

CHERRY SPRING WILDHORSE TERRITORY
TERRITORY MANAGEMENT PLAN
RUBY MOUNTAINS RANGER DISTRICT
HUMBOLDT NATIONAL FOREST
ELKO AND WHITE PINE COUNTIES, NEVADA

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The October 15, 1992, Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, signed by Mont E. Lewis, Jr., District Ranger, Ruby Mountains Ranger District, selected Alternative 4 - Improvement and Recreation Development Alternative from the Cherry Spring Wildhorse Territory Environmental Assessment (EA). This alternative allows for the incorporation of the 1992 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Strategic Plan for Management of Wild Horses and Burros on Public Lands (Strategic Plan), provides for the removal of excess horses every three years, insures a high adoptability rate for removed animals, will bring the horse population in balance with the resource within three gathers (9 years), and sets goals for a desired herd structure and conformation.

The Cherry Spring Wildhorse Territory Management Plan (Wildhorse Territory Plan) incorporates the management decision outlined in the recreation and improvement alternative and defines specific management. In addition, this plan incorporates all applicable Federal Law and Regulation, Forest Service Policy, Humboldt National Forest Land Resource Management Plan Standards and Guidelines (Humboldt LRMP) pertaining to the management of the land encompassed by this territory and its resources and wild and free roaming horses.

On December 15, 1992 the Forest Service (FS) Region 4 and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) entered into an Interagency Agreement Between the Bureau Of Land Management and Forest Service (FS Agreement No. 110451039202) (Interagency Agreement) to define management of wild horses. This agreement designates the lead agency to develop territory management plans. The Cherry Spring Wildhorse Territory (Wildhorse Territory) is fully enclosed by National Forest System lands, therefore, the Humboldt National Forest has lead agency responsibility. As part of this agreement the Humboldt NF and the Ely BLM District will enter into an interagency agreement to define agency responsibilities.

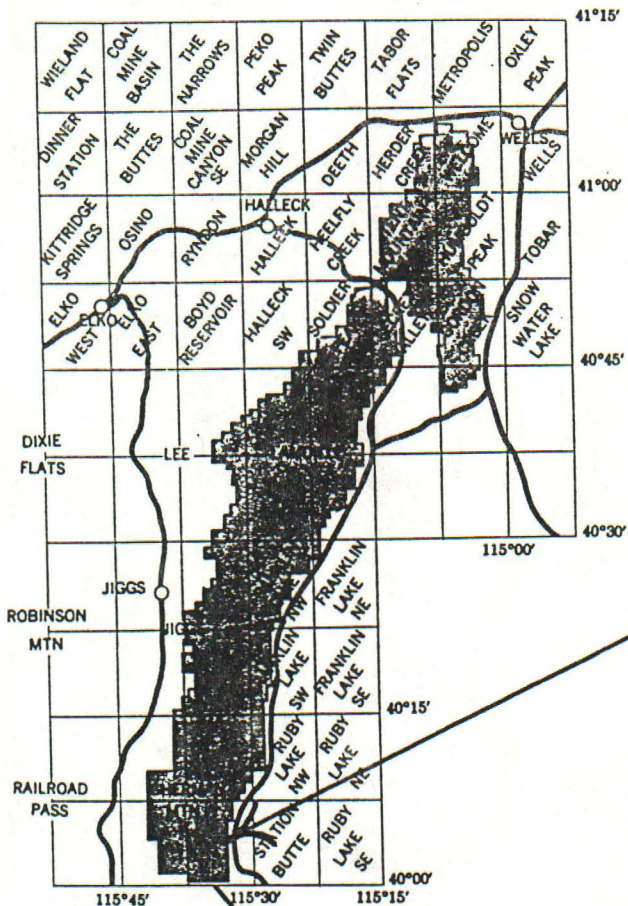
1.1 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Wildhorse Territory is located in the southern portion of the Ranger District. It is bordered by Sherman Mountain on the north and Overland Pass on the south. It is flanked by Ruby Marsh on the east and Huntington Valley on the west (Townships 25 & 26 North, Ranges 56 & 57 East), Map 1.

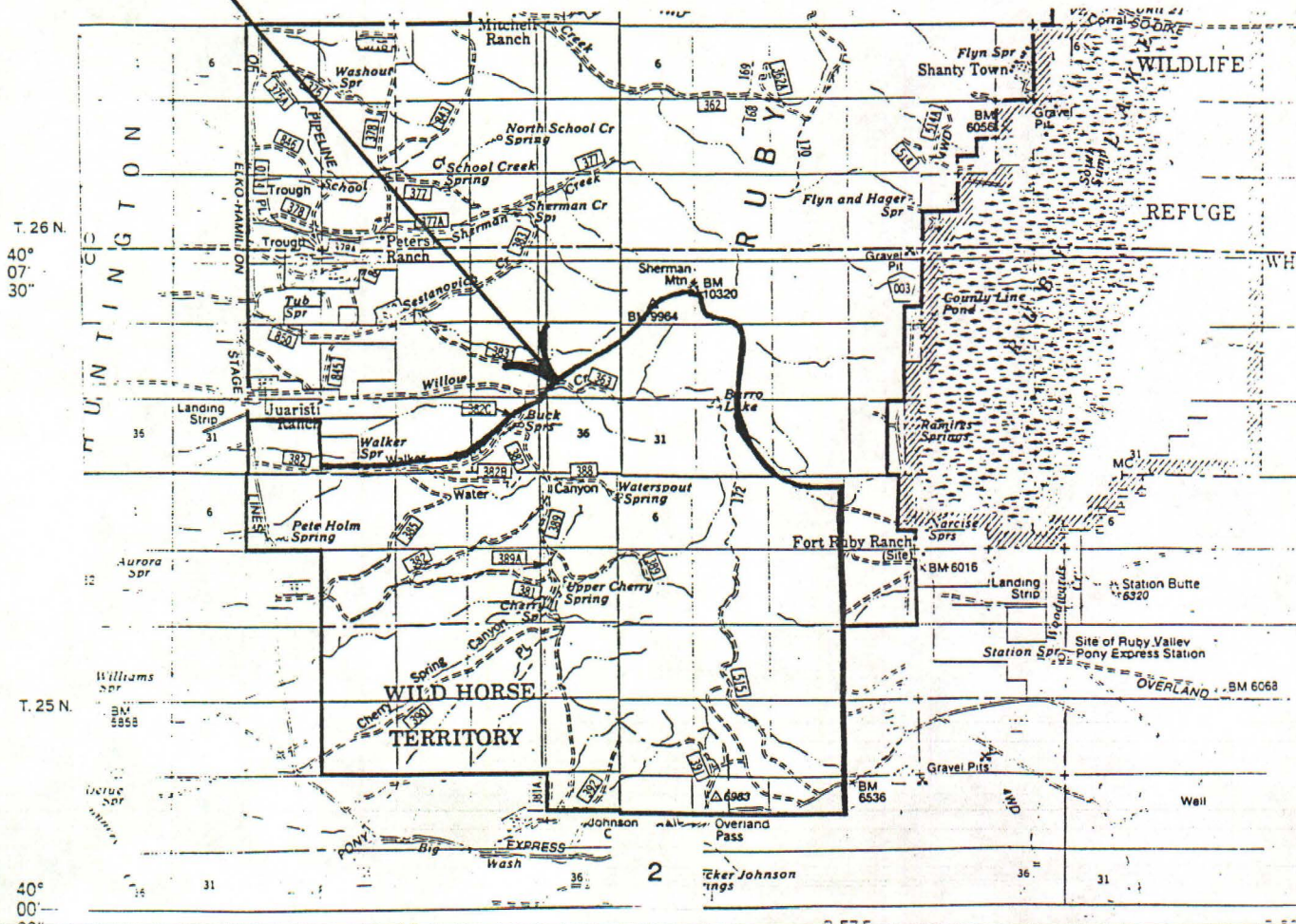
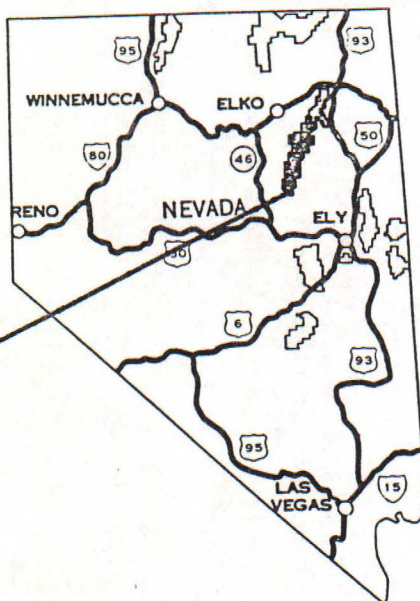
The site description for the Cherry Spring Wildhorse Territory has been fully described in the Environmental Assessment. The total area encompassed within the Wildhorse Territory is 23,356 acres. An estimated 16,366 of these acres are suitable for grazing by livestock and wild horses. Of the suitable acres, 2,605 acres (16%) of the territory are in satisfactory condition and 13,761 acres (84%) of the territory are in unsatisfactory condition (satisfactory range condition is classified as good or better and unsatisfactory condition is classified as fair or poorer condition). The majority of satisfactory condition range is in a static trend. The majority of the unsatisfactory range is in a static or downward trend. Within the Wildhorse Territory there are 35 acres of private land.

