



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SURPRISE RESOURCE AREA  
P.O. BOX 460  
CEDARVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96104-0460

9/4/90



IN REPLY REFER TO:

8500(CA-028)

September 4, 1990

John Walker, Clearinghouse Coordinator  
Division of Administration  
Capitol Complex  
Carson City, NV 89710

RECEIVED  
SEP - 5 1990  
BUDGET DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Walker:

You have expressed an interest in receiving advance notice of any actions that are being proposed for a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) within the Susanville District of the Bureau of Land Management.

Enclosed for your review is a notice of a horse gathering of the High Rock (Little High Rock Area) Herd Management Area. This action will take place within the Little High Rock Canyon WSA (#CA-020-913A/NV-020-088), Yellow Rock Canyon WSA (#CA-020-913A) and High Rock Canyon WSA (#CA-020-913B).

All comments and questions should be referred to the Surprise Resource Area Manager for his consideration and use in evaluating the proposed action. We would appreciate it if you would submit any comments within 30 days to:

J. Anthony Danna  
Bureau of Land Management  
Surprise Resource Area  
P.O. Box 460  
Cedarville, CA 96104

Sincerely,

J. Anthony Danna  
Surprise Resource Area Manager

Enclosure



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
SURPRISE RESOURCE AREA  
P.O. BOX 460  
CEDARVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96104-0460

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8500(CA-028)

September 4, 1990

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION Wild Horses in WSA'S

State: Nevada  
County: Washoe  
District: Susanville, CA  
Area: Surprise Resource Area, Cedarville, CA

WSA:	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
	CA-020-913A/ NV-020-008	Little High Rock Canyon	52,143
	CA-020-913A	Yellow Rock Canyon	13,050
	CA-020-913A	High Rock Canyon	33,985

Date of 30 days notification period ends: September 30, 1990

### 1. Description of Action

In the fall of 1990, in the month of October, 50-60 wild horses will be gathered in portions of the above WSA's. Of those horses gathered, 20-30 horses will be removed and 30 will be returned to the range as specified in the High Rock Herd Management Area Plan.

### 2. Location of Action

See map.

### 3. Description of Activity

Approximately 50-60 horses will be gathered in the High Rock (Little High Rock Area) Herd Management Area (CA-264) this fall in the month of October. The horses are located in the above three WSA's. Gathering will be by helicopter. The gathering period will be from one to two days. The horses will be herded by helicopter approximately 5-10 miles to the trap site. The trap site is located in the Little High Rock Canyon WSA 913. There will be some soil disturbance within the trap due to trampling by horses. The trap will be set up and removed by vehicle using the existing way into the site. There will be overland travel to setup and disassemble the trap. All removal of horses by vehicle from the trap will be done on the existing way. All vehicle traffic will be kept to a minimum on existing ways.

After the gather and trap removal the site will be rehabilitated based on specified mitigation and this activity will not adversely affect the evaluation of the above WSA's. The High Rock (Little High Rock Area) wild horse gather EA is available upon request.

