

1985

WALL CANYON
HERD MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN

Surprise Resource Area
Susanville District
1985

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Location

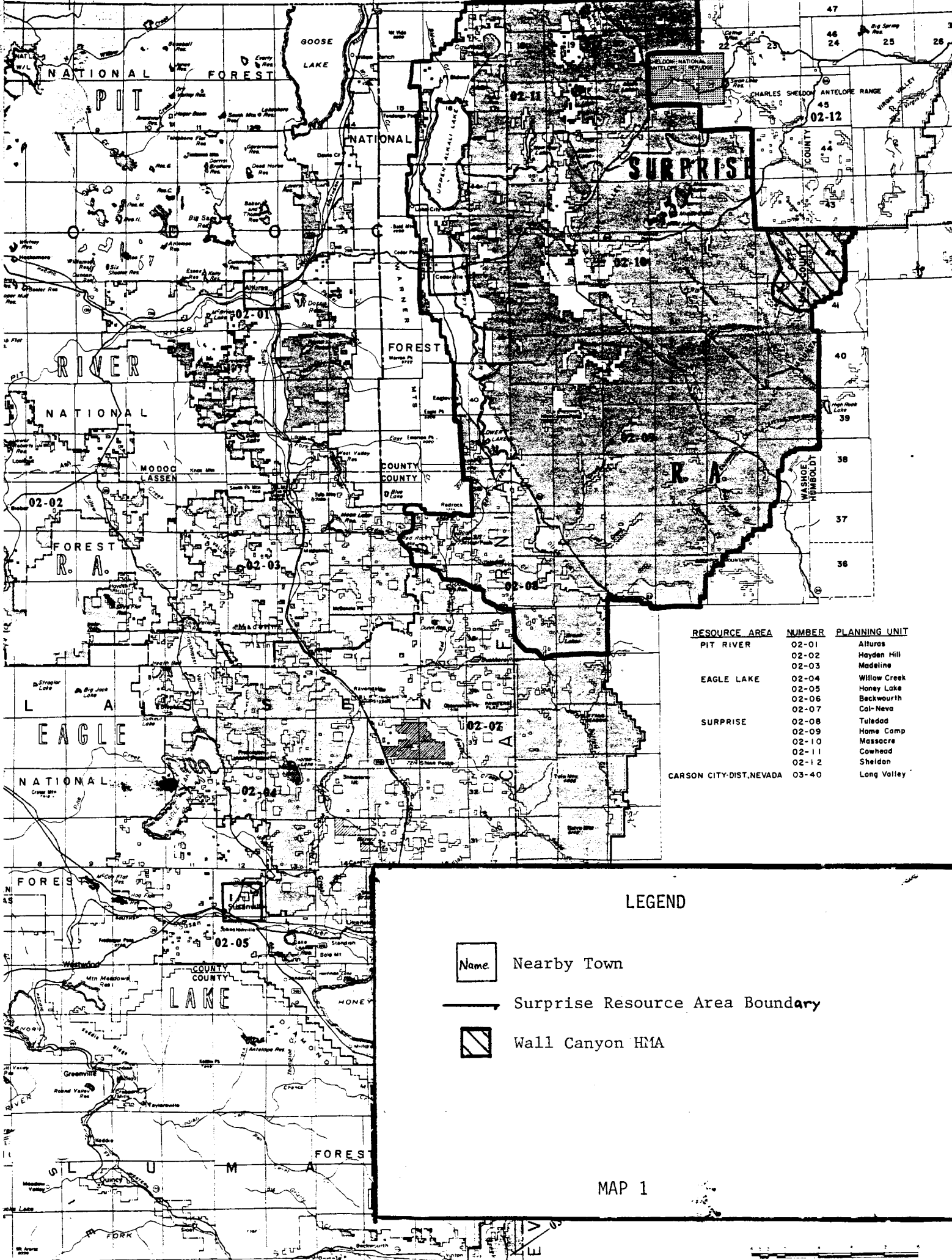
The Wall Canyon Herd Management Area (HMA) is located approximately 46 miles east of Cedarville, CA in Washoe and Humboldt Counties, Nevada (see Map #1). The HMA boundary and the Wall Canyon Allotment boundary are the same. The area consists of 49,277 acres of which 47,877 acres are BLM and 1,400 acres are private.

The Wall Canyon HMA is bordered to the north by the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), to the east by the Winnemucca District's, Soldier Meadows Allotment, to the west by the Nut Mountain HMA and to the south by the High Rock HMA. The entire area is surrounded by fence. The only interior fences are those around private lands (see Map #2).

B. Wild Horse Use History

The original High Rock HMA encompassed the now Wall Canyon HMA, High Rock and Nut Mountain HMA. All three are separated from one another by allotment boundary fences (Map #3). These fences separate the herds in such a way that individual Herd Management Areas were determined necessary.

The Susanville District Wild Horse and Burro Plan provides a general history of wild horses in the Susanville District. Appendix A provides a brief summary of past and present wild horse numbers in the Wall Canyon HMA.