CHERRY SPRING WILDHORSE TERRITORY LOCATION

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP INDEX MAP 1



KEY MAP



1.2 EXISTING WILD HORSE SITUATION

Range Analysis Computation for the Wildhorse Territory, completed in 1974, inventoried the amount of available forage production. Available forage was computed using a maximum allowable use of 50% on key forage species. Winter range has been identified as the critical limiting resource for wild horse survival on this territory. The estimated capacity based on season long grazing in the limited winter range is only 58 head of horses. Utilization studies completed in 1989 and in 1990 further support the 1974 data.

Presently wild horse populations are far greater than the available forage and water resources can support. This is causing deterioration of the natural ecological balance. In addition, abnormal social behavior is being created within the herd. Annual herd counts reflect conflicting information as to herd growth and herd structure. Recorded annual herd growth has been around 7%. However, stallions are moving their bands off the territory, either over Sherman Mountain or through open gates, to secure their bands from bachelors. A more accurate estimation of annual growth is around 17%.

1.2.1 Wild Horses Movements

Wild horse movements through the territory are seasonally motivated. Movements are between three ranges: high, mid and low elevation (Map 2). Grazing occurs season long throughout the territory.

High Elevation Range: Areas over 7,800 feet in elevation are considered as high elevation range, and are used by wild horses in the summer. Snow cover prohibits its use from fall until late spring. Domestic sheep from the Corta Sheep and Goat (S&G) Allotment are permitted on portions of this range.

Mid Elevation Range: The area from 7,000 to 7,800 feet in elevation is considered as mid elevation range. This range is most heavily utilized in the spring as the snow line recedes, then again during the fall as the snow line pushes horses to lower elevations. Steeper slopes and lack of available water limit horse use. Domestic sheep from the Corta S&G Allotment and cattle from the Cherry Springs Cattle and Horse (C&H) Allotment are also permitted on portions of this range.

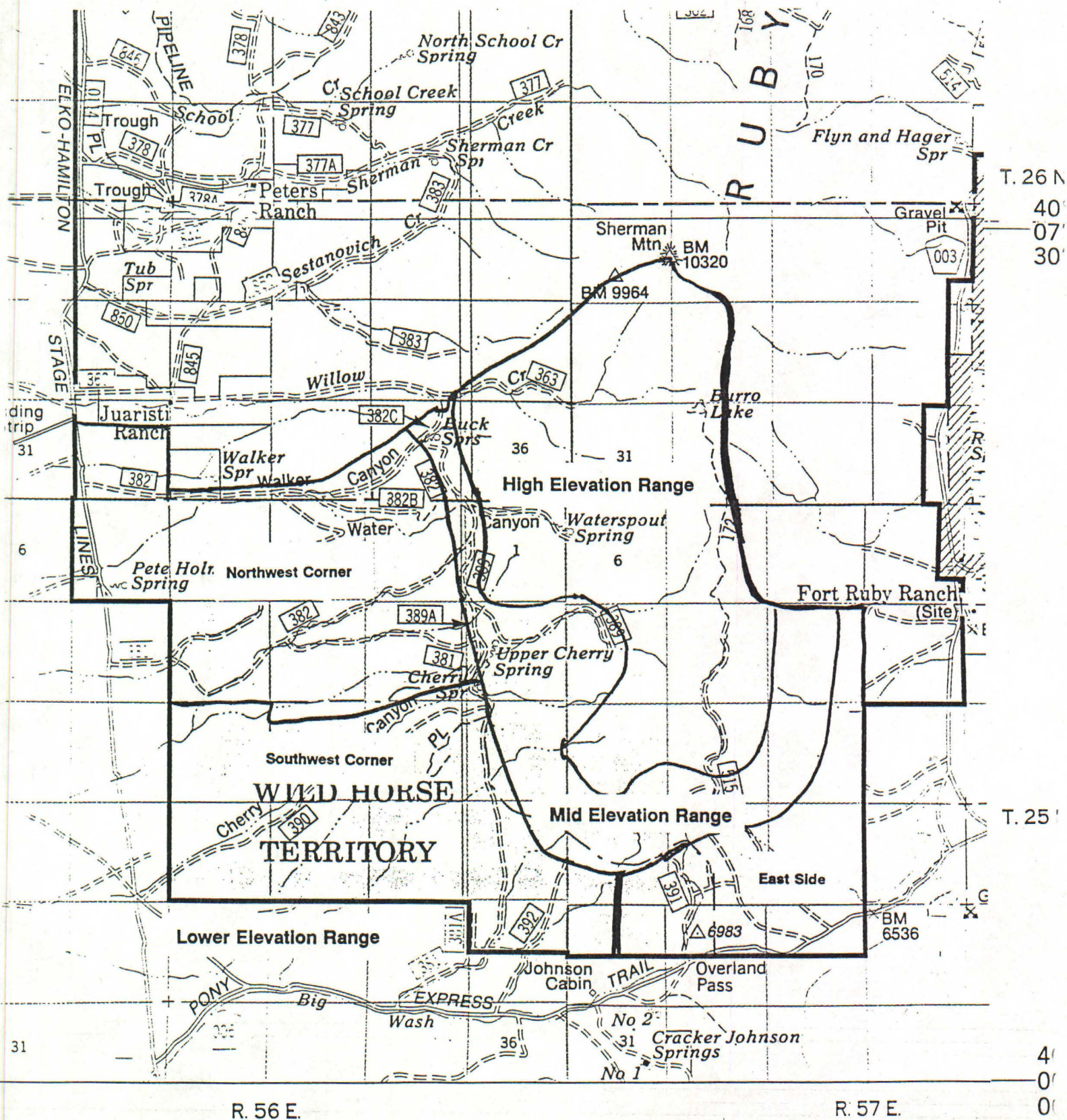
Lower Elevation Range: Elevations from the Forest boundary up to 7,000 feet are identified as low elevation range. This is the primary winter range for the wild horse herd. It can be further divided into three areas identified as the east side, northwest corner, and southwest corner.

The east side is defined as the area from just west of Overland Pass east to the Forest's eastern boundary, then north to the Narcise area. It is used primarily in the winter and during the spring and fall when snow provides water. Although up to three bands range here during the summer months, summer use is limited by available water. During the summer of 1991 this range was grazed to 90%. A portion of the east side is included in the Wild Horse Pasture of the Cave Creek C&H Allotment. Summer cattle grazing does not allow for any appreciable critical winter forage for the horse herd.

The northwest corner of the territory is located within the Cherry Springs C&H Allotment. This area is restricted to horse travel in the summer due to closed gates necessary to control cattle. Due to heavy wild horse overstocking, the majority of wild horses are moved off the northwest corner in the spring. This practice allows one to four weeks of growth prior to stocking the pastures with cattle. As cattle move off individual pastures, gates are again opened and horses can move freely through the area.

The southwest corner of the territory is located from Overland Pass west to the Forest Boundary and north to the Cherry Springs C&H Allotment. This is the only portion of the Wildhorse Territory not shared with domestic livestock. It receives the least amount of precipitation and exhibits the poorest range condition due to heavy overgrazing by horses and pinyon-juniper encroachment. The 1991 range study indicated this area produces about 150 lbs/acre of forage. Soil survey maps indicate annual vegetation production can reach 600 to 1,200 lbs/acre (Crockett 1976).

WILD HORSE MOVEMENTS MAP 2



1.2.2 Wild Horse Population

The 1992 wild horse census estimates the population to be 250 horses (2260 Cherry Spring Wildhorse Territory File). Both the 1975 Range Analysis and current range utilization studies indicate the capacity to be 58 head under current range conditions. The wild horse population can be removed down to 48 head with a removal frequency of every 3 years. Wild horse removals will conform to the Stragic Plan and Environmental Assessment. A wild horse gather plan will be approved for each gather.

Overstocking has caused extreme stress both the resource and these wild horses. Competition for limited water and forage is often observed. Horses are moving over Sherman Mountain off the territory to avoid competition for limited resources, or exiting the territory through open gates. Approximately 50 head have moved off due to the above reasons. Supporting resource data is located in the 1950 Cherry Spring Wildhorse Territory Analysis File, 2210 Allotment Analysis Files, and 2260 Wildhorse Management Files.

1.3 EXISTING DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK SITUATION:

The Wildhorse Territory includes portions of three domestic livestock allotments (the Corta S&G, Cherry Springs C&H, and Cave Creek C&H Allotments). Range utilization inspections and early removals of livestock indicate these allotments to be overstocked. Allotment boundaries are located in Map 3.

1.3.1 Cherry Springs C&H Allotment

Table 1.3.1 lists the Cherry Springs C&H Allotment permittees, their seasons of use, and permitted head months (includes pastures outside of the Wildhorse Territory).

