



United States Department of the Interior

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

m 11/19/98

In Reply Refer To:  
(NV-22.11)  
4130

NOV 19 1998

Dear Interested Public:

Please find enclosed the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Wilder-Quinn Allotment.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Richard Barry at (702) 623-1500.

Sincerely yours,

Colin Christensen  
AFM, Renewable Resources

Enclosure

Certified CC:

Denny Land & Cattle CO. LLL	Z551 577 218
Roger and Marsha Colby	Z551 577 219
Bob de Braga	Z551 577 220
Dufurrena Sheep CO.	Z551 577 221
Tim Dufurrena	Z551 577 222
Natural Resources Defense Council	Z551 577 223
Sierra Club-Toiyabe Chapter	Z551 577 224
Craig Downer	Z551 577 225
The Wilderness Society	Z551 577 226
USFWS Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge	Z551 577 227
Desert Bighorn Council	Z551 577 228
NDOW-Fallon	Z551 577 229
NDOW-Winnemucca	Z551 577 230
Mr. John Marvel	Z551 577 231
Nevada Cattleman's Association	Z551 577 232
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation	Z551 577 233
USFWS	Z551 577 234
Sagebrush Chapter, Trout Unlimited	Z551 576 467
Wild Horse Organ. Assist.	Z551 576 468
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses	Z551 576 469
Humbolt County Commissioners	Z551 576 470
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Z551 576 471
Resource Concepts Incorporated	Z551 576 472
State Clearinghouse	Z551 576 473





# 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:  
(NV22.11)

4130

CERTIFIED MAIL NO. Z 551 577 218  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOV 19 1998

Denny Land and Cattle CO.  
C/O Bob deBraga  
H.C. 73, Box 13738  
Burns, OR. 97720

## FINAL MULTIPLE USE DECISION WILDER-QUINN ALLOTMENT

Dear Mr. deBraga:

On September 1, 1998 the Final Allotment Evaluation and Proposed Multiple Use Decision of Wilder-Quinn Allotment was issued to all interested parties. No protests were received.

On September 22 and 23, 1998, we received comments from the State Clearinghouse/SPOC. Comments are summarized below along with responses:

### Comment 1:

Will 60% streambank cover and stability on Wilder and Little Wilder Creeks meet the conditions for a properly functioning stream zone?

### Response:

Sixty percent stream cover and stability will meet the conditions for a properly functioning stream zone. Cover along the creek is mostly woody riparian species such as willows or cottonwoods and herbaceous riparian species. A stability rating of 60% means more than 1/2 of the creek has stable banks.

Both streambank cover and stability are fishery parameters. Maintaining a rating of 60% for both parameters would indicate that creeks are at proper functioning condition or at a minimum, functioning at risk with an upward trend.



Comment 2:

The evaluation state on page 81 that noxious weeds are present in the allotment, and that a coordinated effort will be required on public and private lands to control noxious in this allotment" The evaluation should also address the positive and/or negative contributions the technical recommendations and grazing system alternatives will have toward this effort, and toward the introduction and/or further spread of noxious and invasive weed species. The evaluation should address direct animal transport of seeds on coats and in digestive tracts, and also the creation of habitats suitable for weed invasion via soil disruption or disturbance. Noxious weed infestations contribute significantly to the long term degradation of rangelands.

Response:

The purpose of an evaluation is to determine through current management practices, allotment specific objectives are being met by evaluating monitoring data collected during the evaluation period and to make technical recommendations which will meet the objectives. The short term objective for utilization on both uplands and riparian habitats is 50%. By meeting these allotment specific objectives, forage for both wildlife and wild horses will be provided during the winter months, residual native vegetation will be maintained to prevent creeks from blowing out during high water events by dispersing the energy of the water and reducing erosion and gullyng of the creeks and watersheds.

Maintaining native species will hinder the establishment of noxious weeds such as salt cedar and whitetop along the creeks and knapweed in the uplands. Alternatives 1 and 2 authorizes use in the spring and winter use areas from 04/01 to 05/31 and 10/01 to 02/28. Alterative 2 divides the Lone Mountain use area into two pastures with the two new pastures being used in a rest rotation grazing system with the North Wilder Field. One pasture will be used in the spring, the second after livestock are removed from the summer use area and the third pasture will be rested. Monitoring data indicates that allotment specific objectives and standards are being met with this type of use and there is no indication that livestock are spreading weeds or providing conditions conducive to their establishment.

Both alternatives allows use in the summer use areas from 06/01 to 07/31 under a three pasture rest-rotation grazing system. AUMs and the season of use have been reduced. This will allow for regrowth of herbaceous riparian species and reduce hot season grazing impacts on woody riparian species. This will prevent noxious weeds such as salt cedar and whitetop from establishing along riparian areas.

The majority of noxious weeds occurring is along a county maintained road. This represents a relatively small area in the allotment, less then one percent. There is no indication that livestock are spreading the weeds or providing conditions conducive to their establishment.

There is no evidence to suggest that livestock have spread weeds in this allotment by direct animal transport on coats and digestive tracts.