4. Chronology of Events

Cowhead/Massacre EIS, 1980

Cowhead/Massacre MFP, 1981

High Rock Herd Management Area Plan, 1985

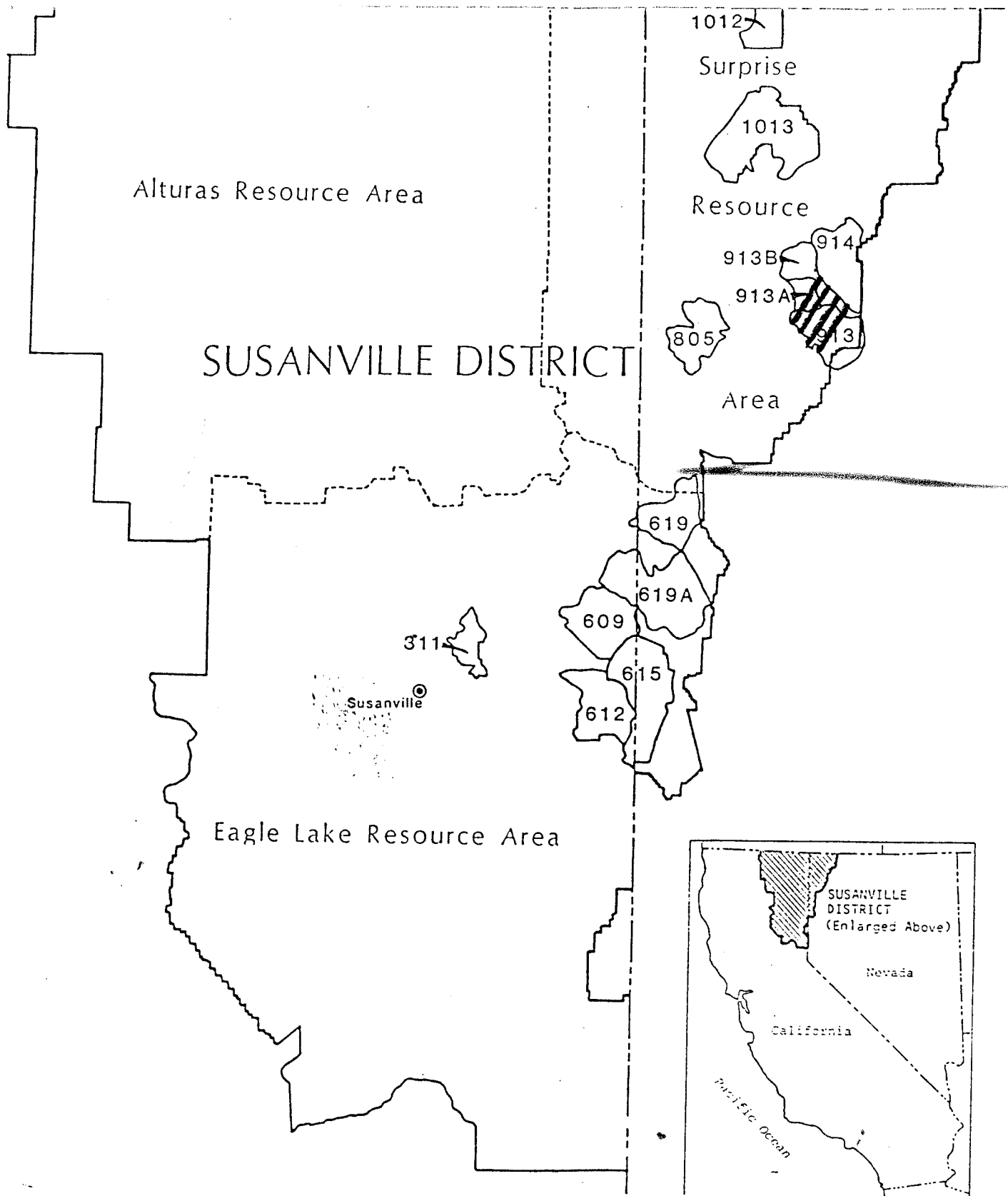
High Rock Herd Management Area Plan, Revised 1989

Proposed Helicopter Gathering Wild Horse and Burro Plan for ~~FY'91~~,  
June 1990

Notification of Proposed Helicopter Gather of Wild Horses and Burros for  
FY'91, Federal Register. Vol. 55, N. 120. Thursday, June 21, 1990

