

3/16/98



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801-4611

In Reply Refer To:
4400/4120 (NV-012)

MAR 16 1998

Reed B. Robison
HC 33 Box 33940
Ely, NV 89301

DBA Need More Sheep Co.
c/o Henry C. Vogler
HCR 33 Box 33920
Ely, NV 89301

Dear Mr. Robison and Mr. Volger:

The Management Action Selection Report (MASR) for the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments is enclosed for your review.

This MASR follows the Badlands Goshute Mountain Allotment Evaluation mailed to you in July 1997, and describes the management actions to be implemented on the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments. This MASR also responds to significant comments made about the evaluation and discusses proposed management actions that have been modified, added and/or not selected.

Proposed and final multiple use decisions will be issued to you and other interested parties to implement the selected actions as final decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Thompson at (702) 753-0200.

Sincerely yours,

CLINTON R. OKE, Assistant District Manager
Renewable Resources

Enclosure: as stated above

cc. Animal Protection Institute
Paul Bottari

Management Action Selection Report Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments

A. INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the management actions selected for the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments. Monitoring was conducted on the Badlands Allotment and Goshute Mountain Allotments from 1981 to 1996 to determine if management practices were meeting the objectives established by the Elko District and the Ely District (refer to Appendix 1 for objectives). Monitoring data was also analyzed to determine if the Standards for Rangeland Health were met. The public involvement process and response procedure for the evaluation and subsequent management actions are pursuant to guidance set forth in Instruction Memorandum NV-94-073.

Comments on the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotment Evaluation were received from the Nevada Cooperative Extension on August 1, 1997, the Nevada State Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses on August 14, 1997, and the Nevada State Division of Water Resources on August 14, 1997. On August 29, 1997, a letter was received from Nevada Division of Wildlife indicating that they had no comments. Copies of the comment letters can be found in the Elko District Office files. The concerns are as follows:

Nevada Cooperative Extension:

1. Comment: These two allotments are in a condition where plant diversity and forage quantity and quality could improve if management were adequately applied. Wild horse numbers need to be reduced to allowable levels and trespass of domestic livestock eliminated.

Response: The purpose of the allotment evaluation is to identify any problems associated with grazing management for these allotments and propose technical recommendations for any changes in management to ensure significant progress toward attainment of standards for rangeland health and multiple use objectives.

The appropriate management level (AML) for wild horses proposed in the evaluation was actually derived from a carrying capacity analysis, allocating available forage to wild horses and livestock based on the ratio of initial wild horse stocking rates in the Wells RMP wild horse amendment to livestock grazing preference. When the AML is established for the Antelope and Antelope Valley Herd Management Areas (HMAs), the BLM will maintain horse numbers at or below AML by conducting gathers once every three years.

Compliance efforts in observing and recording trespass livestock have been initiated.

Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses:

2. **Comment:** These allotment evaluations do not represent a significant portion of the herd management areas to establish management numbers. Therefore, we encourage the District to complete the necessary evaluations and multiple use decisions to properly establish the appropriate management levels.

Response: The establishment of the AML of wild horses for the Badlands Allotment and the Goshute Mountain Allotment is a prerequisite to the establishment of an AML for the Antelope and Antelope Valley Herd Management Areas (HMAs). The AMLs for the Antelope HMA and the Antelope Valley HMA will be established once evaluations are completed for all allotments within these HMAs.

3. **Comment:** The use of weight-averaging use pattern map data to establish carrying capacity is not supported.

Response: The weighted average method is supported in Technical Reference 4400-7 (Analysis, Interpretation, and Evaluation).

The weighted average method was incorporated into the evaluation as a comparison to the key area utilization method for the carrying capacity of the Badlands Allotment. The carrying capacity proposed for the Badlands Allotment was determined using key area utilization rather than use pattern maps. Because use pattern mapping was the only utilization data collected on the Goshute Mountain Allotment during the evaluation period, the weighted average method was used to evaluate carrying capacity for the Goshute Mountain Allotment, though it was not selected.

4. **Comment:** It is recommended that the option of utilizing the difference between carrying capacity and observed actual use as a basis for livestock/wild horse numbers be considered. Numbers based on historical use are not supported.