**Table 1.3.1
CHERRY SPRINGS C&H ALLOTMENT PERMITS**

Permittee	Permit No.	Permitted No.	Season	HM
Daniel H. Russell	2-191	FS 146	5/16-10/31	802
	PL191	Pvt 2	5/16-10/31	11
H. Rother Farms Inc.	2-160	75	5/16-10/31	412
Fred Zaga	2-142	65	5/16-10/31	357

1.3.2 Cave Creek C&H Allotment

Table 1.3.2 lists the Cave Creek C&H Allotment permittee, the season of use, and permitted head months (this description only includes the pasture that is located on the Wildhorse Territory). The Wildhorse Pasture of the Cave Creek Allotment is scheduled to be grazed once every three years. This pasture has been rested since 1987 for permittee personal convenience.

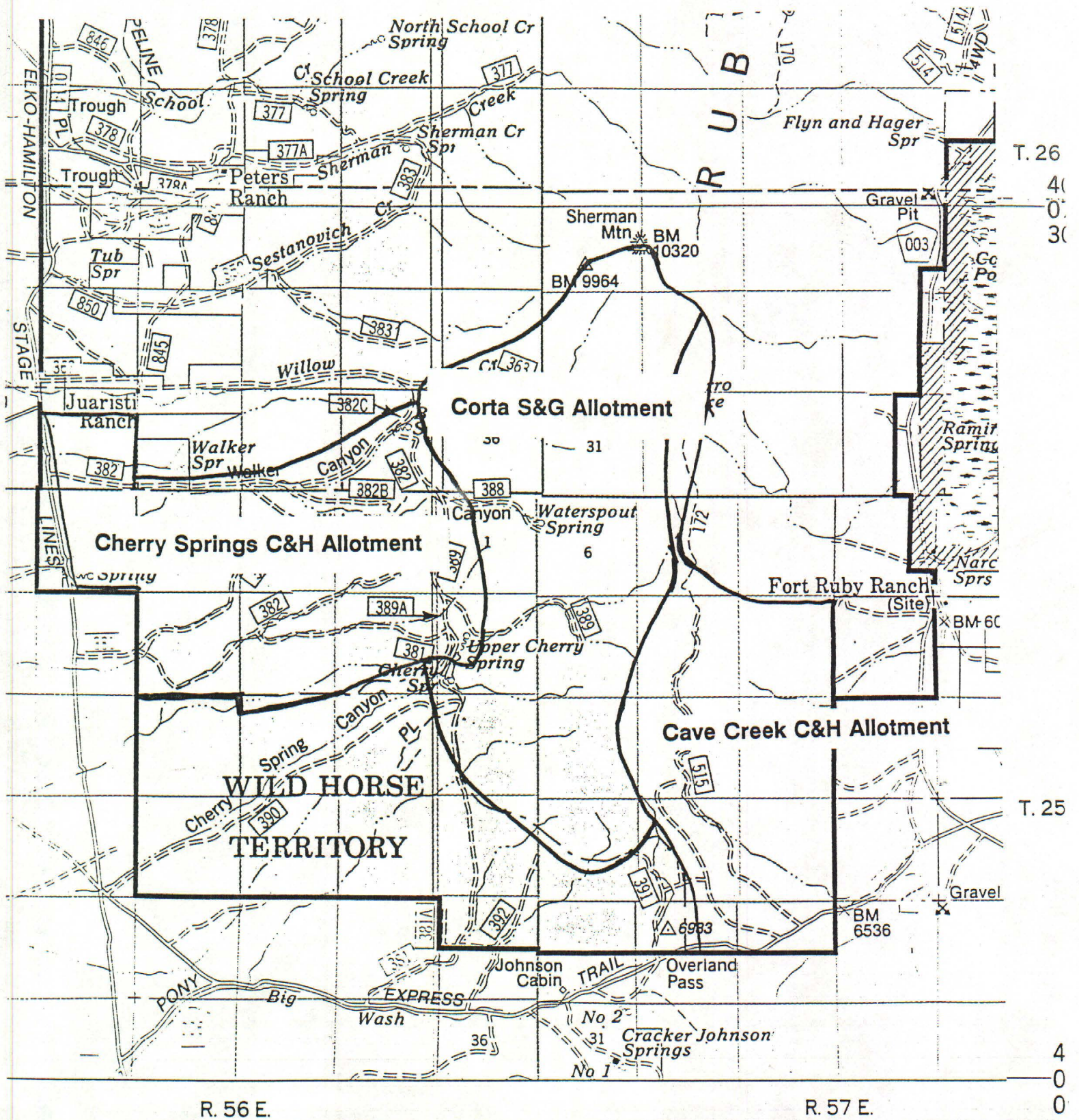
**Table 1.3.2
CAVE CREEK C&H ALLOTMENT PERMITS (WILDHORSE PASTURE)**

Permittee	Permit No.	Permitted No.	Season	HM
Duval Ranching Co.	2-212	35	5/25-7/31	77

1.3.3 Corta S&G Allotment

The Corta S&G Allotment provides for two sheep bands to utilize the Wildhorse Territory. Scheduled rotations and numbers can be located in the Corta S&G Allotment 2210 folder.

**DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK ALLOTMENTS
MAP 3**



115°37'30"

2.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section displays the goals for management of the Wildhorse Territory. The goals of this plan are directly linked to the EA and its Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact statement.

Improve Unsatisfactory Range Condition to Satisfactory Condition.

- All suitable rangeland will be rated at 60% (good condition range) or better of site potential with a static or upward trend as defined by FSH 2209.21 Chapter 2.
- Current suitable range in unsatisfactory condition will exhibit an upward trend within 10 years assuming horse stocking is kept in line with capacity.
- Current suitable range in unsatisfactory condition should improve by 20% over a 10 year period until satisfactory condition is reached.
- Range improvements will be designed, installed, and/or rebuilt to improve distribution or to improve the range resource.
- Implement the Humboldt LRMP utilization standards.

Maintain Historic Herd Conformation and Coloring.

- Define historic herd conformation and coloring (3.2.2).
- During the removal of excess horses, selectively remove those horses not representing desirable herd characteristics. This will occur once proper stocking is reached.
- Identify and retain wild horses which represent historic herd characteristics.
- Protect herd from ingress and egress with adjoining wild horse populations.
- If introductions are needed to protect the genetic viability of the horses on this territory, introduced horses will meet historic herd characteristics.
- If financing becomes available, genetically test the wild horse population for baseline.

Manage Herd for 100% Adoptability of Excess Horses.

- Implement the 1992 BLM *Strategic Plan*.
- Selectively remove unsound horses during removal gathers.

Improve Wildlife Habitat and Movement in the Territory.

- Create seep areas with springs and developed water overflow (5.3).
- Protect natural and man made spring and seep areas from livestock and wild horses (5.3).
- All fencelines will be either constructed or replaced to meet wildlife standards (5.1).
- All range improvements will consider wildlife issues, and design will provide for wildlife needs (5.1, 5.2, and 5.3).

Increase Recreational and Educational Viewing and Interpretation Opportunities.

- Upgrade selected roads (5.4).
- Develop an information and interpretation program for the territory (5.4).

Minimize Wild Horse and Livestock Conflicts.

- Provide proper administration for permitted livestock.
- Accomplish timely wild horse removals.

3.0 SPECIFIC ACTIONS

The Humboldt LRMP has identified standards and guidelines for management of lands within the territory. Wild horse management will be in compliance with all federal laws and regulations pertaining to their management.

3.1 PROPER-USE CRITERIA

The Humboldt LRMP establishes proper-use standards and guidelines for the Forest. These guidelines are intended to return and/or maintain the range resource to a thriving ecological balance. Forest LRMP maximum use guidelines are directly linked to the type of grazing system used. Riparian rangelands are further delineated into five categories. These categories are based on recreation value, fish and wildlife benefit, and flow rates. All riparian areas located on the territory are rated category III (based on wildlife requirement). Due to the large amount of range in unsatisfactory condition, proper use was set 10% lower than the maximum allowable. Table 3.1 displays the maximum allowable use of grass, forb, and browse forage. Once 60% of the range returns to satisfactory condition with a static or upward trend, utilization levels will be increased to the forest maximum allowable levels for season long grazing as displayed in the Forest LRMP.

Proper use will be evaluated using key vegetation species. Horses prefer grass species over forbs and brush species. However, horses do heavily utilize mountain low rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus* var. *lanceolatus*) in the winter. Horses show little interest in deer winter range species, ie. bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*), and rose (*Rosa spp.*). The maximum allowable use level is based on "season long" use.

Table 3.1
ALLOWABLE USE

Range Site	Maximum Allowable Use
Upland Range	45%
Upland Browse	25%
Level 3 & 4 Riparian	35%
Riparian Browse	25%

Comment: Allowable use will be increased 10% once 60% of range is rated in satisfactory condition with a static or upward trend.

3.2 WILDHORSE MANAGEMENT

Specific management of wild horses on the Cherry Spring Territory will be discussed in this section of this document. National management direction is addressed in 36 CFR 222, Management of Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros and Forest Service 2260 Manual.