On September 25, 1998, we received a comment from Buster Dufurrena which is summarized below along with a response:

Comment 1:

I would like to use the South Fork of Cottonwood for watering purposes and then be able to graze sheep on the west side of the drainage. Sheep would be kept off Holloway Mountain due to the proximity of bighorn sheep in the Trout Creek Mountains. In addition, a small area of Holloway Mountain is within the buffer.

Response:

The South Fork of Cottonwood Creek in within 4 miles of Kings River where bighorn sheep are known to be. By following the S.F. of Cottonwood Creek into the main branch of Cottonwood Creek and into the headwaters, which is in the vicinity of Kings River, domestic sheep would have to cross six to seven allotment, pasture, and private property fences. By crossing over Holloway Mountain into the Kings River area, there are two fences and two ridges. While it is doubtful that domestic sheep will be able to cross these barriers to reach the bighorn sheep, there is always a chance that the bighorn rams could travel into S.F. of Cottonwood Creek area where they could mingle with the domestics. Jim Jeffers of the Nevada Division of Wildlife has reported that bighorns have been sighted in the vicinity of the creek so this type of movement has occurred.

BLM management of bighorn sheep habitat is based on the following factors and guidelines in accordance with Washington Office Instruction Memorandum NO. 98-140:

It is recognized by State and Federal agencies, native wild sheep organizations, and the domestic sheep industry that there are some disease agents that occur in both domestic sheep, goats and native wild sheep. There is evidence that if native and domestic sheep are allowed to be in close contact, health problems and die offs may occur. Some disease agents may be transmitted between both species. In addition, reasonable efforts must be made by domestic sheep permittees, wildlife and land management agencies to minimize the risk of disease transmission, and to optimize preventive medical and management procedures, to ensure healthy populations of native wild sheep and domestic sheep.

In recognition of the above factors, the following guidelines have been set forth for management of domestic sheep in or near bighorn sheep habitat:

1. Domestic sheep grazing and trailing should be discouraged in the vicinity of native wild sheep ranges.
2. Native wild sheep and domestic sheep or goats should be spatially separated to reduce the potential of interspecies contact.
3. In reviewing new domestic sheep or goat grazing permit applications or proposed conversions of cattle permits to sheep or goat permits in areas with established native wild sheep populations, buffer strips surrounding native wild sheep habitat should be developed, except where topographic features or other barriers minimize physical contact



between native wild sheep and domestic sheep and goats. Buffer strips could range up to 9 miles or as developed through a cooperative agreement to minimize contact between native wild sheep and domestic sheep and goats, depending upon local conditions and management options.

4. Domestic sheep and goats should be closely managed and carefully herded where necessary to prevent them from straying into native wild sheep areas.

In 1985, a Rangeline Agreement was signed by the Bureau of Land Management, the manager of the Quinn River Ranch, Walter and Mary Waldkirch (now the Colby permit), and the Dufurrena Sheep Company which split the old Wilder-Bilk allotment into the Wilder-Quinn and Bilk Creek allotments. The agreement stipulated that the Dufurrena Sheep Company will maintain a 400 AUM preference for lambing and trailing purposes during the months of April and May with all sheep in the Bilk Creek allotment and out of the Wilder-Quinn allotment by May 20. The lambing area was designated in the Bilk Creek Reservoir and Deep Creek area. By signing the agreement, all prior privileges for grazing sheep in areas outside the lambing grounds were eliminated and any adjustments of the existing permit as proposed in this document would be considered as new sheep use.

Based upon the above factors and guidelines, bighorn sheep known to be within four miles of the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek, and the migratory nature of the bighorn sheep, domestic sheep use will not be authorized in the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek. In addition, domestic sheep use will be monitored by the BLM, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and the permittee during the next re-evaluation period to make certain allotment specific objectives and standards as stated below are being met. If objectives are not being met, adjustments will be made as per terms and conditions stated in this decision.

The following are the multiple use management objectives under which grazing on the Wilder-Quinn Allotment will be monitored and evaluated.

Short Term Objectives:

1. The objective for utilization of key streambank riparian plant species (CAREX, JUNCUS, SALIX, ASPEN, ROWO) on Maggie, S. Fk Cottonwood, Wilder and Little Wilder Creeks is 50%. Utilization data will be collected at the end of the growing period.
2. The objective for utilization of key wetland riparian plant species (CAREX, JUNCUS, POA, ASPEN) is 50%. Utilization data will be collected at the end of the growing period.
3. The objective for utilization of key upland plant species (SIHY, STTH2, ORHY, AGSP, FEID, PUTR, SYMPH, AMELA, BASA) is 50%. Utilization data will be gathered at the end of the growing period.
4. The objective for utilization of seeded species (AGCR, MEOF) is 50%. Utilization data will be collected at the end of the growing period.



