

m 2/23/83

MINUTES

Gerlach Area CRMP Core Committee

And

Buffalo Hills CRMP Sub-Group

February 23, 1983

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM at Brunos Country Club Cafe.

Dick MacDougall Chaired the meeting in the absence of Chairman Ted Grant.

Those in attendance introduced themselves. (Attendance list is attached.)

Bill Spoo was called on to explain why he had requested the Committee be convened. Jerry Smith assisted Bill and explained there are grazing privileges available for allocation in the Buffalo Hills allotment. These privileges were taken away from John Casey thru litigation and although all appeals have not been exhausted the BLM is confident the privileges are available for reallocation. They do want guidance in making the allocations and look to a CRMP group for this. The allocation of privileges in the Buffalo Hills allotment has impacts on the adjoining Coyote and Calico allotments so they should be planned together or concurrently.

At this point, on the suggestion of Jim Jeffress, the Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP) process and its advantages were explained to the group for the benefit of new people. Dave Morehead discussed the progress and benefits to date of the Bluewing and Seven Troughs allotments CRMP effort.

Returning to the original discussion, Jerry Smith explained that of the 8 category I allotments, Buffalo Hills is 2nd and Calico is 3rd on the priority list for BLM improvement efforts in the Winnemucca district.

At the present time Fred Chez is not interested in including the Leadville allotment in the effort. Fred is the only permittee in the Leadville allotment. Permittees in the other allotments are:

- Coyote - Wes Cook and Bill Spoo
- Calico - Andy Jackson
- Buffalo Hills - Joe Selmi and Andy Jackson

A discussion ensued on whether or not to undertake a CRMP effort and if so what the configuration and size of the area should be. The group agreed that a Coordinated Resource Management Plan should be developed for the area encompassing the Buffalo Hills, Coyote and Calico allotments. A sub-group was formed for this purpose with the following as members:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Clint Oke | Bill Spoo |
| Wes Cook | Andy Jackson <i>Buff</i> |
| Jim Jeffress | Cliff Williams |
| Dean Iveson | Chris Minnetto |
| Fred Chez | Steve Van Sickle |
| Jo Chez | Linda Van Sickle |
| Jean Casey | Dawn Lappin |
| Joe Selmi | Bruno Selmi |
| Rose Strickland | Dick MacDougall |
| Ken Detweiler | Tony Deibold |

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(It is to be understood that others will be added to this group if they so desire.)

Acting Chairman MacDougall opened the floor for nominations for Chairman and Secretary of the sub-group. Bill Spoo was elected Chairman and Jeanni Conlan was elected Secretary by unanimous ballots.

The meeting recessed for lunch at approx 12:00.

At 12:45 PM Bill Spoo convened the group and asked Dick MacDougall to serve as secretary of the sub-group in the absence of Jeanni Conlan.

The BLM was asked to explain their plans for grazing in the plan area. Jerry indicated they were requesting permittees to use the area in the Buffalo Hills allotment that had been closed to protect the crested wheatgrass seeding thereby allowing a period of rest for the north end of the Buffalo Hills allotment and the Calico allotment. This use of the closed area would be temporary during the time the group is developing the CRM Plan. Temporary non-renewable permits will be used until the plan and subsequent monitoring indicate how much forage is available for allocation. A preliminary allocation will be made for wildlife and wild horses based on BLM's appraisal of available A.U.M.'s. Guidance will be sought from the group in making these allocations.

The group next started to identify problems and issues that needed to be addressed in the CRMP process. The problems and issues that the BLM wants addressed are contained in the MFP III decisions for the concerned allotments. These were passed out to the group and are attached to these minutes as they also provide information on the present situation regarding cattle, horse, and wildlife numbers and AUM allocations.

The group agreed to wait until the next meeting to finish the list of problems and issues because not all permittees were present and the wild horse interest groups were not represented at all. The sub-group agreed to have another meeting as soon as possible and picked March 17 as a target date and to hold the meeting at the school if available.

Due to prior commitments MacDougall & Strickland left the meeting at this point and Clint Oke agreed to record the balance of the minutes.

List of problems and issues Buffalo Hills CRMP Group for the Buffalo Hills, Coyote, Calico and *Leadville allotments. *(Included at this time for information and possible future reference.)

1. Fencing - Is present fencing in the CRMP plan area functional?
2. Current horse numbers to be identified, set reasonable numbers within CRMP plan area, present herd use areas identified.
3. Power line corridors - Duck Flat south of Fox Mountain to Hualapai Valley.
4. BLM - Issues identified for the Buffalo Hills, Calico, Coyote and Leadville allotments:

Buffalo Hills Allotment

Specific problems that have been identified on the Buffalo Hills Allotment through the Bureau's planning system are listed below.

