

m 11/15/93



# 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

(NV-026.12)

NOV 15 1993

Stan Ceresola  
P.O. Box 98  
Wadsworth, NV 89442

Dear Mr. Ceresola:

On October 21, 1993, Peggy Wiltse and you monitored the winter use area of the Rodeo Creek Allotment to determine if the March 16, 1993 Full Force and Effect Decision criteria for use on the winter use area was being met. The enclosed memo describes what was observed during that monitoring.

The following is the decision criteria and the evaluation of the criteria to determine if the criteria had been met:

- 1) defer livestock grazing until seedripe (approximately July 15).

**RATIONALE:** No residual forage exists and the vigor and overall vegetative production in 1992 was substantially below an average year.

**EVALUATION:** All of the grasses were cured. Seedripe for the key grass species on the winter use area is as follows: Indian ricegrass and bottlebrush squirreltail - 6/01-6/15.

- 2) AND defer livestock grazing until the growth requirements are met on the primary forage species. The growth requirements for cool season grasses, which includes: needlegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, Idaho fescue, and Indian ricegrass, is a minimum of three inches of leaf growth. Bluegrass should have the seedhead emerging from the boot.

**RATIONALE:** To insure that there is adequate plant growth to satisfy vegetative requirements of the perennial plants.

**EVALUATION:** Bottlebrush squirreltail and Indian ricegrass are the primary forage species on the flats. Bottlebrush squirreltail had between 3 and 6+ inches of leaf growth. Indian ricegrass had between 6 and 10+ of leaf growth. On the Lake Range, the primary forage species is bottlebrush squirreltail, Indian ricegrass, and needlegrass. The Bottlebrush squirreltail and Indian ricegrass had the same leaf growth as

previously stated and the needlegrass had 6+" of leaf growth. Idaho Fescue was listed as a primary forage species because it had been identified on the Lake Range previously. Upon this inspection, no Idaho Fescue was observed as the needlegrass was probably misidentified as Idaho Fescue.

3) AND adjust livestock numbers according to the amount of use that has already occurred by wild horses and wildlife:

- b) on the winter country (the flats east of the Fox Range and on the Lake Range), so that the estimated use will not exceed 60% before livestock are removed from the winter country at the end of the winter grazing season (April 30).

**RATIONALE:** 60% use during the winter does not effect the plant physiologically because the plant is dormant.

**EVALUATION:** The utilization was found to be generally no apparent use with two areas of slight use. Using past utilization mapping and actual use for wild horses and livestock, the full livestock active preference could be used and with the slight use occurring now, the use with livestock and the current horse numbers should not exceed the 60% use level on the winter use area.

The vegetation is meeting the requirements outlined in the decision criteria. The use was generally no apparent use except for in two locations which had slight use. I am therefore re-opening the winter use area to use by livestock.

Your application for 200 cows from November 1, 1993 through April 30, 1994 is approved.

Sincerely yours,



Bud C. Cribley  
Area Manager, Sonoma Gerlach Resource Area

Enclosure

cc: Ms Cathy Barcomb, Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses and Burros  
Mr Richard Heap, Department of Wildlife, State of Nevada  
Intermountain Federal Land Bank Assoc.  
Dawn Lappin, Wild Horse Organized Assistance

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

In reply refer to:  
4130  
(NV-026.12)

Memorandum

To: Bud Cribley, <sup>2</sup> Sonoma Gerlach Resource Area Manager

From: Peggy Wiltse, Range Conservationist

Subject: Winter Use Area inspection of the Rodeo Creek Allotment

Eight locations were looked at on the winter use area of the Rodeo Creek Allotment on October 21, 1993 by Peggy Wiltse and Mr. Ceresola, the permittee, to determine if the March 16, 1993 Full Force and Effect Decision criteria had been met. All criteria was met. The following observations were seen at each location.

Location 1 - Trail Canyon Photo Trend Site

The vegetation consists of greasewood, spiny hopsage, budsage, shadscale, cheatgrass, and Indian ricegrass. The Indian ricegrass had 6+" of growth and was cured. No apparent use was observed.

Location 2 - Three Mile Trend Site

The vegetation consists of shadscale, budsage, winterfat, Indian ricegrass, and bottlebrush squirreltail. Indian ricegrass had 6+" of growth and the bottlebrush squirreltail had 3-4" of growth. Both species were cured. No apparent use was observed except for slight use on the winterfat by rabbits.

Location 3 - Whitesage Flat Photo Trend Site

The winterfat had 6+' of leader growth. No apparent use was observed again except for slight use by rabbits on the winterfat.

Location 4 - Three Mile Utilization Cage

The vegetation consists of Wyoming big sagebrush, winterfat, horsebrush, spiny hopsage, bluegrass, Indian ricegrass, and bottlebrush squirreltail. The Indian ricegrass had 10" of growth and the bottlebrush squirreltail had 6+" of growth. Both were cured and showed no apparent use.

Location 5 - Lake Range

Sagebrush, Indian Ricegrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, Thurbers' needlegrass, and bluegrass was the vegetation present. This was the area that Idaho Fescue had been identified previously. None was seen on this inspection, as the Thurbers' needlegrass was probably misidentified previously as Idaho Fescue. No apparent use was observed. Six does were seen at the site, however. All grasses were cured and all had 6+'' of leaf growth.