Response: In Technical Recommendation 1 of the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotment Evaluation, the option of allocating AUMs based on numbers established in the Wells Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the RMP Wild Horse Amendment was chosen. The option of allocating AUMs to livestock and wild horses based on actual use was not selected because the livestock operators have voluntarily reduced their grazing below authorized

levels while wild horse use continued to increase. By basing wild horse/livestock allocations on the RMP and RMP Wild Horse Amendment, the objective for incidental horse use would be attained. The Badlands and Goshute Mountain allotments receive incidental use by wild horses due a lack of water in these allotments.

Division of Water Resources:

5. Comment: All water sources for stockwater must be permitted and all Nevada water laws must receive full compliance.

Response: There are no natural water sources on the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments. Water is hauled by the livestock operators from a source in Utah.

6. Comment: If the number of livestock utilizing a specific water source increases, the livestock owner may need to acquire additional water rights.

Response: The number of livestock utilizing a water source is not expected to increase as a result of this evaluation, as the authorized AUMs on the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments are not proposed to be increased. See discussion to Comment 5 above.

B. ANALYSIS OF MONITORING DATA

The evaluation of the existing monitoring data indicates that of the 16 Land Use Plan, Rangeland Program Summary, and key area multiple use objectives evaluated for the Badlands Allotment, six have been met, progress has been made on six, and four objectives have not been met.

On the Goshute Mountain Allotment, four of the eight objectives have been met, progress was made on three, and one objective was not met.

Of the seven Antelope Valley/Antelope Herd Management Area Plan Objectives, three were met. Progress was made on three objectives. One objective was not met.

Based on the data analysis and conclusions for the LUP, RPS, HMP, and key area objectives presented in the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotment evaluation, it has been determined that progress toward attainment or non-attainment of the Standards for Rangeland Health approved for the Northeast Great Basin Area of Nevada is as follows:

1. Standard 1. Upland Sites:

Badlands Allotment. Not Met, however progress is being made toward the attainment of this standard. Livestock grazing has been determined to one of the causal factors for non-attainment of this standard.

Goshute Mountain Allotment. Not Met, however significant progress is being made toward the attainment of this standard. Livestock grazing has been determined to one of the causal factors for non-attainment of this standard.

2. Standard 2. Riparian and Wetland Sites:

This standard does not apply to the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments because there are neither riparian nor wetland sites on either allotment.

3. Standard 3. Habitat:

Badlands Allotment. Not Met, however progress is being made toward the attainment of this standard. Livestock grazing has been determined to one of the causal factors for non-attainment of this standard.

Goshute Mountain Allotment. Not Met, however progress is being made toward the attainment of this standard. Livestock grazing during the evaluation period has been determined not to be one of the causal factors for non-attainment of this standard. Livestock grazing during the evaluation period has occurred during the winter dormancy (11/01 to 3/31). Full attainment of this standard and specific multiple use objectives are more a function of site potential and ability to provide for forage diversity than a function of improvement that can be made in livestock grazing management practices.

4. Standard 4. Cultural Resources:

Based on the evaluation of actions taken on the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments, this standard has been met.

C. SUMMARY OF OPTIONS

Based on the analysis of all available monitoring data, eight of the technical recommendations are required to ensure that all of the multiple use objectives be met and significant progress is made toward attainment of the Standards for Rangeland Health.

The following is a discussion of the management actions selected in the MASR as well as those that were modified and/or added.

1. Technical Recommendations Modified

The technical recommendation which addressed the data collection for wild horses on the Antelope Valley HMA was modified to also include the Antelope HMA (Ely District).

2. Technical Recommendations Modified

Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) and key area objectives will be modified and/or requantified for the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments. General land use plan objectives and the Standards for Rangeland Health identified for the Northeastern Great Basin Area will remain unchanged.

The objectives are changed to read as listed in Appendix 1.

D. SELECTED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The following technical recommendations have been determined appropriate to establish significant progress toward attainment of the multiple use objectives for the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments and the Standards for Rangeland Health approved for the Northeastern Great Basin Area of Nevada.

These actions will be implemented through a multiple use decision:

1. **Establish and maintain an AML of five AUMs for wild horses within both the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments.**

Rationale: In the Wells Resource Management Plan, livestock numbers for the Badlands Allotment were set at 2,647 AUMs and wild horse use was considered incidental. The Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment, finalized on August 2, 1993, established the initial herd size for wild horses in the Antelope Valley HMA at 240 horses. Census data has shown that approximately 1% of the Antelope Valley herd uses the Badlands Allotment. This equates to 2.4 horses for approximately five months, or 12 AUMs. This figure was added to the pre-evaluation authorized grazing use for livestock (2,647 AUMs) to equal a total of 2,659 AUMs for both livestock and wild horses. The 12 AUMs of wild horse use make up 0.5% of the total AUMs for the Badlands Allotment. This percentage was applied to the post-evaluation carrying capacity of 1,023 AUMs, resulting in 5 AUMs as the appropriate management level for the Badlands Allotment.

