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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO DISTRICT OFFICE
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TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4400.4 (NV-015)

MAR 30 1994

Bertrand Paris and Sons
HC 33 Box 33840
Ely, NV 89301-9403

Dear Mr. Paris:

The Management Action Selection Report (MASR) for the West Cherry Creek Allotment is enclosed for your review.

This MASR follows the West Cherry Creek Allotment Evaluation mailed to you in December 1993, and describes the management actions to be implemented on the West Cherry Creek Allotment. 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 affected interests to establish the selected actions as final decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact Karl Scheetz or Leticia Gallegos at (702) 753-0200.

Sincerely yours,

BILL BAKER, Manager
Wells Resource Area

Enclosure

cc: NV Div. of Wildlife
Farm Credit Services
Cliff Gardner
HTT Resource Advisors
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nevada Land Action Assoc.
Louise Lear, et. al.
Nevada Dept. of Agriculture
The Nature Conservancy
Jim Mulcahy
Natural Resources Defense Council
Sierra Club - Toiyabe Chapter
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Animal Protection Institute
Rutgers Law School
Wells Resource Area Grazing Association
Wild Horse Organized Assistance

Management Action Selection Report
West Cherry Creek Allotment
Wells Resource Area

A. INTRODUCTION

NO HMAP

This report outlines the management actions selected for the West Cherry Creek Allotment. Monitoring was conducted from 1984-1992 to determine if management practices were meeting the Land Use Plan (LUP), Rangeland Program Summary (RPS), Cherry Creek Habitat Management Plan (HMP), allotment management plan (AMP), and key area multiple use objectives. The public involvement process and response procedure for the allotment evaluation and subsequent management actions are pursuant to guidance set forth in Instruction Memorandum No. NV-91-185.

Comments on the West Cherry Creek Allotment Evaluation were received from the Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses on 1/19/94, Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) on 1/25/94, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on 2/1/94, and Pete, Bert, and Dave Paris provided comments from meetings held on 1/14/94, 1/25/94, and 3/10/94. Copies of the comment letters can be found in the Elko District files. The concerns were as follows:

1. **Comment:** The Cherry Creek HMP objective on annual bitterbrush utilization is quite a long-term objective that could be attained much quicker.

   Response: The monitoring of annual utilization on bitterbrush is ongoing and will continue to be monitored annually for the life of the HMP.

2. **Comment:** The livestock use on bitterbrush and the combined use (livestock and deer) stated in the Big Game Habitat Conditions section of the allotment evaluation does not match the much heavier use shown on Attachment 1. Further, exceeding target utilization in some years is indicative that grazing pressure by livestock has been too high and too late in the season in key bitterbrush areas.

   Response: Attachment 1 of the West Cherry Creek Allotment Evaluation displays the Cherry Creek HMP Deer Winter Range Bitterbrush Utilization Studies in which three key areas are identified. Only one of these key areas, DW-1-T-02, is within the West Cherry Creek Allotment. This key area shows an average of 21% use by livestock and an average of 43% use by livestock and deer which is what is stated in the allotment evaluation.

   In 1989 and 1990, the combined use exceeded the objective level of 45%. However, on both years, livestock use was below the objective level of 25%. Utilization by livestock was recorded at 16% on both years. In 1992, utilization by livestock on bitterbrush was recorded at 47%. The high use resulted from only the lower trough being used during the time that the livestock were in the area. A technical recommendation concerning the use of available waters has been added to address this issue.

   The other two key areas, DW-1-T-01 and DW-1-T-CU17, occur within the Currie Allotment and will be analyzed when that allotment is evaluated.

3. **Comment:** More clarification on the unauthorized channelization as to who, what, where, and when was requested.

Response: The unauthorized channelization occurred in 1989 on approximately 0.5 miles of the middle reaches of Taylor Creek. The unauthorized work was done by a third party who was served an unauthorized use notice and was required to rehabilitate the damage to the stream channel and riparian zone. Rehab was completed on October 1989. In addition, the BLM constructed an exclosure on a portion of the disturbed public section of Taylor Creek to help expedite the recovery process.

An additional 0.3 mile was channelized on lower Taylor Creek within the Odgers Allotment. An exclosure was also constructed on this portion of the disturbed channel.

4. **Comment:** What was the success of the bitterbrush seeding done in 1986?

Response: Key area DW-1-T-03 was established in 1988 within the crucial deer winter range that burned in the 1986 fire. The key area monitors the vegetative response following the fire, seeding success, and utilization by deer. As per the Cherry Creek HMP First Annual Report, the bitterbrush and kochia seeding was successful. Vegetative response in 1988 was good and forage quantity was fair. This area is used by both deer and livestock. Utilization readings on kochia were recorded on 5/88 (23%), 4/89 (51%), and 5/90 (73%). The success of the seeding will continue to be monitored. MAY DEER WINTER USE

5. **Comment:** The HMP objectives are all long-term, thus are any management actions scheduled before the year 2000.

Response: The Cherry Creek HMP was completed in 1985, at which time there were 3 short-term objectives established. The objectives included improving riparian/stream habitat on Odgers Creek and Taylor Creek and complete one comprehensive study of relict dace. Final evaluation of these short-term objectives was 1992.

The monitoring of the other objectives is ongoing. Any reevaluations between now and the year 2000 will identify progress toward meeting those objectives as well as the other long-term multiple use objectives identified in the LUP, RPS, AMP, and key areas.

6. **Comment:** Technical Recommendation 18 is written so that the allowable utilization on the native range every year is 60% and 65% on the seedings. The objective needs to be rewritten to show maximum allowable use of 50% on the native and 55% on the seedings.

Response: What the objective is saying is that we are managing for an average utilization of 50% on the native, not to exceed 60% utilization in any single year. The same principle applies to the seedings except that we are looking at an average utilization of 60%, not to exceed 65%.

Therefore, during a period of evaluation, the average utilization for that period should not exceed 50% on the native and 60% on seedings. Implementation of the recommended grazing system will

result in intensive livestock management to allow the native forage to meet physiological requirements. Average utilization over a period of time will allow for some flexibility as some years may result in less use while others may be slightly higher based on the grazing treatment and variations in forage production.

7. **Comment:** The channelization is the primary reason for not attaining the riparian objectives on Taylor Creek. It was recommended that in order to meet this objective, cattle use should be completely eliminated until this objective is met. Further, Taylor Canyon should be rested from sheep use every other year.

Response: The channelization in Taylor Creek did cause some serious damage to the riparian/stream habitat. However, efforts are being taken to expedite the recovery process. As mentioned in #3 above, an exclosure was constructed on a portion of the public section of the channelized creek.

After reviewing comments and concerns, cattle use in Taylor Canyon has been reconsidered. The grazing system will be modified to allow for two consecutive years rest by the 30 head herd.

With the Paris-Odgers Fence Extension constructed in 1991, use on lower Taylor Creek by trespass livestock has been resolved. A recommendation has been made that the only authorized livestock use in lower Taylor Creek will be trailing.

The deferred rotation grazing system on Taylor Canyon by sheep was designed to allow for about half of the Taylor Canyon Unit to be deferred until 8/1.

The Bureau is criticized for using drought as an excuse for declining conditions. However, drought does affect forage diversity, especially forbs. Lack of forage diversity was one of the reasons for declining mule deer summer habitat conditions. The recommended grazing system, allowing for deferment until 8/1, should allow for increased forage diversity within the mule deer summer habitat. By 8/1, seed ripe will have occurred and forbs will have matured.

Another reason for the declining habitat conditions was disturbance to deer crucial or reproduction areas by livestock. These riparian areas, including aspen stands, are important to mule deer during fawning. These areas have been heavily used by livestock resulting in denudation of most all available herbaceous vegetation and understory cover. The data indicated that condition declined from excellent in 1981 to fair in 1988.

The disturbance rating is one of five elements that is used to evaluate mule deer habitat condition. As per pages 20 and 21 of the allotment evaluation, it was suspected that habitat condition remained in fair condition and disturbance had occurred prior to 1988, thus it was felt that the disturbance rating in 1981 may have been overlooked. The disturbance rating indicates disturbance for the last 10 years. Therefore, in 1988, the disturbance rating indicated that severe disturbance to these deer crucial or reproduction areas had occurred. This further indicates this disturbance factor was overlooked in 1981. A recommendation has been added to limit sheep use within these

areas.

8. **Comment:** It was recommended that stocking rates on the West Cherry Creek Allotment be adjusted downward to reflect the fact that ecological condition is declining and there is heavy use by livestock on bitterbrush. No attempts were made to attempt to adjust the stocking rates, only a seasonal redistribution. Because drought is used as one of the excuses for not meeting objectives, then stocking rates should be based on forage production of the drought years and not the normal or above normal years.

Response: Analysis of the available data did not indicate that there was a need for a reduction in livestock use. The data did indicate that more AUMs were available than the current active preference. However, because not all multiple use objectives have been met and current conditions are declining, an increase in active use could not be justified.