Location 6 - Empire Trend Site

The vegetation consists of shadscale, winterfat, budsage, Indian ricegrass, and bottlebrush squirreltail. The winterfat had 6-8'' of leader growth, 8'' of growth on Indian ricegrass, and 4-5'' of growth on bottlebrush squirreltail. All grasses were cured. No apparent use was observed.

Location 7 - Cottonwood Utilization Cage

Shadscale, budsage, Indian ricegrass, and bottlebrush squirreltail made up the vegetation. Growth on the grasses was 6'' on Indian ricegrass and 5-6'' on bottlebrush squirreltail. All grasses were cured. Slight use was observed. Fresh horse tracks and sign were seen in the area.

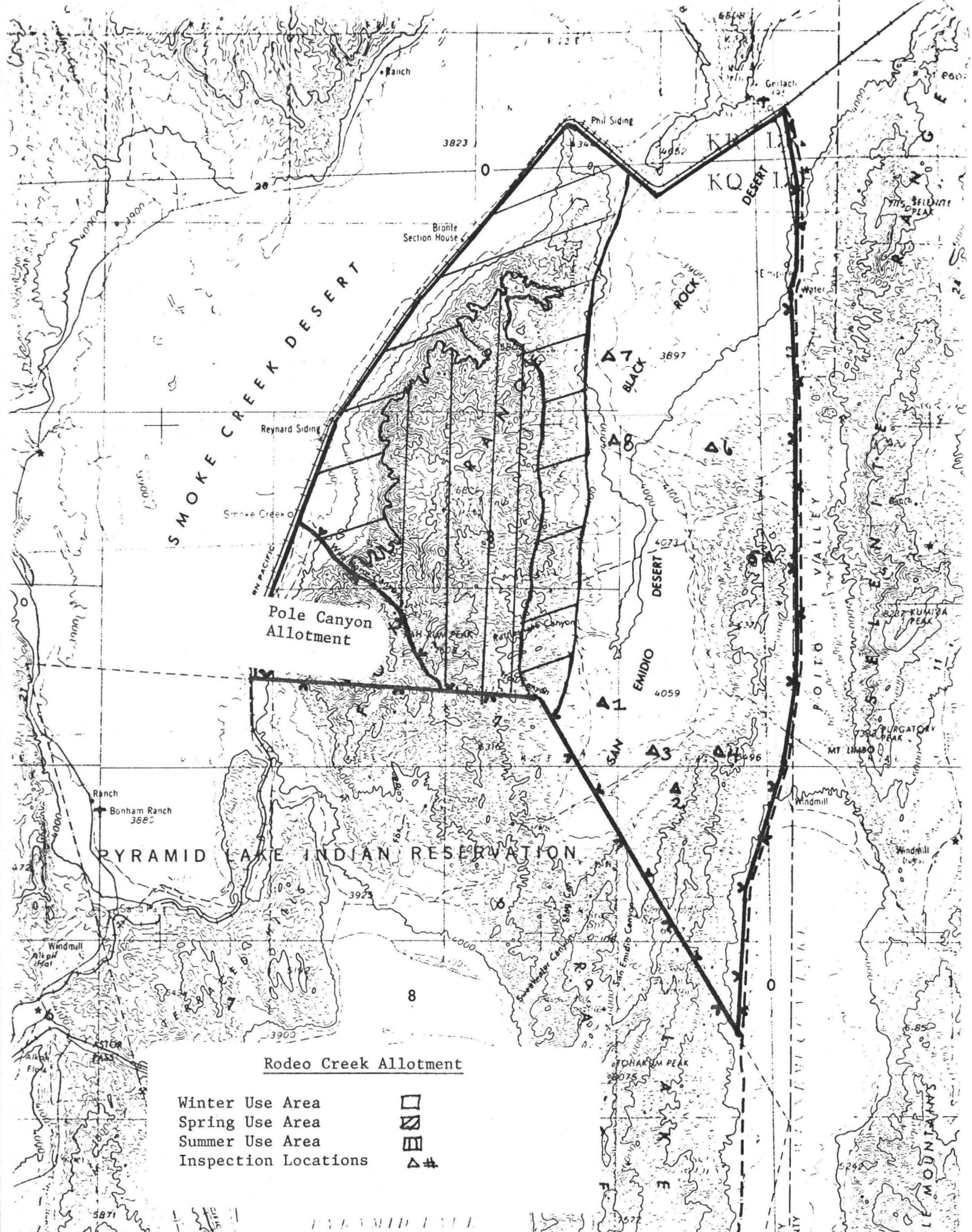
Location 8 - Willow Creek Utilization Cage

The vegetation consists of spiny hopsage, budsage, shadscale, and Indian ricegrass. The Indian ricegrass had 6+' of growth and was cured. Slight use was observed and cows were seen in the area.

Therefore, due to the vegetation meeting the requirements of the March 16, 1993 Full Force and Effect Decision criteria and the use being no apparent to slight, I would recommend re-opening the winter use area.

*Peggy Sue Wiltse*

11/8/93



Winter Use Area   
 Spring Use Area   
 Summer Use Area   
 Inspection Locations 