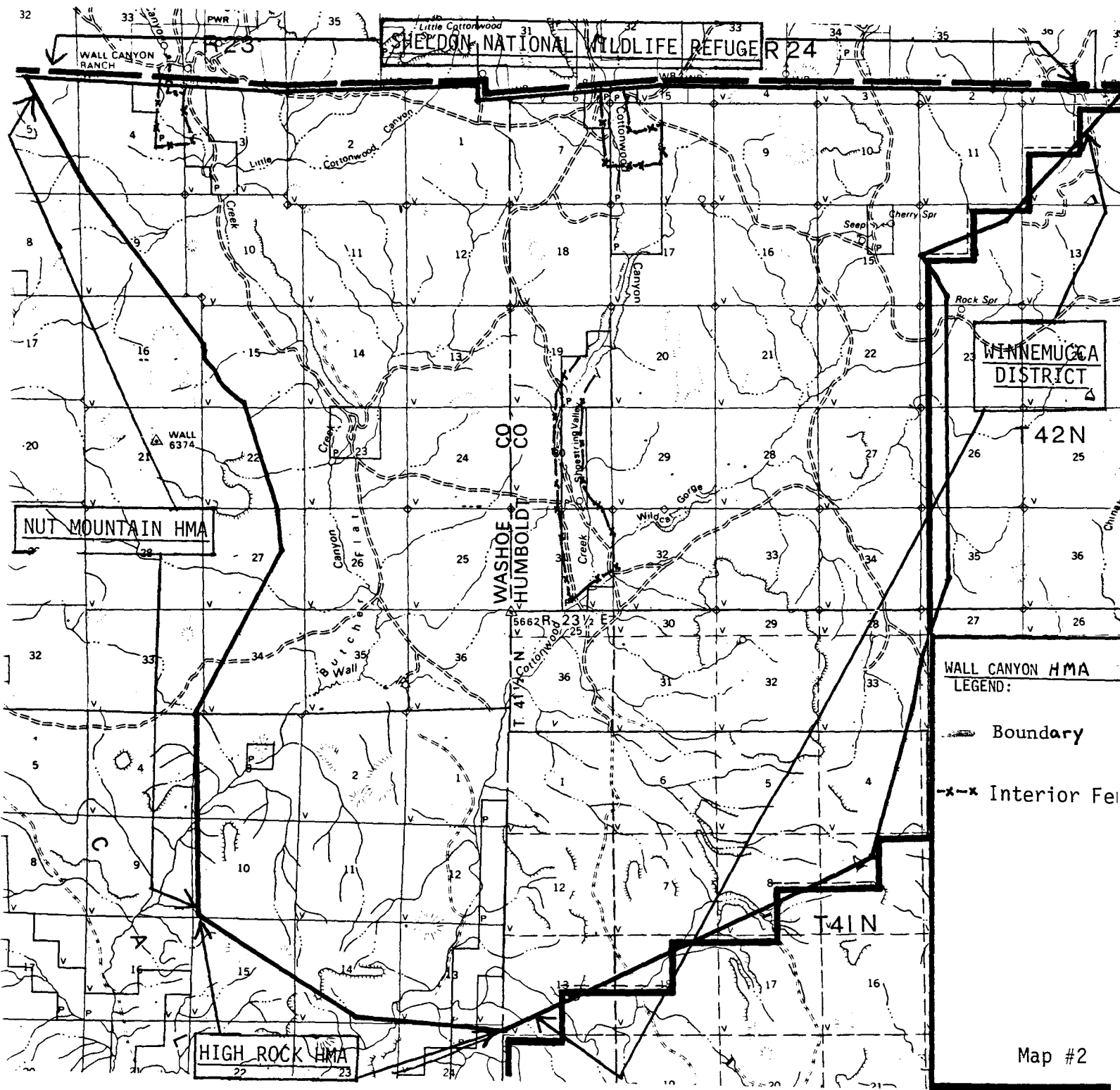
RESOURCE AREA	NUMBER	PLANNING UNIT
PIT RIVER	02-01	Alturas
	02-02	Hayden Hill
	02-03	Madeline
EAGLE LAKE	02-04	Willow Creek
	02-05	Honey Lake
	02-06	Backworth
SURPRISE	02-07	Col-Neva
	02-08	Tuleda
	02-09	Home Camp
CARSON CITY-DIST.NEVADA	02-10	Massacre
	02-11	Cowhead
	02-12	Sheldon
	03-40	Long Valley