1. 65% of the allotment is in poor condition
15% is in fair condition (1979 estimate)
2. 50% of the allotment is in a downward trend (1982 estimate)
3. Riparian meadow aspen areas are in poor condition on northern portion of allotment
4. 5 identified sage grouse strutting grounds, 4 brooding areas, and critical winter areas
5. Competition from livestock and wild horses on critical deer spring and winter ranges
6. Red Mountain, Cottonwood, and Negro Creeks are in fair to poor condition
7. Privately-owned land and water rights
8. Water quality on streams
9. The level or intensity of present grazing management is not satisfactory
10. Existing range improvements are inadequate. Maintenance of existing range projects is inadequate.
11. Long and extensive history of grazing trespass
12. Livestock poisoning from greasewood
13. Livestock closure
14. Season-of-use
15. Current herbivore grazing use
16. Recreational use is heavy
17. Critical wildlife habitat in the Granite Range
18. Access to public land across private land
19. Sheep trailing
20. Class of livestock
21. WSAs 012 and 019 (WSA = Wilderness Study Area)

Calico Allotment

Specific problems, conflicts or issues that have been identified on the Calico Allotment through the Bureau's planning system are listed below.

1. 31% of the allotment is in poor condition.
41% of the allotment is in fair condition. (1979 estimate)
2. A majority of the allotment is in a downward trend.
3. Riparian condition is poor to fair throughout the allotment.
4. Donnelly Creek is in fair condition
5. Wild horses
6. The level or intensity of present grazing management is not satisfactory
7. Erosion is a problem throughout the allotment
8. Season-of-use
9. Current herbivore grazing use
10. Range improvements are inadequate
11. WSA 019
12. Road maintenance
13. Size of allotment

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Coyote Allotment

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

1. 22% of the allotment is poor to fair condition. (1979 estimate)
2. A majority of the allotment is in a static trend.
3. Sage grouse strutting grounds and wintering area.
4. Antelope yearlong
5. John Casey owns water rights
6. Wet meadow areas are in fair condition
7. Current herbivore grazing use
8. Current AMP objectives are not being met or are unrealistic

Leadville Allotment

Specific problems, conflicts or issues that have been identified on the Leadville Allotment through the Bureau's planning system are listed below.

1. 18% of the allotment is in poor condition.
42% is in fair condition. (1979 estimate)
2. A majority of the allotment is in a downward trend.
3. Poor raptarian and meadow condition
4. Sage grouse strutting and brooding area
5. Mule deer winter and spring concentration area
6. Wild horses
7. Recreational use of the Emigrant Trail which passes through the north end of the allotment
8. Severe soil erosion is occurring along Willow Creek
9. Current herbivore grazing use
10. Stocking rate
11. WSA 007

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard R. MacDougall
 Secretary of Core Committee and
 Acting Secretary of Sub-group

List of Participants

Gerlach Area CRMP Core Committee Meeting

And

Buffalo Hills CRMP Sub-Group Meeting

February 23, 1983

Andy Jackson - Rancher
Audrea Jackson - Rancher
Bill Spoo - Rancher
Rose Strickland - Sierra Club
Jeanie Casey - Rancher
Dick MacDougall - SCS
Jim Jeffress - NDOW
Clint Oke - BLM
Linda Van Sickle - Interested Citizen
Steve Van Sickle - Fence Construction
Dave Morehead - C-Punch Corp.
C. Minnetto - Interested Citizen
Jerry Smith - BLM
Tony Diebold - Interested Citizen
Cliff Williams - Interested Citizen
Gerald Brandvold - BLM
Vicki Espil (Brent Espil) - Rancher
Fred Chez - Rancher
Jo Chez - Rancher
Dean Iveson - Rancher

Allotment: Buffalo Hills

Long-range Allotment Management Objectives:

1. Graze 555 wild horses and 0 burros.

Buffalo Hills Herd Use Area - 272 horses
Granite Range Herd Use Area - 176 horses
Calico Mountain Herd Use Area - 107 horses

2. Provide habitat for reasonable numbers of wildlife:

Deer 6,294 AUMs
Antelope 1,016 AUMs
Bighorn Sheep 1,142 AUMs

Antelope - 461 total reasonable number

<u>Seasonal Use</u> <u>Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
West Granites AW-1(6)	20	24	
S. Buffalo Hills AW-2(6)	46	55	
Duck Flat AY-3(12)	47	112	
E. Granite Range AY-4(12)	111	269	
Hog Ranch AY-6(12)	14	33	
Dolly Varden AY-7(12)	119	285	
Poodle Mtn. AY-8(12)	137	328	1,106

Mule Deer - 2,098 total reasonable number

<u>Seasonal Use</u> <u>Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Buffalo Hills DY-2(12)	394	1,181	
Hog Ranch Mt. DY-3(12)	3	10	
Calico Mts. DY-5(12)	21	64	
Granite Range DY-4(12)	928	2,785	
Granite Range DW-3(12)	50	150	
Granite Range DW-4(12)	59	176	
Granite Range DW-5(12)	442	1,326	
Granite Range DW-6(12)	6	19	
Buffalo Hills DW-1(5)	35	44	
Buffalo Hills DW-2(5)	92	115	
Granite Range DS-1(8)	125	251	
Granite Range DSP-1(3)	163	122	
Granite Range DSP-2(3)	68	51	6,294

