

12-15-98



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

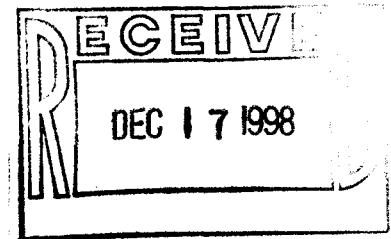
Surprise Field Office
P.O. Box 460
602 Cressler Street
Cedarville, CA 96104
(530)279-6101 - (530)279-2171 FAX

December 15, 1998

In Reply Refer To:
4100 (CA-370) P
GR#042604

CERTIFIED MAIL #P 954 727 109
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Cathy Barcomb
Nevada Commission for the
Preservation of Wild Horses
123 West Nye Land, Suite 248
Carson City, NV 89706-0818



Dear Cathy:

PROPOSED DECISION

BACKGROUND

The grazing permit for Alex Erquiaga for grazing use on the ~~Massacre Lakes Allotment~~, No. #01007 expires on 02/28/99.

The Cowhead/Massacre Final Environmental Impact Statement was issued in 1980. This document established multiple use goals and objectives which provide management guidance for the public lands in the Massacre Lakes Allotment. This document designated the Massacre Lakes Allotment as available for grazing.

43 CFR 4130.2 requires the authorized officer to issue grazing permits or leases to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans.

Grazing use on the Massacre Lakes Allotment was analyzed in Plan Conformance/NEPA Compliance Record No. CA-370-99-05 and found to be in conformance with the applicable land use plan. In addition, a Rangeland Health Assessment was completed on 12/15/98, which indicates all Standards are currently being met in the Massacre Lakes Allotment under the current livestock stocking levels and season of use.

PROPOSED DECISION

Based on all information available to me, it is my decision to renew/issue a permit for Alex Erquiaga to authorize grazing use in the Massacre Lakes Allotment, No. #01007. The permit shall be renewed as follows:

Permittee Name: **Alex Erquiaga**

Allotment Name: **Massacre Lakes**

Livestock Number: **582**

Season-of-Use: **04/16 to 09/30**

Type Use: **Active**

Allotment Number: **#01007**

Class of Livestock: **Cattle**

Percent Public Land: **100%**

Active Preference: **3,214 AUMs**

The term of the grazing permit shall be from **03/01/99 to 02/28/09**, (10 years unless to correspond with the term of the base property lease, or other reason).

The following terms and conditions shall be incorporated in the permit:

1. "The terms and condition of your permit or lease may be modified if additional information indicates that revision is necessary to conform with 43 CFR 4180 (Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines)".

AUTHORITY

The authority for this decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4100.0-8: "The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plans also set forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5(b).

4110.3: "The authorized officer shall periodically review the [specified livestock grazing use] in a grazing permit or grazing lease and shall make changes in the specified livestock grazing use as needed to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity, to assist in restoring ecosystems to properly functioning condition, to conform with land use plans or activity plans, or to comply with the provision of sub part 4180 of this part. These changes must be supported by monitoring, field observations, ecological site inventory or other data acceptable to the authorized officer."

4130.2(a): "Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans..."

4130.3: Livestock grazing permits and leases shall contain terms and conditions determined by the authorized officer to be appropriate to achieve the management and resource condition objectives for the public lands and other lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and to ensure conformance with the provisions of subpart 4180 of this part."

4130.3-1: "The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotment(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. The authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity of the allotment."

4130.3-2: "The authorized officer may specify in grazing permits or leases other terms and conditions which will assist in achieving management objectives, provide for proper range management or assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands..."

PROTEST AND PROCEDURES

In accordance with 43 CFR 4160.2, any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interest may protest this proposed decision under 43 CFR Sec. 4150., in person or in writing to the Authorized Officer at the following address: Susan T. Stokke, Field Manager, Surprise Field Office, 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 accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3(a), "In the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice unless otherwise provided in the proposed decision".