## Long Term Objectives:

1. Manage, maintain and improve public rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis for big game, with an initial forage demand of 1,266 AUMs for mule deer, 208 AUMs for pronghorn, and 63 AUMs for bighorn sheep.
  - a. Improve to and maintain 59,219 acres of mule deer habitat in good or excellent condition.
  - b. Improve to and maintain 24,231 acres of pronghorn habitat in good condition. Improve to and maintain 110,394 acres of pronghorn habitat in fair or good condition.
  - c. Improve to and maintain 26,507 acres of bighorn sheep habitat in good or excellent condition.
2. Manage, maintain, and improve public rangeland conditions to provide forage on a sustained yield basis for livestock, with an initial stocking level of 13,877.
3. Improve range condition from poor to fair on 155,836 acres and from fair to good on 25,364 acres.
4. Improve to and maintain 29 acres of ceanothus habitat types in good condition.
5. Improve to and maintain 1,370 acres of mahogany habitat types in good condition.
6. Improve to and maintain 468 acres of aspen habitat types in good condition.
7. Improve the following stream habitat conditions of 55% on Wilder Creek, 41% on Little Wilder Creek, to an overall optimum to 60% or above.
  - a. Streambank cover 60% or above.
  - b. Streambank stability 60% or above.
  - c. Maximum summer water temperatures below 70° F.
8. Improve to and maintain the seeded pastures in good condition (5-10 acres per AUM).
9. Improve to and maintain 33,055 acres of mountain browse habitat types in good condition.
10. Improve or maintain suitable sage grouse strutting, nesting, brood rearing, and/or wintering habitat in good condition.

The following parameters have been found to constitute optimum (good) conditions for sage grouse use:

### Strutting Habitat

Low sagebrush or brush free areas for strutting and nearby areas of sagebrush having 20-50% canopy cover for loafing.



### Nesting Habitat

1. Sagebrush between 7 and 31 inches in height (optimum = 16 inches).
2. Sagebrush canopy cover of 15-30% (optimum = 27%).
3. 25-35% basal ground cover.
4. Average understory height of 6-7 inches.

### Brood Rearing habitat

#### Early Season

1. Sagebrush canopy cover of 10-21% (optimum = 14%).

#### Late Season

1. Meadow areas that are in proper functioning condition
2. Residual meadow vegetation of no less than 3-6 inches.

### Winter habitat

1. Greater than 20% sagebrush canopy cover.
11. Aspen stands will be monitored for average stems/acre for reproduction less 12" in height, 12-55" in height; and by total tree density. Stands will be within 80% of values for the specific habitat type as reported in FS GTR-INT-250 "Aspen Community Types of the Intermountain Region". Habitat types will be determined during the 1999 field season.

### Standard and Guideline Objectives

The following are the Standards for Rangeland Health as developed in consultation with the Sierra Front - Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, other interested publics and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. The terms and conditions of the livestock grazing permit must be in conformance with these approved Standards and Guidelines:

1. Soil processes will be appropriate to soil types, climate and land form.
2. Riparian/wetland systems are in properly functioning condition.
3. Water quality criteria in Nevada and California State Law shall be achieved or maintained.
4. Populations and communities of native plant species and habitats for native animal species are healthy, productive and diverse.
5. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of special species.



The following long term objectives will be dropped due to implementation of the Standards and Guidelines Objectives which replaces them:

1. Improve to and maintain 259 acres of riparian and meadow habitat types in good condition.
2. Improve to and maintain the water quality of S. Fk. Cottonwood, Maggie and Wilder Creeks to the state criteria set for the following beneficial uses: livestock drinking water, cold water aquatic life, wildlife propagation, and wading (water contact recreation).

### **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

Analysis of existing management of wildlife habitat does not indicate that current wildlife populations are significantly contributing to any failure in meeting multiple use objectives. Therefore, no change in wildlife use will be implemented at this time.

### **WILD HORSE AND BURRO DECISION**

Based upon the evaluation of monitoring data for the Wilder-Quinn Allotment, consultation with the permittee and other interested publics and recommendations from my staff, it is my final decision for management of wild horses to be as follows:

Establishing the following Appropriate Management Level (AML) for wild horses:

10 Horses 03/01 to 02/28 120 AUMs

The AML for that portion of the North Jackson Mountain Herd Management Area within the Wilder-Quinn Allotment is 10 Wild Horses. These horses are part of a larger herd occupying portions of three other allotments. The North Jackson Mountain Herd Management Area will be managed as one herd and management will not be fragmented by allotment.

The type of horse now inhabiting the area will be maintained and the horses will not be manipulated genetically for color or size. Any introduction of horses into this area from another HMA will only be done if adequate forage is available, the horses are under AML, and if the horses are compatible genetically.

Rationale:

Census data indicates that up to 10 horses have used the portion of the North Jackson Herd Management Area within the Wilder-Quinn Allotment. Use pattern mapping data and utilization studies shows that slight use is occurring from both livestock and wild horse use. Allotment specific objectives and standards will be met with an AML of 10 horses and current stocking levels of livestock.

Authority:

The authority for this decision is contained in Sec. 3(a), 3(b)(1), and 3(b)(2) of the Wild-Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (P.L. 92-195) as amended and in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations:



§4700.0-6(a) "Wild horses and burros shall be managed as self-sustaining populations of healthy animals in balance with other uses and the productive capacity of their habitat."