Carrying capacities were calculated with the data collected from 1984-1992. Since about 1987, this allotment experienced below normal precipitation. As per page 43 of the allotment evaluation, the climatic adjustment factor (CAF) is used to normalize the data to the level of production expected during a normal median precipitation year. However, the post-evaluation calculated carrying capacities used were not adjusted by the CAF because of the variabilities between the years. Therefore, most of the carrying capacity calculations were based on drought years.

YIELD INDEXING

Grazing, combined with drought, were the main reasons for objectives not being met in Taylor Canyon and Odgers Creek. Implementation of the recommended grazing system will allow for deferment on the native range allowing plants adequate opportunity to grow during the critical part of the growing season. These changes in management should allow for attainment of the multiple use objectives.

9. **Comment:** Condition and trend in Snow Creek Unit is also declining and again, the excuse of drought is given. It was recommended that this pasture be rested every other year as deferment alone would do little good.

Response: Refer to discussion on drought in #8 above.

Actual use indicates that some use has occurred as early as 6/1. However, most of the use has started around mid-June. Utilization levels have been recorded at light with only one year recorded at moderate. The sheep generally move through this area within a two week period. During this time of the year, there is abundant green forage and sheep are only grazing for a short period of time (approx. 2 weeks) resulting in light use. Although the grazing schedule shows 6/15-9/30, sheep are not in the Snow Creek Unit for that entire period of time. Around 7/1, the sheep start to move into Taylor Canyon.

Sheep may come back to the area in September or October. However, this would be after seed ripe and thus, would not be detrimental to the plants. As stated above, utilization levels have not been to a level detrimental to the plants. Deferment until 6/15 and short duration grazing will ensure plant survival to meet multiple use objectives.

10. **Comment:** The objective to improve or maintain all seasonal big game habitat in good or excellent condition has not been met. Mule deer habitat conditions declined from excellent to fair. Use until 9/30 by cattle and 10/7 for sheep will put grazing pressure on key browse species, especially bitterbrush. Observations have shown that use on bitterbrush can start as early as mid July. During dry years, use on bitterbrush can be heavy during August and September. It was expressed that reduced stocking rates and providing for rest every other year on native range will initiate some significant changes toward meeting all big game habitat objectives.

Response: Refer to #7 above for explanation of mule deer summer habitat condition rating.

Refer to #2 above for clarification on key area and utilization readings on bitterbrush.

Implementation of the recommended grazing system should ensure that all seasonal big game habitat conditions improve.

11. **Comment:** Expressed that no progress has been make toward attainment of the objective of increasing the combined percentage of seedlings and young in the Cherry Creek bitterbrush population to 10% by 2000.

Response: The conclusions stated in the allotment evaluation indicated that there was a decline in number of seedlings and a statistical significance in decline had not yet been determined.

However, as per pages 20 and 21 of the allotment evaluation (Big Game Habitat Conditions), it is stated that there is an unsatisfactory age structure of bitterbrush. The combined percentage of bitterbrush seedlings and young plants is far exceeded by the percentage of decadent plants; that is, there are too few seedlings and young plants present to ensure the long-term survival of the population. Low forage quantity and overall poor vegetative growth and vigor was observed in the bitterbrush population. In addition, canopy cover also declined. The prolonged effects of the drought were evident.

Implementation of the recommended grazing system should ensure that all seasonal big game habitat conditions improve.

12. **Comment:** The objectives for Odgers Creek have not been accomplished. Without the strict adherence to riparian utilization standards or some significant rest periods, there is little chance for improvement in riparian areas which are not excluded from grazing by fences. It was suggested that alternate years rest and utilization criteria be implemented until objectives are met. The realization of past trespass problems was noted, but further stated that objectives are not being met and the problem needs to be corrected.

Response: The trespass livestock grazing problem had started as early as May in Odgers Creek. With the Paris-Odgers Fence constructed in 1984 and the extension completed in 1991, the trespass livestock problem was resolved. The West Cherry Creek AMP was completed in 1986 and the grazing system was implemented in 1989 following the two year rest on the seedings. The primary purpose of the seedings was to defer use on the native pastures

(primarily Odgers Creek because of the presence of relict dace) until 8/1 each year.

In 1989 and 1990, the permittee voluntarily did not use Odgers Creek, but rather used the seedings for the entire grazing season (200 head herd). In 1991 and 1992, 90 and 40 AUMs were used in Odgers Creek, respectively.

The wild horses, on the other hand, start moving in to Odgers Creek in June and July. Census data and field observations have indicated that as many as 130 horses use Odgers Creek from June through September. The wild horse utilization at the peak of the hot season has been most detrimental.

Although sufficient progress has not been made during the evaluation period to improve riparian conditions, the following management actions indicate that progress is being made in the right direction:

a) the development of the seedings allowed for deferment on Odgers Creek until 8/1,
b) the construction of the Paris-Odgers Fence Extension allowed for resolution of the trespass problem, and
c) an AML for wild horses established in the allotment will allow for management of the herd size to maintain an thriving ecological balance consistent with other multiple uses.

13. **Comment:** The Bureau has allowed themselves more time to meet the AMP objectives.

Response: The Bureau is not allowing themselves more time to meet the AMP objectives, but simply trying to show some consistency of final evaluation of objectives with the LUP. Monitoring is ongoing and objectives will continue to be evaluated in accordance with the Wells Resource Area Monitoring and Evaluation Schedule.

The AMP indicated that improvement would be made within 10 years. The 10 years indicates 10 years from full implementation of the AMP which was to be fully implemented in 1989, following 2 years rest of the seedings. Ten years will be 1999.

With major problems such as trespass livestock and the wild horse issues, the AMP was not fully implemented; that is, the permittee did not follow the AMP grazing system scheduled for Odgers Creek because of the heavy use by trespass livestock and wild horses. However, through the allotment evaluation process, the proposed management changes and continued implementation of the AMP will show progress in the right direction.

14. **Comment:** In the interest of providing protection and long-term conservation of rare plant taxa, we encourage you to incorporate surveys for candidate plant taxa into your allotment management plan objectives.

Response: The Bureau already conducts surveys for candidate plant taxa near areas of known populations. Information on threatened, endangered, and candidate species is provided and kept updated by the Nevada Heritage Program. The Bureau ensures that any impacts of proposed management actions on threatened, endangered, or candidate species are considered prior to implementation as per the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended) and Bureau policy.

15. **Comment:** There is no mention of allocation of any forage for wild horses. There is a total of 2880 AUMs available with cattle and sheep using 2674 AUMs and wild horses using a minimum of 630 AUMs; therefore, the allotment is overallocated.

Response: In order to respond to this comment, it was necessary to reanalyze the sections of the West Cherry Creek Allotment Evaluation where livestock and wild horses occur together.

Carrying capacities were recalculated on Odgers Creek and Taylor Canyon because census data shows that 46% of the wild horses in the West Cherry Creek Allotment use Odgers Creek and 54% use Taylor Canyon (Mustang Spring Area). This is not to say that horses are limited to only these two pastures within the West Cherry Creek Allotment as the wild horses are free-roaming. Our data, however, does indicate that essentially all of the wild horse use is within these two pastures.

The data presented in the Wild Horse Use section of the allotment evaluation (pages 22-26) indicated that when the population of the Maverick-Medicine HMA is between 350-380, the number of horses in the West Cherry Creek Allotment is around 80-90 head. At these population levels, actual utilization levels are within the combined utilization goals established for each key area.

After careful reexamination of the data, it was realized that although the data shows the actual utilization levels are within the objective levels when there are 80-90 head on the allotment, the data also shows that the horses are using an average of 56% of the actual use AUMs on Odgers Creek and 57% of the actual use AUMs on Taylor Canyon (see Appendix A). Tables 10 and 11 were modified to reflect the 96% public land in calculating the wild horse AUMs. The AUMs in the allotment evaluation were calculated based on a 100% public land figure. It is important to include the 96% public land as the allotment is licensed as such.

In reference to Table 10, on those years that Odgers Creek has been stocked below capacity, horses utilized the majority of the forage. It seems inappropriate to allocate forage on a basis of actual use AUMs when the permittee has voluntarily taken non-use or greatly reduced livestock numbers in Odgers Creek from 1989-1992.

It would be more appropriate to establish a proportion of use based on demand. The demand is as follows:

	AUMs	% Demand
Livestock	2674[1]	82
Wild Horses	601[2]	18
Total	3275	100

1 Active preference.
2 Based on 23% of the initial herd size of 389 for the Maverick-Medicine HMA as outlined in the Wild Horse RMP Amendment (89 horses for 7 months at 96% public land.

Upon establishing a proportion of use based on demand, the carrying capacity for Odgers Creek (KA-03) and Taylor Canyon (KA-05) were recalculated to include combined actual use by livestock and wild horses.