LEGEND

- Name Nearby Town
- Surprise Resource Area Boundary
- Wall Canyon HMA

MAP 1

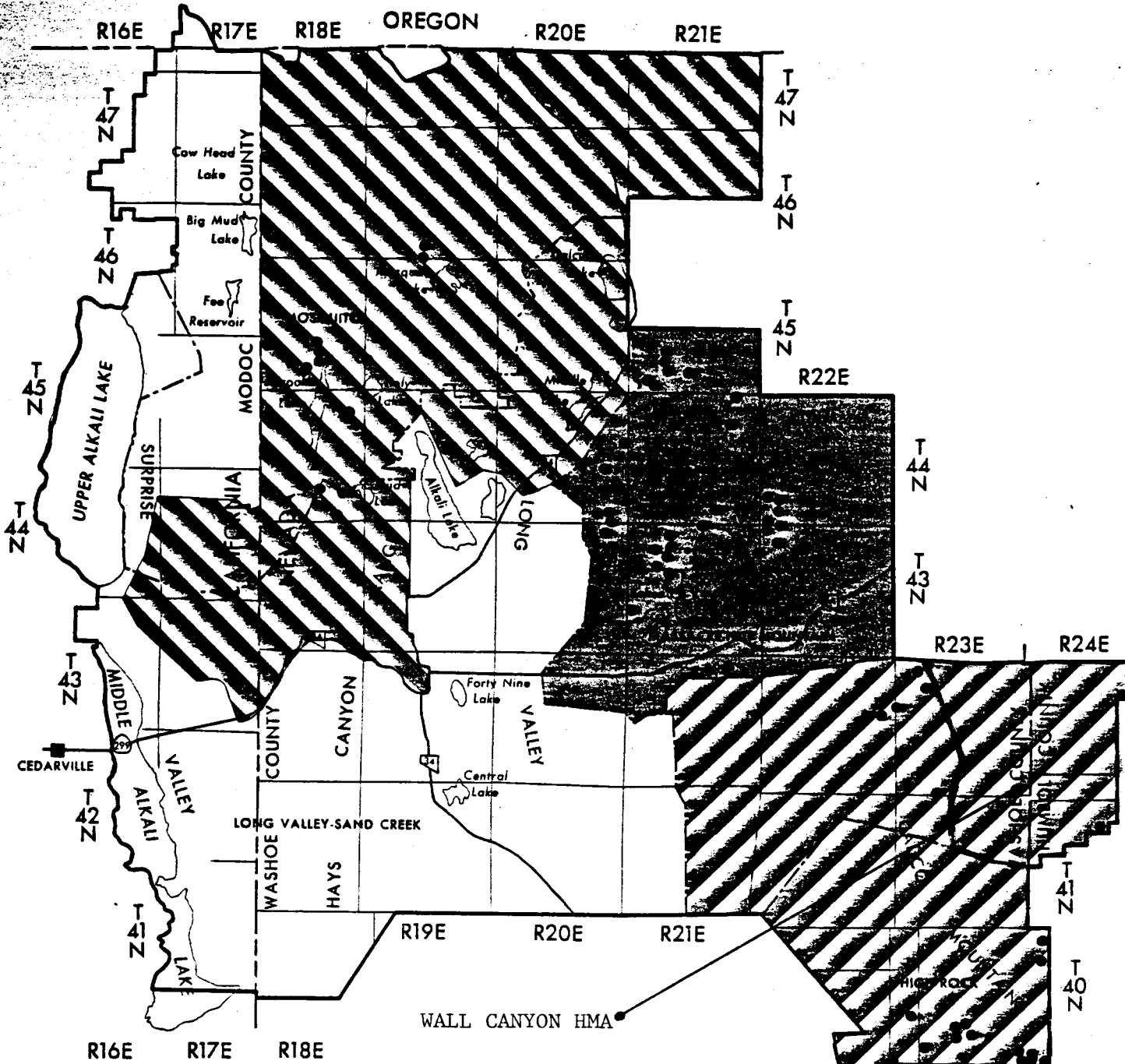
WALL CANYON HERD MANAGEMENT AREA









**WALL CANYON HMA
LEGEND:**

— Boundary

-x-x- Interior Fence



LEGEND

-  Study Area Boundary
-  Sub Unit Boundaries
- Herd Management Areas**
-  New Years Lake
-  Massacre Lakes
-  High Rock
-  Band Locations
September 1977

COWHEAD/MASSACRE
STUDY AREA
GRAZING ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY
WILD HORSES

II. RESOURCE INFORMATION

A. Land Use Plan

The Cowhead/Massacre Grazing Environmental Impact Statement was completed in 1980. Land use decisions were formed from this ES and documented in the Cowhead/Massacre Management Framework Plan (MFP) in 1981. The MFP established a minimum of 15 wild horses and maximum of 25 wild horses for the Wall Canyon HMA.

Due to the small size of this herd any decreases in AUMs as a result of vegetative trend would be absorbed by the livestock operators. Any subsequent increases would be given to livestock operators up to their total preference. Any increases over total preference would be shared proportionately by livestock and wild horses.

B. Wild Horses

As the boundary description indicates the Wall Canyon HMA borders two (2) HMA's within the Surprise Resource Area and one (1) in the Winnemucca District. The Badger Mountain area of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge does not have a Herd Management Area. It is suspected that there is some interaction of wild horses occurring between adjacent Herd Management Areas and Wall Canyon HMA. The degree of interaction has yet to be determined.

Wild horses in Wall Canyon HMA tend to make the majority of their use on the eastern half of the HMA. This is due in part to the Cottonwood drainage which acts as a natural barrier (see Map #4). In addition, areas which tend to suit horses better vegetatively are found on the eastern half of the HMA.

Most of the horse use is made on the low sage tablelands and ridge tops. This use is made during both the summer and the winter. The identification of summer and winter range has not been done in this area. Presently there seems to be a significant amount of overlap between the two.

C. Other Resources

The Wall Canyon Allotment is part of a Coordinated Grazing Management Plan with the Sheldon NWR. Under this Plan the Wall Canyon Allotment functions as a pasture in a larger rotation grazing system on the Sheldon.

The entire area provides habitat for typical Great Basin wildlife species. In particular, this area has high concentration of deer and antelope during parts of the winter and early spring.

