

9-24-98



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Surprise Field Office  
P.O. Box 460  
602 Cressler Street  
Cedarville, CA 96104  
(530)279-6101 - (530)279-2171 FAX  
September 24, 1998

*In Reply Refer To:*  
4100(CA-370)P

Cathy Barcomb  
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses  
123 Nye Lane  
Carson City, NV 89706-0818

Dear Cathy:

Enclosed, for your information, is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Decision Record for EA No. CA-370-98-05, Bitner Management Plan Revision.

We intend to issue a proposed grazing decision to implement the proposed action within the next week or so. You will receive a copy of the decision when it is issued.

We appreciate your participation in this effort and will keep you informed of any further actions we take relating to the Bitner Allotment.

Sincerely,

Susan T. Stokke  
Surprise Field Manager

Enclosure



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## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Surprise Field Office

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September 23, 1998

In Reply Refer To:

4130(CA-370)P

### BITNER

### MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

CA-370-98-05

### DECISION RECORD/FONSI

#### Decision

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action in the attached Environmental Assessment. Additionally, the decision includes all the mitigation measures that were proposed in the Environmental Assessment.

[REDACTED] decision is to [REDACTED] new grazing strategy [REDACTED] designed to [REDACTED] set of [REDACTED] projects. The decision also includes specific projects to resolve the issues that BLM, in consultation with the permittee and other affected interests, determined were important. One other action is the closure to public vehicle use of the road through the Bitner Ranch and Meadows.

A proposed project [REDACTED] from the Environmental Assessment was [REDACTED] of approximately [REDACTED] r Creek to the boundary of the Sheldon NWR (please see attached Map 1). This fence is designed to [REDACTED] from the lower portion of Badger Creek to [REDACTED]. Impacts are similar to the other proposed fences, as discussed in the Environmental Assessment. It is my decision to implement this project, as proposed.

#### Rationale

Implementation of this decision would replace an out of date Allotment Management Plan that lacked specific objectives with a new grazing strategy, new objectives, and a set of projects designed to meet the objectives. The decision implements recommendations from two Technical Review Teams that visited the allotment and Bitner Ranch in 1997.

Several interested individuals and groups expressed concerns about the proposed location of the Evans Camp Fence in a wilderness study area. Based on these concerns, a field inspection of the project area was conducted on August 7, 1998. Those present felt the new fence proposal (1.2 miles of new fencing and .8 miles of existing fence removal- please see Map 2) would help restore the riparian ecosystem and is compatible with wilderness values.

The reason I have chosen to include the closure of the road through the Bitner Ranch and Meadows is that BLM completed an alternative route around sensitive areas in 1998 and therefore the existing road is not needed for public access. Also during the 1997 year, several incidences of vehicular damage to the meadow occurred and one incidence of theft of historic materials occurred from the Bitner Ranch.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based upon the Environmental Assessment CA-370-98-05, I have determined that implementation of the Bitner Management Plan Revision would not result in any significant impacts on the quality of the human environment. Therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Susan T. Stokke  
Susan T. Stokke, Surprise Field Manager