Recalculations on Odgers Creek (KA-03)

Table 16 of the allotment evaluation will be modified as follows:

Table 16. Pre- and Post-CAF Carrying Capacity Results for Odgers Creek Unit.			
KA-03			
Year	**Pre-CAF AUMs**	**CAF**	**Post-CAF AUMs**
1986	767	1.17	656
1987	729	.88	828
1988	720	.63	1143
1989	474	.94	504
1990	471	.82	574
1991	311	.61	510
1992	ND	.75	ND
Avg.6yrs.	579		703

CLIMATIC ADJUSTMENT FACTOR

The 1989 and 1990 actual use by trespass livestock was based on an average of 100 cows for 3 months (June, July, and August). In 1988, key area utilization was not read but this area was use pattern mapped as moderate. A median of 50% (moderate use category) was used in the carrying capacity calculations. All carrying capacity calculations are now based on total actual use AUMs by livestock and wild horses combined. – SHEEP?

Thus, when the average carrying capacity of 579 from 1986-1991 is proportioned based on the demand by livestock and wild horses, the following results are obtained:

	AUMs	**% Demand**
Livestock	475	82
Wild Horses	104	18
Total Available AUMs	579	100

80-90 h's down to 15?

Although the data indicates that 475 AUMs are available for livestock, the post-evaluation carrying capacity result for livestock will be as outlined in the AMP, which is 385 AUMs. The post-evaluation carrying capacity result for wild horses is 104 AUMs (or 15 horses). The total carrying capacity result for the Odgers Creek Unit is 489 AUMs (385 + 104).

An increase in carrying capacity cannot be justified because not all range and riparian objectives have been met and the grazing system outlined in the AMP was never fully implemented in Odgers Creek. From 1989 to 1990, the permittee took non-use and from 1991 to 1992, the permittee stocked lightly as a result of heavy use by trespass livestock and wild horses. The utilization objective was exceeded annually and current conditions and trend are declining. Excessive utilization was caused by trespass livestock and wild horses. Upon implementation of the proposed grazing system in the allotment evaluation (same treatment as in AMP), more livestock use is expected in Odgers Creek. Therefore, with the trespass livestock problem resolved, AMLs established for wild horses, limiting livestock use to the levels established in the AMP, and deferring use until 8/1 will allow for improvement to achieve the multiple use objectives.

Recalculations on Taylor Canyon (KA-05)

Table 17 of the allotment evaluation will be modified as follows:

Table 17. Pre- and Post-CAF Carrying Capacity Results in Taylor Canyon.

Year	Pre-CAF AUMS	CAF	Post-CAF AUMS
KA-05 Mustang Spring			
1986	497	1.17	425
1987	719	.88	817
1988	ND	.63	ND
1989	494	.94	526
1990	1109	.82	1352
1991	611	.61	1002
1992	ND	.75	ND
Avg.5yrs.	686		824
KA-06 Main Camp Spring			
1986	285	1.17	244
1987	274	.88	312
1988	ND	.63	ND
1989	395	.94	420
1990	ND	.82	ND
1991	305	.61	500
1992	ND	.75	ND
Avg.4yrs.	315		369

Carrying capacity in KA-05 was recalculated to reflect total actual use by livestock and wild horses combined. No changes were made to carrying capacity calculations in KA-06 as essentially no wild horse use has been observed or recorded in Main Camp Spring Subunit.

If the average carrying capacity of 686 AUMs from 1986-1991 in Mustang Spring is proportioned based on the demand by livestock and wild horses, the following results are obtained:

	AUMs	% Demand
Livestock	563	82
Wild Horses	123	18
Total Available AUMs	686	100

If we combine the AUMs for livestock from each subunit, we get 878 AUMs [563 (KA-05) + 315 (KA-06)] available in Taylor Canyon.

However, monitoring data in the Mustang Spring Subunit indicated that conditions are stable in late seral and trend is slightly declining. Monitoring data in the Main Camp Spring Subunit indicates that conditions have remained in mid seral and trend is declining. Therefore, using professional judgement and the fact that some of the aspen communities will have very limited use, the post-evaluation carrying capacity result for the Mustang Spring Subunit will be 275 AUMs and Main Camp Spring will be 478 AUMs for a total of 630 AUMs for livestock in the Taylor Canyon Unit. Because Main Camp Spring indicates that conditions are further declining than in Mustang Spring and data allows for more AUMs to be used in Mustang, the shifting of AUMs will prevent stocking Main Camp Subunit to full capacity. The post-evaluation carrying capacity result for wild horses is 123 AUMs (or 18 horses). The total carrying capacity result for the Taylor Canyon Unit is 753 AUMs (630 + 123).

Summary
As per the most current monitoring data available, carrying capacities for livestock and wild horses are proposed to alleviate overallocation of forage on the West Cherry Creek Allotment. As a result of these changes, Table 24 (Pre-AMP, AMP, and Post-Evaluation Carrying Capacity Results) will be modified as follows:

Table 24. Pre-AMP, AMP, and Post-Evaluation Carrying Capacity Results.

Pasture	Pre-AMP AUMs	AMP AUMs	Post-Eval AUMs
Snow Creek	239	369	289
Dry Troughs	452	249	249
Odgers Creek	1198	385	489[1]
Taylor Canyon	772	783	753[2]
North-South Seeding	0		213
South-South Seeding	0	290	225
North Seeding	0	290	423
East Seeding	0	290	397
Far East Sdg.	0	45	70
Total	2661	2701[3]	3108[4]

[1] 385 AUMs are allocated to livestock and 104 AUMs are allocated to wild horses.

[2] 630 AUMs are allocated to livestock and 123 AUMs are allocated to wild horses.

[3] One seeding will be semi-rested every year; that is, it will be used for lambing and by the 30 head and 50 head herds of cattle (253 AUMs), thus one seeding will be scheduled for 253 AUMs rather than 290 AUMs (a difference of 37 AUMs). Therefore, the total authorized use each year as per the AMP is 2664 AUMs (2701 - 37)

[4] Post-evaluation carrying capacity results indicate 2881 AUMs for livestock and 227 AUMs for wild horses. As far as livestock are concerned, one seeding will receive similar treatment described under footnote #3. As per the grazing system, total authorized AUMs will be 2674 AUMs on an annual basis.

16. **Comment:** With the Strategic Plan for wild horses, what will be done if numbers cannot be reduced to the 389 level? With excess horses on the allotment, will you continue to license over carrying capacity?

Response: The initial herd size for the Maverick-Medicine HMA as outlined in the Wild Horse RMP Amendment is 389 horses. With the available monitoring data, as described above, it is indicative that our initial proposal of an AML of 89 horses (601 AUMs) for the West Cherry Creek Allotment is incorrect. The technical recommendation on the initial herd size and establishing an AML will be modified to show the results of the most recent recalculations.

The Strategic Plan for the Management of Wild Horses and Burros on Public Lands directs the field offices to only remove adoptable wild horses which are usually those animals under the age of three. As per Bureau policy, upon establishing an AML for each HMA, wild horses will be removed every three years and herds maintained at AML.

B. ANALYSIS OF MONITORING DATA

An evaluation of the existing monitoring data indicates that of the 61 LUP, RPS, HMP, AMP, and key area multiple use objectives, progress was made on nine, sufficient or satisfactory progress was not made on eight, no progress or non-attainment was made on twenty-seven, available data was not sufficient to make a determination on one, and sixteen were attained.

C. SUMMARY OF OPTIONS

Based on the analysis of all available monitoring data, eighteen of the technical recommendations are required to ensure that all the multiple use objectives are met. Following is a discussion of the management actions not selected in the Management Action Selection Report (MASR) as well as those that were modified, added or not selected.

1. Technical Recommendations Modified

Technical recommendation #1 in the allotment evaluation outlining the proposed grazing system in the allotment evaluation was modified to ensure improvement of the native range and riparian areas within the West Cherry Creek Allotment. Modifications included an additional year of rest from cattle use in Taylor Canyon, changes during the lambing period, and adjusted sheep AUMs within the two subunits in Taylor Canyon.

Technical recommendation #5 in the allotment evaluation pertaining to the initial herd size and AML was modified to reflect the changes needed as a result of the most recent recalculations.

Technical recommendation #12 in the allotment evaluation indentifies the establishment of additional key areas. The proposed key area for the Snow Creek Unit was modified to show that it will only be used to monitor utilization on key forage species, including browse species, by sheep. Frequency, production, and ecological condition is being monitored at the currently existing key area within the Snow Creek Unit (KA-04).

A recommendation to establish a key area within the aspen type communities will also be added.

2. Technical Recommendations Actions Added

Technical recommendations detailing grazing system flexibility and terms and conditions of the operators permit were added.

A technical recommendation to evaluate the two exclosures in Odgers Creek to determine if livestock grazing may be allowed was added.

3. Technical Recommendations Not Selected

Technical recommendation #9 concerning threatened, endangered, and candidate species was not selected because as per the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended) and Bureau policy, the Bureau is already obligated to ensure that any impacts of proposed management actions on threatened, endangered, and candidate species are considered prior to their implementation.

The recommended management action by an affected interest to implement a rest-rotation grazing system in Taylor Canyon for sheep was considered but not selected. The selected grazing system in the West Cherry Creek Allotment should ensure that the

multiple use objectives will be attained. Monitoring and reevaluations will determine if further changes in management need to be made.