High Rock (Little High Rock Area) Wild Horse Gather EA, September 1990

High Rock (Little High Rock Area) Horse Gather, October 1990



Alturas Resource Area

# SUSANVILLE DISTRICT

Surprise

Resource

913B

913A

914

805

3

Area

311

Susanville

619

619A

609

615

612

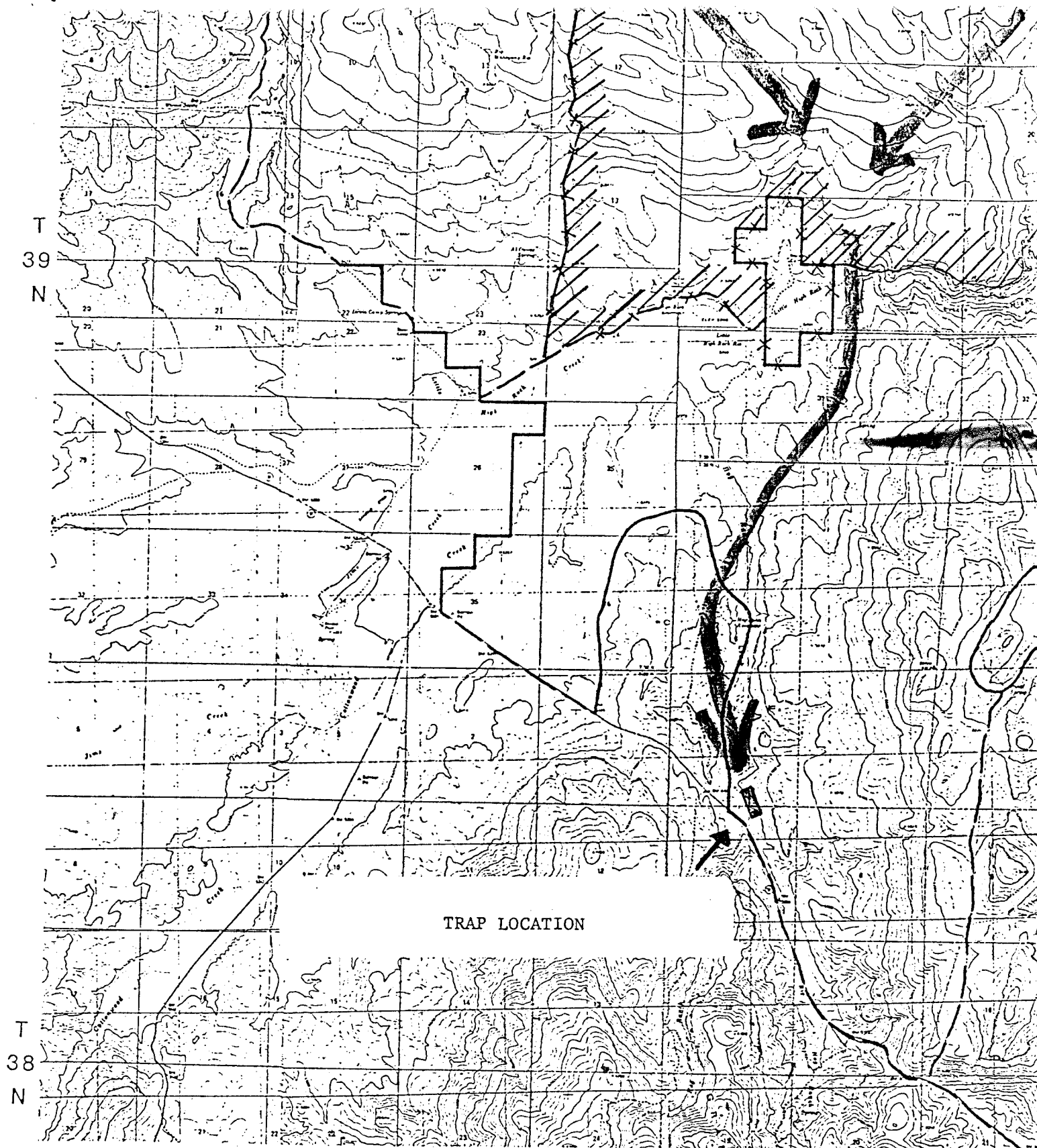
Eagle Lake Resource Area

SUSANVILLE DISTRICT (Enlarged Above)

Nevada


California


Pacific Ocean

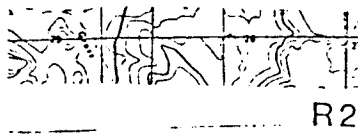


# LITTLE HIGH ROCK CANYON #913

Key:

