

5-9-86



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO

4120(C-028)
Stewardship

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Surprise Resource Area Hdqrs.
P.O. Box 460
Cedarville, California
96104

May 9, 1986

Dawn Lappin
WHOA
P.O. Box 555
Reno, NV 89504

Dear Dawn:

Recently I was talking with Curt Spalding, environmental representative, Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Program Steering Committee, about the upcoming Massacre Mountain/High Rock TRT meeting. He suggested sending you a summary of what has happened since 1983. I think his suggestion is excellent. The summary will not only provide an update but also serve as a refresher for the recommendations agreed to in 1982 and 1983 and provide a basis for discussion on May 15, 1986.

In the interest of brevity, I have not displayed the recommendations word for word. I have enclosed a copy of the recommendation. If I have summarized too much and have confused you, the numbers correspond between the summary and the enclosure.

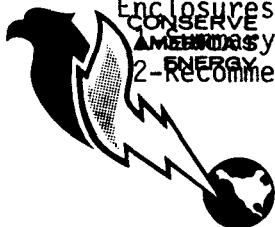
I think you will agree that a lot has been accomplished regarding the implementation of your recommendations in the three years since your last meeting. We have dealt with nearly all of the recommendations. The few that have not been dealt with as thoroughly as we would have liked are the ones concerning livestock. No one anticipated the litigation to last this long. The BLM has, however, met with the livestock operators to affect interim measures to solve some ongoing problems.

As a reminder, the TRT meeting is scheduled for May 15th, 8:00 a.m. at the BLM Office in Cedarville. If you would like to stay in the fire station, just bring a sleeping bag and toiletries. If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,

Lee Delaney
Surprise Resource Area Manager

Enclosures (2)
CONSERVE
ENERGY
2-Recommendations



Save Energy and You Serve America!

RECOMMENDATION

Action

June 24-25, 1982 TRT Recommendations

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Modify Cowhead/Massacre MFP if necessary to allow TRT recommendations. | 1. In order to implement TRT recommendations numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, & 22 it was necessary to amend the MFP. This was accomplished in January, 1984. |
| 2. Allow Bunyard to convert from sheep to cattle. | 2. The MFP was amended as noted above. The BLM will issue grazing decisions to the livestock operators dealing with this and other points as soon as current litigation is settled. |
| 3. Allow cattle grazing west of High Rock Canyon. Build a fence west of High Rock to exclude cattle from the canyon complex. Fence and water developments west of High Rock to be built concurrently. | 3. The MFP was amended to allow cattle grazing west of High Rock. Survey and design of the fence and water developments will be finalized in 1986. Construction is projected for 1988 pending funding. |
| 4. Treat livestock operators equally. | 4. The MFP was modified by deleting the decision which gave preference to the Bunyard operation. |
| 5. Design prescriptive grazing in the canyon complex and east that will not detract from other values. | 5. MFP amended to allow grazing on a prescriptive basis only. Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (developed in 1984) details prescription. |
| 6. Design and construct water developments primarily for wildlife and wild horses on the east benches. | 6. This has been identified as a support need in the wildlife HMP. However, no action has occurred due to funding constraints and prior commitments. |
| 7 & 8. Fences and water development should not reflect adversely on the Wilderness Study Area evaluation. Project development be in accordance with the Interim Management Policy. | 7 & 8. No projects had been constructed prior to the Wilderness TRT evaluation and recommendations, therefore, there were no adverse impacts. Pursuant to BLM Interim Management Policy, all efforts will be undertaken to minimize impacts on wilderness values. |

RECOMMENDATION

Action

- | RECOMMENDATION | Action |
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| 9. Develop a plan to stabilize streambanks, reduce soil erosion and restore riparian vegetation. | 9. A Watershed Management Plan was developed in 1985 dealing with the total High Rock drainage system. Initial work will lean towards developments in the upper watersheds which will reduce the high flows through the canyon complex. Projects have been designed in and out of the WSA's. Emphasis will be placed on those outside of the WSA's until Congress acts on wilderness status. Additional small, labor intensive projects can be accomplished in the canyon complex. |
| 10. Limit vehicle access pursuant to existing MFP decisions. If bighorn sheep are reintroduced and conflicts arise, close access until Memorial Day weekend. | 10. No action has been taken to implement this. BLM is attempting to develop a CMA with various groups and individuals whereby projects such as gates could be constructed and erected to control vehicle use pursuant to the MFP decision. |
| 11. Develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan for S.U. 1. | 11. A CRMP has been developed in 1984 and implemented in 1985 for S.U. 1. |
| 12. Develop a recreation visitor plan. | 12. A Recreation Management Plan will be developed in 1986. |
| 13. Prepare a Wild Horse and Burro Plan. | 13. A Wild Horse Herd Management Plan was developed in 1985. |
| 14. Graze allotment in common, initially, split later if feasible. | 14. No action necessary until AMP is implemented and evaluated. |
| 15. Defer stocking rate decision. | 15. Issue referred back to TRT by Steering Committee. See 2/24/83 TRT Report. |
| 16. Limit livestock utilization to 60%. | 16. Cattle use has exceeded 60% utilization in canyon and drainages throughout the area in 1984 and 1985. BLM met with livestock operators in December, 1985 to discuss problems and solutions. |