D. SELECTED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The following technical recommendations will be implemented through a multiple use decision:

1. Modify the existing AMP grazing system. Refer to Appendix B for an outline of the selected grazing system.

The proposed grazing system will allow for:

-deferred use until 5/25 in the Dry Troughs Bench Unit. The development of waters in this unit will also allow for use later in the season. Authorized use in the Dry Troughs Bench will not extend beyond 10/25 for sheep and 9/30 for cattle.

-deferred use until 6/15 in the Snow Creek Unit. The development of waters will allow for use later into the season, avoiding the early part of the growing season.

-deferred use until 8/1 on Odgers Creek.

-a rest-rotation system for cattle and a deferred rotation system for sheep in the Taylor Canyon Unit in order to improve forage diversity on seasonal mule deer habitat and riparian areas.

Rationale. The Dry Troughs Bench Unit is not only used to monitor livestock use, but also crucial deer winter range. Use on Dry Troughs Bench in the early part of the season is basically on the native range adjacent to the seeding that the sheep are lambing in. As the sheep drop their lambs they are sorted and moved to Dry Troughs Bench. This use in the past has resulted in use levels of no more than light use. Because Dry Troughs Bench is lower in elevation than Snow Creek Unit, phenologically, range readiness is earlier on Dry Troughs Bench. During this time of the year, there is abundant green forage and sheep are only grazing for a short period of time (approx. 2 weeks) resulting in light use.

Livestock use on bitterbrush has not been a problem and thus the 10/25 maximum off date should not result in any problems. Normal off dates have been through mid October.

With the trespass livestock problem resolved, deferred use after seed ripe should allow for improved conditions on Odgers Creek. Wild horse monitoring data will continue to be collected to determine wild horse use made prior to livestock turnout, combined wild horse and livestock use, and make any necessary adjustments.

The Taylor Canyon area has shown a downward trend in summer mule deer habitat conditions since 1979. This decline can be attributed to heavy livestock use within terrestrial riparian habitat types combined with drought conditions. The same grazing cycle has been used year after year in the past and has partly contributed to the declining conditions. Heavy livestock use within aspen types, for example, has significantly affected desired age class structure and the ability of these habitat features to provide optimum cover and forage. Poor forage diversity is the most common limiting factor on mule deer summer range in the West Cherry Creek Allotment. An improvement of the overall average percent forb composition would significantly improve habitat conditions and meet

big game habitat objectives, improve sage grouse and blue grouse nesting and brood rearing habitat, and improve range conditions within this portion of the West Cherry Creek Allotment.

2. The total active preference will remain at 2674 AUMs (2661 active AUMs and 13 FFR AUMs). The total AUMs authorized by pasture, as outlined in the recommended grazing schedule, is outlined below.

AUMs Authorized By Pasture.				
Pasture	**1994**	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**
Snow Creek	289	289	289	289
Dry Troughs Bench	230	230	230	230
Odgers Creek	385	385	385	385
Taylor Canyon	630	630	585	585
North-South Seeding	196	159	196	205
South-South Seeding	180	196	159	196
North Seeding	320	385	376	385
East Seeding	385	341	385	320
Far East Seeding	58	58	68	78
Total	2674	2674	2674	2674

Rationale. The post-evaluation carrying capacity results indicate that 3108 AUMs are available, 2881 AUMS for livestock and 227 AUMs for wild horses (Table 24). However, because not all multiple use objectives have been attained, an increase in active preference cannot be justified. As previously mentioned, the purpose of the seedings was to defer use on the native range (primarily Odgers Creek because of the presence of relict dace) until 8/1 each year. Increases in carrying capacity of the seedings will not result in increases in active preference, but rather increased use on seedings and reduced use, if not complete rest, on the native range.

3. Re-define the boundary between Dry Troughs Bench and Snow Creek Units. The new boundary will be at the tree line (see Map 6 in the West Cherry Creek Allotment Evaluation). Although there is not much difference, it is a more realistic boundary.

Rationale. There are no existing interior fences separating the Dry Troughs Bench and Snow Creek Units. The current existing boundary is a line across the bench, connecting the water troughs. Refer to Map 6 in the West Cherry Creek Allotment Evaluation.

The uncertainty of where the permittee defines the boundary and reports his actual use and where BLM defines the boundary and interprets the reported actual use has led to problems in over-estimating and under-estimating use in both units.

Re-defining the boundary and ensuring that actual use reports are as accurate as possible will help in better interpretation of the data. This, along with monitoring data will allow for a more accurate carrying

capacity level to be established for the Dry Troughs Bench Unit.

In addition, the boundary change will place KA-01 (Upper Dry Troughs) in the Dry Troughs Bench Unit, which will be deferred until 5/25.

4. Continue to implement the West Cherry Creek AMP. The terms and conditions on the term grazing permit and AMP will be revised as follows:

"Authorized grazing use will be in accordance with the West Cherry Creek AMP, as amended by the District Manager's Final Multiple Use Decision for the West Cherry Creek Allotment dated _____."

"An actual use report showing use by pasture and kind of livestock must be submitted within 15 days from the last day of scheduled use."

"Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral, and 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 Wells Resource Area Manager."

"The numbers of livestock to be grazed will remain flexible according to the needs of the permittee. The grazing system is based on the maximum number of AUMs that may be removed from each pasture and the grazing treatments. Livestock numbers and periods of use will be applied for on an annual basis."

"Deviations from the grazing system 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 beyond the limits of the flexibility outlined in the AMP, including deviations in the turnout date and grazing system, will require an application and written authorization from the Wells Resource Area Manager prior to grazing use. The request must be applied for in writing, at least five working days prior to the proposed implementation date. The BLM will respond to such an application within five working days of receipt."

"No livestock use (except trailing) will be allowed along lower Taylor Creek. Livestock will be gathered from Taylor Canyon and trailed directly to the next scheduled pasture, rather than be allowed to drift into lower Taylor Creek. If control of livestock use in this manner cannot be accomplished, corridor fences will be constructed as originally proposed in the HMP and AMP."

"No camps or sheep bedding areas will be allowed within ¼ mile of lives waters (springs, streams, and troughs), wet or dry meadows, including aspen stands."

"All available waters within a scheduled use pasture will be used to ensure proper distribution by livestock."

Rationale. An evaluation of current grazing management practices has indicated multiple use objectives have not been achieved and changes are necessary.

Actual use is essential to the monitoring effort.

Supplemental feed and its location is important to proper livestock distribution and range management.

The permittee is afforded flexibility in his operation in order to adjust to range readiness, climatic conditions, and annual fluctuations in his livestock operation.

Livestock use along Taylor Creek and Odgers Creek must be limited to achieve riparian/stream habitat objectives. Continued implementation of the AMP will help achieve these objectives.

Corridor fences were proposed along this portion of lower Taylor Creek. With the construction of the new allotment boundary fence and proper movement/trailing of livestock, improvement of the riparian/stream habitat for this portion of Taylor Creek can be accomplished without fencing. This would meet the riparian/stream habitat objective for Taylor Creek within the West Cherry Creek Allotment.

Loss of deer crucial or reproduction areas has led to declining mule deer summer habitat conditions. Limiting use in these crucial areas along with deferment as per the selected grazing system should improve current conditions.

Using all available waters within a pasture will ensure proper livestock distribution.

5. Reduce to and maintain the Maverick-Medicine HMA to an initial herd size of 332 as per the Wild Horse RMP Amendment. This will allow for an initial AML of 33 in the West Cherry Creek Allotment.

Rationale. As per the Wild Horse RMP Amendment, wild horses will be reduced to initial herd size within the HMAs. As per Bureau policy, upon establishing an AML for each HMA, wild horses will be removed every three years and herds maintained at AML.

Through seasonal distribution flights, it was determined that an average of 23% of the wild horses in the Maverick-Medicine HMA use the West Cherry Creek Allotment. The carrying capacity in the pastures used most by wild horses was proportioned based on their demand for forage. The data indicated that based on this proportion, 227 AUMs (or 33 horses for 7 months at 96% PL) were available for wild horses.

6. Continue to gather seasonal distribution data on the Maverick-Medicine HMA.

Rationale. In 1991, intensive seasonal distribution flights were begun within the Wells Resource Area. These census flights have provided valuable information on wild horse movements and should continue until monitoring data indicates that the appropriate management level has been attained. Monitoring will be increased by establishing additional key areas after the Maverick-Medicine HMA is reduced to initial herd size.

7. Read utilization at KA-03 (Odgers Creek) and KA-05 (Mustang Spring) prior to livestock turnout.

Rationale. Reading utilization at KA-03 and KA-05 prior to livestock turnout will provide additional wild horse monitoring data.

8. Continue to collect combined use utilization data and collect wild horse use only utilization data.

Rationale. Additional information is needed in areas which receive wild horse use and data needs to be collected prior to livestock turnout. Combined utilization data needs to be collected especially in areas which are known to receive wild horse use.