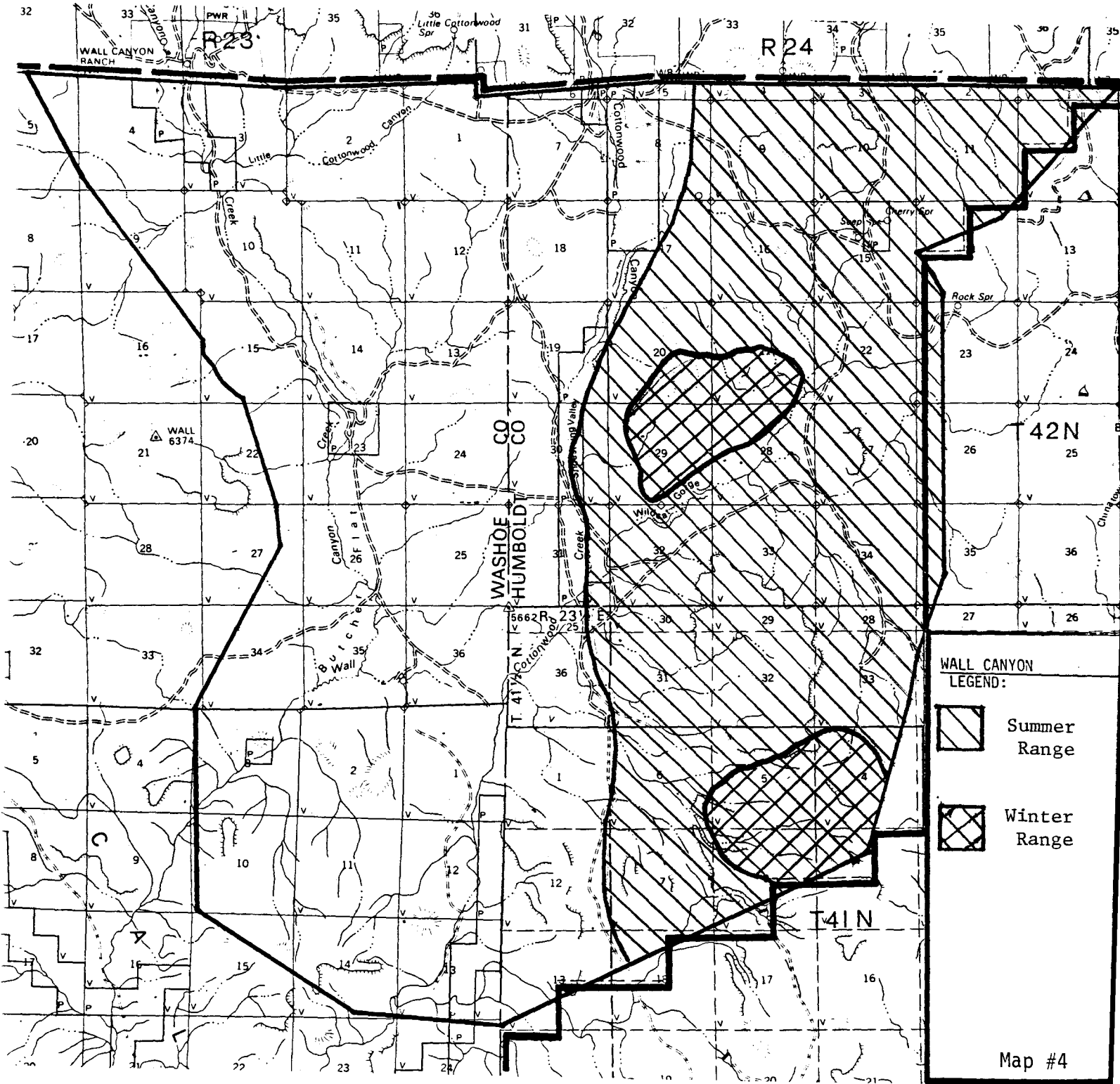
In addition, the Wall Canyon area is part of the High Rock watershed area. Much of the Wall Canyon area is in a poor to fair vegetative condition with respect to ground cover. This in turn leads to higher degrees of runoff and erosion.

The southwestern part of the Wall Canyon HMA is part of a Wilderness Study Area. This area is presently being evaluated under an Environmental Impact Statement to determine its suitability for wilderness.



The proper management of the vegetative base in the Wall Canyon Area will be key to the improvement of the entire resource. Healthy and productive ecological sites provide both erosion control and forage. The effects of wild horses and wild horse numbers will be monitored, recorded and integrated with monitoring data for livestock, watershed and wildlife.

Appendix B provides additional resource information from the Wall Canyon Technical Review Team Report.

WALL CANYON HERD MANAGEMENT AREA



WALL CANYON
LEGEND:

-  Summer Range
-  Winter Range

Map #4

III. OBJECTIVES

- A 1. Maintain a healthy and viable wild, free-roaming horse herd in the Wall Canyon HMAP.
- Method: Control herd numbers and implement the Wall Canyon AMP so as to maintain the vegetative base in a healthy and stable condition.
- Monitor: Herd reproduction levels will be used as an indicator of health and viability. A rate of increase at or below 10% will be an indicator of low herd health and viability. In addition, vegetative trend will be monitored to evaluate vegetative condition.
- B 2. Maintain a minimum of 15 head and maximum of 25 head of wild horses.
- Method: Periodic removal of horses through accepted gathering methods.
- Monitor: Inventory of the herd will be made to determine herd size when needed.
- C 3. Assess the amount of interchange between the Wall Canyon HMAP wild horses and the surrounding HMAPs in the Surprise Resource Area and the Winnemucca District.
- Method: Visual observations, photographs of horses from each gathering and known reproductive rates for the Wall Canyon Herd.
- Monitor: The herd will be inventoried during each gather.
- D 4. Strive to achieve 100% adoptability of all horses that are excessed from the herd through the regular adoption program.
- Method: See discussion under "Management Methods".
- Select base herd (breeding herd) with apparent ability to produce highly adoptable off-springs in the regular adoption program based on selection criteria (see Management Methods)^{1/}.
- Replace death loss in herd with selected young horses that have the apparent ability to produce highly adoptable off-springs in the regular adoption program.
- Excess horses that are only four years of age and younger.
- Monitor: Number of horses that are adopted within one year in the regular adoption program. This will be determined from data collected from the Bureau's Wild Horse and Burro Data Information System.

E. 5. Prevent inbreeding problems from occurring in the Wall Canyon HMAP.

Method: Off-springs will be observed at each gather to determine if inbreeding problems are occurring. If this occurs, wild horses^{2/} from unrelated horse herds will be introduced into this herd.

Monitor: At each gather, all off-springs will be observed for apparent inbreeding problems. Herd viability also will be used as an indicator.

1/ The initial base herd for Wall Canyon HMAP was established in the fall of 1988.

2/ There was no indication from the 1988 fall gathering that inbreeding problems were occurring in the herd. Inbreeding is not expected to be a problem in this herd in the future.

IV. MANAGEMENT METHODS

A. Removal

Wild horses will be gathered when adult horse numbers reach or exceed 25 head. The herd will be reduced to the minimum management level of 15 horses, including foals selected for retention.

The Wall Canyon HMAP was gathered and structured in the fall of 1988.

Future gathering and removal will be at a level to enable the manager to replace base herd animals, that have died, with quality animals four years of age and young.

The proper number to gather and remove will be at the discretion of the manager and crew.

The population will be replaced to the minimum planned number at each gather.

The maintenance of horses at this stocking rate level will assist in maintaining the vegetative sites in a healthy condition.

Wild horses will be gathered during the summer or the fall once foals are old enough to keep up with the herd. Trap site locations can be seen on the Trap Site Map (see Map #5).