§4710.3-1 "...In delineating each herd management area, the authorized officer shall consider the appropriate management level for the herd, the habitat requirements of the animals, the relationships with other uses of the public and adjacent private lands, and the constraints contained in 4710.4."

§4710.4 "Management of wild horses and burros shall be undertaken with the objective of limiting the animals' distribution to herd areas. Management shall be at the minimum level necessary to attain the objectives identified in approved land use plans and herd management areas plans."

§4720.1 "Upon examination of current information and a determination by the authorized officer that an excess of wild horses or burros exists, the authorized officer shall remove the excess animals immediately..."

Appeal:

If you wish to appeal this wild horse management decision, it may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with 43 CFR, Part 4. If you appeal, your appeal must be filed with the Bureau of Land Management at the following address:

Colin P. Christensen  
AFM Renewable Resources  
Bureau of Land Management  
Winnemucca Field Office  
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.  
Winnemucca, NV 89445

Your appeal must be filed within thirty (thirty) days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay (suspension) of the wild horse decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to the:

Interior Board of Land Appeals  
Office of Hearings and Appeals  
4015 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22203



and to the appropriate office of the Solicitor:

Office of the Regional Solicitor  
Department of the Interior  
2800 Cottage Way, Room 2753  
Sacramento, CA 95825

at the same time the original documents are filed with this office.

If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

### LIVESTOCK DECISION

Based upon the evaluation of monitoring data for the Wilder-Quinn Allotment, consultation with the permittee and other interested publics and recommendations from my staff, it is my final decision for livestock to change the management:

#### FROM: (DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING USE)

##### Livestock

1. Grazing Use (AUMs)
  - a. The total number of animal unit months of specified livestock grazing:

	Denny Land and Cattle CO.	Colby	Alex Dufurrena
	13,877	102	400

- b. Suspend Preference                    0                    0                    0
2. Season of Use:
  - a. Denny Land and Cattle Company: March 01 to February 28
  - b. Roger and Marsha Colby: December 01 to February 28
  - c. Alex Dufurrena: April 01 to May 20
3. Kind and Class of Livestock - Cattle (cow/calf), Sheep



4. Percent Federal Range:
  - a. Denny Land and Cattle Company: 92% - (1,207 AUMs exchange-of-use)
  - b. Roger and Marsha Colby - 100%
  - c. Alex Dufurrena - 83%

5. Grazing System

Dufurrena Permit:

In accordance with the 1985 Rangeline Agreement, the Dufurrena Sheep Company has a 400 AUM sheep preference for lambing and trailing in the Wilder-Quinn allotment. Lambing occurs during the months of April and May with all sheep within the boundary of the Bilk Creek allotment by May 20. The lambing grounds are in the Deep Creek - Bilk Creek Reservoir area. The Dufurrena permit is as follows:

1467 S 04/01 to 05/20 400 AUMs

Colby Permit:

The Colby permit is as follows: 34 C 12/01 to 02/28 102 AUMs. Use is made in the flats east of Denio and west of Wilder Creek.

Denny Land and Cattle Company:

The following is a basic schedule of the grazing system used by the Denny Land and Cattle Company (formally called the Quinn River Crossing Ranch) since 1995:

Spring Grazing:

Bog Hot

250 C 03/01 to 05/31 738 AUMs

North of Quinn River Ranch/Lone Mountain/Houghland  
Seeding/Denio Seeding/Quinn Seeding/North Wilder

1210 C 03/01 to 05/31 3367 AUMs

400 C 06/01 to 06/30 363 AUMs

Antelope

200 C 03/01 to 06/30 738 AUMs



Summer/Fall Grazing:

Mahogany

150 C 06/01 to 08/15 345 AUMs

Summer Pastures (Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek and Wilder Creek/Little Wilder Creek/Sagehen/Shyster Creek)

1210 C 06/01 to 06/30 1098 AUMs

1810 C 07/01 to 08/15 2518 AUMs

The Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek and Wilder/Little Wilder/Sagehen/Shyster Creek use areas are used on a rotational basis with one use area being rested per year. In addition, livestock may be pulled out of the summer use area scheduled for use in late July/early August and into the Lone Mountain or North Wilder field due to water or forage conditions in the summer use area.

Lone Mountain/North Wilder/Denio Seeding/Quinn Seeding/  
Houghland Seeding/North of Quinn River Ranch

1810 C 08/16 to 08/23 438 AUMs

980 C 08/24 to 09/15 682 AUMs

South of Quinn River Ranch

300 C 09/01 to 10/15 408 AUMs

Winter Grazing:

Quinn River Ranch Use Area

638 C 11/01 to 02/28 2318 AUMs

Quinn River Ranch Use Area includes 1) south of Quinn River Ranch, 2) Bilk Creek, east of Quinn River Ranch/Dufurrena Lambing grounds, 3) west of Quinn River Ranch, 4) north of Quinn River Ranch

Bog Hot

250 C 11/01 to 02/28 907 AUMs



## TO: GRAZING SYSTEM TO BE IMPLEMENTED

### Dufurrena Sheep Company:

1. Grazing Use (AUMs)
  - a. The total number of animal unit months of specified livestock grazing: 400 AUMs
  - b. Suspend Preference: 0
  - c. Season of Use: April 01 to May 20  
June 1 to September 10
2. Kind and Class of Livestock - Sheep
3. Percent Federal Range: 83%

The Dufurrena Sheep Company has a 400 AUM permit to lamb in the Dufurrena lambing grounds located near the Bilk Creek Reservoir from 04/01 to 05/20. Remaining AUMs may be used during the period of 06/01 to 09/10 in the summer use area scheduled for rest from cattle grazing.