The Nevada BLM State Office and FS Region 4 1992 Interagency Agreement recognizes the BLM to have an effective Wild Horse and Burro program. To avoid a duplication of programs, the FS has agreed to utilize the BLM expertise where appropriate. The Region 4 - Nevada BLM State office Interagency Agreement directs National and BLM District offices to develop local interagency agreements to assign agency responsibility. As directed the the Ruby Mountains Ranger District and the Ely BLM District will enter into and maintain an interagency agreement.

3.2.1 Herd Size

The EA and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Effect specifies the criteria for determining herd size. Currently the base herd size is set at 58 head with the ability to vary between 48 and 68 head under a three year scheduled gather and excess horse removal schedule. Provisions have been made to increase the base herd size once 60% of the 13,761 suitable acres are in satisfactory condition and 90% of all suitable range is in a static or upward trend. Specifics to herd size is located in Appendix A, Cherry Spring Wildhorse Territory Herd and Individual Criteria.

3.2.2 Herd Confirmation and Coloring

The Cherry Spring Wildhorse Herd was developed and supplemented with saddle horses used to work livestock. The wild horse ancestry came from saddle horses of large structure such as quarter, thoroughbred, or morgan but were not draft animals nor were they closely linked to the Arabian horse. These horses have a variety of coloring, some very distinct to the herd. Blacks with white facial markings and black pintos (more so than paints) are the most prominent coloring; however, other colors are found in the herd. Buckskins, palominos, gray-brown or black dapples, brown bays, grulla, and sorrels are also present. White and appaloosa coloring are not part of this herd.

If financing is available, testing for genetic viability will be conducted on those horses remaining on the territory.

3.2.3 Permanent Herd

Every effort will be made to maintain the integrity of the historical herd. An attempt will be made to inventory all wild horses on the territory. This inventory will include sex, age, size of band (if stallion), dominance in band (if mare), and conformation.

The district will evaluate the permanent herd on an as needed basis and supplement to it during gathers for the removal of excess horses. Permanent herd members will be photo inventoried and records will be kept in the district office.

Of the baseline herd up to 55% of these animals will be identified as members of a permanent herd (this will allow for 20% of the herd to be between 1 and 6 years of age and a three year growth rate between removals). The permanent herd will not be larger than 25 head after the first removal. This is to accommodate the expected large number of horses not meeting the criteria set for permanent herd individuals.

All horses selected to the permanent herd must meet the criteria for confirmation and dominance criteria listed in Appendix A, Cherry Spring Wildhorse Territory Herd and Individual Criteria.

3.2.4 Herd Structure

When planning removals the following ratios will be maintained to assure a good mixture of age classes and sex ratios. These figures take into consideration the percent herd make up with emphases on the large bands.

Sex ratios will be an average of one to two mares to each stud.

During the initial gather period, an older herd than presently exists will occupy the territory. After the herd reaches baseline herd size, at least 10% of horses remaining on the Wildhorse Territory will be between 1 and 4 years of age and 10% will be between 4 and 6 years of age.

3.2.5 Gathers and Removals

Due to restrictions imposed through the Strategic Plan, several removals must occur prior to full implementation of these actions (generally only horses 1-4 years of age will be removed). Once baseline herd size is reached all of these actions will be applied where practical.

Specific gather plans will be developed prior to scheduled wild horse gathers and removals. These plans will cover the specifics of each gathers such as number of trap sites, trapping procedure, destination of

excess horses, and specifics of wild horse management. The BLM State gather contract will be utilized to facilitate gathers.

Movement of wild horses from the Walker and Minola pastures of the Cherry Springs C&H Allotment will continue until wild horse numbers are at the baseline herd size. At this time this practice will be discontinued. However, the Ranger District retains the option to reinstitute this practice for resource protection especially during a scheduled rest for permitted livestock.

Initially 100% of the herd will be gathered. All horses chosen to remain on the territory will be inventoried and released. Permanent herd members will be selected at this time.

Horses identified for the permanent herd will be immediately released from the capture unless further inventory or medical attention is needed. Individuals selected for removal will be pre-selected prior to the gather, when practical, by a Forest Officer.

All non weaned foals under 1 year of age will remain with their mothers. Foals under 1 year which remain on the territory will not be counted against the herd size.

The Forest Officer, with BLM concurrence, may approve the adoption of wild horses selected for removal directly from the gather. The gather plan will address the conditions of this practice. Prospective adopters will be pre-approved. All rules and regulations pertaining to wild horse adoption at the time of removal will apply.

The herd will be evaluated for genetic health during gathers. If genetic viability needs supplementing, mares meeting the herd conformation criteria, over five but under eight years of age, and recently removed from a federally identified wild horse area, will be made part of the permanent herd on the territory.

Removal of excess horses may be accomplished through several methods. Horses could be captured by (1) water trapping, (2) riding or other trapping methods or (3) helicopter herding and trapping. Helicopter use shall be undertaken only after a public hearing and under the direct supervision of an authorized official.

Every effort will be made to keep mares and their young foals (under 1 year of age) together.

All horses on Forest System lands known as the Ruby Mountains Ranger District, but outside the territory will be gathered and one through nine year old horses will be processed for adoption. The remainder will be returned to the territory or moved to another territory, BLM management area, or facility.

3.2.6 Birth Control

The Strategic Plan describes several methods of birth control which can and may be used on wild horses. Nothing in this document will prohibit the use of birth control measures to control wild horse population growth. Any birth control method applied to the Cherry Spring Herd will be pre-approved by the responsible Forest Officer.

4.0 CURRENT RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

There are three types of range improvements on the Wildhorse Territory. These are water developments, fencelines, and non-structural pinyon-juniper removal with seeding. Most improvements within or adjoining livestock permit areas have maintenance responsibility assigned to the permittee. Those improvements outside of these permit areas are maintained by the Forest Service. A table listing of all improvements is located in Appendix B.

4.1 WATER DEVELOPMENTS

The Wildhorse Territory has 6 installed water developments. They are the Waterspout, Buck Spring, Walker Spring, Rye Grass, Upper Cherry Spring, and Cherry Spring. Map 4 shows the location of these improvements.

Initially water developments were designed and installed for control and management of domestic livestock. Little concern was given to the wildlife or wild horses using these developments. Several proposed changes to developments are listed in Section 5.0 Proposed Range Structural and Non-structural Improvements. These modifications will better address wild horse and wildlife needs.

4.2 FENCELINES

Most fencelines within and surrounding the Cherry Springs and Cave Creek C&H Allotments were designed to control livestock. Interior fencelines were not designed or intended to control wild horses. However, due to the extensive unsatisfactory range condition, these fencelines may be used to assist in protecting degraded range lands during vegetation critical growing periods.

The exterior boundary fence was constructed over 42" in height to keep horses from exiting the territory. To reduce deer mortality, deer jumps will be installed by the Forest Service (or by the permittee if agreed to during fence replacement) at selected deer crossings on fencelines over 42 inches.

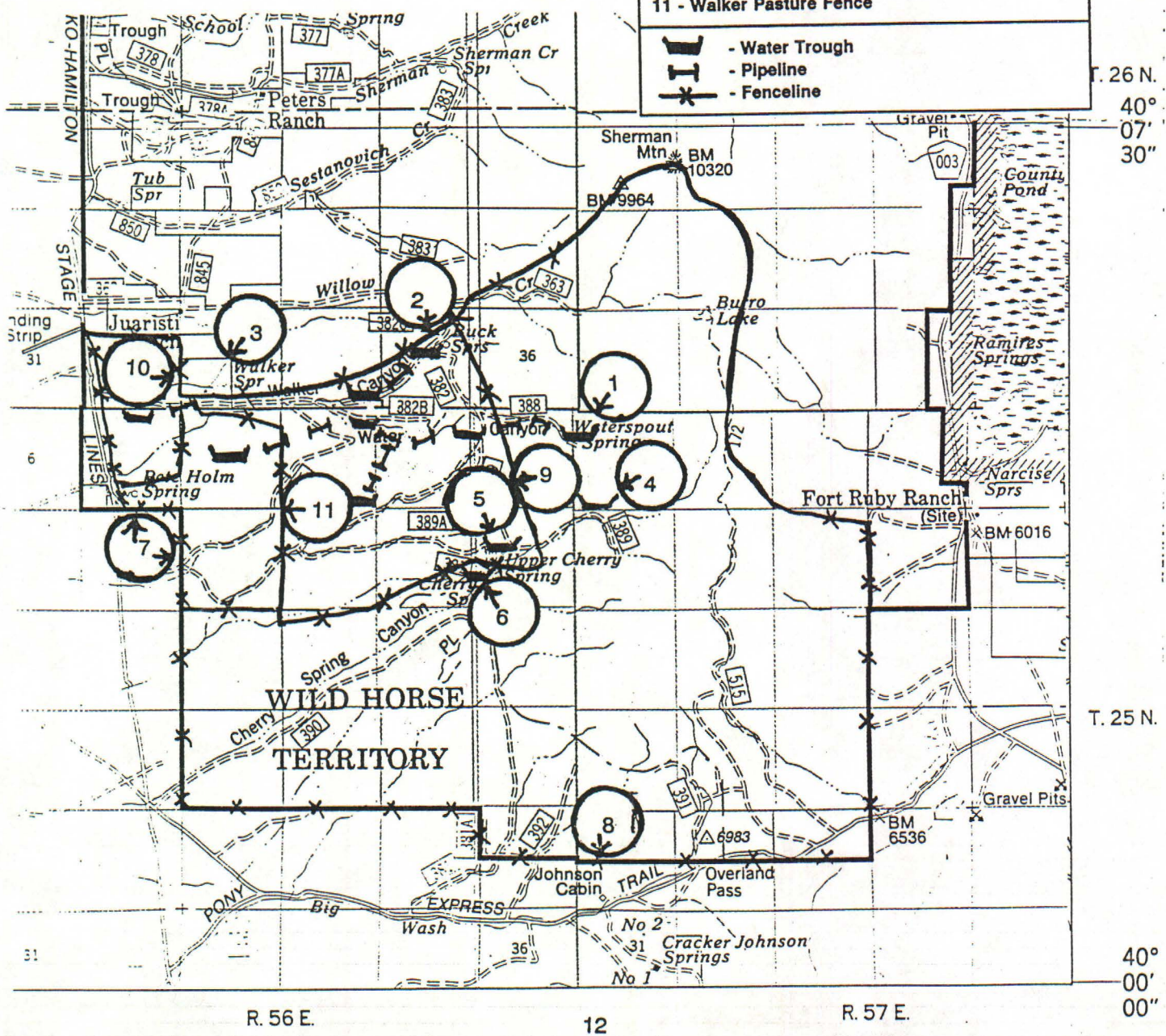
4.3 RANGE NON-STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