B. Selection

Selection will be done at the time of gathering.

C. Criteria

1. Quality

Quality will be based on the commonly accepted conformation standards for a light horse type, without regard to a particular breed.

2. Color

All colors will be acceptable in this herd. Dark or black hooves will be preferred over light or white hooves. Some horses will be selected with dark dorsal stripe for return into the herd.

3. Height

A fifteen hand or taller horse is preferred.

4. Integrity

A high degree of integrity will be maintained for this herd. Integrity are those characteristics that all individuals in a herd have in common

and are unique to that herd. The exception will be when inbreeding problems occur. Then horses from unrelated herds will be introduced.

Selection criteria will be applied in order to quality, color and size.

It is assumed, the use of specific conformation, color, and size selection criteria will allow for the development of a more adoptable horse.

D. Sex Ratio

The commonly accepted natural sex ratio of 50% male and 50% female will be managed for in the Wall Canyon HMAP herd. When gathering an equal number of males and females will be removed from the herd.

In a herd of this size a 50/50 sex ratio should reduce potential inbreeding problems in this herd.

E. Age Structure

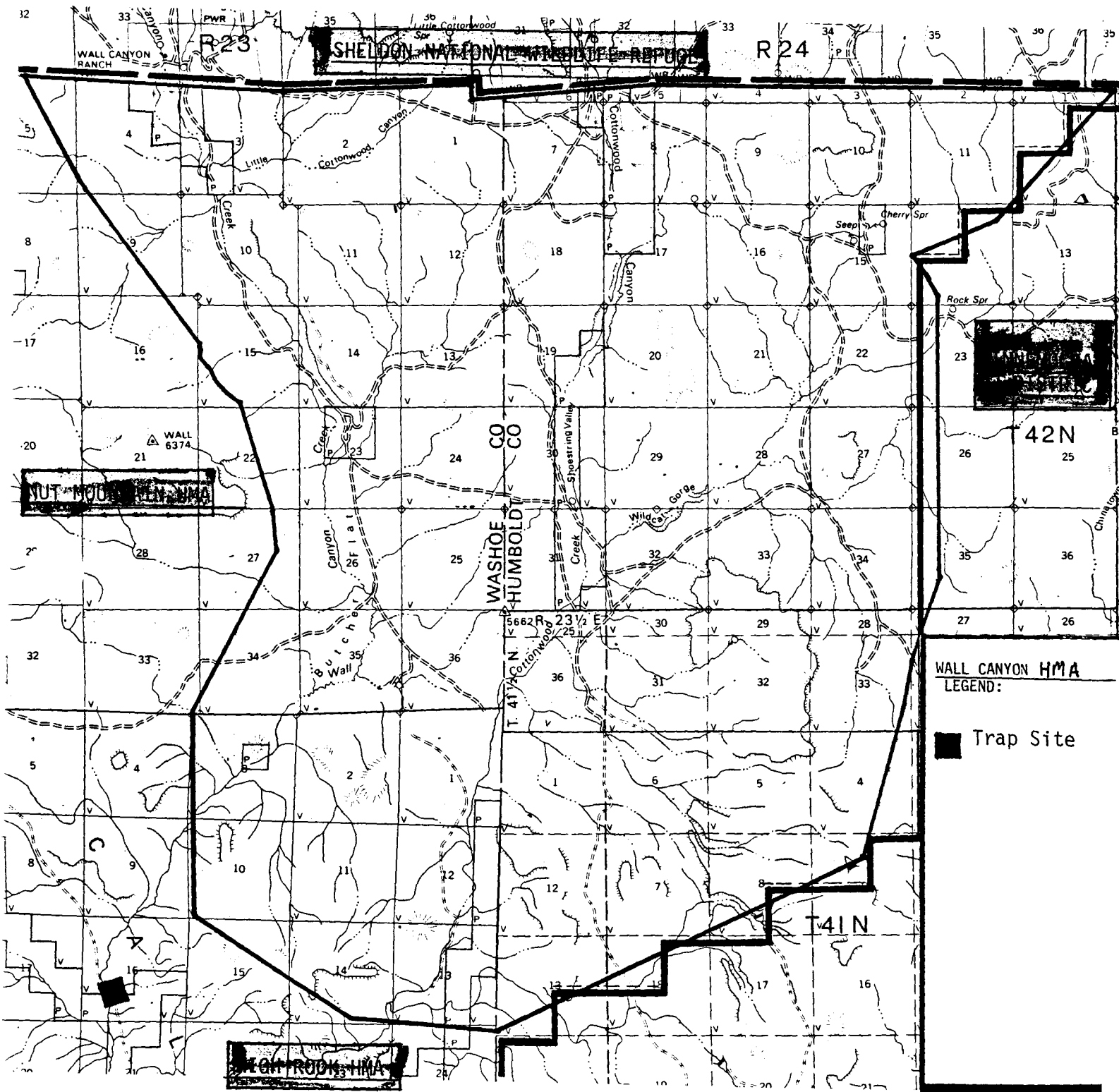
An exact age structure will not be managed for in this HMAP. However, horses over the age of four will be left in the herd to live out their natural life.

F. Inbreeding

The Wall Canyon Herd is very small. Care must be taken to avoid severe inbreeding problems. Wild horses will be introduced on gather years to add new blood to the gene pool.