Domestic sheep use will be authorized in the Sagehen/Shyster Creek area, Wilder/Little Wilder Creek country and in the Maggie Creek drainage. Domestic sheep use will not be authorized in the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek. In addition, domestic sheep use will be monitored by the BLM, Nevada Division of Wildlife, and the permittee during the next re-evaluation period to make certain allotment specific objectives and standards as stated in this document are being met. If objectives are not being met, adjustments will be made as per terms and conditions stated in this decision.

#### Rationale:

The Paradise-Denio EIS (pg. 2-21, table 2-9) recognized 3430 AUMs of domestic sheep use in the old Wilder-Bilk allotment with 3730 sheep from 04/01 to 10/25. No conflicts with bighorn sheep should occur as the proposed areas of use were not considered to be potential or existing bighorn sheep habitat.

Domestic sheep use occurred in the summer use areas scheduled for rest from cattle grazing in 1994 and 1995. In 1994, sheep use was authorized in the Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek use area. Primary sheep grazing pressure was on balsamroot with utilization being concentrated on the flowers. Use on browse species such as snowberry and bitterbrush was less than 50%. Sheep use occurred in the Wilder/Little Wilder and Sagehen use areas in 1995. Overall, the findings in this area were the same as in 1994. The conclusion for the re-initiation of domestic sheep use in the summer pastures is there did not appear to be a conflict with the principle goal of a restoration grazing system as dietary overlap between sheep and cattle are limited. In addition, sheep prefer upland grazing and will not congregate in riparian zones for long periods of time. Therefore, sheep use should have minimal impacts in riparian areas and aspen groves if they are not allowed to bed in these sites.



Bighorn sheep are located in the Trout Creek Mountains in the vicinity of Kings River, which is within 4 miles of the south fork of Cottonwood Creek. Keeping domestic sheep out of the south fork of Cottonwood Creek drainage will maintain a buffer zone between domestic and bighorn sheep as per Bureau guidelines for management of domestic and wild sheep in native wild sheep habitats.

Roger and Marsha Colby Permit:

- a. Grazing Use (AUMs)
  1. The total number of animal unit months of specified livestock grazing: 102 AUMs
  2. Suspend Preference: 0
- b. Season of Use: December 01 to February 28
- c. Kind and Class of Livestock - Cattle (cow/calf)
- d. Percent Federal Range: 100%

Grazing use will continue in the flats east of Denio and west of Wilder Creek (in the North Wilder Field) from 12/01 to 02/28 (as per the 1985 Rangeline Agreement).

34 C 12/01 to 02/28 105 AUMs

Rationale:

The active preference and season of use will be maintained at 105 AUMs and 12/01 to 02/28, respectively. Monitoring data and desired stocking rate calculations indicates short-term utilization objectives will be met at these stocking levels and season of use.

Denny Land and Cattle Company:

- a. Grazing Use (AUMs)
  1. The total number of animal unit months of specified livestock grazing: 13,877 AUMs
  2. Suspend Preference: 0
- b. Season of Use: March 01 to February 28
- c. Kind and Class of Livestock - Cattle (cow/calf)
- d. Percent Federal Range: 92% - (1,207 AUMs exchange-of-use)



Implement the following grazing system:

Livestock numbers may vary but AUMs in a grazing year may not exceed 13,877 AUMs.

### Herd One

Herd one will run in the Bog Hot use area, Antelope use area, Houghland Seeding, and Mahogany Mountain. The grazing system will be as follows:

Livestock numbers: 200 - 350 Cattle

Treatments:

The following rotation will occur in all years:

Bog Hot	03/01 to 03/31; 11/01 to 02/28
Antelope	04/01 to 06/30
Houghland	07/01 to 09/15

In addition, 345 AUMs are available for livestock use on Mahogany Mountain during the months of May and ~~June~~. Full use of these AUMs depends on completion of the Alder Creek/Wilder-Quinn Allotment Division Fence Reconstruction on Mahogany Mountain.

### Herd Two

The following system will be used for herd 2 until the proposed Denio Summit Drift fence is completed

Herd two will run in the Quinn River Ranch use area, north into the Denio and Quinn River Seedings, Lone Mountain use area, North Wilder Field, and the summer use areas (Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek, Wilder/Little Wilder, Sagehen/Shyster Creek).

