

M 10/18/82

CRMP SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING -- BLUE WING - SEVEN TROUGHS

OCTOBER 18, 1982 --- WINDMILL RESTAURANT, LOVELOCK

Meeting was called to order by Larry Irvin at 10:30 AM on October 18, 1982  
at the Windmill Restaurant in Lovelock. Present were:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Wes Cook	Box E, Cedarville, CA 96104	Rancher
Dawn Lappin	P. O. Box 555, Reno, Nv 89504	WHOA
Larry Irvin	Rt. 1, Box 6, Lovelock	Rancher
Robert C. Irvin	1130 S. Flower St., Los Angeles, CA 90015	Rancher
Helen A. Reilly	11790 Deodar Way, Reno 89506	ISPMB
Bob Bunyard	Box 489, Cedarville, CA 96104	Rancher
Rodger Bryan	705 E. 4th St., Winnemucca, Nv 89445	BLM
Phil Benolkin	Rt. 1, Box 100B, Lovelock, Nv. 89419	FWS
Mrs. Marian McClellan	Box 692, Lovelock, NV. 89419	Mining industry
John Espil, Sr.	P. O. Box 660, Susanville, CA	Rancher
John Espil, Jr.	P. O. Box 660, Susanville, CA	Rancher
Don A. Greenwell	P. O. Box 239, Lovelock, Nv. 89419	County Extension Agent

Larry Irvin reported that the livestock owners (permittees) met on October 17, 1982 at Susanville. They decided they needed fencing, water development and management of horses, cattle and sheep to control the distribution of animals on the range thus gaining use of more of the area. They reported that all but one of the permittees were running AUM's well under their active preference. He reported that C Punch is down to 1800 cows -- they have 25,864 AUM's (can run 2,400 cows).

Wes Cook -- 2,000 Sheep -- 3 months - 12/12/82 - 3/17/83 - He is up to active preference.

Bob Bunyard - 1,500 AUM - 1,500 head 3 mo. 12/12/82 - 3/17/83

John Espil - 3,600 AUM - now running 2,000 actual; can run as many as 6,000 for 3 months - 12/12/82 - 3/17/83.

Buster Dufurrena - 1,492 AUM (not present so couldn't get sheep numbers presently run).

Rodger Bryan, BLM, reported estimated horse numbers to be 1,649 on the Blue Wing - Seven Troughs area. They have removed 1,200 since 1980 -- BLM estimates a 11% per year increase.

Marian McClellan, representing Mining Industry, reported she has maps showing all mining claims in this area and will bring them to next meeting.

Phil Benolkin, FWS, reported they have attained reasonable deer numbers for area. They are gathering additional information by helicopter. The FWS have a proposed area for Wild Sheep introduction in the Selinites. Sage Hen populations are being reduced by access of the 4x4 to the ridge tops and brooding areas. The meadow deterioration also contributed to reduced numbers.

Fish and Game are proposing a rest time for some areas during the two-month growing period to let grass grow and form a seed head before grazing -- for bird production.

The deer reasonable numbers are: Seven Troughs - 206; Blue Wing - 273. Phil estimated the numbers are above this as of now.

Larry Irvin reported on the range improvement deemed necessary (for better animal distribution) from the Gerlach meeting;

1. Fencing -- Need drift fence on north and south ends of allotment.

Fence on north end of allotment to start at Reservation Fence and continue north parallel to Highway 34 to Gerlach.

Numerous cow-car accidents have been had and several fatal. Also this fence would separate Ceresola and C Punch cattle. The State of Nevada is willing to pay 1/2 cost of this fence -- BLM needs to come up with their half. The Highway would be fenced on both sides. The permittees want fence to go straight through paralleling highway to Empire. The CRMP Committee recommends the fence to go straight paralleling the highway instead of jogging around part of Wes Cook's area on west side of highway.

Billy Ceresola -- Not present and needs to be contacted about this.

The fence on south end of allotment (C Punch) is between Indian Reservation (Nixon) and C Punch and will separate the Blue Wing allotment from Desert Queen allotment (12 miles of fence required). This fence was adjudicated in the 1960's same as Highway 34 fence.

The permittees would like water brought out of (Trail Canyon or White Rock area) (Lava Beds) to the big flat on the east side of Selinites. This would develop a good winter grazing area. As of now, this area is only used when it rains. There is an existing windmill in the area that might be fixed up and used but well goes dry. This water development would require a pipeline five or six miles long. If water is developed in this area the permittee would maintain it.