Any person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal and petition for stay of the decision pending final determination of 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, as required by 43 CFR 4.21(b)(1):

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,



Susan T. Stokke
Surprise Field Manager

SURPRISE FIELD OFFICE
Plan Conformance/NEPA Compliance Record for Grazing Permit Renewal

NEPA Control No.: CA-370-99-05

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: #042604

Proposed Action Title/Type: **Grazing Permit Renewal**
Location of Proposed Action: **Massacre Lakes Allotment # 01007**
Description of Proposed Action: **Reissue Grazing Permit to Alex Erquiaga on the Massacre Lakes Allotment #01007, Category I Allotment. This permit/lease will be renewed for a period of 10 years (1999 - 2009).**
Applicant (if any): **Alex Erquiaga**



Remarks: **On February 28, 1999, Alex Erquiaga Grazing Permit for the Massacre Lakes Allotment #01007 will expire.**

PART I: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

The Proposed Action is subject to the:

- | | Tuledad/Home Camp Management Framework Plan
- | X | Cowhead/Massacre Management Framework Plan
- | X | Massacre Lakes Herd Management Area Plan
- | X | North Massacre Lake Basin Cultural Resources Management Plan

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with the checked plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

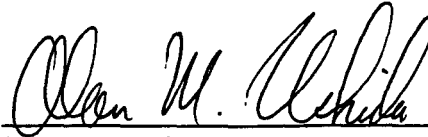
| | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|
|  | <u>12/14/98</u> |  | <u>12/14/98</u> |
| Surname(s) of Reviewer(s) | Date | Surname(s) of Reviewer(s) | Date |

Remarks: **No significant changes from the existing situation would occur. Livestock grazing would continue to be managed as prescribed in the Cowhead/Massacre MFP EIS/Record of Decision.**

PART II NEPA REVIEW


- A. Existing EA/EIS Review. This proposed action is addressed in the following existing BLM EA/EIS: **Cowhead/Massacre Grazing EIS** Date: **1980**

- B. Rangeland Health Assessment. A Rangeland Health Determination has been completed for the **Massacre Lakes Allotment #01007**, and the allotment meets all standards. (See **Attachment - 2**)

| | |
|--|-----------------|
|  | <u>12/14/98</u> |
| Surname(s) of Reviewer(s) | Date |

This EA/EIS has been reviewed against the following criteria to determine if it covers the proposed actions:


1. The proposed action is a feature of, or essentially the same as, the alternative selected and analyzed in the existing document.
2. A reasonable range of alternatives was analyzed in the existing document.
3. There has been no significant change in circumstances or significant new information germane to the proposed action.
4. The methodology/analytical approach previously used is appropriate for the proposed action.
5. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are not significantly different than those identified in the existing document.
6. The proposed action would not change the previous analysis of cumulative impacts.
7. Public involvement in the previous analysis provides appropriate coverage for the proposed action.
8. The season of use, livestock numbers, class of livestock, grazing system are appropriate to provide for a balance of competing resources uses.


Surname(s) of Reviewer(s) 12/14/98
Date:


Remarks: **Response to each of the above criteria is in Attachment - 1**

PART III DECISION

It is my decision to issue a ten year grazing permit to Alex Erquiaga for use in the Massacre Lakes Allotment #01007. I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed grazing permit is in conformance with the land use. I have also determined that the issuance of the permit has been adequately assessed in the referenced NEPA document and that no further environmental analysis is required.


Environmental Coordinator:

12/14/98
Date:


Authorized Official:

12/15/98
Date:

**ATTACHMENT - 1
PLAN CONFORMANCE/NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD**

Information in this review is based on the review outlined in the attached Form from BLM Manual Release 1-1547 dated 10/25/88.

Part 1: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

| <u>Allotment</u> | <u>Application</u> | <u>Land Use Plan</u> |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| Massacre Lakes #01007 | 582 Cattle 04/16 to 09/30 @100% P.L. 3,214 Active AUMs | (See Below) |

In 1996, a Decision was made to amend three decisions in the Cowhead/Massacre Management Framework Plan changing the class of livestock from domestic sheep and cattle to cattle in the Massacre Mountain allotment and indirectly favoring the reintroduction of bighorn sheep in the High Rock area. The amendment is anticipated to be placed into effect on or about March 10, 1996.