The grazing system will be as follows:

Livestock Numbers: 1460 - 1610 Cattle

Season of use:

Treatments:	E	02/01 to 03/31
	F	04/01 to 04/14
	G	04/15 to 05/30
	H	06/01 to 07/31 - 08/15
	I	08/01 to 08/31
	J	11/01 to 12/31
	K	Rest



Year 1 - 1999

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Treatment</u>
Quinn River Ranch Use Area	EJ
N. Quinn River Ranch	F
Lone Mountain	G,I
North Wilder	G,I
Quinn River Seeding	G,I
Denio Seeding	G,I
Sagehen/Shyster Creek	H
Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek	H
Wilder Creek/Little Wilder Creek	K

Year 2 - 2000

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Treatment</u>
Quinn River Ranch Use Area	E
N. Quinn River Ranch	F
Lone Mountain	G,I
North Wilder	K
Quinn River Seeding	G,I
Denio Seeding	G,I
Sagehen/Shyster Creek	H
Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek	K
Wilder Creek/Little Wilder Creek	H

Year 3 - 2001

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Treatment</u>
Quinn River Ranch Use Area	E
N. Quinn River Ranch	F
Lone Mountain	G,I
North Wilder	G,I
Quinn River Seeding	G,I
Denio Seeding	G,I
Sagehen/Shyster Creek	K
Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek	H
Wilder Creek/Little Wilder Creek	H

In year 4, this scheduling sequence will be repeated.

A summer use area will be grazed two years in a row and then rested.

The season of use for the summer use areas is from 06/01 to 07/31 - 08/15. In years when the Sagehen/Shyster Creek and Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek use areas are scheduled to be used in the rotation (year 1 as listed above), the livestock will be split into two herds and the use areas will be used concurrently during the summer use period. In other years (years 2 and 3), livestock will be rotated through the use areas.



When the Sagehen/Shyster Creek and Wilder/Little Wilder use areas are scheduled for use, livestock use will occur in the Lone Mountain use area. When the Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek use area are scheduled for use along with either Sagehen/Shyster Creek and Wilder/Little Wilder use areas, livestock numbers will be split between Lone Mountain and North Wilder. The Mud Creek drift fence which is scheduled to be constructed in the fall of 1998, will keep livestock out of the Sagehen/Shyster Creek area during the spring and fall and years when the use area is scheduled for use.

During the month of August, the Lone Mountain use area and North Wilder Field will be used for gathering and trailing home to the Quinn River Ranch. The Quinn River and Denio Seeding will be used for overnight stops while trailing home. These dates may change depending on when the permittees is authorized to place his livestock into the summer pastures. However, an one month period will be authorized. Livestock in the Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek use area will be gathered in the North Wilder Field and livestock from the Wilder and Sagehen country will be gathered into the Lone Mountain country.

Upon completion of the Denio Summit Fence, the Lone Mountain use area will be divided into two pastures, North Lone Mountain and South Lone Mountain. The North Wilder Field along with the North Lone Mountain and South Lone Mountain Fields will be used in a three pasture rest rotation system as follows:

Season of use:

Treatments:	G	04/15 to 05/30
	I	08/01 to 08/31
	K	Rest

Year 1

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Treatment</u>
South Lone Mountain	G,I
North Lone Mountain	K
North Wilder	G,I

Livestock will be trailed through the North Lone Mountain Field during the spring and in August with some overnight stops occurring.

Year 2

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Treatment</u>
South Lone Mountain	G
North Lone Mountain	I
North Wilder	K



### Year 3

#### Pasture

#### Treatment

South Lone Mountain	K
North Lone Mountain	G
North Wilder	I

This sequence will be repeated starting in year 4.

Livestock will be trailed through the South Lone Mountain Field during the spring and in August with some overnight stops occurring.

When the Sagehen/Shyster Creek and Wilder/Little Wilder use areas are scheduled for use, livestock use will occur in the North and South Lone Mountain Fields. When the Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek use area are scheduled for use along with either Sagehen/Shyster Creek and Wilder/Little Wilder use areas, livestock numbers will be rotated between North Lone Mountain, South Lone Mountain, and North Wilder. The Mud Creek drift fence which is scheduled to be constructed in the fall of 1998, will keep livestock out of the Sagehen/Shyster Creek area during the spring and fall and years when the use area is scheduled for use.

During the month of August, the South and North Lone Mountain Fields and North Wilder Field will be used for gathering and trailing home to the Quinn River Ranch. The Quinn River and Denio Seeding will be used for overnight stops while trailing home. These dates may change depending on when the permittees is authorized to place his livestock into the summer pastures. However, an one month period will be authorized. Livestock in the Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek use area will be gathered in the North Wilder Field and livestock from the Wilder and Sagehen country will be gathered into the Lone Mountain country.

#### Terms and Conditions:

The following terms and conditions will be included on all permits:

The terms and conditions must be in conformance with the Standard and Guidelines for the Sierra Front - Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, approved by the Secretary of Interior on February 12, 1997.

The authorized officer may modify annual grazing authorization and pasture sequences as long as the modification is consistent with management objectives and remains within the permitted season of use. Request outside of the permitted season of use will require input from interested publics.