It was determined that the Lava Bed area needs to be let rest. All permittees agreed to this and would restrict cattle and sheep use if the BLM would restrict the number of horses there.

The Seven Troughs Area -- Cattle concentration too great. It needs fence on north end from Jungo to Sulphur along railroad. This would act as a drift fence between DeLongs and C Punch and open up more grazing. There is water at Rabbit Hole, Box Canyon and Placeritos but the area needs a four mile pipeline to deliver the water from Cow Creek to flat north and west. This would open additional area for grazing.

In the original scheme -- Sheep rights were winter rights in the Cattle summer areas. Now the cattle and horses are staying year round on some of these areas. With fences and water development the sheep permittees could possibly expand their winter use area.

Bob Bunyard needs some roads on his area of use so he can haul water. Horses have grazed this area extensively. He needs a road five or six miles long between Rattlesnake Ridge and Rabbit Hole, or maybe a well in the center of Bob's range, or a road on the east side of Rattlesnake Ridge to connect the main road between Sulphur and Jungo.

Blue Wing Flats is key winter area for C Punch. There are three wells in the area; the grazing and distribution of cattle is controlled by controlling water in summer time. C Punch wants to develop water in the upper Blue Wing area so grazing can be controlled same as Blue Wing Flats.

Now cattle, sheep, horses and wildlife are concentrated in same areas. Need to open up new areas for grazing.

Seeding discussed -- Outlook not too good due to intermittancy of rain, or lack of rain. So no seedings proposed.

Dawn Lappin and Helen Reilly discussed Wild Horse management and proposed following:

1. Elimination on checkerboard areas.
2. Reduction or elimination on critical Wildlife areas.
3. Take first initial cut of horse numbers. Then have BLM monitor herds and forage and make reductions or increases on 3rd and 5th year increments.

Rodger Bryan, BLM, discussed the wild horse use area. There are seven of them within the two allotments. Two of them are within the checkerboard areas (Truckee and Antelope Range).

They estimate: 1,649 horses in the two allotments; 1,506 on non-checkerboard land  
143 horses on northern checkerboard  
75 horses on other checkerboard land

---

218 horses to be removed from checkerboard

The BLM estimates 1971 horse numbers to be 759 horses and 36 burros on the two allotments. 1974 - 1,020 horses and burros on the two allotments. The CRMP Sub-Committee came to a consensus on the following horse management plan:

- Remove horses from all critical and checkerboard areas.
- Develop horse water away from critical areas. Fence if necessary. Monitor before any more reductions are to be made.
- Initial number of horses and burros in the Blue Wing-Seven Troughs area be set at 1,020. All excess horses to be removed.