9. Complete additional spring enhancement/improvement projects as needs are determined and funding becomes available.

Rationale. Completion of these projects will help achieve the wildlife habitat improvement objectives identified in the Cherry Creek HMP.

10. Continue to implement the planned actions identified in the Cherry Creek HMP.

Rationale. Completion of these planned actions within the West Cherry Creek Allotment will help achieve the multiple use objectives outlined in the Wells RPS, West Cherry Creek AMP, and the Cherry Creek HMP.

11. Establish 4 more key areas in the following locations:
-slopes of the Snow Creek Unit,
-Denton Canyon area,
-on the west side of Odgers Creek,
-and in the aspen type communities in Taylor Canyon.

Rationale. Another key area in the Snow Creek Unit in a Shallow Calcareous Loam site is needed to monitor sheep use on the slopes, including use on browse species. One of the existing key areas (KA-01) in the Snow Creek Unit will be within the Dry Troughs Bench Unit upon adjustment of the boundary between the two units.

A key area in Denton Canyon would provide wild horse use only utilization data. The furthest north that sheep use the Taylor Canyon area is around Mustang and Trough Springs. Sheep use in the Mustang and Trough Springs area is usually limited by the amount of water in the springs. From 1989 to 1992, use by sheep was very limited due to drought conditions and dried up springs. Denton Canyon is located north of Mustang and Trough Springs and thus would provide only wild horse use.

A key area on the west side of Odgers Creek would monitor wild horse use. This area is not readily used by livestock due to the lack of water. However, wild horses do readily use this area as they come off of the Medicine Range to water in Odgers Creek.

Establishing a key area in the aspen type communities will monitor these deer crucial areas and ensure that wildlife objectives are being met.

12. The RPS objectives that have been attained will no longer be addressed. These objectives are as follows:

RPS Objectives

a. Improve livestock distribution on the west bench of the Cherry Creek Mountains.

b. Improve water distribution problems for domestic sheep in the Cherry Creek Mountains near Elko-White Pine County Line.

e. Develop an AMP to be signed in FY86.

h. Facilitate big game movements by modifying existing fences to Bureau standards where necessary.

Rationale. Tracking of objectives that have already been met is not necessary.

13. The following HMP short-term objectives will no longer be addressed. The objectives are as follows:

e. Improve 1.5 miles of lower Taylor Creek from 36.9% to 48% of habitat optimum (30% improvement) within the short-term (by 1992).

NOTE: The HMP objective was written for all of lower Taylor Creek. The specific objective for the West Cherry Creek Allotment should read: "Improve the riparian/stream habitat condition of 0.9 mile of lower Taylor Creek by a minimum of 30% (from 1980 baseline data) within the short-term (by 1992)."

g. Complete one comprehensive study of the relict dace by 1992.

h. Improve 8.5 miles of Odgers Creek from 32.4% to 42.1% of habitat optimum (30 percent improvement) within the short-term (by 1992).

NOTE: The HMP objective was written for all of Odgers Creek. The specific objective for the West Cherry Creek Allotment should read: "Improve the riparian/stream habitat condition of 4.5 miles of Odgers Creek by a minimum of 30% (from 1980 baseline data) within the short-term (by 1992).

Rationale. Final evaluation of the short-term objectives was 1992. The long-term objectives will continue to be monitored and evaluated.

14. Change all AMP objectives indicating that improvement will be made "within 10 years" to improvement will be made "by 2005." The objectives to be changed are as follows:

Allotment Management Plan

a. Maintain or improve the ecological status of all key areas to late seral by 2005.

b. Show a significant increase in percent frequency of occurrence of key species, as defined by Duncan's Multiple Range Test, by 2005.

e. Improve the habitat condition rating for the deer winter range from the current rating of fair to good by 2005.

f. Maintain the current good riparian habitat condition ratings along Taylor Creek and improve the aquatic habitat condition rating from poor to good by 2005.

g. Improve current poor aquatic and riparian habitat condition ratings on Odgers Creek to good condition by 2005.

Rationale. There is a need to standardize all of our objectives. The term of the land use plan is 2005, thus final evaluation of the AMP and key area objectives should also be 2005.

15. The key area ecological status objectives on the native range will be reworded as follows:

Key Area Objectives
Maintain or improve current late seral stage by 2005.

Key Area	1984 (baseline data)	1989
KA-01	53	40
KA-03	58	29
KA-04	52	41
KA-05	56*	53
*Baseline data read in 1985.		

Improve from current mid to late seral stage by 2005.

Key Area	1984 (baseline data)	1989
KA-02	47	49
KA-06	49	35

Rationale. There is a need to standardize all of our objectives. The term of the land use plan is 2005, thus final evaluation of the AMP and key area objectives should also be 2005.

The baseline data collected on the West Cherry Creek Allotment rated the key areas in either late seral or mid seral. Changes in management are recommended to achieve the multiple use objectives. Final evaluation will be in 2005. However, reevaluation in the interim will indicate if additional changes in management need to be made.

16. Reword seeding objectives to indicate carrying capacity levels in terms of AUMs versus acres/AUM. The objective will be reworded as follows:

Manage the seedings to provide at least the following AUMs of forage.

Seeding/Key Area	AUMs
East Sdg/KA-07 & -08	397
Far East Sdg/KA-09	70
North Sdg/KA-10 & -11	423
North-South Sdg/KA-12	213
South-South Sdg/KA-13	225

Rationale. The seeding production objectives are largely tied to the carrying capacity for livestock, which is referred to in terms of AUMs. Therefore, rewording of these objectives will equate more directly with the production of AUMs instead of acres/AUM. At this time, actual use and utilization data are considered the primary method of calculating carrying capacity. However, production data will continue to be collected to determine increases in shrub species, variations in production over the long-term, and possibly determine if any correlations exist between production and actual use and utilization.

17. The key area utilization objectives will be modified as follows:

Manage grazing to obtain an average utilization of 50% on all native grass species, while never exceeding 60% in any single year. The seedings will be managed to obtain an average utilization of 55% on crested wheatgrass, while never exceeding 65% in any single year. The maximum allowable use by livestock on PUTR2 is 25%. The key species to be monitored at each key area are as follows:

Key Area	Key Spp.	Key Area	Key Spp.
KA-01	AGSP	KA-05	AGSP
	ORHY		POSC
	POSC		STLE4
	PUTR2	KA-06	AGSP
KA-02	AGSP		STCO3
	ORHY		HEKI
	POSC		AGOSE
KA-03	SPAI	KA-07	AGCR
	SPGR	KA-08	AGCR
	POA++	KA-09	AGCR
KA-04	STLE4	KA-10	AGCR
	STCO3	KA-11	AGCR
	AGOSE	KA-12	AGCR
	ERIOG	KA-13	AGCR

Rationale. The implementation of the recommended grazing system will result in intensive livestock management to allow the native grasses to meet physiological requirements. An average utilization over a period of time will allow for some flexibility as some years may result in less use while others may be slightly higher based on the grazing treatment and variations in forage production. The same concept applies to the seedings. However, utilization figures on crested wheatgrass are slightly higher as studies on similar range sites have shown that 55% utilization levels will maintain the seeding production. Utilization on bitterbrush is limited to 25% use by livestock to ensure that enough forage is left for deer during the winter.

18. Evaluate the two exclosures in Odgers Creek in 1995 to determine if good or excellent riparian/stream habitat condition has been achieved. Upon achievement of good or excellent condition, a determination to allow livestock use in a manner consistent with maintenance of good or excellent riparian/stream habitat condition will be made. Written authorization and adherence to any special terms and conditions will be required before use is made.

Rationale. The exclosures in Odgers Creek were constructed in 1986. Available monitoring data indicates that progress has been made toward attaining the riparian/stream habitat objectives within the exclosures. Upon attainment of these objectives, light use levels by livestock (30 head herd) may be allowed without setting back any progress already made.

19. Continue to conduct the necessary monitoring studies and periodically evaluate the effects of grazing to determine if progress is being made in meeting the multiple use objectives. The West Cherry Creek Allotment will be reevaluated in accordance with priorities established in the Wells Resource Area Monitoring and Evaluation Schedule. If monitoring studies indicate a need to bring grazing use in line with capacity, necessary adjustments will be made.

Rationale. Additional monitoring and analysis will be required to determine whether objectives are being met and to 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 West Cherry Creek Allotment conform with the environmental analysis described in the Final Wells Environmental Impact Statement dated July 17, 1985. The Environmental Impact Statement and Administrative Determination of NEPA Compliance are on file in the Elko District Office, P.O. Box 831, Elko, Nevada 89803.

F. FUTURE MONITORING EFFORTS

The Wells Resource Area will continue to monitor the allotment. The monitoring data will be reevaluated according to the Wells Resource Area Allotment evaluation schedule. These reevaluations are necessary to determine if the allotment specific objectives are being met under the existing management strategies. Appendix C outlines the multiple use objectives to be used in the next allotment evaluation.