High Rock Herd Area Boundary 

Horse Removal Route 

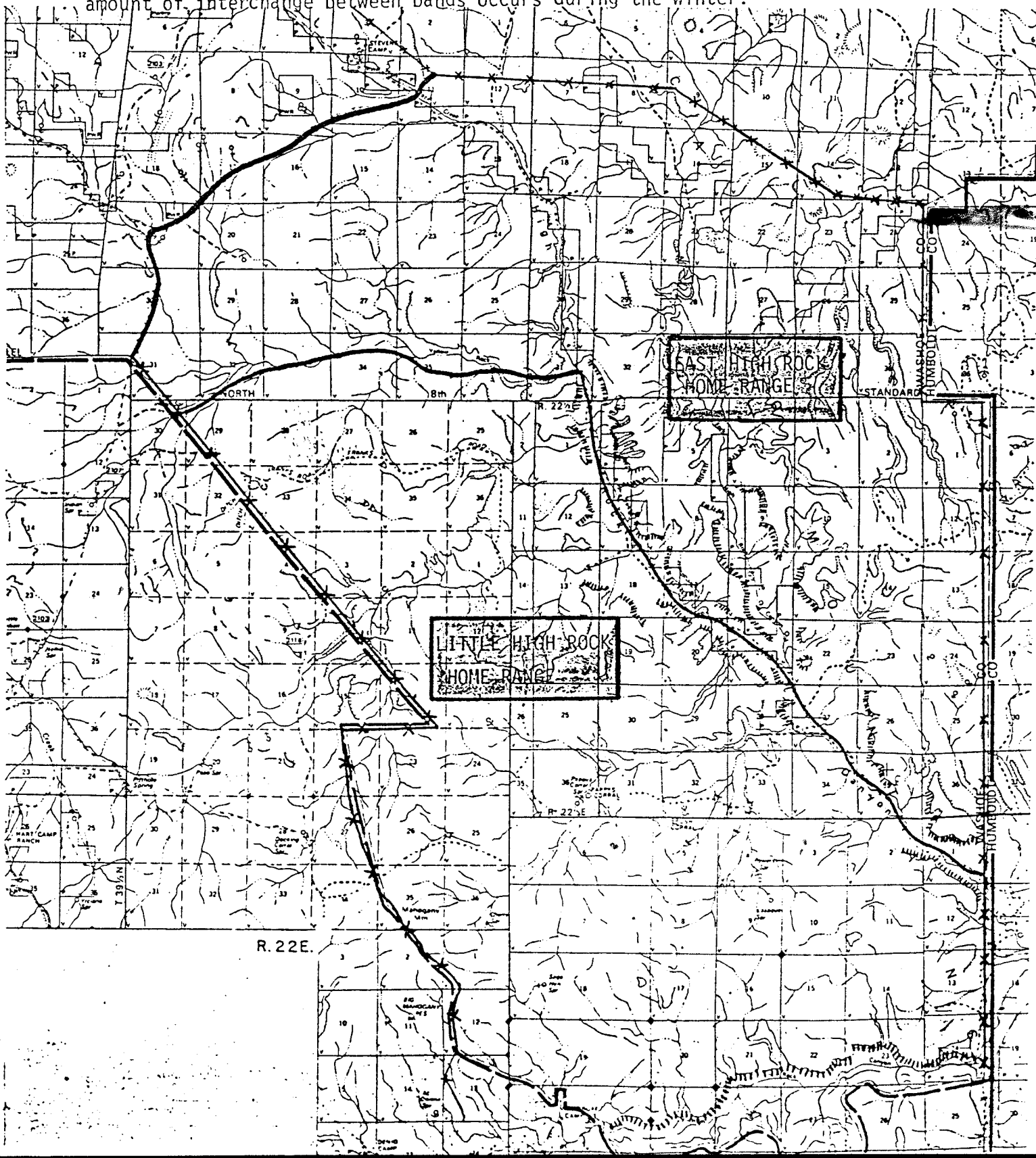


# HERD MANAGEMENT AREA

Legend: 1/2 inch = 1 mile

— Approximate Home Range Boundary Line

The Home Range unit depicts where bands of horses tend to summer. The number of horses for each home range are only approximations based on BLM's past observations. These areas are not totally isolated from one another. A considerable amount of interchange between bands occurs during the winter.





# United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO:

4120(C-028)  
Stewardship

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SURPRISE RESOURCE AREA

P.O. Box 460  
Cedarville, CA 96130

August 4, 1987

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

Dear Dawn:

Over the past year, things have been very active regarding the Massacre Mountain/High Rock area. I thought this would be a good time to bring everyone up to date on all that has occurred. I have enclosed two reports. One is a display of the TRT recommendations and corresponding actions. The other is a report on the tour of the proposed location of the fence along the westside of High Rock Canyon.

As reflected in the TRT report, the BLM has entered into a Cooperative Agreement with a number of groups and individuals for the management of the Canyons and the Lassen/Applegate Trail. The High Rock Trekkers Chapter of the California 4-Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc. have been particularly helpful. They hauled 127 sacks of garbage from Conlan Camp, painted the inside of the cabin and outside of the toilet at Stevens Camp, installed culverts in the creek crossing at Stevens Camp (which have since been stolen!), installed gates to help control traffic in High Rock Canyon and hauled many rolls of old wire from Conlan Camp. Other members of the group have volunteered to develop interpretive material and maps for the area. We have also submitted a sign package to El Paso Natural Gas Company who has volunteered to fund interpretive signs for the BLM.