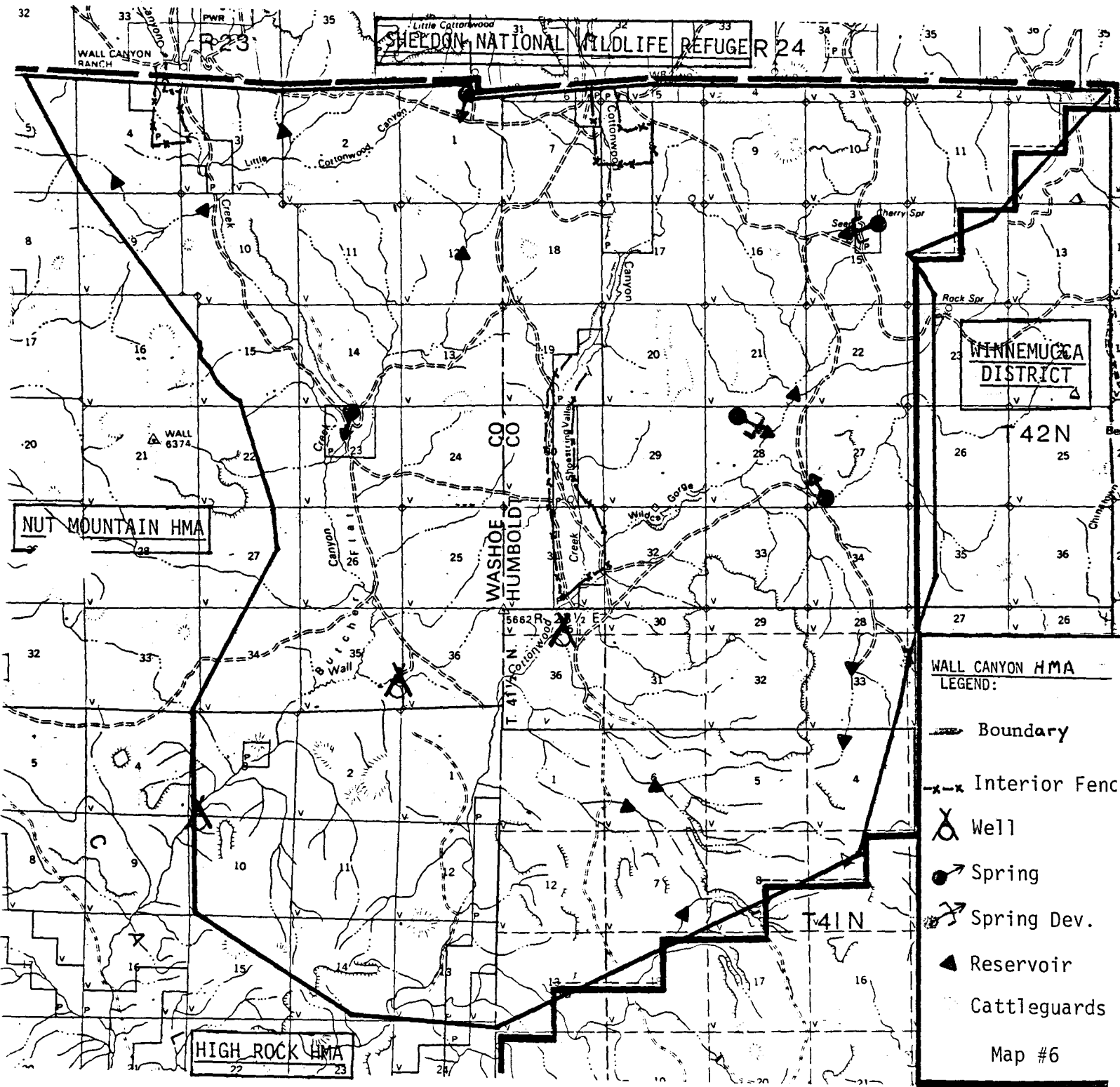
G. Project Development

Specific improvement projects for wild horses have not been proposed for the implementation of this Plan. Wild horses in this area have access to water developments such as reservoirs and springs yearlong. Existing projects are identified on Map #6. Three cattleguards were installed in FY'88.



MAP 5

WALL CANYON
HERD MANAGEMENT AREA



**WALL CANYON HMA
LEGEND:**

- Boundary
- Interior Fence
- Well
- Spring
- Spring Dev.
- Reservoir
- Cattleguards

Map #6

V. EVALUATION AND REVISION

A. Evaluation

Management methods as they relate to achieving the HMA's objectives will be evaluated based on the following monitoring techniques.

1. Rate of increase will be measured on the gather years. Reproduction information can best be gathered at this time.
2. Visual observations of horses in the field, trap site or the corrals. These observations will enable observers to evaluate whether selection criteria is achieving conformation, color and size objectives. In addition, these observations may indicate inbreeding problems.
3. Tracking horses through the adoption program will be done by the Wild Horse and Burro Data Information System. This will allow for the evaluation of the improved adoptability program.
4. To determine the amount of interchange between HMA's, horses will be observed at gathering time, periodic observations along the boundary fence will be done and aerial observations will be made when the opportunity presents itself.

Information will be recorded in Appendix C of this document.

B. Revisions

Upon completion of annual evaluations minor revisions may be made to simplify the Plan or correct specific problems. Major revisions will be necessary if the Plan is not working as written or if reasonable progress towards objectives is not being made.

VI. COOPERATION IN MANAGEMENT

Coordination with adjacent Herd Management Areas in the Surprise Resource Area and especially in the Winnemucca District will be necessary. Presently, we believe there is some interchange of wild horses from and to the Wall Canyon HMA. The bi-annual monitoring of this herd will enable the manager to determine the extent of this interchange. Should it be significant, control measures may have to be taken. These measures may be coordinated gathering and fence maintenance between Susanville and Winnemucca BLM Districts.

Evaluation and revisions of all resource management plan (Wildlife Habitat, Cultural Resource, Allotment and Herd Management Plans) in this area will be coordinated to ascertain the effects on each resource. This coordination process must take place prior to finalizing revisions to any of the plans.

VII IMPLEMENTATION COSTS

The following specific actions and costs will be required to implement the Wall Canyon HMAP. Specific actions will be broken into three categories; project development, annual costs and every three year costs.