Specifically, the following changes would be made. (Listed Below is the changes that pertains to this Plan Conformance Review).

Modify MN 003 from:

“Allocate forage among both consumptive and non-consumptive resources, as shown in Table B (reproduced below):

| | | |
|---|---------------|-------------|
| Consumptive Uses | | |
| Deer | | 1,350 AUMs |
| Antelope | | 770 AUMs |
| Livestock | | 24,850 AUMs |
| Sheep | | |
| | 05/01 - 06/30 | |
| | 11/08 - 11/30 | |
| Cattle | | |
| | 04/15 - 10/15 | |
| Wild Horses | | 1,200 AUMs |
| Sub-Total | | 28,170 AUMs |
| Non Consumptive Uses | | 22,597 AUMs |
| (Watershed Cover, Wildlife Habitat, Soil Stabilization) | | |

Total: 50,767 AUMs

“As additional forage becomes available as determined by monitoring, increased allocations will be made to wildlife, wild horses, and livestock based on needs, response to management, policy, ect.”

To read:

“Provide forage for both consumptive and non-consumptive resources, including mule deer, pronghorn antelope, wild horses, cattle, and bighorn sheep in those portions of the Massacre Mountain Allotment that are adjacent to High Rock Canyon. As additional forage becomes available as determined by monitoring, increased allocations will be made to wildlife, wild horses, and cattle based on needs, response to management , policy, ect.”

PART 2: NEPA REVIEW

B. Existing EA/EIS Review

1. **Yes. Proposed stocking levels, season-of-use, kind of livestock are all in conformance with the Record of Decision (ROD) for the 1980 Cowhead/Massacre Grazing EIS and the Cowhead/Massacre MFP Amendment Decision of 1996.**
2. **Yes. A reasonable range of alternatives was analyzed in the Cowhead/Massacre Grazing EIS. Alternatives include: 1) No Action (Continue Present Management), 2) Eliminate Livestock Grazing, 3) Proposed Action with Economic Adjustments, 4) Livestock Operator Management Plan, 5) Extensive Cultural Treatments, 6) Grazing Systems, 7) Alternative Method for Determining Stocking Levels, 8) Optimized Non-Consumptive Uses.**
3. **Yes. There has been no significant changes in circumstances or significant new information germane to the proposed action.**
4. **Yes. The methodology and analytical approach used in the Cowhead/Massacre Grazing EIS is appropriate. A proposed action and alternatives were developed, the affected environment was described and the environmental consequences of each alternative was analyzed.**
5. **Yes. The application is for the same use analyzed in the Cowhead/Massacre Grazing EIS.**
6. **The application does not introduce any new issues or actions not analyzed in the Cowhead/Massacre Grazing EIS.**
7. **Yes. There is no new action proposed, and the Cowhead/Massacre Grazing EIS was completed using appropriate public involvement. The draft EIS was sent for review to 9 Federal Agencies, 7 State Agencies in California, 5 State Agencies in Nevada, 7 Local Agencies in California, 5 Local Agencies in Nevada, all grazing permittees, and 22 Other Organizations. Copies were made available at other public locations, several open house meetings were held and the public was notified of availability of the EIS through the media.**
8. **The season of use, livestock numbers, class of livestock and grazing system are appropriate to provide for a balance of resource uses that occur within the Massacre Lakes Allotment. In 1993, the Massacre Bench Spring Exlosures were constructed at Biebe, Post and Indian Springs and associated riparian and cultural areas protecting them from competing resource uses.**

**BLM - SURPRISE FIELD OFFICE
Massacre Lakes Allotment #01007**

**DOCUMENTATION FORM FOR DETERMINATIONS:
ACHIEVEMENT OF FALLBACK RANGELAND HEALTH STANDARDS,
CONTRIBUTING FACTORS AND APPROPRIATE ACTION PRIORITIES**