Data collected on the Goshute Mountain Allotment supports the current level of 465

AUMs for livestock and wild horses, therefore the AML of 5 AUMs will be established for both the Badlands and the Goshute Mountain Allotments.

This action will result in significant progress toward fulfillment of the Standards for Rangeland Health. This management action is consistent with Guidelines 1.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress toward conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites and Habitat.

2. Establish the total number of animal unit months of specified livestock grazing in the Badlands Allotment at 1,018 AUMs.

Rationale: It has been concluded by the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotment Evaluation that a reduction in the number of authorized AUMs is necessary in order for allotment management objectives to be met and ecological condition to improve. The post-evaluation carrying capacity of 1,018 AUMs is derived from 1,023 AUMs, the average of the pre-CAF capacities determined for each key area. Five AUMs were allocated to wild horses, therefore 1,018 AUMs were allocated to livestock.

Management practices have changed during the past two years of the evaluation period, with sheep having been turned out on the west side of the Badlands Allotment. Utilization data from these two years has revealed that this system has alleviated the heavier use occurring at key area BA-01, located on the east side of the allotment, and has resulted in similar use at both key areas. A continuation of this practice would allow for utilization objectives at each key area to be met. The continuation of water hauling would encourage even distribution of livestock use (see Selected Management Action 10).

This action will result in significant progress toward fulfillment of the Standards for Rangeland Health. This management action is consistent with Guidelines 1.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress toward conformance with Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites and Habitat.

3. Re-locate the west boundary of the Badlands Allotment and transfer the total number of AUMs of specified livestock grazing in the Badlands Allotment to DBA Need More Sheep Company.

Establish livestock grazing use in the newly adjusted Badlands Allotment as follows:

Operator	Animal Units	Kind	Period of Use	% Public Land	Total AUMs
DBA Need More Sheep Co.	1,025	sheep	11/1 - 3/31	100	1,018
TOTAL	1,025				1,018

Total AUMs of specified livestock grazing determined for the Badlands Allotment (1,018) would be authorized to DBA Need More Sheep Company. The west boundary of the allotment would be shifted toward the east approximately one mile and would change from a north-south direction to a northwest-southeast direction (refer to Appendix 2 for proposed location of west boundary).

The carrying capacity of 174 AUMs for cattle in the proposed West Pasture of Option 1, Alternative B of Appendix 8 of the allotment evaluation, would be added to the Antelope Valley Allotment, of which Reed Robison is the current permittee.

A rangeline agreement would be created and signed by DBA Need More Sheep Company, Reed Robison, and the BLM. The purpose of the agreement would be to document each operator's understanding and consent of the location of the allotment boundary between the two allotments.

Rationale: Reed Robison has requested to change his authorized use in the Badlands Allotment from sheep to cattle on his grazing permit for the Badlands Allotment. Based on his request, his cattle operation would be limited to the western portion of the allotment as shown in Appendix 2, within that area adjacent to and unfenced from the Antelope Valley Allotment, of which Robison has a grazing permit for cattle.

The 174 AUMs of authorized cattle use recommended for the proposed West Pasture would be transferred to the adjacent Antelope Valley Allotment, of which there exists flexibility to provide for the addition of AUMs due to a recently established grazing system (see page 46 and 47 of the Badlands/Goshute Mountain Allotment Evaluation).

Although the acreage of the Badlands Allotment will be reduced due to the change in the boundary, the carrying capacity of 1,018 AUMs will remain. DBA Need More Sheep Company has initiated grazing practices in which utilization of key species remains within objective levels. The authorization of 1,018 AUMs to DBA Need More Sheep Company will allow for a continued viable sheep operation and would also allow DBA the opportunity to improve range condition with the potential for an increase in authorized AUMs as supported through monitoring. Unauthorized use from Utah is not accounted for in actual use and utilization analysis.

This action will result in significant progress toward fulfillment of the Standards for Rangeland Health. This management action is consistent with Guidelines 1.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress toward conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites and Habitat.