There are four main non-structural range improvements located on the Wildhorse Territory. These improvements started out as large vegetation treatments to benefit either deer winter range or increase livestock forage. Follow-up treatments depended on the site. Some sites received burning, herbicide application, small wood sales or seedings to maintain the initial treatment. The 1961 Overland, 1969 Narcise, and 1971 Cracker-Johnson treatments were designed for deer winter range enhancement. The treatment in the Minola and Walker units of the Cherry Springs C&H Allotment were primarily designed for cattle forage and were seeded to crested wheatgrass. All initial treatments were either pushes or chainings using crawler Tractors. Map 5 shows the locations of treated areas.

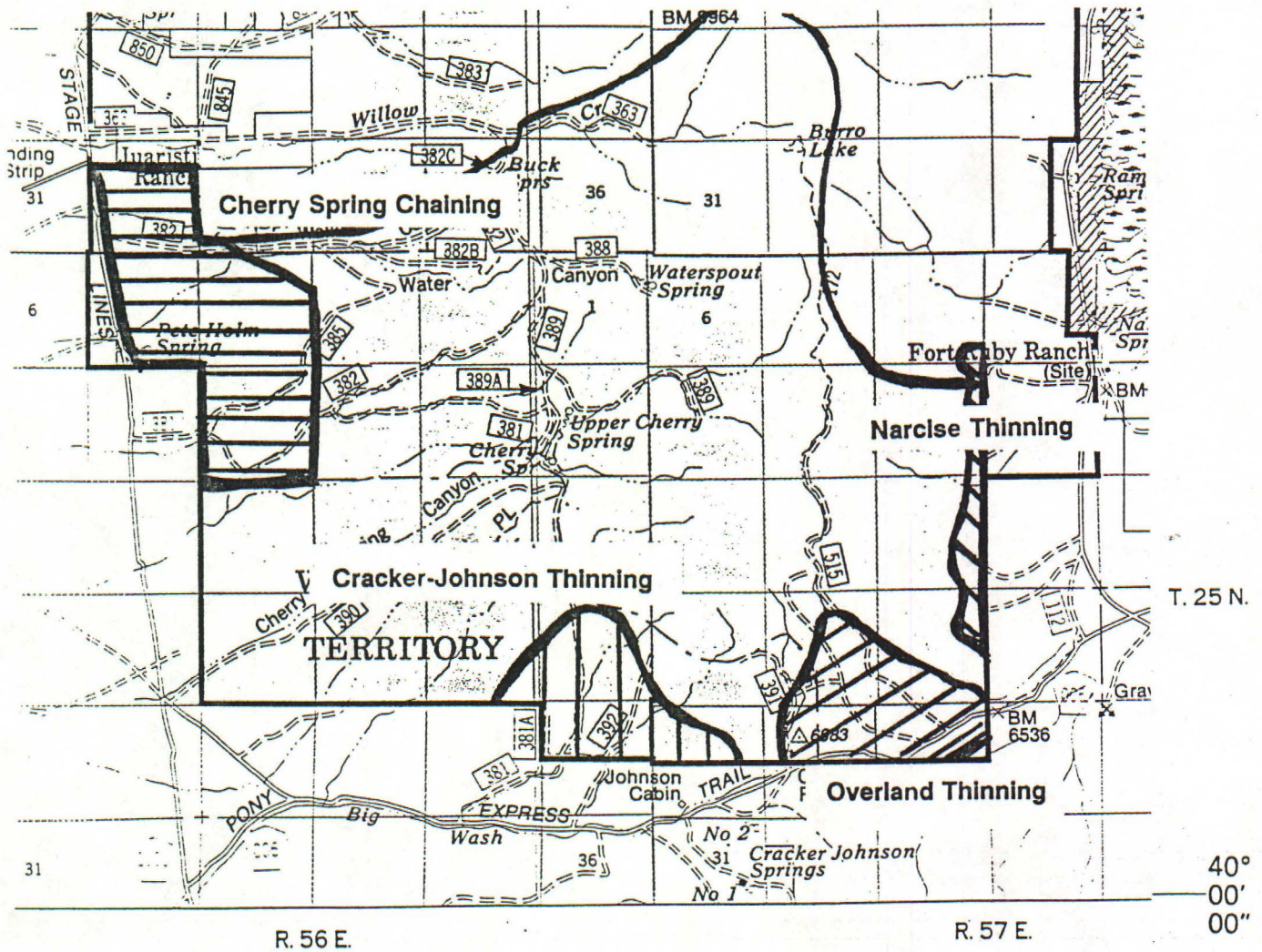
The Cracker-Johnson and Narcise clearings are being maintained to provide both cover and browse for mule deer. To avoid disturbance of ferruginous hawks during nesting season, thinning of Cracker-Johnson and Narcise will occur between July 15 and December 1. In addition, large old trees, snags, and trees with large stick nests will be left. Clearing boundaries will be landscaped and irregular.

CURRENT STRUCTURAL RANGE IMPROVEMENTS MAP 4

LEGEND	
1	- Waterspout Water Development
2	- Buck Spring Water Development
3	- Walker Spring Water Development
4	- Rye Grass Spring Water Development
5	- Upper Cherry Spring Water Development
6	- Cherry Spring Water Development
7	- Cherry Springs Allotment Boundary Fence
8	- Wildhorse Territory Exterior Fence
9	- Cherry Springs Allotment Interior Fence
10	- Minola Pasture Fence
11	- Walker Pasture Fence
	- Water Trough
	- Pipeline
	- Fenceline



NON-STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS MAP 5



Series and U.S. Geological
of Salt Lake City, Utah.

115° 37' 30"

115

5.0 PROPOSED STRUCTURAL AND NON-STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Environmental Analysis has identified the need for the installation of range, recreation, and wildlife improvements. Range and wildlife improvements will be designed to improve range condition --- to return the territory to a thriving natural ecological condition. The recreation improvements are designed to improve public safety, education, and interpretation. Current management of the Wildhorse Territory is financed out of appropriate Federal Funds. An effort will be made to secure outside financing by developing partnerships. The time schedule for improvement development will be contingent upon financing.

Range structural and non-structural improvements will be designed to aid in wild horse and cattle dispersion and to improve range condition, wildlife habitat, and management of wild horses. Wildlife concerns are included in each of the proposed improvements. In addition, several improvement projects designed specifically to improve wildlife habitat have been identified. A complete listing of all proposed improvements is listed in Appendix C.

5.1 PROPOSED RANGE STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

Fencelines and water developments proposed for this territory are designed for wild horse management and improvement of range condition and trend. To reduce the impacts on critical winter range. A fence will be installed in the southwestern corner to prevent horse movement into this area until after critical spring growth. Water is a major limiting resource on the territory. The Lower Cherry Spring water development will be expanded to increase wild horse dispersion. The fence containing the Wildhorse Territory is very old and not functioning well. It will be replaced.

Every attempt will be made to minimize the impacts to wildlife species. All new fence construction will be no higher than 42" with a bottom wire height of 18". Though not mandatory, the bottom wire should be smooth. Deer crossings will be installed where appropriate. As per Humboldt LRMP all water troughs will have animal escape ramps installed. Map 6 displays the locations of all the proposed range structural improvements.