■■■■■■■■■■

THIS FORM DOCUMENTS, FOR THE INDICATED AREA: (1) DETERMINATIONS AND SUPPORTING RATIONALE REGARDING IF FUNDAMENTAL RANGELAND HEALTH CONDITIONS CITED IN 43 CFR 4180.1 EXIST IN THESE AREAS; (2) DETERMINATIONS, IN CASES WHERE ONE OR MORE CONDITIONS OF FUNDAMENTAL RANGELAND HEALTH DO NOT EXIST, REGARDING THE STANDARD(S) THAT IS (ARE) NOT ACHIEVED; (3) DETERMINATIONS, IN THOSE CASES WHERE ONE OR MORE STANDARDS ARE NOT ACHIEVED, REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTING FACTOR(S) THAT IS (ARE) PREVENTING STANDARD(S) ACHIEVEMENT OR IS (ARE) PREVENTING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS ITS (THEIR) ACHIEVEMENT; AND, (4) THE INFORMATION THAT WAS EXAMINED THAT SUPPORT THESE DETERMINATIONS.

■■■■■■■■■■

Indicate the date(s) or period the information review occurred: 1994 - 1998 Grazing Season

PART I - IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT AREA

A. Indicate area where these determinations and rationale apply:

1. **Site:**
Allotment name/no.:
Place name:
Legal location (if needed to ID site):
Approximate size in acres:
2. **Management Unit: Massacre Lakes Allotment**
Approximate size in acres: Total - 40,800 acres, BLM - 38,949 acres, Private - 1,471 acres,
State - 300 acres, Washoe County - 80 acres.
3. **Landscape:**
4. **Other Stratification:**

PART II - IDENTIFICATION OF INFORMATION REVIEWED

The following information (e.g. monitoring, literature, personal communication, etc.) was considered to determine standards attainment and, if applicable, contributing factor(s) to their non-achievement and failure to make significant progress towards their achievement. (if more room is needed to document the type of information reviewed, label and attach sheets as needed)

A. Information relevant to the Fallback SOILS HEALTH STANDARD:

FALLBACK (43 CFR 4180.2(f)(1)(i)):

Upland soils exhibit infiltration and permeability rates that are appropriate to soil type, climate and landform.

Indicator(s) Observed

Information Reference (i.e. identify the information source used by type and date)

Utilization

The grazing system provides rest for 2 pastures in one year and 3 the next. Under this grazing system, utilization over the past 5 years were observed as light to moderate on the majority of the native rangeland use pastures. Utilization in the turnout seedings averages moderate/heavy as each seeding is rested every other year. Areas near water sources received moderate/heavy use but was restricted to 1/2 - 1 mile radius of the sources. The Massacre Bench Spring Enclosures were constructed in 1993, protecting Biebe, Post and Indian Springs and associated riparian areas (12 acres) and approximately 1,170 acres of rangelands. During the 5 year assessment period, non-use for the allotment ranged from 26% to 57 % with an average of 38.4% non-use. This grazing system has resulted in more residual forage being left on the native range and one seeding after the grazing season.

Condition

Professional judgement concludes the Massacre Lakes Allotment native range is in an upward trend. The 2 seedings are in a slightly downward trend for crested wheatgrass seeding, because of the amount of sagebrush increasing both in density and vigor.

Comments / Remarks: Answers to the following were based on professional judgement along with 10 years of management and observations on the Massacre Lakes Allotment.

Criteria

1. IS ground cover (vegetation, litter, and other types of ground cover, such as rock fragments) sufficient to protect sites from accelerated erosion? **Yes, The grazing system allows 2 out of 5 pastures receive total livestock rest on one year and on the second year 3 out of the 5 pastures receive total livestock rest. Thus, providing plenty of residual forage on the rest pastures.**
2. IS evidence of wind and water erosion, such as rills and gullies, pedestalling, scour, or sheet erosion, and deposition of dunes either absent or, if present, does not exceed what is natural for the site? **Yes**
3. IS vegetation vigorous and diverse in species composition and age class, and does it reflect the PNC or DPC for the site? **Yes, the native rangelands contains vigorous and diverse species but does not reflect PNC. The allotment is in a upward trend on the native species .**

B. Information relevant to the Fallback STREAM HEALTH STANDARDS:

FALLBACK (43 CFR 4180.2(f)(1)(iii):

Stream channel morphology (including but not limited to gradient, width/depth ratio, channel roughness and sinuosity) and functions are appropriate for the climate and landform.