Bill Baker, Manager
Wells Resource Area

3/30/94
Date

Appendices:
A. Tables 10 and 11 (Wild Horse Data for Odgers Creek and Taylor Canyon)
B. Grazing System for the West Cherry Creek Allotment
C. Multiple Use Objectives

Table 10. Odgers Creek Unit / KA-03

APPENDIX A

YEAR	TOT. HMA POP.[1]	# OF HORSES IN WCC ALLOTMENT[2]	# OF HORSES ON ODGERS CREEK UNIT[3]	# OF MONTHS HORSES ARE ON ODGERS CREEK UNIT	TOT. # OF AUMS USED BY HORSES	TOT. # OF AUMS USED BY COWS/SHEEP	TOT. AUMS USED	% TOT. AUMS USED BY HORSES	TOT. % COMBINED UTILIZATION	HORSE UTILIZATION[9]
1984	240	55	25	7	169	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1985	316	73	34	7	230	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1986	379[4]	87	40	7	270	558	828	33%	54%	18%
1987	443	102	47	7	317	470	787	40%	60%	24%
1988	532[4]	122	56	7	378	342	720	53%	50%[6]	27%
1989	354	81	37	7	250	290[5]	540	45%	57%[7]	26%
1990	425[4]	98	45	7	304	290[5]	594	50%	63%[7]	32%
1991	507	116	53	7	358	90	448	80%	72%	58%
1992	589	135	62	7	419	40	459	91%	35%[8]	32%[10]
Average	421	97	44		299	297	625	56%	56%	31%

1 Mav-Med HMA; boundaries as revised by Wells RMP Amendment.
2 Based on an average of 23% of the Maverick-Medicine HMA wild horses using the West Cherry Creek Allotment.
3 Based on an average of 46% of the wild horses in the West Cherry Creek Allotment using the Odgers Creek Unit.
4 No census; # was derived by applying a 20% annual increase.
5 Estimated actual use by trespass livestock (approximately 100 cattle from July through September).
6 Key area was not read but the area was use patterned mapped at moderate. The mid-point of moderate is 50%.
7 All use made by horses and trespass cows.
8 Estimated combined use based on % of total AUMs used by horses and the recorded utilization of 32% prior to livestock turnout.
9 Horse utilization was calculated by multiplying the total percent combined utilization by the percent of total AUMs used by horses. For example, in 1986, 54 x .33 = 18%.
10 This utilization reading was read prior to livestock turnout. A reading was not recorded after livestock were removed.

ND = No Data
WCC = West Cherry Creek

Table 11. Taylor Canyon Unit / KA-05

YEAR	TOT. HMA POP.[1]	# OF HORSES IN WCC ALLOTMENT[2]	# OF HORSES ON TAYLOR CANYON UNIT[2]	# OF MONTHS HORSES ARE ON TAYLOR CANYON UNIT[2]	TOT. # OF AUMS USED BY HORSES	TOT. # OF AUMS USED BY COWS/SHEEP	TOT. AUMS USED	% TOT. AUMS USED BY HORSES	TOT. % COMBINED UTILIZATION	HORSE UTILIZATION[4]
1984	240	55	30	7	203	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1985	316	73	39	7	263	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
1986	379[3]	87	47	7	317	270	587	54%	59%	32%
1987	443	102	55	7	371	578	949	39%	66%	26%
1988	532[3]	122	66	7	446	310	756	59%	ND	ND
1989	354	81	44	7	297	256	553	54%	56%	31%
1990	425[3]	98	53	7	358	263	621	58%	28%	17%
1991	507	116	63	7	426	222	648	66%	53%	35%
1992	589	135	73	7	493	180	673	73%	ND	ND
Average	421	97	52		353	297	684	57%	52%	28%

1 Mav-Med HMA; boundaries as revised by Wells RMP Amendment.
2 Based on census data and estimates derived from census data.
3 No census; # was derived by applying a 20% annual increase.
4 Horse utilization was calculated by multiplying the total percent combined utilization by the percent of total AUMs used by horses. For example, in 1986, 59 x .55 = 32%.

ND = No Data
WCC = West Cherry Creek

GRAZING SYSTEM FOR THE CATTLE OPERATION IN THE WEST CHERRY CREEK ALLOTMENT. APPENDIX B

PASTURE	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
North Seeding	Rest	200 c 5/1-6/30 (385)	50 c 10/1-10/31 (50) 30 c 7/11-9/30 (78)	200 c 6/1-7/31 (385)	Repeat Cycle
East Seeding	200 c 5/1-6/30 (385)	50 c 10/1-10/31 (50) 30 c 5/1-6/15 (43)	200 c 6/1-7/31 (385)	REST	
N-South Seeding	200 c 7/1-7/31 (196)	REST	200 c 5/1-5/31 (196)	50 c 10/1-10/31 (50) 30 c 5/1-7/10 (68)	
S-South Seeding	50 c 10/1-10/31 (50) 30 c 5/1-6/15 (43)	200 c 7/1-7/31 (196)	REST	200 c 5/1-5/31 (196)	
Far East Seeding	30 c 6/16-8/15 (58)	30 c 6/16-8/15 (58)	30 c 5/1-7/10 (68)	30 c 7/11-9/30 (78)	
Taylor Canyon	30 c 8/16-9/30 (45)	30 c 8/16-9/30 (45)	30 c REST	30 c REST	
Dry Troughs Bench	50 c 8/1-9/30 (85)	(Annual Use)			
Odgers Creek	150 c 8/1-9/30 (385)	(Annual Use)			
Total AUMs	(1247)	(1247)	(1247)	(1247)	

Legend: 200 c (# lvsk & kind) 8/1-9/30 (Period of Use) (385) (AUMs)

Taylor Canyon will receive two consecutive years of rest every four years by the 30 head of cattle. Use will be authorized after 8/15.

The native range (Dry Troughs Bench and Odgers Creek) will be deferred from cattle use until 8/1.

Cattle will come off of all the native range by 9/30 annually. Any authorized use after 9/30 will be in the seedings.

All available waters within a scheduled pasture will be used to ensure proper distribution by livestock.

The numbers of livestock to be grazed will remain flexible according to the needs of the permittee. The grazing system is based on the maximum number of AUMs that may be removed from each pasture and the grazing treatments. Livestock numbers and periods of use will be applied for on an annual basis.

The grazing cycle will be repeated in 1998.

GRAZING SYSTEM FOR THE SHEEP OPERATION ON THE WEST CHERRY CREEK ALLOTMENT.

APPENDIX B (con't)

Pasture	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
North Seeding	1800 s 5/1-5/14 (159) 1500 s 5/15-5/31 (161)	REST	1500 s 5/15-5/31 (161) 1000 s 6/1-6/14 (88)	REST	Repeat Cycle
East Seeding	REST	1500 s 5/15-5/31 (161) 1000 s 6/1-6/14 (88)	REST	1800 s 5/1-5/14 (159) 1500 s 5/15-5/31 (161)	
N-South Seeding	REST	1800 s 5/1-5/14 (159)	REST	1000 s 6/1-6/14 (88)	
S-South Seeding	1000 s 6/1-6/14 (88)	REST	1800 s 5/1-5/14 (159)	REST	
Taylor Canyon	1000 s 7/1-9/30 (585) Main Camp deferred until 8/1.	1000 s 7/1-9/30 (585) Main Camp deferred until 8/1.	1000 s 7/1-9/30 (585) Mustang Spring deferred until 8/1.	1000 s 7/1-9/30 (585) Mustang Spring deferred until 8/1.	
Dry Troughs Bench	1000 s 5/25-6/15 (100) 1000 s 10/1-10/25 (45)	(Annual Use)			
Snow Creek	1000 s 6/15-9/30 (289)	(Annual Use)			
Total AUMs	(1427)	(1427)	(1427)	(1427)	

Grazing Treatment for Taylor Canyon:

Taylor Canyon Unit will be divided into 2 subunits; Main Camp Spring and Mustang Spring. In 1994 and 1995, use in Main Camp Spring will be deferred until 8/1. When moving sheep into Taylor Canyon, 2 days use will be allowed in Main Camp Spring for watering, then sheep must be moved into Mustang Spring Subunit. Use after 8/1 will be allowed in both Main Camp Spring and Mustang Spring Subunits.

In 1996 and 1997, use in Mustang Spring will be deferred until 8/1. Use after 8/1 will be allowed in both Main Camp Spring and Mustang Spring Subunits.

There are 275 AUMs available in Main Camp Spring and 478 AUMs available in Mustang Spring.

Dry Troughs Bench will be deferred from sheep use until 5/25, Snow Creek will be deferred until 6/15, and Taylor Canyon will be deferred until 7/1. Sheep use from 5/1-5/25 will be in the seedings.

Sheep use on Taylor Canyon will be limited from 7/1-9/30 annually.

No camps or sheep bedding areas will be allowed within ¼ mile of lives waters (springs, streams, and troughs), wet and dry meadows, including aspen stands.

The numbers of livestock to be grazed will remain flexible according to the needs of the permittee. The grazing system is based on the maximum number of AUMs that may be removed from each pasture and the grazing treatments. Livestock numbers and periods of use will be applied for on an annual basis.