Bighorn Sheep - 476 total reasonable number - 4 bighorns reintroduced to BY-1- rest are potential reintroduction

<u>Seasonal Use</u> <u>Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
South Granites BY-1(12)	180	432	
Buffalo-North Granites BY-2(12)	223	535	
Division Peak BY-5(12)	26	63	
Calico Mountains BY-6(12)	47	112	1,142

3. Graze 11,920 livestock AUMs (active preference)

J.J. Casey 11,112 AUMs (Currently involved in litigation)
A. Jackson 739 AUMs
J. Selmi 69 AUMs

Allotment: Buffalo Hills (continued)

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

1. 65% of the allotment is in poor condition
15% is in fair condition (1979 estimate)
2. 50% of the allotment is in a downward trend (1982 estimate)
3. Riparian meadow aspen areas are in poor condition on northern portion of allotment
4. 5 identified sage grouse strutting grounds, 4 brooding areas, and critical winter areas
5. Competition from livestock and wild horses on critical deer spring and winter ranges
6. Red Mountain, Cottonwood, and Negro Creeks are in fair to poor condition
7. Privately-owned land and water rights
8. Water quality on streams
9. The level or intensity of present grazing management is not satisfactory
10. Existing range improvements are inadequate. Maintenance of existing range projects is inadequate.
11. Long and extensive history of grazing trespass
12. Livestock poisoning from greasewood
13. Livestock closure
14. Season-of-use
15. Current herbivore grazing use
16. Recreational use is heavy
17. Critical wildlife habitat in the Granite Range
18. Access to public land across private land
19. Sheep trailing
20. Class of livestock
21. WSAs 012 and 019

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
8. Riparian and aspen habitat
9. Aquatic habitat
10. Water quality

Allotment: Calico

Long-range Allotment Management Objectives:

1. Graze 42 wild horses and 0 burros.

Calico Mountain Herd Use Area - 42 horses

2. Provide habitat for reasonable numbers of wildlife:

Deer	46	AUMs
Antelope	44	AUMs
Bighorn Sheep	86	AUMs

Antelope - 18 total reasonable number

<u>Seasonal Use Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Calico Mountains AY-1 (12)	18	44	44

Mule Deer - 15 total reasonable number

<u>Seasonal Use Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Calico Mountains DY-5 (12)	15	46	46

Bighorn Sheep - 36 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>
Calico Mountains BY-6 (12)	36	86	86

3. Graze 2,584 livestock AUMs (active preference)

A. Jackson - 2,584 AUMs

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

1. 31% of the allotment is in poor condition.
41% of the allotment is in fair condition. (1979 estimate)
2. A majority of the allotment is in a downward trend.
3. Riparian condition is poor to fair throughout the allotment.
4. Donnelly Creek is in fair condition
5. Wild horses
6. The level or intensity of present grazing management is not satisfactory
7. Erosion is a problem throughout the allotment
8. Season-of-use
9. Current herbivore grazing use
10. Range improvements are inadequate
11. WSA 019
12. Road maintenance
13. Size of allotment

CALICO (Continued)

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. Aquatic habitat
8. Wild horses
9. Wildlife habitat

Allotment: Coyote

Long-range Allotment Management Objectives:

1. Graze 0 wild horses and 0 burros.

No horses existing on the allotment

2. Provide habitat for reasonable numbers of wildlife:

Deer 35 AUMs
Antelope 411 AUMs
Bighorn Sheep 7 AUMs

Coyote Allotment

Antelope - 171 total reasonable number

<u>Seasonal Use Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Duck Flat AY-3 (12)	162	388	
Poodle Mountain AY-8 (12)	10	23	411

Mule Deer - 12 total reasonable number

<u>Seasonal Use Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Granite Range DW-3 (12)	9	27	
Granite Range DSP-1 (3)	11	8	35

Bighorn Sheep - 3 total reasonable number

<u>Seasonal Use Area</u>	<u>Seasonal Reasonable Number</u>	<u>AUMs</u>	<u>Total</u>
Buffalo-North Granites BY-2 (12)	3	7	7

3. Graze 3,051 livestock AUMs (active preference)

Bill Spoo 2,734 AUMs
Wes Cook 317 AUMs

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

1. 22% of the allotment is poor to fair condition. (1979 estimate)
2. A majority of the allotment is in a static trend.
3. Sage grouse strutting grounds and wintering area.
4. Antelope yearlong
5. John Casey owns water rights
6. Wet meadow areas are in fair condition
7. Current herbivore grazing use
8. Current AMP objectives are not being met or are unrealistic

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