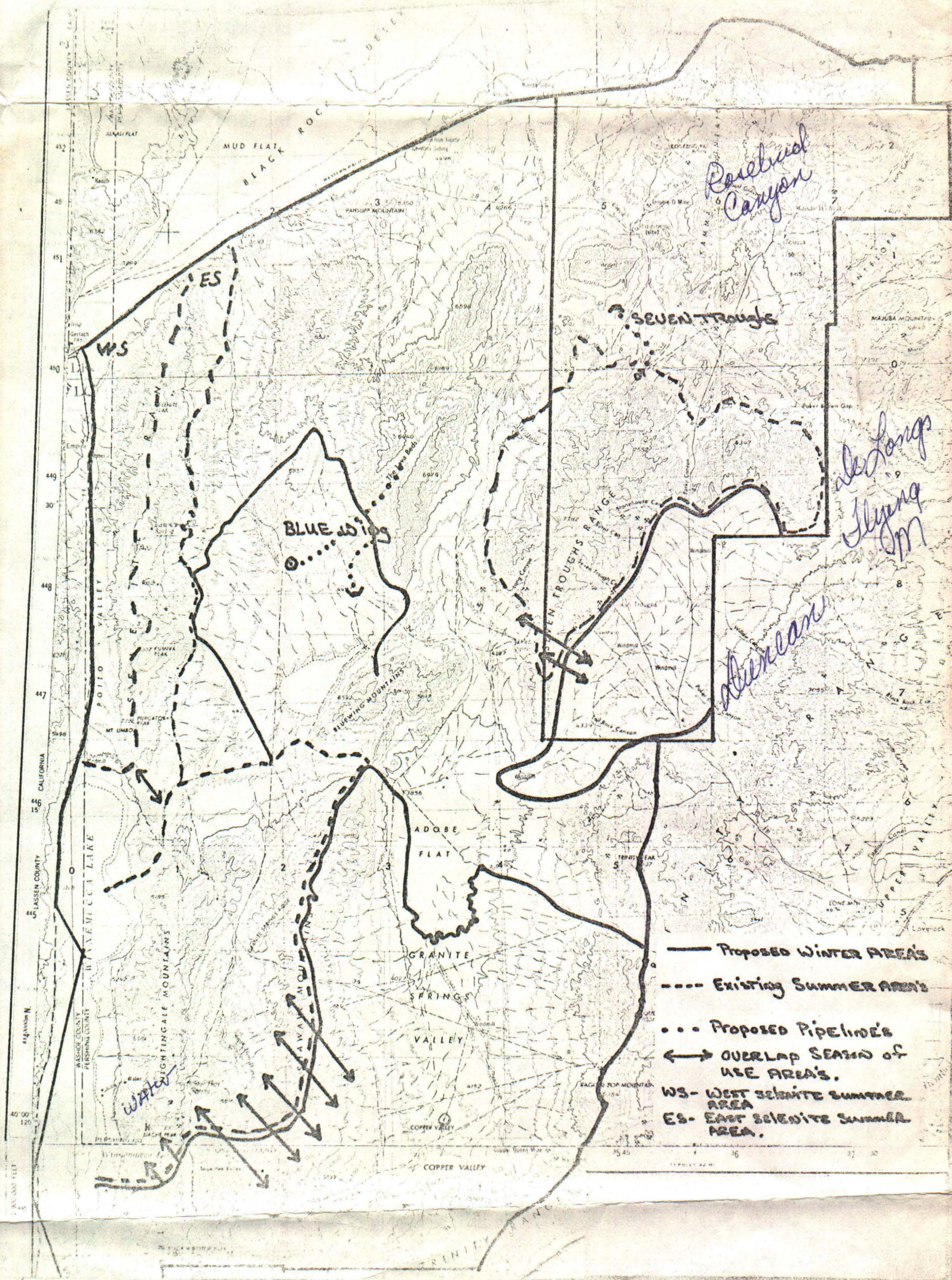
If this results in over 50% reduction in horses, set horse numbers by horse areas -- total to be 1,020. If there is over a 50% reduction at one time, WHOA and The International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros are inclined to file litigation against it.

Critical Wildlife Areas in the Seven Troughs, Selenites and Lava Beds are defined as areas above 5,500 feet.

Monitoring can be emphasized in Management Plan. Permittees cannot increase animal numbers above their preferred AUM's until monitoring shows forage available, or they can be cut until monitoring shows this warranted. Horse numbers to be determined up or down from the 1,020 by monitoring the range.

Wes Cook, Bob Bunyard and John Espil want to expand their areas of use for sheep. John Espil would like to see some sheep troughs developed in the management unit.

The CRMP Committee would like to recommend all 8100 funds to be used in the area where generated. (50% of the grazing fees).