4. Establish the total number of AUMs of specified livestock grazing for the Goshute Mountain Allotment as follows:

Operator	Animal Units	Kind	Period of Use	% Public Land	Total AUMs
DBA Need More Sheep Co.	468	sheep	11/1 - 3/31	100	465
TOTAL	468				465

Rationale: The specified livestock grazing use of 465 AUMs is the pre-evaluation carrying capacity for the Goshute Mountain Allotment. Carrying capacity was calculated in the evaluation using the weighted average method and resulted in 450 AUMs. According to use pattern map data, the allowable use level was never exceeded, therefore the current level of 465 AUMs for livestock and wild horse use is supported and a reduction to account for wild horse AUMs will not be made.

This action will result in significant progress toward fulfillment of the Standards for Rangeland Health. This management action would implement Guidelines 1.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress toward conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites and Habitat.

5. The terms and conditions listed on the grazing permits of DBA Need More Sheep Company and Reed Robison would include the following:

Authorized grazing use will be in accordance with the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments dated _____.

An actual use report for the, by pasture, must be submitted to this office annually within 15 days of completion of authorized use.

Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral, and/or protein supplements in block, granular, or liquid form. Such supplements must be placed at least ¼ mile from live waters (springs, streams, and troughs), wet or dry meadows, and aspen stands.

All riparian exclosures, including spring development exclosures, are closed to livestock use unless specifically authorized in writing by the Assistant District Manager.

Rationale: A Multiple Use Decision will be issued to implement changes in current grazing management practices as a result of multiple use objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health not being achieved.

The collection of actual use data is essential to the monitoring and allotment evaluation effort. The location of supplemental feed is important for proper livestock distribution and range management.

6. Flexibility will be allowed on the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments as outlined in the following:

The number of livestock to be grazed will remain flexible according to the needs of the permittee. Livestock numbers listed in this permit are based on the maximum number of AUMs that may be removed from each allotment for the period specified.

An annual operating plan, livestock numbers and periods of use and specific management practices appropriate for maintaining progress toward attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health will be approved by the BLM prior to turn out.

Deviations in time and conditions outlined above will be allowed to meet the needs of the resources and the permittee as long as these deviations are consistent with multiple use objectives. Deviations, including any changes in licensed use or adjustments in the terms and conditions outlined above, will require the submission of a written application and written authorization from the Assistant District Manager prior to grazing use.

Rationale: The permittees are afforded flexibility in their operations in order to adjust to range readiness, climatic conditions, and annual fluctuations in their livestock operations.

This action will result in significant progress toward fulfillment of the Standards for Rangeland Health. This management action would implement Guidelines 1.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress towards conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites and Habitat.

7. Continue to collect seasonal distribution/actual use data for wild horses on the Antelope Valley HMA.

Rationale: In 1991, intensive seasonal distribution flights began within the Elko District. These census flights have provided valuable information on horse movements and should continue until monitoring data indicates that the appropriate management level has been attained in all HMAs.

- 8. Inventory and identify existing fence projects that do not meet BLM specifications. Modify those fences which create significant barriers to deer and pronghorn.**

Rationale: The fences existing within the Badlands Allotment are located along the Nevada/Utah border and the White Pine County line. Fence modifications to BLM specifications would help facilitate big game movements and allow for more efficient use of available habitat while retaining the primary goal of restricting livestock movements.

- 9. Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) and key area objectives will be modified and/or requantified for the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments as outlined in Appendix 1. General land use plan objectives and the Standards for Rangeland Health identified for the Northeastern Great Basin Area will remain unchanged.**

Rationale: The Record of Decision for the Wells Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was issued on July 28, 1985. The Record of Decision for the Schell EIS was issued on July 1, 1983. These documents established the multiple use goals and objectives which guide management of the public lands in the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments. The Wells Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) was issued on September 15, 1986. The Schell RPS was issued on July 1, 1983. These documents further identified the allotment specific objectives for these allotments.

Monitoring was established on the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments to determine if existing grazing uses were consistent with attainment of the multiple use objectives established by the Wells RMP, RPS, the Schell RMP and RPS. Monitoring data was analyzed through the allotment evaluation process, to determine progress in meeting multiple use objectives, whether standards for rangeland health have been achieved, and to determine what changes in existing grazing management, if any, are required.

The Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotment evaluation summarized current grazing management, determined whether or not progress was being made toward attainment of goals and objectives, and provided recommendations for future management. The allotment specific objectives which were analyzed in the allotment evaluation were formulated based on management issues which existed in 1986 and 1983 when the

Wells and Schell RPS were published. Based on monitoring data and conclusions presented in this allotment evaluation, it is necessary to modify and/or requantify the allotment specific objectives to address the following resources issues:

- upland range conditions
- wildlife habitat conditions
- wild horse management

10. Water hauling will occur on all existing roads within the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments to improve livestock distribution.

Rationale: Use patterns mapped annually for both allotments during the evaluation period indicate that most of the grazing use occurs along roads where water was hauled that year. Water that is hauled to all accessible areas will improve the livestock distribution and lessen the occurrence of heavy use.

11. Continue to conduct necessary monitoring studies and periodically evaluate the effects of grazing to determine if progress is being made in meeting the multiple use objectives (refer to Section III. C. 2-8). The Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments will be re-evaluated in accordance with priorities established in the Elko Field Office Monitoring and Evaluation Schedule. If monitoring studies indicate a need to bring grazing use in line with capacity, necessary adjustments will be made. Studies will be conducted in accordance with BLM policy manual guidance as outlined in the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook and will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Uplands: | forage production
ecological condition
trend frequency
utilization
actual use |
| Wildlife Habitat: | habitat condition studies (BLM Manual 6630)
wildlife population census
Cole Browse |
| Wild Horses: | wild horse population census
pre-livestock utilization |

Rationale: Additional monitoring and analysis will be required to determine whether objectives are being met and determine if carrying capacities need to be adjusted or changes made to existing management strategies.

E. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) REVIEW

The selected management actions for the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments conform with the environmental analysis described in the Final Wells Environmental Impact Statement dated November 28, 1983. The Environmental Impact Statement and Administrative Determination of NEPA Compliance are on file in the Elko District Office, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801.

F. FUTURE MONITORING AND GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

The Elko District will continue to monitor the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments. The monitoring data will be re-evaluated according to the Elko District evaluation schedule. These re-evaluations are necessary to determine if the allotment specific objectives are being met under the existing management strategies. Appendix 1 outlines the multiple use objectives to be used in the next allotment evaluation.



CLINTON R. OKE, Assistant District Manager
Renewable Resources

3/13/98

Date

APPENDIX 1

The following objectives apply to the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotment:

1. Standards for Rangeland Health. Standards apply to both allotments..

Standard 1. Upland Sites: Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate, and land form.

Standard 2. Riparian and Wetland Sites: Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition and achieve state water quality criteria.

This standard does not apply to the Badlands and Goshute Mountain Allotments because there are neither riparian nor wetland sites on either allotment.

Standard 3. Habitat: Habitats exhibit a healthy, productive, and diverse population of native and/or desirable plant species, appropriate to the site characteristics, to provide suitable feed, water, cover, and living space for animal species and maintain ecological processes. Habitat conditions meet the life cycle requirements of threatened and endangered species.

Standard 4. Cultural Resources: Land use plans will recognize cultural resources within the context of multiple use.

Badlands

2. General Land Use Plan (LUP) Objectives

- a. Provide for livestock grazing consistent with other uses.
- b. To manage wild horses outside of checkerboard areas where land ownership patterns are not a problem for management.
- c. Manage wild horses within HMAs to maintain a thriving natural ecological balance consistent with other resource needs.
- d. Conserve and/or enhance wildlife habitat to the maximum extent possible.
- e. Eliminate all of the fencing hazards in crucial big game habitat, most of the fencing hazards in non-crucial big game habitat.

- f. Eliminate all of the high and medium priority terrestrial riparian habitat conflicts in coordination with other resource uses.
- g. Prevent undue degradation of all riparian habitat due to other uses.
- h. Lands with woodland products will be managed under the principle of sustained yield, maintaining an allowable harvest to provide a permanent source of wood products for future generations.

3. Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) Objectives

- a. Manage livestock to maintain present ecological status and trend.
- b. Provide forage to sustain the total number of AUMs specified livestock grazing for the Badlands Allotment.
- c. If necessary, adjust season of use on white sage areas.
- d. Maintain roads for access.
- e. Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife (pronghorn, 10 AUMs).
- f. Facilitate big game movements by fence modification (1.1 miles).
- h. Manage for a wild horse herd size which will maintain a thriving ecological balance consistent with other multiple uses while remaining within the wild horse herd management area.
- i. Delineate and manage wild horses in four HMAs as follows:
Antelope Valley Herd Area (includes 44 percent of the former Cherry Creek Herd Area); Goshute Herd Area; Maverick-Medicine Herd Area (includes 56 percent of the former Cherry Creek Herd Area); and Spruce-Pequop Herd Area.
- j. Remove sufficient wild horses to attain the initial herd size and maintain populations at a level which will maintain a thriving natural ecological balance consistent with other resource values.

