



# 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

February 2, 1998

2-2-99  
*In Reply Refer To:*  
1792 (CA-370) P  
CA-370-98-03

CERTIFIED MAIL #P 954 727 047  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses  
c/o Catherine Barcomb  
123 W. Nye Lane, Suite 248  
Carson City, NV 89706-0818

Dear Cathy:

Enclosed for your review is my Decision for the 1998 Grazing Plan for the Tuledad Allotment. This proposal was developed at the January 15, 1998, Tuledad Allotment meeting, and was based on monitoring conducted during 1997.

This Decision represents the Proposed Action (as mitigated) in the Environmental Assessment (CA-028-96-09).

Please review the attached Decision. If you have any questions, please contact Roger Farschon, Tara de Valois or myself at (916) 279-6101.

### **PROTEST AND APPEALS PROCEDURES**

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interest may protest this Proposed Decision under Sec. 43 CFR 4160.1, in person or in writing to the Authorized Officer at the following address: **Susan T. Stokke, Field Manager, Surprise Resource Area, P.O. Box 460, Cedarville, CA 96104.** Any protest must be filed within 15 days after receipt of the Decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the Proposed Decision is in error.

In the absence of a protest, this Proposed Decision will become the Final Decision of the Authorized Officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the Proposed Decision.

Any applicant, permittee, or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the Final Decision may file an appeal and petition for stay of the Decision pending final determination appeal. The appeal and petition for stay must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at the address stated above within 30 days following receipt of the Final Decision, or 30 days after the date the Proposed Decision becomes final.

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the Final Decision is in error.

Should you wish to file a motion for a stay, the appellant shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

As noted above, the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan T. Stokke".

Susan T. Stokke  
Surprise Field Manager

Enclosure  
Decision Record



# 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

4130(CA-028)

January 30, 1998

### **Tuledad Allotment: Annual Grazing Plan for 1998 Season Decision Record CA-370-98-03**

#### **Decision**

It is my decision to implement the proposed Plan of Operations for the 1998 Grazing Season on the Tuledad Allotment (#802). This proposal is in compliance with the previous two decisions (1996 and 1997) and is adequately covered by Environmental Assessment (CA-028-96-09), located in the Surprise Resource Area Office. Therefore, an additional Environmental Assessment has not been prepared. The 1998 Plan of Operations would result in less potential environmental impact from grazing related activities than occurred in 1996 due to the following differences: two bands of sheep are authorized in 1998 versus three bands in 1996; no livestock conversions have been proposed or authorized; additionally, once allowable utilization levels within key areas of the South Pasture are reached, livestock re-entering key areas such as the Buckhorn key bitterbrush area, will be promptly moved out of the South Pasture and into the Boot's Hole area of the North Pasture.

The Plan of Operations identifies grazing management actions for the 1998 grazing season needed to accomplish the following short term goals: 1) Provide rest for the Boot Lake pasture, 2) continue to minimize livestock use of key bitterbrush stands, and 3) maintain the desired level of residual vegetation on riparian zones. The table below provides details of the 1998 grazing management and additional requirements.

#### *1998 Plan of Operations*

Activity	Proposed Action
Livestock Turnout	Sheep: March 26  Cattle: April 1, w/option of no earlier than March 15 if soil and vegetation conditions warrant and the Area Manager approves

Sheep Grazing	<p>Two bands of sheep scattered throughout lower elevations during April for lambing. Bunched into a band (1000 sheep) and slowly trailed toward western part of allotment until mid-summer.</p> <p>One band would come back on the allotment in late summer and leave September 30 to October 15. There would be no sheep use of the key bitterbrush areas after July 15.</p> <p><b>(see maps in Environmental Assessment CA-028-96-09)</b></p>
Cattle Grazing	<p>650 head would be turned out in the lower elevations of North Pasture, except in the vicinity of past wildfires. Cattle would be herded to limit concentration. Cattle would be removed from the allotment in first half of July.</p> <p>50 head would use the Bald Mountain Pasture from mid April to mid July. Maximum light use overall.</p> <p>500 head would be turned out in lower elevations of South pasture and allowed to slowly drift up in elevation and to the west during April and May. When soil and vegetation conditions in the Cottonwood Mtn and Buckhorn Road areas are appropriate for grazing, cattle would be moved into these two areas for June and early July. Cattle would then be herded out of Cottonwood Mountain and Buckhorn Road and into portions of the South Pasture that have not received use at that time. Cattle would stay in the South Pasture until Sept 30 unless utilization levels were anticipated to be exceeded. If utilization levels are anticipated to be exceeded, cattle would be moved into portions of the North Pasture outside the Wire Lakes key bitterbrush area and areas used in the spring by the 650 head.</p> <p><b>(see maps in Environmental Assessment CA-028-96-09)</b></p>
Utilization Standards	<p>4" minimum stubble height on riparian areas at the end of the season.</p> <p>45 percent maximum use on willows.</p> <p>Moderate use (40-60 percent) on upland herbaceous and woody vegetation except bitterbrush. Light use in Bald Mountain Pasture.</p> <p>45 percent maximum use on bitterbrush except in key bitterbrush areas.</p> <p>15 percent maximum use of bitterbrush in key areas by mid-July.</p>

Other stipulations	<p>Rest Boot Lake pasture.</p> <p>No salting or sheep bedding in aspen stands.</p> <p>No use in Bud Brown, Bare Creek, or Ant Spring enclosures.</p> <p>All fences for which the Tuledad livestock operators have maintenance responsibility must be maintained before turnout (higher elevation fences - when access permits).</p> <p>Herdling will be sufficient to ensure that allowable utilization is not exceeded within designated key areas. Once allowable utilization levels are met within key areas of the South Pasture, cattle re-entering the key areas will be promptly moved out of the South Pasture and into the North Pasture (Boot's Hole area). Permittees need to designate a representative that the BLM can contact to provide instructions to the herder.</p>
--------------------	---

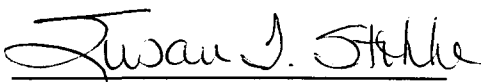
**Rationale**

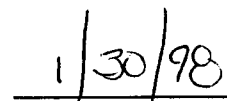
Implementation of this decision would provide for additional protection of key riparian areas through rest, grazing during seasons of low impact to riparian vegetation, and raising the residual vegetation requirements. The decision would also reduce the amount of time livestock spend in key bitterbrush areas during the seasons when livestock actively use this important shrub.

The decision would continue the ongoing work of continued improvement of resource conditions in the allotment while the Bureau is developing more comprehensive long term planning for the area.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based upon the Environmental Assessment CA-028-96-09, I have determined that implementation of the proposed Tuledad Allotment Annual Grazing Plan for 1998 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, Field Manager

  
 Date