*Rosedale Canyon*

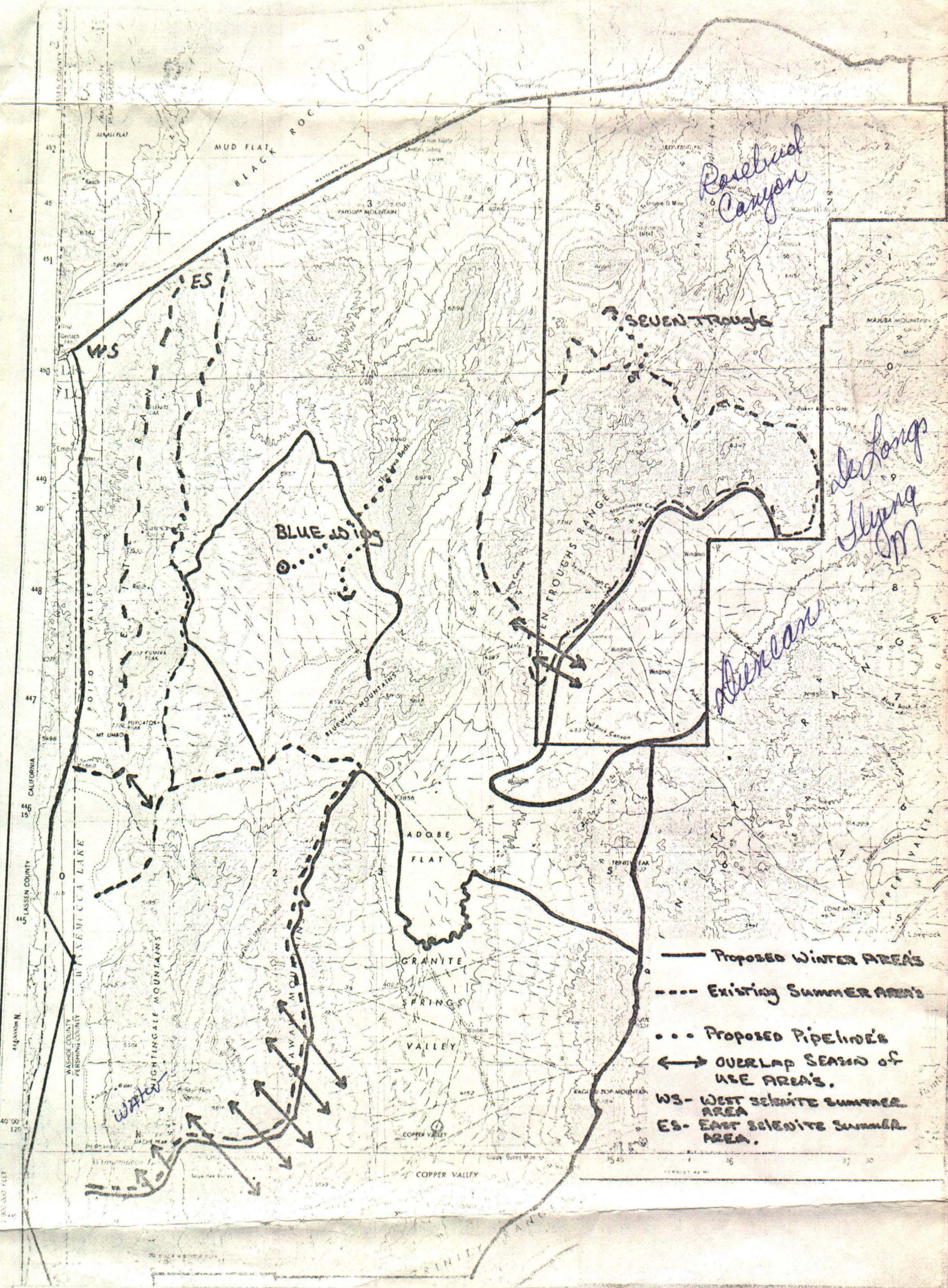
*SEVEN TROUGHS*

*BLUE WING*

*de Long Flying M*

*Sierran*

*WATER*



SUMMARY --- RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Fence -- Highway 34 - End of Indian Reservation to Black Rock, both sides.

Fence --North end from Sulphur to Jungo along railroad -- 25 miles.

Fence -- South end between Blue Wing and Desert Queen allotment -- 12 miles.

Water -- Development or improvements.

Pipeline out of Trail Canyon to big flat on east side of Selenites.

Pipeline out of Cow Creek (from Judges Place) 4 to 5 miles northwest to big flat area. Troughs to be put here.

Windmill on flat above Nixon.

Windmill on Bunyard allotment - north end.

Road for Bunyard - throughout area of use to haul water. Road on eastside of Ridge to connect to Trego Sulphur road.

Dawn Lappin suggested management of wild horse herd at a starting level of approximately 1,020 with excess horses to be removed, all horses to be removed from critical areas. The critical wildlife areas are meadows above 5,500 feet.

Permittees would like to bring herd numbers up to active preference.

Cook, Bunyard and Espil would like to expand areas for sheep utilization -- not numbers, just area.

Season of Use - Proposed season of use for C Punch to be drawn up by Larry Irvin and presented to group.

F.W.S. Objective -- Two months rest period for high areas during growth period to allow forage to grow and form a seed head before grazing.

F.W.S. wants potential to restrict access to top of Selenites and Seven Troughs areas during critical brooding times for sage hen.