More recent action was taken by the Steering Committee of the Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Program. At the last ESP meeting, I gave a report which walked the Steering Committee members through a chronological history beginning with the 1981 Cowhead/Massacre MFP through the recent fenceline tour. Subsequently, they formed a subcommittee to implement the TRT recommendations specific to grazing management. They will be working to eliminate administrative roadblocks such as funding for projects.

I think we all can agree that a lot has been done to implement the TRT recommendations.

We have received an appeal to the last set of decisions issued July 2, 1987. Hopefully, it will not take 4½ years to work through the system like the last one did. High Rock Canyon strikes many emotions in all of us and the development and implementation of resource management for the area has and will

continue to be a difficult task. Those who attended the fenceline tour know there was considerable discussion both pro and con on the fence. I sincerely appreciate the help of the participants and of all the past efforts from everyone. If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lee Delaney".

Lee Delaney  
Surprise Resource Area Manager

Enclosures (3)

- 1-Fence Tour Writeup
- 2-Map
- 3-TRT Recommendations/Actions



## HIGH ROCK EXCLUSION FENCE TOUR

Thursday, July 9, 1987

### Attendance

Dawn Lappin	Wild Horse Organized Assistance
Rose Strickland	Sierra Club
Jean Schadler	M/W ESP Committee Member
Ed Berryessa	M/W ESP Committee Member
Wes Cook	M/W ESP Committee Member
Rick Delmas	M/W ESP Committee Member
Wayne Burkhardt	M/W ESP Committee Member
Bob Bunyard	Permittee
Gene Cooper	Permittee
Bill Phillips	BLM Representative
Roger Farschon	BLM Wildlife Biologist
Richard Westman	BLM Acting Area Manager
Rick Cooper	BLM Range Conservationist

This meetings' purpose was to allow Technical Review Team members and Stewardship Committee members to view the proposed fenceline for the exclusion via a helicopter flight and make recommendations as to the feasibility and location of the fence.

During the course of the day several concerns were raised followed by discussion of those concerns among the group.

In general, the group has concerns over the construction of the fence in this area due to expected high costs, visual impacts to the area, adverse affects to lambing areas for sheep, and future maintenance requirement expenses.

Richard Westman asked the group to comment on the fence location with the idea that if the fence were to be built, is the current location a good location.

Points were noted on the topographic map numerically along the fence. The following comments correspond to those numbers.

- #1 Bill Phillips suggested an offset be placed in the fence in this general location to facilitate moving wild horses or gathering wild horses.
- #2 Bob Bunyard, Gene Cooper and Wes Cook suggested leaving a previously designed water gap below Stevens Camp. Rose Strickland disagreed with the need for the water gap. She stated this would only result in delaying improvement on the riparian. Wes Cook stated the grazing system should be able to take care of the riparian area.
- #3 The fence should be moved west of the proposed line, more like the black line. This allows for movement of livestock and wild horses around the end of the canyon. Phillips, Burkhardt and Lappin all believed this adjustment should be done.

- #4 The proposed fenceline from Grassy Canyon to Yellow Rock Canyon dissects a domestic sheep lambing area. Bob Bunyard stated he would never agree to this fence however, by moving the fence more to the black line (farther east) would reduce impacts to the sheep operation.
- #5 Rose Strickland suggested that the fence be built more on a contour at the Yellow Rock crossing in particular. Strickland felt the entire fence should be looked at to contour wherever possible and feasible.
- #6 The group suggested an evaluation of an existing gap along the rock slide south of Yellow Rock.
- #7 Yellow Rock to Mahogany Canyon (OK)
- #8 Mahogany Canyon to High Rock Canyon Rim (OK)
- #9 High Rock Canyon Rim to High Rock Canyon Rim (OK)

The group in general questioned the need of this section due to the steep rim and draws. Farschon explained that the fence was staked to block off visible cattle trails.

#10 Short Gap

Bunyard suggested this gap be moved farther north so as to avoid moving livestock through the exclusion to get to the grazing area.