9/24/98  
Date

Attachments

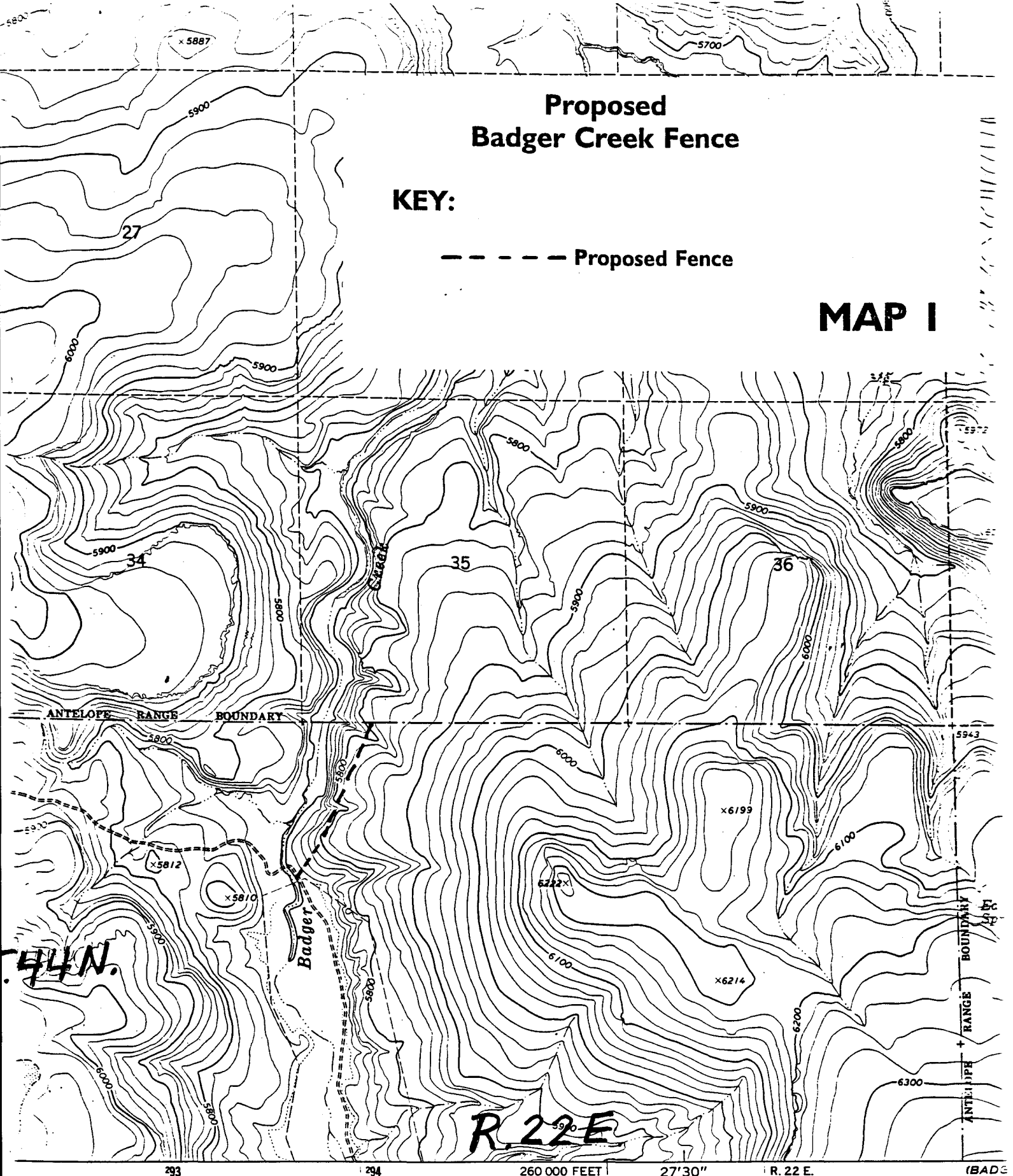
Maps (2)  
Environmental Assessment

# Proposed Badger Creek Fence

**KEY:**

----- Proposed Fence

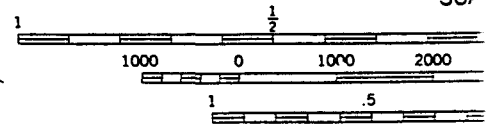
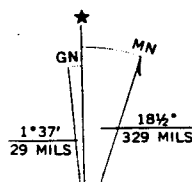
## MAP I



ped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
rol by USGS and USC&GS

graphy by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
ographs taken 1965. Field checked 1966

conic projection. 1927 North American datum  
00-foot grid based on Nevada coordinate system, west zone  
3-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,



CONTOUR  
DOTTED LINES REF  
NATIONAL GEODETIC

# Proposed Evans Camp Fence

## KEY:

—\*—\*—\* Existing Fence

—●—●—● Existing Fence to be Removed

--- Proposed New Fence

## MAP 2