Next Meeting Date: November 16, 1982 - 10:00 AM - For Full Committee

Allotment: Seven Troughs

Long-range Allotment Management Objectives:

1. Graze 704 wild horses and 34 burros.

Lava Beds Herd Use Area - 47 horses, 0 burros  
Seven Troughs Herd Use Area - 619 horses, 34 burros  
Kamma Mountains Herd Use Area - 38 horses, 0 burros

2. Provide habitat for reasonable numbers of wildlife:

Deer 495 AUMs  
Antelope 26 AUMs  
Bighorn Sheep 0 AUMs

Antelope - 12 total reasonable number

<u>Seasonal Use Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
West of Rye Patch AY-1(12)	2	4	
East of Seven Troughs Range AY-3*(12)	9	22	26

\* Planned introduction - no antelope currently using this area

Mule Deer - 165 total reasonable number

<u>Seasonal Use Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Seven Troughs Range DS-2(6)	82	123	
Seven Troughs Range DY-5(12)	114	342	
Kamma Mountains DY-6(12)	5	15	
Antelope Range DY-7a(12)	3	10	
Majuba Mountains DY-7b(12)	2	5	495

Bighorn Sheep - no reintroductions planned

3. Graze 9,163 livestock AUMs (active preference)

C-Punch Corporation 4,404 AUMs  
Duffurena Sheep Company 1,492 AUMs  
John Espil 3,267 AUMs

Specific problems, conflicts or issues that have been identified on the Seven Troughs Allotment through the Bureau's planning system are listed below. CRMP and activity plans will consider these problems.

1. 45% of the allotment is in poor condition.  
35% is in fair condition (1979 estimate)
2. A majority of the allotment is in a downward trend (1979 estimate)
3. Poor condition of riparian meadows
4. Sage grouse brooding and wintering areas
5. Wild horses and burros
6. The level or intensity of present grazing management practices are not satisfactory
7. Existing range improvements are inadequate
8. There is a history of grazing trespass
9. Season-of-use
10. Current herbivore grazing use
11. Lack of regular maintenance of range improvements
12. Livestock drift
13. Railroad lessee is a non-preference permittee

Allotment monitoring plan will include:

1. Ecological site condition and trend
2. Actual use
3. Climate
4. Range utilization
5. Project maintenance
6. Riparian habitat
7. Wild horses and burros
8. Wildlife habitat

Allotment: Blue Wing

Long-range Allotment Management Objectives:

1. Graze 583 wild horses and 185 burros.

Lava Beds Herd Use Area - 85 horses, 54 burros  
Seven Troughs Herd Use Area - 143 horses, 71 burros  
Selenite Range Herd Use Area - 12 horses, 1 burro  
Blue Wing Mountain Herd Use Area - 89 horses, 48 burros  
Shawave-Nightingale Herd Use Area - 254 horses, 11 burros

2. Provide habitat for reasonable numbers of wildlife:

Deer 701 AUMs  
Antelope 49 AUMs  
Bighorn Sheep 106 AUMs

Antelope - 20 total reasonable number - no antelope present - potential introduction areas

<u>Seasonal Use Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
E. of Seven Troughs Range AY-3(12)	1	1	
W. of Seven Troughs Range AY-2(12)	20	48	49

Mule Deer - 234 total reasonable number

<u>Seasonal Use Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Selenite Range DS-1(6)	79	119	
Selenite Range DY-1(12)	120	360	
Nightingale Range DY-2(12)	6	18	
Shawave Range DY-3(12)	27	81	
Lava Beds DY-4(12)	26	78	
Seven Troughs Range DY-5(12)	12	36	
Trinity Range DY-8a(12)	2	6	
Trinity Range DY-8b(12)	1	3	701

Bighorn Sheep - 44 total reasonable number - no bighorns present - potential reintroduction area

<u>Seasonal Use Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Selenite Range BY-1(12)	44	106	106

3. Graze 24,160 livestock AUMs (active preference)

B.G. Bunyard 1,505 AUMs  
C-Punch Corporation 21,460 AUMs  
Wesley Cook 1,195 AUMs

Specific problems that have been identified on the Blue Wing Allotment through the Bureau's planning system are listed below. CRMP and activity plans will consider these problems.

1. 40% of the allotment is in poor condition  
38% is in fair condition (1979 estimate)
2. A majority of the allotment is in a static or downward trend
3. Sage grouse brooding areas
4. Poor condition of riparian areas
5. Wild horses and burros
6. Land status
7. The level or intensity of present grazing management is not satisfactory
8. Existing range improvements are inadequate.
10. Current herbivore grazing use
11. Season-of-use
12. Lack of regular maintenance of range projects
13. WSAs 200-201

Allotment monitoring plan will include:

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 habitat