A. 1.	<u>Project Development</u>	<u>\$ Cost</u>
	Cattleguards (2 - @ \$2250.50/each)	4,501.00
	Offset Fence Panels (1 - @ \$147/each)	147.00
	TOTAL	\$4,648.00
B. 2.	<u>Annual Monitoring</u>	
	2 Hours of flight time (@ \$150/hour)	300.00
	.15 WM to record data track adoptability	525.00
	TOTAL	\$ 825.00
C. 3.	<u>Every Three Years</u> ^{1/}	
	Selection, Adoption	
	Capture 27 horses (@ \$250/each)	6,750.00
	Select 15 horses for return to HMA (@ \$50/each)	225.00
	Adoption of 12 horses	
	Processing (@ \$38/each)	456.00
	Adoption (@ \$180/each)	2,160.00
	Fixed & Overhead (@ \$145/each)	1,740.00
	TOTAL	\$11,331.00

^{1/} It is anticipated this herd will be gathered every three years based on the current rate of increase of wild horses in this area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SURPRISE RESOURCE AREA
P.O. Box 460
Cedarville, CA 96104

VIII, APPROVAL

I, the undersigned, have reviewed the Wall Canyon Herd Management Area Plan and agree it meets the elements of the Land Use Plan Decisions for Wild, Free-Roaming Horses in the Surprise Resource Area. This Plan is consistent with and subject to all provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 4700). Also, it is consistent with the "Policy Statement for the Management of Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros, Susanville District Bureau of Land Management, June 15, 1989," which is attached to and considered part of this plan.

Richard A. Watman
Area Manager

7/3/89
Date

C. Rex Cleary
Susanville District Manager

7/6/89
Date

The policy statement of June 15, 1989 was recommended by

Susanville District Advisory Council

May 3, 1989
Date of Meeting

Susanville District Grazing Advisory Board

May 3, 1989
Date of Meeting

Modoc/Washoe Experimental Stewardship Committee

June 14, 1989
Date of Meeting

Surprise Resource Area
1988 Summary of Herd Management Areas Gathered

Date: Dec. 1988

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Herd Name</u>	<u># Gathered</u>	<u># Removed</u>	<u>#Returned</u>
Wall Canyon	Wall Canyon	142	123	19
Massacre Mt.	High Rock	53	20	33
Nut Mountain	Nut Mountain	70	40	30
Bitner	Bitner	33	20	13
Massacre Lakes	Massacre Lakes	25	14	11
Sand Creek	Carter Reservoir	35	21	14
Crooks Lake *	N/A	19	19	0

* All horses were removed from the Crooks Lakes Allotment because this is not a established herd area (HMAP).

Alan W. Ochs
Range Conservationist

Memo

To: Wall Canyon HMAP
From: Alan M. Uchida
Subject: Horse Selections

On October 04, 1988, Tracey Irons selected 19 horses to be returned to the Wall Canyon Allotment. Below is a description of the horses that were returned.

Stallions - 5

- 1 very dark brown, mature
- 1 dark brown, mature
- 1 palomino, mature
- 1 paint red/white, mature
- 1 bay, yearling

Mares - 14 = (2) 1-2 year old, (3) 3 year old, (9) mature

- 1 (dry)
- 1 palomino
- 2 black
- 1 grulla
- 2 brown
- 5 bays
- 3 sorrel

These horses will be returned to the Wall Canyon (East) Allotment. Although the 19 horses were selected for the base herd, we expect a great deal of mixing with the Winnemucca horses. The Districts boundary fence in 2 - 3 places were in such poor shape and a lack of water on the Susanville side of the fence forced the horses to water on the Winnemucca side. Intermingling by both herds will continue until the water and fence problems can be resolved. The fence will be maintained after the water problem has been taken care of.

APPENDIX A

The February 1973 inventory depicted 136 wild horses and 9 burros in the High Rock HMA. This inventory area covered the existing Wall Canyon HMA, the Nut Mountain HMA and the new High Rock HMA.

The 1981 Management Framework Plan developed the following management levels for the three HMA's.

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Mid-point</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
High Rock	70	85	100
Wall Canyon	15	20	25
Nut Mountain	<u>30</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>55</u>
	115	148	180

The exact number of wild horses in the Wall Canyon HMA is not known at this time. An inventory of wild horses in this HMA will be completed in 1985. Upon completion of this inventory the HMA will be scheduled for gathering as deemed necessary.

The following forms will describe the existing horses in the HMA and will be used to described wild horses removed and/or returned to the HMA.

WALL CANYON ALLOTMENT

Stewardship Technical Team Review

A. PURPOSE OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Committee will make a field tour of the area, review all resource values involved and make a recommendation on a grazing management plan for this allotment.

B. ALLOTMENT INFORMATION

1. Acreage Breakdown

Wall Canyon (BLM)

Public 47,877 Acres

Private 1,400 Acres

Badger Mountain (FWS) 89,813 Acres

Total 139,090 Acres

2. Licensed Use (BLM)

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Active</u>	<u>Suspended</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Exch. of Use</u>
Hussa	1,838	71	1,909	-0-
Heryford	820	104	924	42
Weber	557	49	606	20
TOTAL	3,215	224	3,439	62

3. Historical Use

Historically the Wall Canyon Allotment has always been used as early turnout country (April 16-June 15) by the Alkali users. Alkali cattle would be moved from the Wall Canyon Unit to higher ground on the Antelope Refuge around June 16.

4. Present Management

The present coordinated management system, between BLM, FWS, and Alkali Cattle is in its third and final year. In 1979 the Wall Canyon BLM Unit was grazed to full capacity from May 1 to June 30. In 1980 the Wall Canyon BLM was grazed from May 1 to July 9. On both of these years cattle were moved to the Sheldon Refuge from Wall Canyon. In this current grazing season, 1981, the Wall Canyon Unit will receive one year of complete rest.

C. LAND USE GOALS FOR WALL CANYON ALLOTMENT

These goals were derived from the finalized Cowhead/Massacre Management Framework Plan for Subunit 2E.