Comments / Remarks:

This standard is not applicable to the Massacre Lakes Allotment. The surface water in the allotment is associated with shallow alkali Lakebeds, ephemeral drainage systems and spring/seeps that are classified as lotic systems and stringer meadows.

C. Information relevant to the Fallback RIPARIAN AND WETLAND SITES STANDARD:

FALLBACK (43 CFR 4180.2(f)(1)(ii) and SUSANVILLE RAC (Standard 4):

Riparian and Wetland areas are in properly functioning condition.

Comments / Remarks: Answers to the following were based on professional judgement along with 10 years of management and observations on the Massacre Lakes Allotment.

Criteria

1. IS riparian vegetation sufficiently vigorous, mostly perennial, and sufficiently diverse in species composition, age class and life form to stabilize stream banks and shorelines? **Yes, on shorelines of shallow alkali lakes. N/A on stream banks as drainage are ephemeral and the stringer meadows are more of a lotic system.**
2. IS riparian vegetation and large woody debris well anchored and capable of withstanding high streamflow events? **N/A**
3. IS accelerated erosion (as a result of human related activities) evident? **No, not since the 3 spring exclosures were developed. Wild horses are still having an impact on Sagehen springs.**

4. ARE age class and structure of woody riparian and wetland vegetation appropriate for the site? **N/A, The riparian areas are herbaceous wetland vegetation on lotic sites with very little potential for woody vegetation.**

D. Information relevant to the Fallback BIODIVERSITY STANDARDS:

FALLBACK (43 CFR 4180.2(f)(1)(iv)):

Healthy, productive and diverse populations of native species exist and are maintained.

Indicator(s) Observed

Information Reference (i.e. identify the information source used by type and date)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community diversity | NRCS North Washoe Soil Survey tables, 1997. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> community structure (layers) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exotic plants (or invaders) | BLM, Nevada Division of Agriculture Noxious Weed Inventory and Eradication Program 1997-1998. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant vigor (production, mortality, decadence) | Field Observations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> diversity of age classes | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recruitment | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wildlife life forms present (obligate) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> special status species | BLM inventories since 1970's. |

Comments / Remarks:

Criteria

1. DO wildlife habitats include seral stages, vegetation structure, and patch size to promote diverse and viable wildlife populations? **Yes, the complex mix of landscape and soils combined with the 20 year old grazing system and a series of protective enclosure promote a diverse mix of habitats supporting a typical Great Basin species mix.**
2. ARE a variety of age classes present for most species? **Unknown, no recent studies have been collected which would answer this question over the entire allotment. It is anticipated that the number of age classes varies by species, with the majority of brush species being in older age classes. A recent prescribed burn near Johnson Reservoir is one of a few areas where attempts have been made to change the age class and species composition within the allotment.**
3. IS vigor adequate to maintain desirable levels of plant and animal species to ensure reproduction and recruitment of plants and animals when favorable events occur? **Yes, the grazing system which includes deferment and rest, provides for vigor in the plant species. However, many of the sites are fully occupied by plants, reducing the opportunities for recruitment of new plants.**
4. DOES the distribution of plant species and their habitats allow for reproduction and recovery from localized catastrophic events? **Yes, the range of landscape and soils within the allotment limit the size of potential catastrophic events and provide protected sites for seed production.**
5. ARE natural disturbances, such as fire, evident, but not catastrophic? **Partly, single tree juniper fires are a common occurrence on the northern portion of the allotment, on the remainder of the allotment, seeding fields dominant and do not have the density of brush needed to carry a fire.**