5.2 PROPOSED RANGE NON-STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

The intent of proposed non-structural improvements is to aid in recovery of the unsatisfactory condition rangelands. These improvements will be integrated into other district programs such as the fuelwood, wildlife enhancement and watershed programs. The current pinyon-juniper clearings will be maintained. In addition, up to 1,600 acres in the lower southwest corner will receive treatment to reduce pinyon-juniper stand encroachment and backed up with seeding when necessary. Map 7 displays the proposed non-structural range and wildlife improvements.

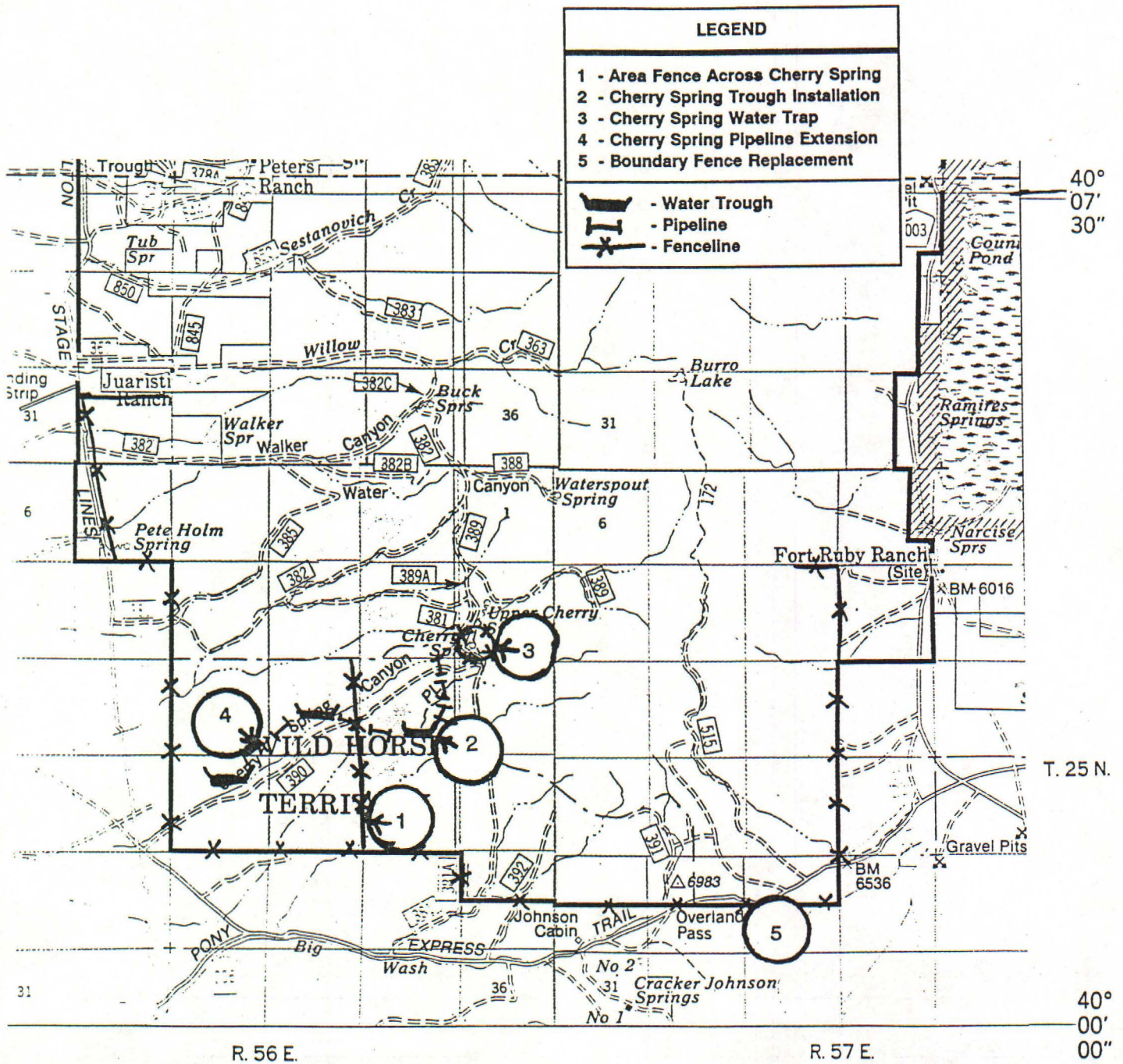
Prior to initiating any vegetative manipulation, TE&S plant and animal surveys will be conducted. T&E surveys will be discussed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their concurrence.

5.3 PROPOSED WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS

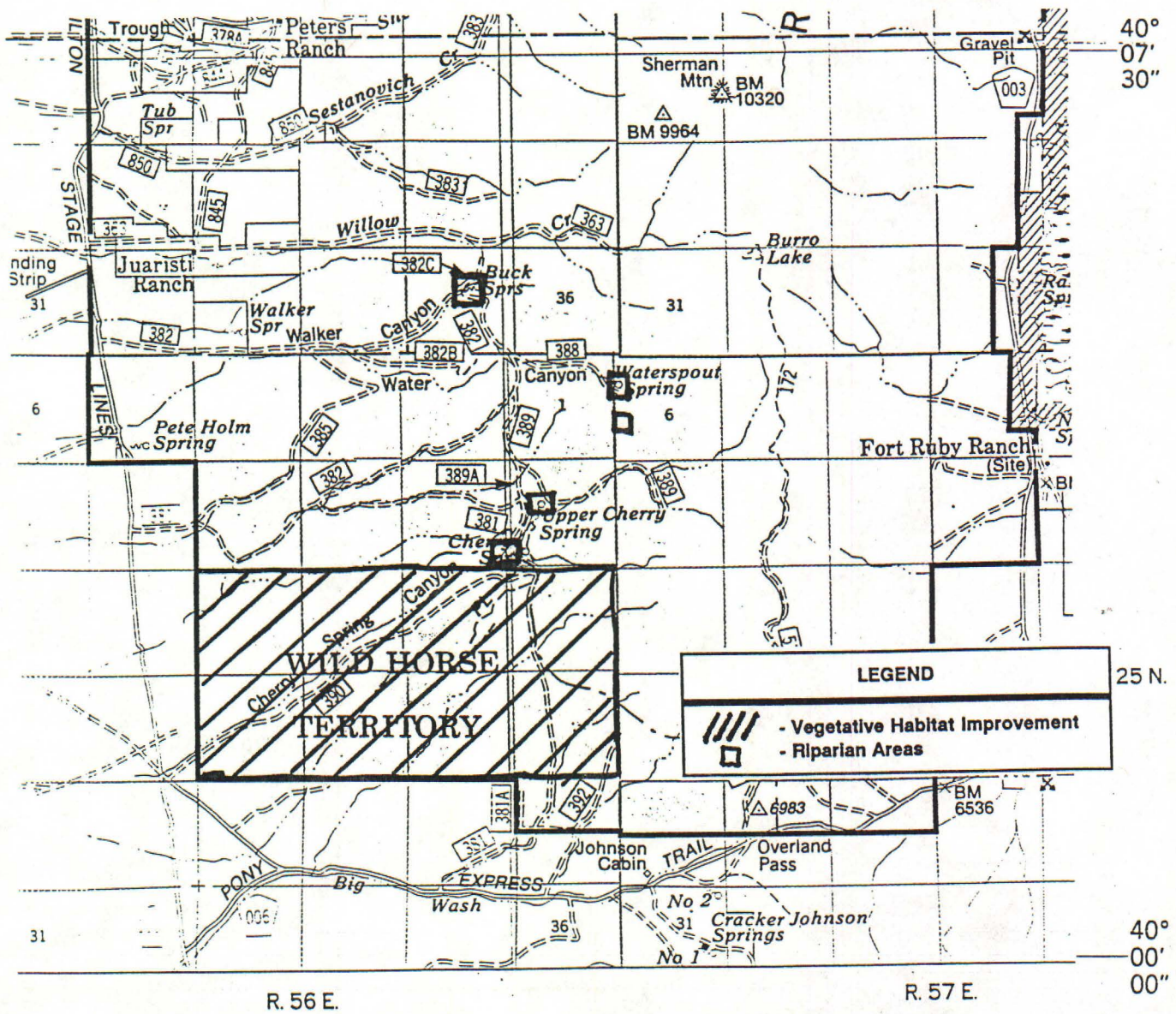
Previously little effort had been made to provide for resident or migratory wildlife needs. Water developments have collected and dispersed most available water for livestock use. What little surface water remained is severely degraded from trampling. An effort will be made to restore and protect riparian areas for wildlife benefit. Small riparian areas will be created by fencing off water trough overflow. Overflow will be released through perforated pipe. If needed, appropriate vegetation will be transplanted into these exclosures. Map 7 displays these exclosures.

Most currently installed troughs lack small animal escape ramps causing a high mortality to these wildlife species. As directed by the Humboldt LRMP, all water troughs have installed animal escape devices.

