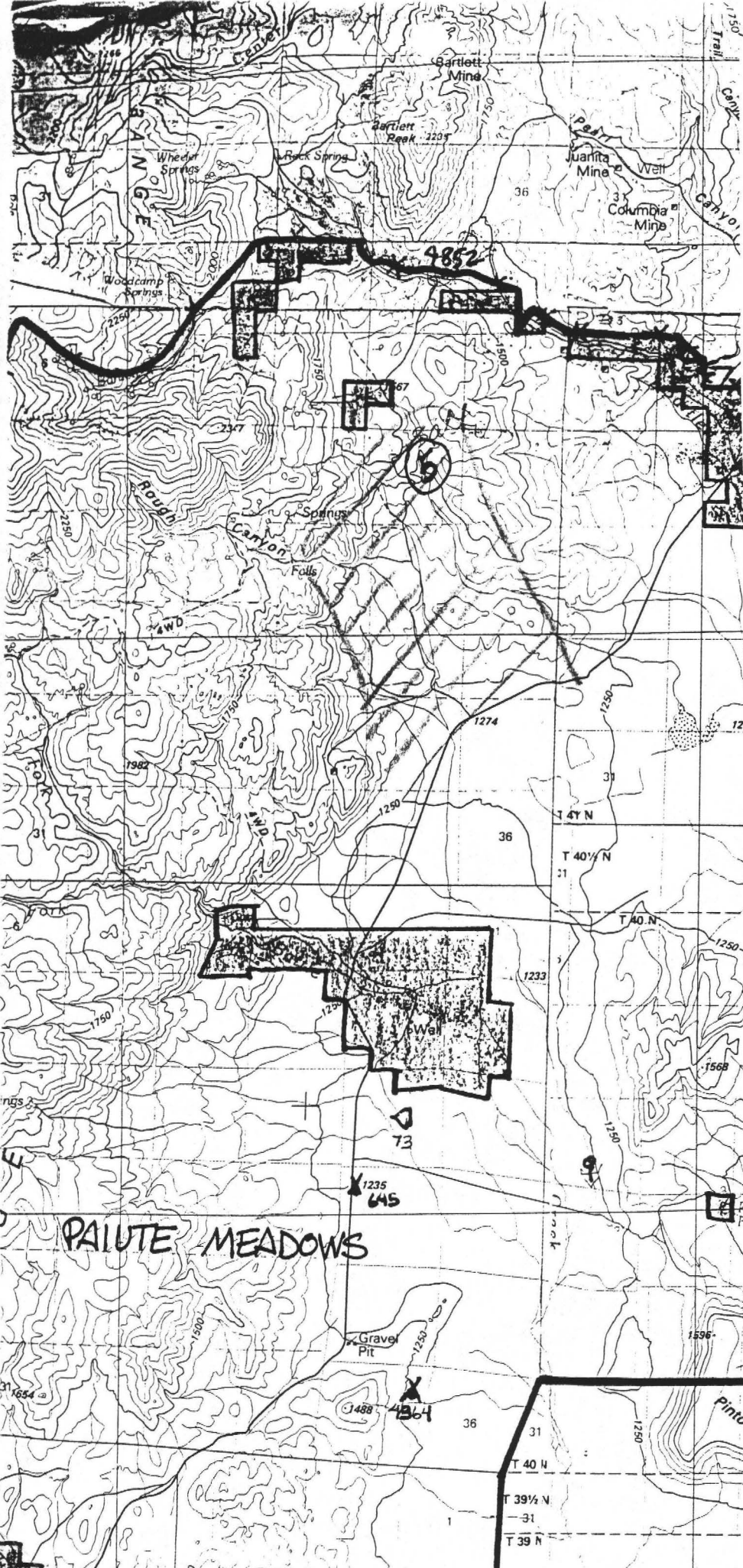
TRANSECT LOCATIONS

PHOTO POINTS

OTHER OBSERVATIONS: _____

Pidgeon Springs





ALLOTMENT Paiute Meadows
 PASTURE N Paiute Meadows
 DATE MAPPED 4/3/97
 ACTUAL USE _____

OBSERVER Hall, McCutcheon

UTILIZATION LEVELS:

	NO USE	0 %
	SLIGHT	1 - 20 %
	LIGHT	21 - 40 %
	MODERATE	41 - 60 %
	HEAVY	61 - 80 %
	SEVERE	81 - 100 %

TRANSECT LOCATIONS ⊗
 PHOTO POINTS P ←
 OTHER OBSERVATIONS: _____

PAIUTE MEADOWS

T40N