4. Allotment Specific Objectives

Badlands Allotment

a. Range Key Area Objectives

BA-01

1. Short term: Improve trend by 2002.
Long term: Show statistically significant upward trend by 2007.
2. Improve ecological status from mid-seral (25-50% of PNC) to late seral (51-75% of PNC) by 2007.

BA-02

1. Short term: Improve trend by 2002.
Long term: Show statistically significant upward trend by 2007.
2. Improve ecological status from late seral to PNC (76-100%) by 2007.

Key species within the Badlands Allotment		
SPECIES CODE	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
ORHY	Indian ricegrass	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
ARARN	black sage	<i>Artemisia arbuscula nova</i>
EULA5	white sage	<i>Eurotia lanata</i>

Goshute Mountain Allotment

5. Land Use Plan Objectives

- a. Manage the vegetation resource and its uses to attain utilization rates not to exceed those recommended by the Nevada Rangelands Monitoring Task Force for sustained yield. For more information please refer to the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook.
- b. Attain and maintain habitat for reasonable numbers of wildlife, re-establish bighorn, pronghorn antelope, and elk on historic ranges, and protect crucial wildlife habitat.

- c. Upgrade and maintain all riparian and wetland areas in good or better condition.
- d. Maximize livestock based on sustained yield of the forage resource.
- e. Maximize wild horse numbers based on sustained yield of the forage resource.

6. Allotment Specific Objectives

a. Livestock

- 1. The short term objective will be accomplished through managing the allowable use level (AUL) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetation community.
- 2. The long term objective is to improve those acres in poor or fair livestock forage condition and maintain all acres presently in good livestock forage condition by managing for those seral stages which optimize livestock forage production.

b. Wild Horses

- 1. The short term objective will be accomplished through managing the allowable use level (AUL) by season of use to improve or maintain the desired vegetative community.
- 2. The long term objective is to manage for the most appropriate seral stage to provide desired quantity, quality, variety, and density of forage in order to meet the requirements of the wild horses.

c. Pronghorn Antelope

- 1. The short term objective is to limit use on key species listed for pronghorn antelope to 60% for perennial grasses, grass-like plants, and forbs, and to 50% for shrubs for winter season of use (refer to Table 5, Section III. D. of the allotment evaluation for identification of key species).
- 2. The long term objective is to maintain vegetation quality rating and diversity index of forage species on pronghorn antelope range at over 30 points to achieve at least fair habitat condition.

7. Site Specific Objectives

a. KA-01

Short term: Limit utilization by livestock to an allowable use level of 60% on ORHY and 50% on ARARN for a winter season of use .

Long term: Establish a composition of 2-5% for the key species ORHY. Maintain a composition of ARARN at 30% or below. Improve the ecological condition from a mid to a late seral stage (51-75%).

Key species within the Goshute Mountain Allotment		
SPECIES CODE	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
ORHY	Indian ricegrass	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
ARARN	black sage	<i>Artemisia arbuscula nova</i>

8. Antelope Valley/Antelope Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP) Objectives

The Goshute Mountain Allotment is within the Ely District's Antelope HMA.

The objectives are the same as those listed for the Antelope Valley HMA with the exception of the Appropriate Management Level.

a. Habitat Objectives

1. Vegetation

Provide forage adequate to carry wild horses and livestock through the winter use period without exceeding the utilization objectives of 60% on key grass species and 50% on shrub species. This is in accordance with the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook.

In the combined winter use areas (of which the entire Badlands Allotment is a part), the utilization objective for wild horses, prior to the entry of livestock which occurs between November 1

and December 31, has been established at 10%.

2. Distribution and Water Availability

Improve distribution and provide water yearlong for wild horses throughout each HMA where possible.

b. Wild Horse Objectives

1. Multiple Use

The objective in the Antelope Valley and Antelope HMAs is to maintain a healthy, viable population of wild horses in a thriving, natural ecological balance with all other resources and users.