The grazing cycle will be repeated in 1998.

APPENDIX C

Allotment Management Objectives

1. **General Land Use Plan (LUP) Objectives**

   a. Provide for livestock grazing consistent with other resource uses.

   b. Continue management of the existing wild horse herds consistent with other resource uses.

   c. Conserve and/or enhance wildlife habitat to the maximum extent possible.

   d. Eliminate all of the fencing hazards in crucial big game habitat and most of the fencing hazards in non-crucial big game habitat.

   e. Eliminate all of the high and medium priority terrestrial riparian habitat conflicts in coordination with other resource uses.

   f. Improve high and medium priority riparian/stream habitat to at least good condition.

   g. Prevent undue degradation of all riparian/stream habitat due to other uses.

2. **Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) Objectives**

   a. Improve ecological status in the Dry Troughs Bench Unit and Taylor Canyon Unit (Main Camp Spring Area).

   b. Maintain or improve ecological status in the Snow Creek Unit (including Dry Trough-Upland), Odgers Creek Unit, and Taylor Canyon Unit (Mustang Spring Area).

   c. 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.

   NOTE: The original AMP objective read "Ensure that wild horse populations are managed at the 1981 levels as per the Wells RMP/EIS." However, IBLA rendered a decision which clarified that a wild horse herd size is to be established based on the concept of maintaining a thriving ecological balance, thus the objective was reworded.

   d. Improve or maintain all seasonal big game habitat in the West Cherry Creek Allotment to good or excellent condition to provide forage and habitat capable of supporting the following reasonable numbers by 2005:
   1,717 mule deer: 2,294 AUMs

   e. Improve, enhance, or develop 2 springs in the West Cherry Creek Allotment to good or excellent condition.

   f. Improve crucial deer winter habitat by:
   -cutting (thinning) 3,000 acres of pinyon and juniper.
   -chaining or burning and seeding 250 acres of pinyon, juniper, and sagebrush.

   g. Improve riparian/stream habitat to good or better condition on Taylor Creek and Odgers Creek by 2005.

3. **Cherry Creek Habitat Management Plan (HMP) Objectives**

a. Improve to or maintain in at least good condition all deer use areas in the Cherry Creek Resource Conflict Area (RCA) by 2000.

b. Increase the combined percentage of seedlings and young plants in the Cherry Creek bitterbrush population to 10% by 2000.

c. Achieve annual utilization of the Cherry Creek bitterbrush population which does not exceed 45% of twig length by 2000 (maximum of 25% for livestock).

d. Maintain or increase the foliar coverage of the Cherry Creek bitterbrush population by 2000.

e. Improve 1.5 miles of lower Taylor Creek from 36.9% to at least 60% of habitat optimum (good condition) within the long-term (by 2000).
NOTE: The HMP objective was written for all of lower Taylor Creek. The specific objective for the West Cherry Creek Allotment should read: "Improve the riparian/stream habitat condition of 0.9 mile of lower Taylor Creek to good or better condition (60% or more of habitat optimum) in the long-term (by 2000)."

f. Improve 8.5 miles of Odgers Creek from 32.4% to at least 60% of habitat optimum (good condition) within the long-term (by 2000).
NOTE: The HMP objective was written for all of Odgers Creek. The specific objective for the West Cherry Creek Allotment should read: "Improve the riparian/stream habitat condition of 4.5 miles of Odgers Creek to good or better condition (60% or more of habitat optimum) in the long-term (by 2000)."

g. Improve 25 springs and wet meadows, presently in poor or fair condition, to good or excellent condition by 2000.
NOTE: Two springs are to be improved within the West Cherry Creek Allotment.

4. **Allotment Management Plan (AMP) Objectives**

a. Maintain or improve the ecological status of all key areas to late seral by 2005.

b. Show a significant increase in percent frequency of occurrence of key species, as defined by Duncan's Multiple Range Test, by 2005.

c. 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.

NOTE: The original AMP objective read "Ensure that wild horse populations are managed at the 1981 levels as per the Wells RMP/EIS." However, IBLA rendered a decision which clarified that a wild horse herd size is to be established based on the concept of maintaining a thriving ecological balance, thus the objective was reworded.

d. Maintain good or excellent habitat condition ratings in deer summer ranges in the Cherry Creek Mountains.

e. Improve the habitat condition rating for the deer winter range from the current rating of fair to good by 2005.

f. Maintain the current good riparian habitat condition ratings along Taylor Creek and improve the aquatic habitat condition rating from poor to good by 2005.

g. Improve current poor aquatic and riparian habitat condition ratings on Odgers Creek to good condition by 2005.

5. Key Area Objectives

a. Maintain or improve current late seral stage by 2005.

Key Area	1984 (baseline data)	1989
KA-01	53	40
KA-03	58	29
KA-04	52	41
KA-05	56*	53
*Baseline data read in 1985.		

b. Improve from current mid to late seral stage by 2005.

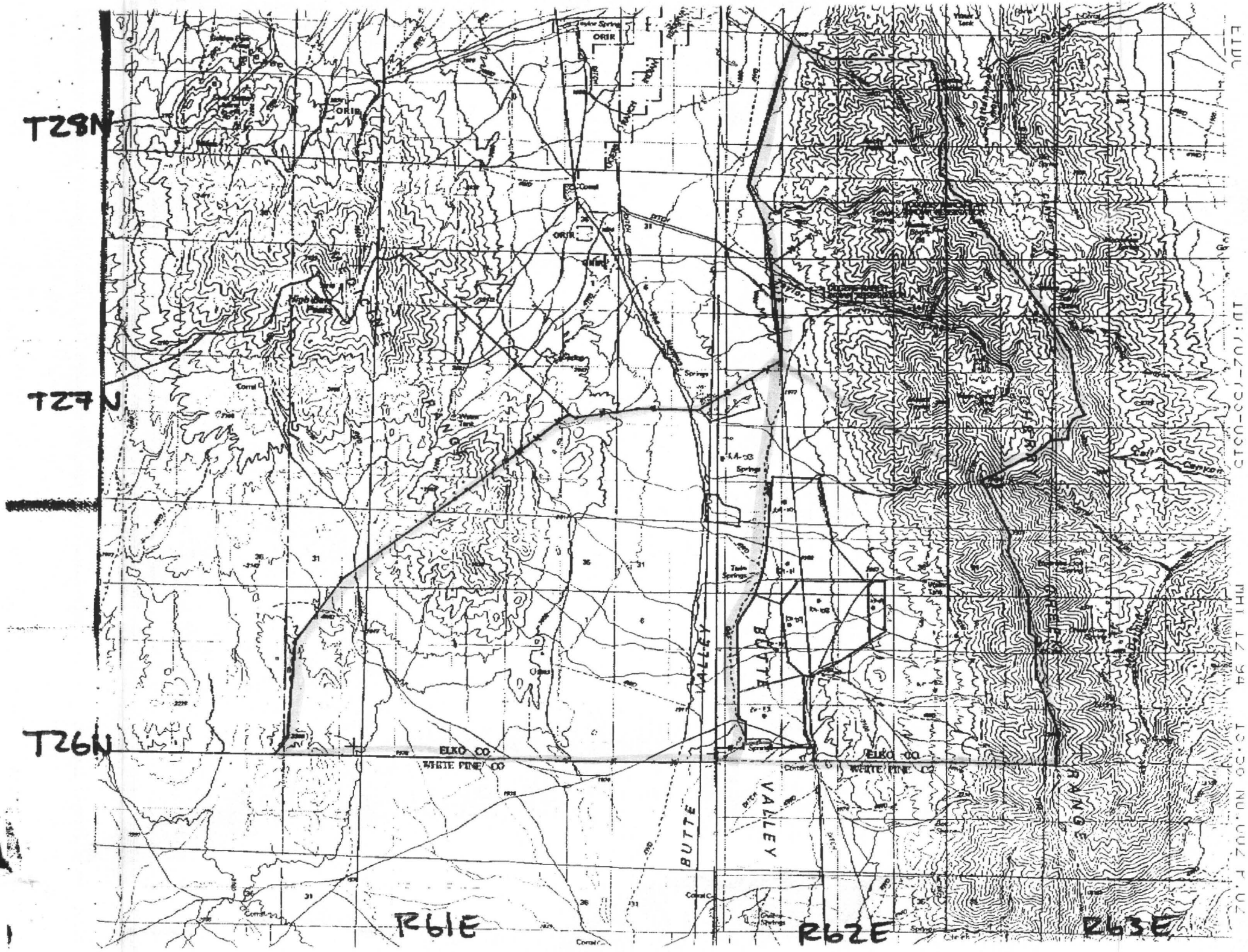
Key Area	1984 (baseline data)	1989
KA-02	47	49
KA-06	49	35

c. Manage the seedings to provide at least the following AUMs of forage.