Livestock grazing turnout and removal dates may be modified by up to two weeks. A modified turnout date into a pasture or use area will be dependent on range readiness factors such as stage of plant growth, soil moisture, moisture in meadows, and would require the area to be inspected prior to turnout. An early turnout date will be followed by an early removal date at the end of the grazing period. A later turnout date will be considered in years that are colder, wetter, both upland and riparian vegetation has little to no growth. Stocking rate levels identified for the pastures and use areas will not be exceeded.



The Wilder-Quinn Allotment working group, which includes the BLM, permittees, and interested publics, will meet in the field twice a year, once after the spring grazing period and once after the growing season to conduct monitoring studies and determine if allotment specific objectives have been met or not met. If an objective has not been met, the working group shall discuss the causes for non-attainment, the scope of the accedence, and develop a recommended corrective action. The working group may develop concise objectives which will be used to evaluate the success of the correction. Continued monitoring will be used to determine if the corrective action has achieved the desired results defined in the objectives. Based on this monitoring, subsequent corrective actions may be made without re-initiation of additional formal evaluation procedures or consultations.

Salt and/or mineral blocks shall not be placed within one quarter (1/4) mile of springs, meadows, riparian habitats or aspen stands.

A certified actual use report by use areas is due 15 days after the end of the authorized grazing period.

The permittee is required to perform maintenance on the range improvements to which he has been assigned maintenance responsibility.

The grazing authorization with the schedule of use will be the only approved use. All other schedules, flexibilities, terms and conditions addressed in the Allotment Management Plan dated 10/26/70 will be suspended.

Pursuant 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 (CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

#### Range Improvement Project:

##### Fencing/Pipelines:

The following range improvement projects are scheduled to be constructed in 1998, 1999 or when monies become available. These projects are permittee driven and are completed through the project planning, EA, consultation, and decision process.

Wilder #3 drift fence extension which will prevent livestock from drifting from the Maggie Creek area into Wilder and Little Wilder Creek.

Construct the Mud Creek Fence that will run from Mud Creek and join with the Wilder #4 fence. This will prevent livestock drift from the Lone Mountain use area into the Sagehen/Shyster Creek summer use area and allow for the Lone Mountain use area to be used as staging area for trailing home in August.

Construct the Denio Summit Fence. This fence would be routed from the mouth of Mud Creek and will run west to State Route 140 where it will end near the Denio Summit. The fence will split the Lone Mountain use area into two pastures and allow for the two new pastures (South



Lone Mountain Field and North Lone Mountain Field) and the North Wilder Field to be used in a rotational basis.

The following well will be constructed when monies are available.

Texas Spring Wells and pipeline.

These projects to be constructed are listed in the order of priority.

1. Re-construct and construct portions of the Wilder-Quinn/Kings River allotment boundary fence. This will prevent livestock drift from the Wilder-Quinn Allotment into the Kings River allotment and from the Maggie Creek/Cottonwood Creek summer use area into the Wilder/Little Wilder summer use area.
2. Reconstruct the Mahogany Mountain boundary fence between the Alder Creek and Wilder-Quinn allotment. This fence will allow for livestock use on the Mountain and prevent drift into the Alder Creek allotment.
3. Construct a gap fence between the Pueblo Mountain and Wilder-Quinn Allotments to reduce livestock drift within the Alberson and Denio pasture of the Pueblo Mountain Allotment.
4. Construct the Lady Bird pipeline realignment. A gravel pit was constructed which destroyed portions of the pipeline. Rerouting the pipeline would allow for additional waters North of Quinn River Ranch.

#### Prescribed Burning/Seeding

Conduct prescribed burns in the following seedings (listed in order of priority):

- a. Denio Seeding
- b. Quinn River Seeding
- c. Houghland Seeding

After burning, the seedings will be rested and the AUMs will be temporarily reduced. The amount of temporary reductions will be depended on the size of the burn. The temporary changes will be addressed through the environmental assessment

Consider the feasibility of seeding the west end of the North Wilder Field.

Rationale:

Monitoring data indicates the seedings are in a downward condition due to sagebrush encroachment and the age of the seedings. Burning the seedings would allow for regeneration the seeding by reducing sagebrush in the pastures.

Due to each pasture having a different carrying capacity along with the rest rotation/deferment grazing system, the total number of AUMs of specified livestock grazing will not exceed 13,877 AUMs. Nor will AUMs identified for each pasture or use area exceed AUMs identified in the



stocking rate calculations section of the technical recommendations.

Monitoring data indicates that short term utilization objectives in riparian areas have not been met in the summer use areas. This grazing system reduces the AUMs available and the season of use in the summer use areas and allows for more livestock use on the flats (Lone Mountain, North Wilder, Quinn River Use Area). An earlier removal date will allow for a regrowth period along riparian areas and help meet riparian objectives and standard and guidelines. The grazing system will allow for the functionality and habitat standards and guidelines to be met in the summer use areas by reducing the season of use and AUMs by reducing hot season grazing and allowing for riparian vegetation regrowth. The fences to be constructed will allow for better livestock control by preventing drift into areas scheduled for rest and for the summer use areas to be used in a rotational basis.