Rose Strickland had pointed out during the course of the conversation on the fence that during the TRT review, gap fencing had been discussed as a means of fencing cattle from the canyon. The BLM in consultation with the Modoc/Washoe Steering Committee had made the determination to use a solid fence. Jean Schadler and Wayne Burkhardt confirmed this but stated they now had reservations about the fence in this area. Schadler stated she didn't realize the feeder canyons were so prominent to the west.

Burkhardt, Schadler, Bunyard and Cooper felt the construction of the fence would create a poor livestock management situation. Schadler stated the permittees couldn't agree to this fence or the cancellation until they knew what the grazing system would be for Massacre Mountain.

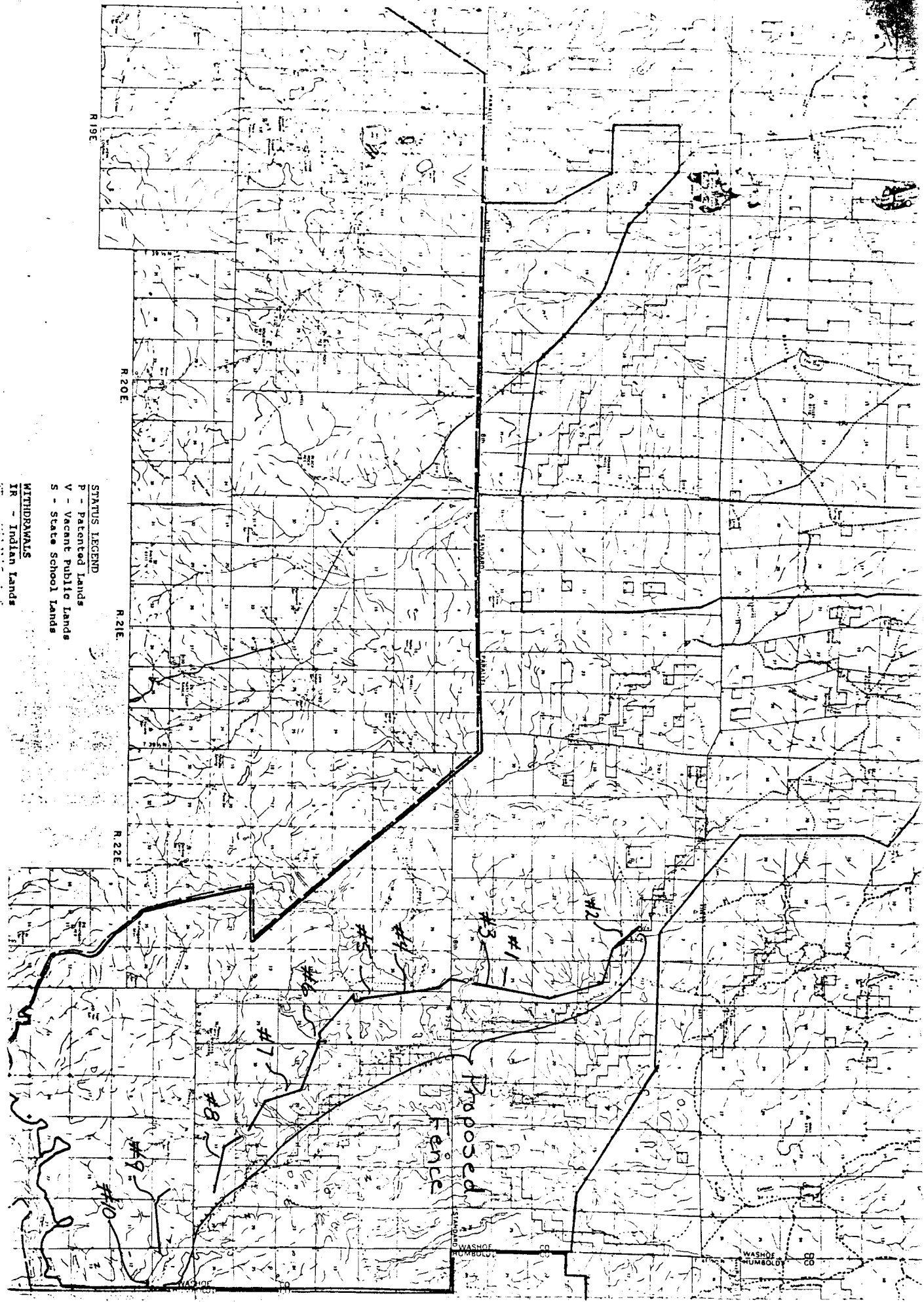
Rick Cooper stated that until the management area was defined and an initial stocking rate established, the ability to develop a grazing plan is limited. In every other TRT allotment these elements had to be defined by the TRT before an AMP was developed.