RECOMMENDATION

Action

- | RECOMMENDATION | Action |
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| 17. Cattle grazing season to be April 1-September 30 except in Little High Rock Bench where season would be April 16-September 30. | 17. Will be implemented in grazing decisions to be issued following settlement of current litigation. |
| 18. Complete seedings in Long Valley Allotment, include seeding unit in Massacre Mtn. Allotment. | 18. Seeding units surveyed and designed. Completion dependant on funding and settling of lawsuit regarding use of livestock. |
| 19. Implement an AMP on the Allotment. | 19. Development of an AMP has been delayed pending the outcome of the current litigation. |
| 20. Private land owners, SCS and BLM should investigate feasibility of improving riparian habitat. | 20. BLM has investigated protection and improvement of riparian habitat through development of the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan, the Watershed Management Plan and numerous small projects. |
| 21. Acquire private mineral rights through exchange. | 21. Sam Jasick is completely agreeable to the exchange. California BLM has approved the exchange which hopefully will be completed in 1987 or 1988. |
| 22. Consider ACEC designation of the canyon complex. | 22. The MFP was amended in January, 1984 to designate the area, as recommended by the TRT, as an ACEC. |
| 23. Pursue a land exchange for the private land in Pole Canyon. | 23. BLM and The Nature Conservancy has approached the owners many times regarding an exchange. Currently, the owners are considering an exchange with Ken Earp. BLM will then pursue an exchange with Earp. |
| 24. Stewardship Committee accepted all TRT recommendations as a unit. | 24. So done with the exception of recommendation number 15, which was referred back to the TRT. |

RECOMMENDATION

Action

February 24, 1983 TRT
Recommendations

1. Study feasibility of individual allotment for Bunyard over next 5 years.
- 2 & 4. Livestock operators would take 22% reduction. Choice up to Earp as to what alternative to use in achieving reductions.

1. Utilization data gathered to date will be used in making decision. Otherwise, specific study has not been made.

2 & 4. Both livestock operators have taken reductions in excess of 22%.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Operator</u>	<u>% Nonuse</u>
1984	Cockrell Is Earp Bunyard	36% 25%
1985	Cockrell Is Earp Bunyard	28.5% 25%
1986	Earp ^{1/} Bunyard ^{2/}	100% 39%

1/ Cockrell transferred permit back to Earp. Earp applied for total nonuse. However, we have been notified of a new base property lease. We have not received any documents as yet.

2/ Estimated. Actual use will not be known until after the 1986 grazing season is over.

3. Cockrell would allow Bunyard 243 AUMs if Earp concurs.

3. Earp did not concur. Only wanted to deal with Cockrell.

5. BLM issue formal decision to meet goals of earlier recommendations if agreement cannot be reached.

5. Bunyard reconsidered agreement to 22% reduction. Felt he should not have anymore reductions. BLM agreed to issue decision letting Bunyard litigate current proportionate shares. BLM prevailed in hearing before Administrative Law Judge. Currently pending before Interior Board of Land Appeals. BLM stands ready to

RECOMMENDATION

Action

- issue remaining decisions based on TRT recommendations and results of litigation. Indications are that resolution should be within the next 2-3 months.
6. Rather than developing interim system, prioritize work as follows:
- A. Develop water
 - B. Burn in Dog Leg
 - C. Seed in Dog Leg
 - D. Wild horse management
 - E. Fence west of High Rock
- 6.A. Survey and design finalized in 1986, project 1988 for construction.
- 6.B. BLM has evaluated Dog Leg for burning. Decision is that burn area is in good ecological condition and money and effort can be utilized better elsewhere.
- 6.C. Seeding area surveyed and designed, waiting on funding and resolution of herbicide lawsuit.
- 6.D. Herd Management Area Plan written. Gathered eastside in 1985, will gather Little High Rock in 1986.
- 6.E. Finalize survey and design in 1986, project construction in 1988.