Term and Condition #3 (see Technical Recommendations - Term and Conditions) was added to give the permittee flexibility on moving livestock into a pasture or use area up to two weeks early. Adjusting turnout and removal dates will be dependent on factors such as soil moisture, upland and riparian vegetation growth, and rainfall and will require the pasture to be inspected. Flexibility in turnout and removal dates will aid in drier and hotter years in which livestock may be moved into pastures early without having detrimental effects on riparian areas and creeks and reduce hot season grazing because of an early removal date. This will provide a longer regrowth period for riparian plants. In comparison, later turnout and removal dates may be considered in wetter and colder years in order to allow meadow and other riparian areas to dry out to prevent punching and allow for vegetative growth.

The Lone Mountain use area and North Wilder Field will be scheduled for spring use and for gathering and trailing livestock during the fall. Monitoring data indicates that objectives, for the most part, are being met in these areas with the seeded areas being in good to excellent condition. Problems with livestock drift have occurred in early spring and during the summer and utilization levels have been exceeded around waters. However, the fencing and grazing system will address the drifting problems and aid in meeting both allotment specific objectives and the standards and guidelines by providing livestock control and allowing livestock to be rotated through the area. In addition. The Denio Summit Fence will split the Lone Mountain use area into two pastures (South Lone Mountain and North Lone Mountain) and allow these two new pastures to be used in a rest/deferred rotation with the North Wilder field. However, in most years when the South and North Lone Mountain Fields are scheduled for rest, some use will occur due to trailing activities. The Mud Creek drift fence which is scheduled to be constructed in the fall of 1998 will keep livestock out of the Sagehen/Shyster Creek area during the spring and fall and years when the use area is scheduled for use.

The Quinn River Ranch and Bog Hot Use Areas will continue to be available for winter and early spring use. Monitoring data indicates there is minimal concern in these areas. In addition, the Houghland, Antelope Field and Mahogany Mountain will be available for spring - early summer grazing. Monitoring data indicates objectives are being met in these areas and no adjustments are required. However, full use of Mahogany Mountain is contingent on the Alder Creek - Wilder Quinn Division fence being reconstructed.

Term and Condition #4 (see Technical Recommendations - Terms and Conditions) requires that the Wilder-Quinn Allotment Evaluation Working Group which includes the BLM, permittees, and interested publics meet in the field twice a year to gather monitoring data, analyze the data and



discuss if allotment specific objectives and standard and guidelines have been met or not met. If objective has not been met, the working group will make recommendations to adjust the grazing system and if necessary, implement monitoring studies and objectives to determine if the groups recommendations are meeting objectives or if further adjustments are needed. This term and condition is important because it requires the group to meet in the field to discuss problems and implement actions which will fix the problems as they occur.

#### AUTHORITY:

The authority of this decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4100.0-8 "The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resources uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use, and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plans also set forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5(b)."

4110.3 "The authorized officer shall periodically review the permitted use specified in a grazing permit or grazing lease and shall make changes in the permitted use as needed to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity, to assist in restoring ecosystems to properly functioning condition, to conform with land use plans or activity plans, or to comply with the provisions of subpart 4180 of this part. These changes must be supported by monitoring, field observations, ecological site inventory or other data acceptable to the authorized officer."

4130.3-1(a) "The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotments(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. The authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity of the allotment."

4130.3-3 "Following consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the affected lessees or permittees, the State having lands or responsible for managing resources within the area, and the interested public, the authorized officer may modify terms and conditions of the permit or lease when the active grazing use or related management practices are not meeting the land use plan, allotment management plan or other activity plan, or management objectives, or is not in conformance with the provisions of subpart 4180 of this part. To the extent practical, the authorized officer shall provide to affected permittees or lessees, States having lands or responsibility for managing resources within the affected area, and the interested public an opportunity to review, comment and give input during the preparation of reports that evaluate monitoring and other data that are used as a basis for making decisions to increase or decrease grazing use, or to change the terms and conditions of a permit or lease."



Appeal:

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final livestock decision may file an appeal, and may petition for stay of the decision pending final determination on appeal under CFR 43 4160.4, 4.21 and 4.470. The appeal and petition for stay must be filed at the following address:

Colin P. Christensen  
AFM Renewable Resources  
Bureau of Land Management  
Winnemucca Field Office  
5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd.  
Winnemucca, NV 89445

The appeal and petition for stay must be filed within thirty (30) days following receipt of the final decision.

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final decision is in error.

Should you wish to file a motion for stay, the appellant shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer.

#### FUTURE MONITORING AND GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

The Winnemucca Field Office will continue to monitor the Wilder-Quinn Allotment. The monitoring data will continue to be collected in the future to provide the necessary information for subsequent evaluations. These evaluations are necessary to determine if the allotment specific objectives are being met under the new grazing management strategy. In addition, these subsequent evaluations will determine if adjustments are required to meet the established allotment specific objectives.

The Wilder-Quinn Allotment is scheduled to be re-evaluated in FY 2004 unless monitoring data indicates another re-evaluation is required sooner.

Sincerely yours,



Colin P. Christensen  
AFM Renewable Resources  
Winnemucca Field Office