Wayne Burkhardt suggested delaying construction of the fence and taking the money to develop additional forage elsewhere; and move the permits. Schadler and Bunyard suggested trading Bunyard completely out of the Massacre Mountain Allotment via a land exchange. Gene Cooper concurred with evaluating the movement of permits.

Rose Strickland and Dawn Lappin pointed out that all of these topics had been discussed at the original TRT meetings in great length without solution. Strickland stated she didn't feel it was necessary for this group to deal with these issues.

Jean Schadler said that this group should try to work out a solution. Rick Delmas suggested the Steering Committee try to deal with the trading of permits and land exchanges or purchase ideas.

Schadler asked Strickland if the Sierra Club would work toward assisting in the purchase or exchange of property in order to get rid of the grazing permits. Strickland stated she would not work for the purchase or exchange of lands unless they were in the Wilderness Area.



R 19E

R 20E

R 21E

R 22E

**STATUS LEGEND**  
 P - Patented Lands  
 V - Vacant Public Lands  
 S - State School Lands

**WITHDRAWALS**  
 IR - Indian Lands

Proposed  
Fence

WASHOE COUNTY  
HUMBOLDT CO

WASHOE COUNTY  
HUMBOLDT CO

#1  
#2  
#3

#4  
#5  
#6

#7

#8

#9

#10

MASSACRE MOUNTAIN/HIGH ROCK  
TRT  
Recommendations/Actions  
June 24-25, 1983

TRT Recommendations

Actions

#1 Amend \* Cowhead/Massacre MFP as necessary to implement following recommendations:

- #2 Allow Bunyard to convert to cattle.
- #3 Allow cattle to graze on westside of High Rock Canyon.
- #5 Prescription grazing in the canyons be designed not to detract from cultural resources; wild horses; wildlife; recreation; aesthetic, rare and endangered plants.

#4 Treat all livestock operators equally.

#22 Consider ACEC designation of the canyon complex.

#17 Season of use to be April 1 (or later depending on soils) - Sept. 30, April 16 - Sept. 30, in Little High Rock.

1. MFP amended in 1983 & 1984 as follows:

- . MFP Dec. #4 (S.U.1): Allow for a change in class of livestock from sheep to cattle in the entire Sub Unit. Allow livestock to graze west of High Rock Canyon and north of Little High Rock Canyon. Allow cattle to graze in the canyon bottoms and east of High Rock on a prescriptive basis only. (Grazing will be scheduled when it provides a benefit to other resource values. This area will not be grazed on an annual or regular basis.)
- . Deleted MFP General Decision #1 from C/M MFP which gave preference to Bunyard operation.
- . Decision #14 (S.U.1-New decision): Designate High Rock and Little High Rock Canyon proper as a special management area (ACEC). An ACEC Management Plan will be completed by 9/30/87.
- . MFP Dec. #2 (General) - change from Sub Units 2-4 to 1-4.

\* Bunyard appealed MFP amendment to BLM Director. Director denied appeal.

### TRT Recommendations

- #3 Build fence west of High Rock to restrict cattle from the canyons & east benches. Build fence concurrently with water on west side.
- #7 Fences & water developments should not reflect adversely on evaluation & boundaries of WSA's. Design developments to have minimal impacts on wilderness values.
- #8 Project work in WSA's be in accordance with IMP.
- #6 Water developments on east side be for wildlife & wild horses.
- #9 Develop a watershed rehabilitation plan for canyon bottom.
- #11 Develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan.
- #12 Develop a Recreation Visitor Plan.
- #13 Develop a Wild Horse and Burro Management Plan.
- #10 Limited motorized vehicle travel to MFP designated roads.