Seeding	Key Area	AUMs
East Sdg	KA-07	397
	KA-08	
Far East Sdg	KA-09	70
North Sdg	KA-10	423
	KA-11	
North-South Sdg	KA-12	213
South-South Sdg	KA-13	225

d. Manage grazing to obtain an average utilization of 50% on all native grass species, while never exceeding 60% in any single year. The seedings will be managed to obtain an average utilization of 55% on crested wheatgrass, while never exceeding 65% in any single year. The maximum allowable use by livestock on PUTR2 is 25%. The key species to be monitored at each key area are as follows:

Key Area	Key Spp.	Key Area	Key Spp.
KA-01	AGSP	KA-05	AGSP
	ORHY		POSC
	POSC		STLE4
	PUTR2	KA-06	AGSP
KA-02	AGSP		STCO3
	ORHY		HEKI
	POSC		AGOSE
KA-03	SPAI	KA-07	AGCR
	SPGR	KA-08	AGCR
	POA++	KA-09	AGCR
KA-04	STLE4	KA-10	AGCR
	STCO3	KA-11	AGCR
	AGOSE	KA-12	AGCR
	ERIOG	KA-13	AGCR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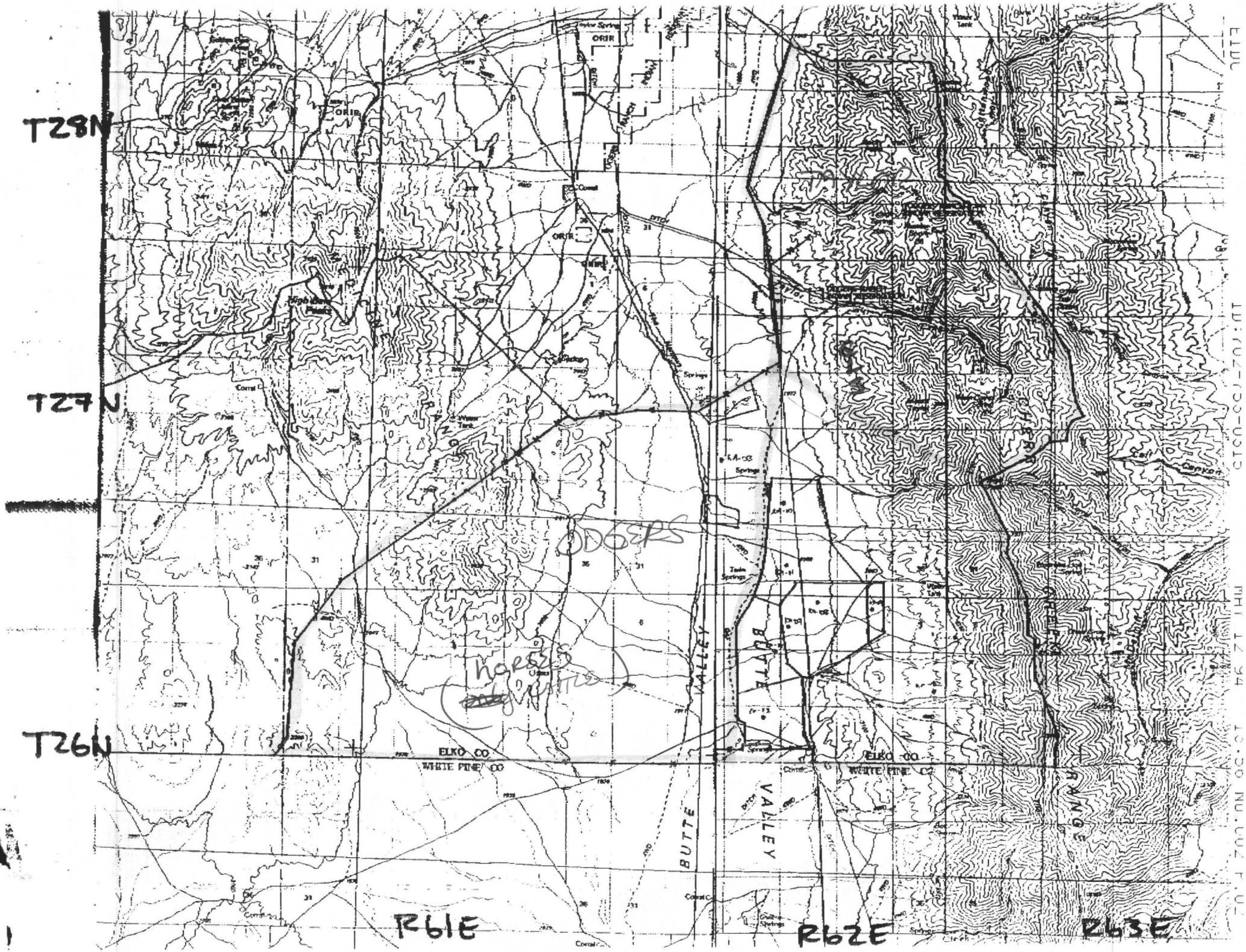
T27N
T26N
R61E
R62E
R63E
ELKO CO
WHITE PINE CO
BUTTE VALLEY
ORIR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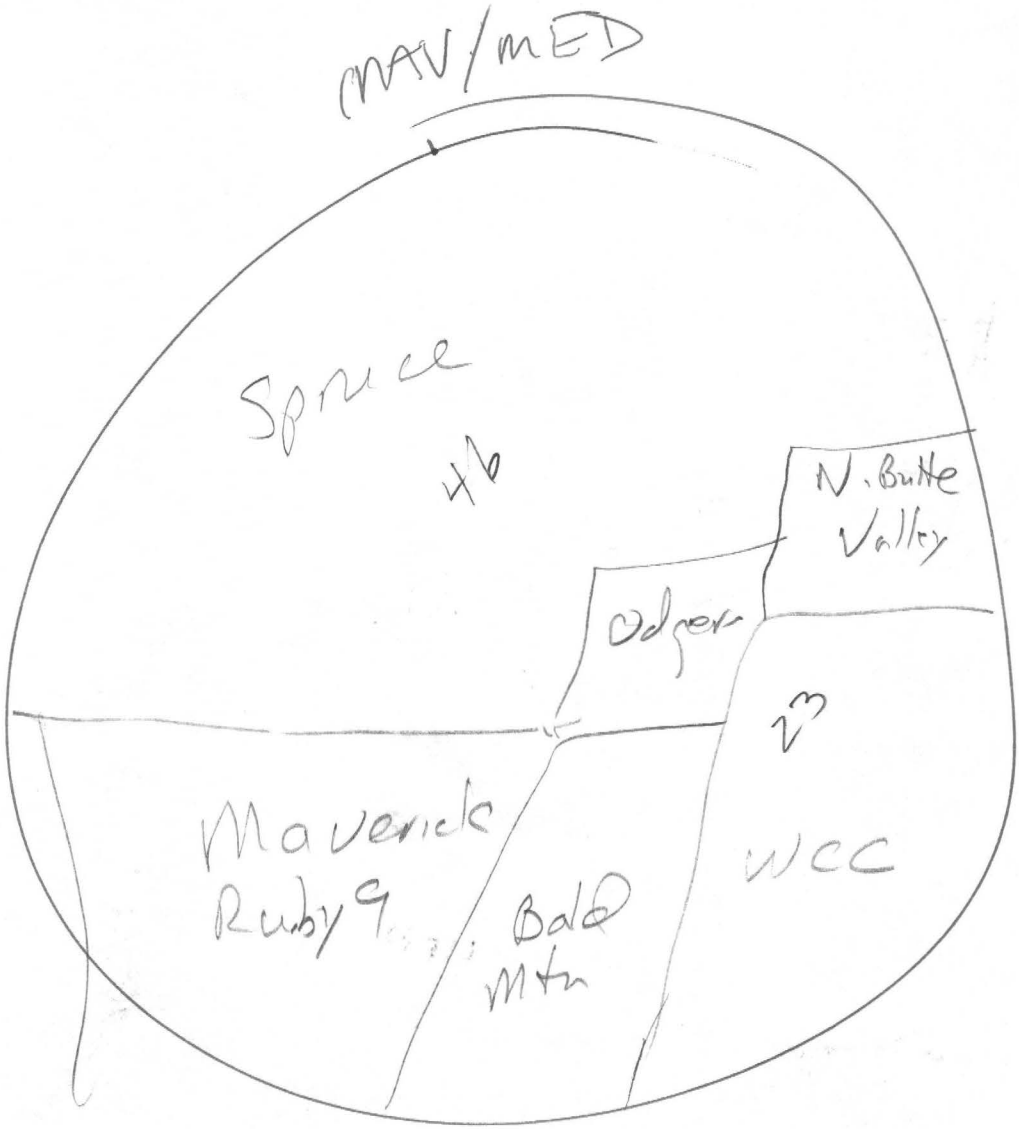
T27N
T26N
R61E
R62E
R63E
ELKO CO
WHITE PINE CO
ELKO CO
WHITE PINE CO
BUTTE VALLEY
BUTTE VALLEY
ORIR
ORIR
ORIR
ODORS
horses


MAV/MED
Spruce
N. Butte Valley
Odger
Maverick Ruby 9
Bald Mtn
WCC

% is #'s