6. ARE non-native plant and animal species present at acceptable levels? **Yes, three pastures were seeded with introduced perennial grasses in the 1960s. These seedings have a high amount of native big sagebrush returning in the pastures. The introduced species have not spread. There are no known infestations of noxious weeds.**

7. ARE habitat areas sufficient to support diverse, viable, and desired populations, AND are they adequately connected with other similar habitat areas? **Yes, see #1 above.**

8. IS adequate organic matter (litter and standing dead plant material) present for site protection and decomposition to replenish soil nutrients and maintain soil health? **Yes, the grazing system provides for adequate residual vegetation to supply the soil with organic matter.**

PART III - SUMMARY OF STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT DETERMINATION AND RATIONALE

A. DETERMINATION ON STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT

As of the date of the completion of this form, an examination of the information listed in Part II and recent field visits, if applicable, indicate the following with regard to standards achievement for the area identified in Part I:

| <u>Standard</u> | <u>Determination on Standard Achievement</u> (check appropriate box for each standard) |
|------------------|--|
| Soils Health | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met / <input type="checkbox"/> Not met but progressing towards / <input type="checkbox"/> Not met and not progressing towards / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Stream Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Met / <input type="checkbox"/> Not met but progressing towards / <input type="checkbox"/> Not met and not progressing towards / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Riparian/Wetland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met / <input type="checkbox"/> Not met but progressing towards / <input type="checkbox"/> Not met and not progressing towards / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| Biodiversity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Met / <input type="checkbox"/> Not met but progressing towards / <input type="checkbox"/> Not met and not progressing towards / <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

B. RATIONALE SUPPORTING STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT DETERMINATION (if additional room is needed, attach and label additional sheets):

Professional judgement along with 10 years of management and observations on the Massacre Lakes Allotment was used in the determination on the above "Standards Achievement". Since 1993, when the Massacre Bench Spring Enclosures (Biebe, Indian and Post) were constructed, the riparian areas have had very little impacts from livestock and wild horses. Because of the pasture rotations, the West Seeding and Juniper Pasture and the East Seeding, Lake and Sand Springs pastures now receives alternate years rest.

PART IV - FOR THOSE STANDARDS NOT ACHIEVED, SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTING FACTOR(S) DETERMINATION AND SUPPORTING RATIONALE

A. DETERMINATION ON CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

As of the date of the completion of this form, an examination of the information listed in Part II and recent field visits, if applicable, indicate that the following are contributing factors for failing to achieve the standards as indicated in Part III for the area identified in Part I:

Non-achieved Standard (s) (from Part III): **None**

PART V - BLM STAFF WHO REVIEWED THE INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDED PRIORITY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROPRIATE ACTION TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE STANDARD(S)

The following staff have participating in examining the information listed in Part II and in making the standard(s) achievement and contributing factor determination(s).

Roger Farschon, Ecologist
Alan Uchida, Watershed Specialist
Rob Jeffers, Sup. Natural Resource Specialist/Wild Horse Specialist

SIGNATURES

TITLES

Roger Fausch

Ecologist

Dan M. Uchida

Watershed Specialist

Robinson D. Jeff

Sup. Natural Resource Specialist/ Wild Horse Specialist

PART VI - DOCUMENTATION OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF PERMITTEES, STATE AGENCIES AND THE INTERESTED PUBLIC IN MAKING STANDARDS CONFORMANCE DETERMINATION AND CONTRIBUTING FACTORS DETERMINATION

Indicate the occurrence of public participation (e.g. permittee, interested public, other Federal or State /local agency), or opportunities for public participation that pertains to the review of standards achievement and contributing factors (who, when, and conversation or meeting summary): **This documentation form was completed by BLM staff because we are only renewing the 10 year grazing permits for the allotment. No management changes or concerns have surfaced during the review period and we are still operating under existing AMP and MFP.**

PART VII - AUTHORIZED OFFICER'S DETERMINATION AND PRIORITY FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

I have reviewed and concur with the determinations and supporting rationale regarding the achievement or lack thereof of rangeland health standards documented herein and, in the cases where standards are not achieved, the determination and rationale regarding the contributing factor(s) for failure to achieve the standards. I have determined that the priority for developing and implementing appropriate action to achieve significant progress to achieve standards for the area identified in Part I is (check one)

high medium low .