PROPOSED STRUCTURAL RANGE IMPROVEMENTS MAP 6



**PROPOSED NON-STRUCTURAL AND WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENTS
MAP 7**



5.4 PROPOSED RECREATION AND INTERPRETATION

Public interest in viewing and learning about wild horses is increasing. To meet this need the District will develop a wild horse education and interpretation program. This Wildhorse Territory provides excellent opportunities to view and learn about wild horses and other resources. The Territory is accessible by gravelled county road. The current District road system provides easy access to an excellent wild horse viewing area (Cherry Spring Road #390) to view point above Cherry Spring. In addition, other historical and destination resources cross or neighbor the territory. The Ruby Marshes provides camping, wildlife viewing and fishing opportunities. The Pony Express, Overland Stage, native American sites, and Fort Ruby provide historical interpretation opportunities. The proposed recreational and interpretation developments are displayed on Map 8.

6.0 MONITORING

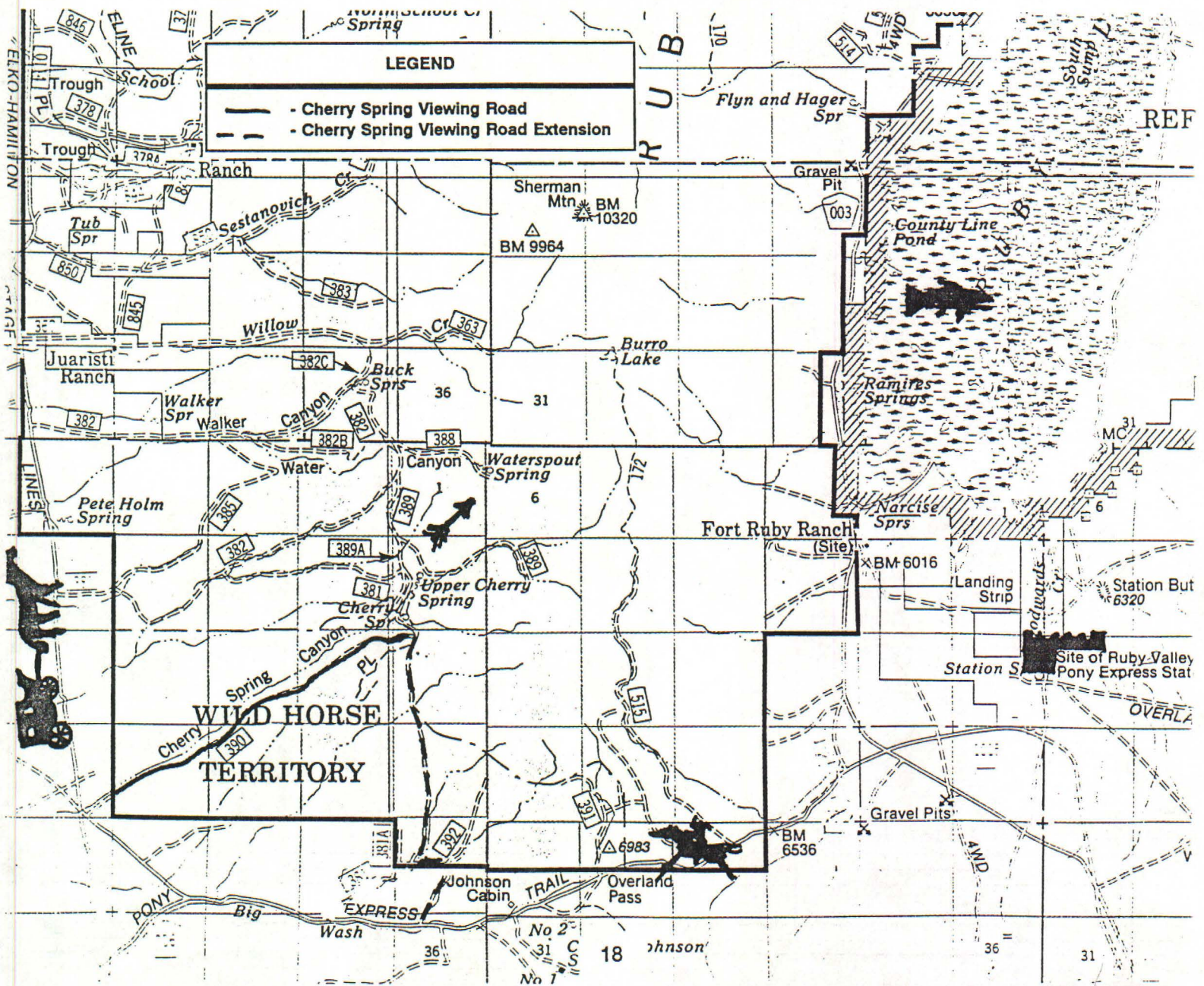
This section identifies the monitoring necessary to measure how well management objectives are being met.

Wild horse populations will be reported annually.

Ocular utilization studies on key areas will be made annually. Annual utilization maps will be completed. The lower southwest corner will be used as a key area to determine future herd growth.

Currently installed range trend studies will be read on a ten year cycle to assess if range condition is improving.

PROPOSED RECREATION AND INTERPRETATION MAP 8



Appendix A Cherry Spring Wildhorse Territory Herd and Individual Criteria

BASELINE HERD SIZE

Available winter range is the limiting factor for the territory, therefore, territory capacity will be based on winter range capacity. Herd size will be based on the available resource as identified by a minimum of two years of utilization studies using utilization standards outlined in section 3.1 Proper-Use Criteria. The 1974 Range Analysis Computation indicates that in order to bring the territory into and sustain a thriving ecological condition, wild horse numbers should not exceed 58 head. This information has been supported by range utilization studies completed in 1989 to 1990. Little improvement in range condition is expected until stocking is brought into balance with the available forage resource. Therefore, a baseline herd size will be set at 58 head. The baseline herd size is designed to be dynamic and responsive to proper utilization and annual herd growth.

To avoid constant changes in the baseline herd size, it will not change unless utilization studies indicate a change will be greater than the herds average annual growth.

Example:

The baseline herd size is set at 58 head.

Average annual growth is 17%

$0.17 \times 58 = 10$; $58 + 10 = 68$; $58 - 10 = 48$

Therefore, utilization studies must indicate herd size should be increased to 68 head or decreased to 48 head prior to a change in baseline herd size.

Baseline herd size will not be increased above 58 head until condition trend studies indicate that 60% of the 13,761 suitable acres in unsatisfactory condition improves to satisfactory condition with at least 90% of the territory a static or upward trend.

DESIRED HERD SIZE

Actual herd size will be set as a range to accommodate the dynamics of this wild horse herd. Both the minimum and maximum herd size will be defined by the baseline herd size, the annual herd growth, and a three year gather cycle. The following method will be employed to access the number of stock to be removed:

- a. Baseline herd size, as indicated by the utilization studies, will be used to develop a desired herd size.
- b. From the baseline herd size, two years of annual herd growth will be subtracted out. This is the number of horses that will remain after removal. Therefore, the baseline herd size will be achieved on the second year after removal. Then one more year of herd growth will be allowed prior to the next removal.

Example:

Base herd is estimated to be 58 head.

The annual herd growth is estimated to be 17% (83% remaining).

1st year; $58 \text{ head} \times 0.83 = 48$

2nd year; $48 \text{ head} \times 0.83 = 40 \text{ head}$

Therefore, 40 head will remain on the territory after the removal.

MINIMUM HERD SIZE

The minimum herd size will not be allowed to drop below 40 head without further environmental documentation. If utilization studies indicate that more than 58 head of wild horses can be grazed on the territory, and if this increase is due to an improvement on the southwestern range, re-evaluation of the territory and the Cherry Springs C&H Allotment will be conducted to determine the appropriate stocking for wild horses and/or domestic livestock. If, however, this increase is due to improvement on areas other than the southwestern range, numbers will be allowed to increase to the indicated capacity without further documentation.

HERD CONFORMATION AND COLORING CRITERIA

- a. Horse conformation will be based on the commonly accepted light and medium saddle horse without regard to a particular breed, but not similar to either draft horse or Arabian ancestry.
- b. Horses will be between 14.5 to 17 hands at 3 years of age.
- c. The primary colors will be blacks with white facial markings, white on black or brown pintos, buckskins, palominos, grulla, sorrels, brown bays, dapples and other common colors; not included are white or appaloosa coloring.
- d. Horse hooves will be sturdy and representative of those found on light saddle horses.

PERMANENT HERD SELECTION CRITERIA

To be appointed to the permanent herd horses must first meet the herd conformation and coloring criteria. Once these criteria are met, horses will be selected according to dominance and reproductive capabilities. The following criteria will be used in descending order:

- a. Studs with good conformation and large bands (over 5 mares). Preference will be given to the largest bands.
- b. Dominate mares in the first through third position in large bands (over 5 mares). Preference will be given to the largest bands.
- c. Stallions in smaller bands (1 to 5 mares) and the dominate mare of the band.
- d. Second and third dominance in smaller bands (1 to 5 mares).
- e. Non-dominate mares, over four years of age, and in large bands (over 5 mares). Older mares will be given preference.