### Actions

- . A tentative fenceline line was staked in 1985 by the BLM. A field tour on July 9, 1987 with all interested parties will finalize fence location. Fence construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 1989. Reconstruction of existing spring developments on west side is scheduled for FY 1988. It is a matter of BLM policy that any project development in WSA's will be done with wilderness values in mind. The proposed fenceline was designated as the western boundary for portions of WSA's recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.
- . BLM has not looked on the east side for water developments.
- . BLM developed a watershed rehabilitation plan in 1986 for the total High Rock watershed & portions of the Little High Rock watershed.
- . BLM developed a CRMP in 1983.
- . The recreation portion of the ACEC Management Plan will be completed by 9/30/87.
- . The BLM completed a Wild Horse Herd Management Area Plan in 1985. Horses were gathered to minimum levels (70-100) in 1986. Next gather is scheduled for 1988 & 1989).
- . California 4-Wheel Drive Assoc. installed gates to control traffic in High Rock Canyon in 1987. Traffic control signs will be developed by BLM (El Paso Natural Gas Co.) and installed by Friends of High Rock beginning in 1987. BLM & Friends of High Rock have entered into cooperative agreement for management of Canyon & Lassen/Applegate Trail.

TRT Recommendation

Actions

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| #14 Graze allotment in common initially, split later if feasible.   | . No action to date because of litigation & irregular licensing by permittees.   |
| #15 Defer stocking rate to Steering Committee.  | . Steering Committee referred back to TRT. See later discussion for February 24, 1983 TRT meeting.   |
| #16 Limit utilization of major use areas to 60%.  | . No action necessary, conforms to existing MFP guidance. Will be incorporated into AMP.   |
| #18 Develop seedings in Long Valley as soon as possible.  | . Fences for Lone Springs seeding unit will be built in FY 88. Due to low funding, seeding development will be multi-year effort.  |
| #19 Develop a systematic grazing system that would:<br>a) alternate turnout between Dog Leg & Powers Well seeding units.<br>b) alternate use in rest of allotment - drift south one year, north the next. | . No action to date. It is planned to develop an interim management plan by Dec. 31, 1987 to guide livestock management until fences & waters are in place and when litigation is settled. |
| #20 SCS, BLM & private land owners investigate feasibility of improving riparian habitat.   | . BLM fenced 5 meadows for riparian management and sagegrouse habitat in 1984. Reduced livestock grazing in the canyons the past two years has resulted in good riparian improvement.      |
| #21 Acquire the private mineral estate in High Rock Canyon.   | . White Pine Lumber Co. is willing to exchange mineral estate. Exchange is in progress.  |
| #23 Acquire private land in Pole Canyon.  | . Ongoing contact with landowners. No progress to date.  |
| #24 Steering Committee should accept a recommendations as a unit.   | . Accepted all but #15, referred back to TRT.  |

MASSACRE MOUNTAIN/HIGH ROCK  
TRT  
Agreement/Action  
February 24, 1983

TRT Agreements

- #1 Bunyard agreed to drop demand for individual allotment if feasibility would be studied over next 5 years.
- #2 Bunyard agreed to 22% reduction. (Earp had already agreed in June, 1983 meeting).
- #3 Jim Cockrell agreed to let Bunyard use 243 AUMs of nonuse if Earp agreed.
- #4 Give Earp the choice as to how to implement reduction - either in one step or in 5 incremental steps.
- #6 BLM should issue formal decision if agreement is not reached to implement recommendations.

Actions

- . No formal feasibility study to date because of ongoing litigation with Bunyard and irregular licensing by permittees.
- . Bunyard withdrew agreement at March 15-16, 1983 M/W ESP Steering Committee meeting. In an agreement with BLM. BLM issued a decision whereby Bunyard could litigate existing proportionate grazing preferences. This supposedly allowed Bunyard the chance to litigate his concerns. All other TRT recommendations were to stand & move ahead. Administrative Law Judge & Interior Board of Land Appeals upheld BLM.
- . Earp agreed, but said arrangement should be between Cockrell & Bunyard since Cockrell is leasee.
- . Earp chose 1 step.
- . BLM issued Proposed Decision on May 22, 1987 dealing with stocking rates, utilization levels, exchange of use, interim grazing in the canyons, AMP development, class of livestock, season of use, monitoring & prescription grazing. Protests were received from Bunyard & White Pine. Protests were considered and Final Decisions were issued July 2, 1987.



WASHINGTON  
TERRITORY

To Highway 8A

### COWHEAD/MASSACRE PLANNING AREA HIGH ROCK (SUBUNIT 1)

To Highway 34  
or  
Stevens Camp

To  
Jenio  
Camp  
and  
Highway 34  
R. 22E

ACEC  
Boundaries