Staff is directed to develop appropriate action for my consideration and implementation in accordance with this priority.

Susan J. Stalle

SURPRISE FIELD MANAGER

12/14/98

DATE

COMMENTS:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

GRAZING PERMIT

STATE CA
OFFICE 370
OPERATOR NUMBER 042604
PREFERENCE CODE 03
DATE PRINTED 12/15/98
TERM 03/01/1999 TO 02/28/2009

ERQUIAGA, ALEX

STAR ROUTE
CEDARVILLE, CA 96104

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SURPRISE R.A.
BOX 460
CEDARVILLE, CA 96104

THIS GRAZING PERMIT IS OFFERED TO YOU BASED ON YOUR RECOGNIZED GRAZING PREFERENCE ON THE PUBLIC LANDS AND/OR OTHER LANDS ADMINISTERED BY THE BLM. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE GRAZING USE TO THE EXTENT OF YOUR ACTIVE GRAZING PREFERENCE AS SHOWN BELOW UPON YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS INCORPORATED HEREIN AND YOUR PAYMENT OF GRAZING FEES.

| LOT ----- PASTURE | LIVESTOCK | | GRAZING PERIOD | | TYPE | | AUM"S ----- |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|-------|------|--------|----------------|
| | NUMBER | KIND | BEGIN | END | %PL | USE | |
| 007 MASSACRE LAKES | 582 | CATTLE | 04/16 | 09/30 | 100 | ACTIVE | 3215 |

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

ALLOTMENTS WILL BE LICENSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MASSACRE LAKES ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN. ACTUAL USE WILL BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE LICENSED TAKE OFF DATE. YOUR ACTUAL USE REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN 10-15. ANY INCREASES OR EXTENSIONS IN GRAZING USE MUST RECEIVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE AUTHORIZED OFFICER. THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF YOUR PERMIT MAY BE MODIFIED IF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INDICATES THAT REVISION IS NECESSARY TO CONFORM WITH 43 CFR 4180.

OPERATOR NUMBER: 042604

ALLOTMENT SUMMARY (AUM'S)

| ALLOT ----- | P R E F E R E N C E | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | ACTIVE ----- | SUSP ----- | TOTAL ----- |
| 01007 MASSACRE LAKES | 3214 | 803 | 4017 |

THIS PERMIT ; 1. CONVEYS NO RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST HELD BY THE UNITED STATES IN ANY LANDS OR RESOURCES AND 2. IS SUBJECT TO (A) MODIFICATION, SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION AS REQUIRED BY LAND PLANS AND APPLICABLE LAW; (B) ANNUAL REVIEW AND TO MODIFICATION OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS APPROPRIATE; AND (C) THE TAYLOR RAZING ACT, AS AMENDED, THE FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT, AS AMENDED, THE PUBLIC RANGELANDS IMPROVEMENT ACT, AND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS NOW OR HEREAFTER PROMULGATED THEREUNDER BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

ACCEPTED:

SIGNATURE OF PERMITTEE: _____ DATE _____

AREA MANAGER: _____ DATE _____

February 5, 1999

Ms. Susan Stokke
BLM-Surprise Field Office
PO Box 460
Cedarville, CA 96104-0460

RE: 10 Year Permit 7Z Ranch

Dear Susan,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the long term 10 year permit authorization for the Massacre Lakes Allotment. We are confused whether an appropriate management level has been established for the affected wild horse herd.

Issue of this permit should require an environmental assessment that establishes a carrying capacity and allocation of forage to livestock, wildlife, and wild horses.

We encourage the District to balance the uses of this allotment within the capacity of natural resources important to all users. New regulations and NEPA require environmental review for livestock authorizations on allotments in absence of an appropriate resource activity plan.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE BARCOMB
Administrator