**APPENDIX B
CURRENT STRUCTURAL RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

WATER DEVELOPMENTS AND SYSTEMS

WATERSPOUT SPRING WATER SYSTEM			
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Improvement	Size	Location	Responsibility
Spring development and trough		T25N, R57E, Sec 6	Permittee - Paris
Pipe Line ¹	6 miles	T25N, R57E, Sec 6, T25N, R56E, Sec 1,2,3,4, 9, & 10	Permittee - Russell & Rother
Trough #1		T25N, R56E, Sec 1	Permittee - Russell
Trough #2		T25N, R56E, Sec 3	Permittee - Rother
Trough #3		T25N, R56E, Sec 4	Permittee - Rother
Trough #4		T25N, R56E, Sec 10	Permittee - Rother
Trough Upper #5		T25N, R56E, Sec 9	Permittee - Rother
Trough Lower #6		T25N, R56E, Sec 9	Permittee - Rother

BUCK SPRING WATER SYSTEM			
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Spring development and trough		T26N, R56E, Sec 35	Permittee - Zaga & Russell
Pipeline	0.5 miles	T26N, R56E, Sec 35	Permittee - Zaga & Russell
Trough #1		T26N, R56E, Sec 35	Permittee - Zaga & Russell
Trough #2		T25N, R56E, Sec 3	Permittee - Zaga & Russell

WALKER SPRING WATER SYSTEM			
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Spring development and trough		T26N, R56E, Sec 33	Permittee - Zaga & Russell
Pipeline	0.5 miles	T26N, R56E, Sec 33, T25N, R56E, Sec 4 & 5	Permittee - Zaga & Russell
Trough #1		T25N, R56E, Sec 4	Permittee - Zaga & Russell
Trough #2		T25N, R56E, Sec 5	Permittee - Zaga & Russell

¹Four miles of the Waterspout pipeline were extended to Cherry Spring Canyon. The upper two miles have been abandoned. The lower two miles will be connected to a water ram from Lower Cherry Spring.

WATER DEVELOPMENTS AND SYSTEMS (cont.)

RYE GRASS SPRING WATER DEVELOPMENT			
Improvement	Size	Location	Responsibility
Spring development trough and storage tank ²		T25N, R57E, Sec 6	Permittee - Paris
UPPER CHERRY SPRING WATER DEVELOPMENT			
Upper Cherry Spring		T25N, R56E, Sec 12	Permittee - Paris
CHERRY SPRING WATER DEVELOPMENT			
Spring development, trough and storage tank		T25N, R56E, Sec 3, 11 & 12	Permittee - Paris
Pipeline		T25N, R56E, Sec 11, 14, & 15	Forest Service
Waterram		T25N, R56E, Sec 11	Forest Service

² The Rye Grass Spring development system was connected to the Waterspout pipeline through 0.75 mile of pipeline. This system was abandoned. This spring has been dry from 1990 through 1992.

FENCELINES

Improvement	Size	Location	Responsibility
Cherry Springs C&H Allotment Exterior Boundary Fence	10 miles	T26N, R56E, Sec 32; T25N, R56E, Sec 5 & 9	Permittee - Zaga & Russell
Wildhorse Territory Exterior Boundary Fence	13.5 miles	T25N, R56E, Sec 16, 21, 22, 23, & 25; T25N, R57E, Sect 9, 16, 21, 30, 31, & 32	Forest Service
Cherry Springs C&H Interior Boundary Fence	6 miles	T26N, R56E, Sec 26, 27, 32, 33, 34, 35, & 36; T25N, R56E, Sec 1, 10, 11, 12, 15, & 16	Permittee - Russell & Rother
Minola Pasture Fence	1 mile	T25N, R56E, Sec 4 & 5	Permittee - Zaga & Rother
Walker Pasture Fence	2.5 mile	T25N, R56E, Sec 4 & 9	Permittee - Zaga & Rother

NON-STRUCTURAL RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Improvement	Size	Location	Responsibility
1961 Overland Pass P-J Removal	1,200 acres	T25N, R57E, Sect 28 & 29	Forest Service
1969 Narcise P-J Chaining and Seeding	200 acres	T25N, R57E, Sect 9, 16, & 21	Forest Service
1971 Cracker-Johnson P-J Chaining and Seeding	1,000 acres	T25N, R56E, Sect 23 and T25N, R57E, Sect 19, 29, & 30	Forest Service
1966 Cherry Spring C&H Chaining Project	1,850 acres	T26N, R56E, Sect 32; T25N, R56E, Sect 4, 5, & 9	Forest Service

APPENDIX C
PROPOSED RANGE AND RECREATION STRUCTURAL AND NON-STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

PROPOSED STRUCTURAL RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

Improvement	Start Year	Size	Location	Description	Responsibility
Area Fence Across Cherry Spring Canyon.	1993	2 miles	T25N, R56E, Sec 15 & 22	Construct a two mile fence from north to south across Cherry Spring Canyon. Initially this fence would be used to keep horses out of the lower southwestern corner of the allotment during the critical growing season in the spring. As a secondary function this fence could be used as a holding corral for horses during gathers.	Forest Service
Cherry Spring Trough Installation	1995	300 gal	T25N, R56E, Sec 14 & 15	Re-install two water troughs that were located on the Cherry Spring Canyon pipeline, repair damaged pipe on this pipeline, and finish connecting to Cherry Springs source.	Forest Service
Cherry Springs Water Trap	1993		T25N, R56E, Sec 12	Install a permanent trap which can be used to capture horses.	Forest Service
Extension of Lower Cherry Spring Pipeline and the Addition of a Trough	1995	1.5 mile pipeline; 300 gal trough	T25N, R56E, Sec 15 & 21	Extend the Cherry Spring Canyon pipeline down the canyon 1.5 miles and install a trough at the terminus. This project would aid in wild horse dispersion.	Forest Service
Replacement of Existing Boundary Fence	1995	13 miles	T25N, R56E Sec 16, 21, 22, 23, & 25. T25N, R57E Sec 9, 16, 21, 28, 29, & 30	Replacement of degraded territory boundary fence over a 7 year period. This project would replace 2 miles of fence per year. Fence will be barb wire with top strand a maximum of 42 inches high.	Forest Service

PROPOSED NON-STRUCTURAL RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Improvement	Start Year	Size	Location	Description	Responsibility
Habitat Improvement	1995	Up to 1,600 acres	T25N, R56E, Sec 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, & 24	Up to 60% (1,600 acres) of the lower southwest 2,560 acres could receive vegetative treatments consisting of burnings, thinnings, and seedings. Treatment areas should improve forage production to 60% of soil potential within 10 years after areas are cleared of vegetation (360 to 720 lbs/acre, 60% of potential depending on range site).	Forest Service

PROPOSED WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Improvement	Start Year	Size	Location	Description	Responsibility
Man Made Riparian Areas	1995	Variable	T26N, R56E, Sec 35 and T25N, R56E, Sec 11 & 12 and T25N, R57E, Sec 6	Create man made riparian areas from overflow of Buck Spring, Waterspout Spring, Upper Cherry Spring, Cherry Spring, and, if flows return, Rye Grass Spring. Artificial riparian areas would be created by installing float valves on all troughs along the listed lines. Overflow water from the primary trough would be piped back into the primary drainage where it would be released through a section of perforated pipe. The area affected by the overflows will fence out horses and domestic livestock.	Forest Service
Animal escape Ramps	1993			Installation of animal escape ramps on all water troughs.	Permittee - Responsible for maintenance & Forest Service

PROPOSED RECREATIONAL AND INTERPRETATION PROGRAM

Improvement	Start Year	Size	Location	Description	Responsibility
Cherry Spring Wildhorse Territory Informational Pamphlet	1994			A small pamphlet describing the location, history of the herd, herd management, and area history will be published.	Forest Service with contributed funding
Cherry Spring Viewing Road	1994	3 miles	T25N, R56E, Sec 15, 14, 13, 21, & 22	The Lower Cherry Spring Road would be reconstructed so that light 2 wheel drive trucks can easily drive up to the overlook above Cherry Spring. During summer and fall.	Forest Service with contributed funding
Cherry Spring Viewing Road Extension	1994 or as funding and VUD warrant.	3.5 miles	T25N, R56E, Sec 13, 24, & 25	The Cherry Spring Viewing Road would be extended to create a loop road which would tie into the Overland Pass road. This road would need to be reconstructed in order to facilitate 2 wheel drive vehicles. Several viewing areas would be build along this road.	Forest Service with contributed funding
Interpretive Signs	1994	Varied	T25N, R56E, Sec 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 24, & 25	Several interpretive signs would be installed along the Cherry Spring viewing road.	Forest Service with contributed funding
Low Frequency Radio Transmitter	As funding and VUD warrant.			Install a low frequency radio transmitter to transmit a pre-recorded informational message.	Forest Service with contributed funding

* VUD = Visitor Use Days. Used to calculate how many visitors visited the area. Will be used to calculate cost benefit.