1. Develop an intensive livestock grazing management system for this allotment.
2. Manage ecological sites for mid-successional vegetative conditions (50-75% of climax; or good condition).
3. Improve and maintain mountain brush types in satisfactory condition and assure browse availability to support reasonable deer populations.
4. Provide habitat in satisfactory condition to support reasonable antelope populations.
5. Maintain a population of 15-25 horses in the Wall Canyon HMA.

D. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

1. Implement the coordinated grazing management system between the Fish and Wildlife Service and BLM outlined and analyzed in Alternative 6 of the Cowhead/Massacre FEIS.
2. Give special management consideration to key mountain brush fields. Management will include periods of rest and utilization limits.
3. Develop eight reservoirs, six spring developments, and two well sites for the purpose of improving livestock distribution and for the purpose of providing late season livestock water.

E. RESOURCE VALUES

1. The southeastern quarter of the Wall Canyon Allotment is part of Wilderness Study Area 914. All management actions in this part of the allotment will have to meet non-impairment criteria as outlined in the BLM's Interim Guidelines for WSAs.
2. Three known sage grouse strutting grounds exist in the Wall Canyon Allotment. The entire allotment is used by antelope, in low densities, year-long. The northern one-eighth of the allotment is used by deer yearlong.
3. The entire allotment is used by 15-25 wild horses yearlong and is managed as the Wall Canyon HMA.
4. Several important archaeological sites exist in the area. One site deemed a National Register area was excavated by archaeologists in May 1979.

F. PROBLEMS

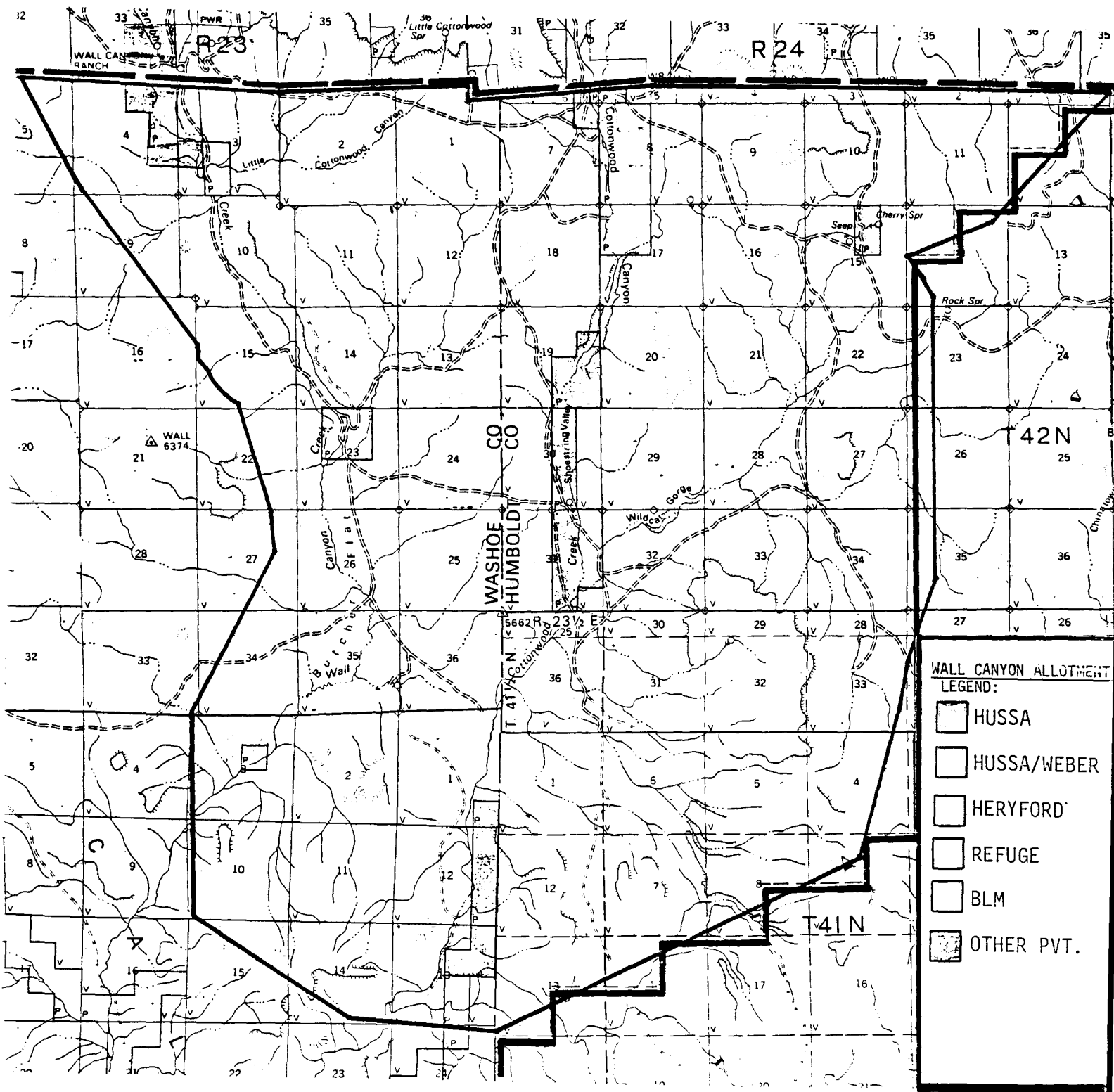
1. The proposed management system will require a significant amount of available late season livestock water. Presently there is very little late season water in this allotment.
2. Certain range sites in the southern half are severely degraded below their potential. Some of these areas may never respond to management and may require some sort of rehabilitation practice to improve the site.

G. MAPS

1. Existing Land Status
2. Topography
3. Wildlife and Wild Horse Areas
4. Wilderness Study Area
5. Proposed Grazing Management (Alternative 6)

- H. The Technical Team field report will be added to the packet upon completion of field tour and recommendation meeting.

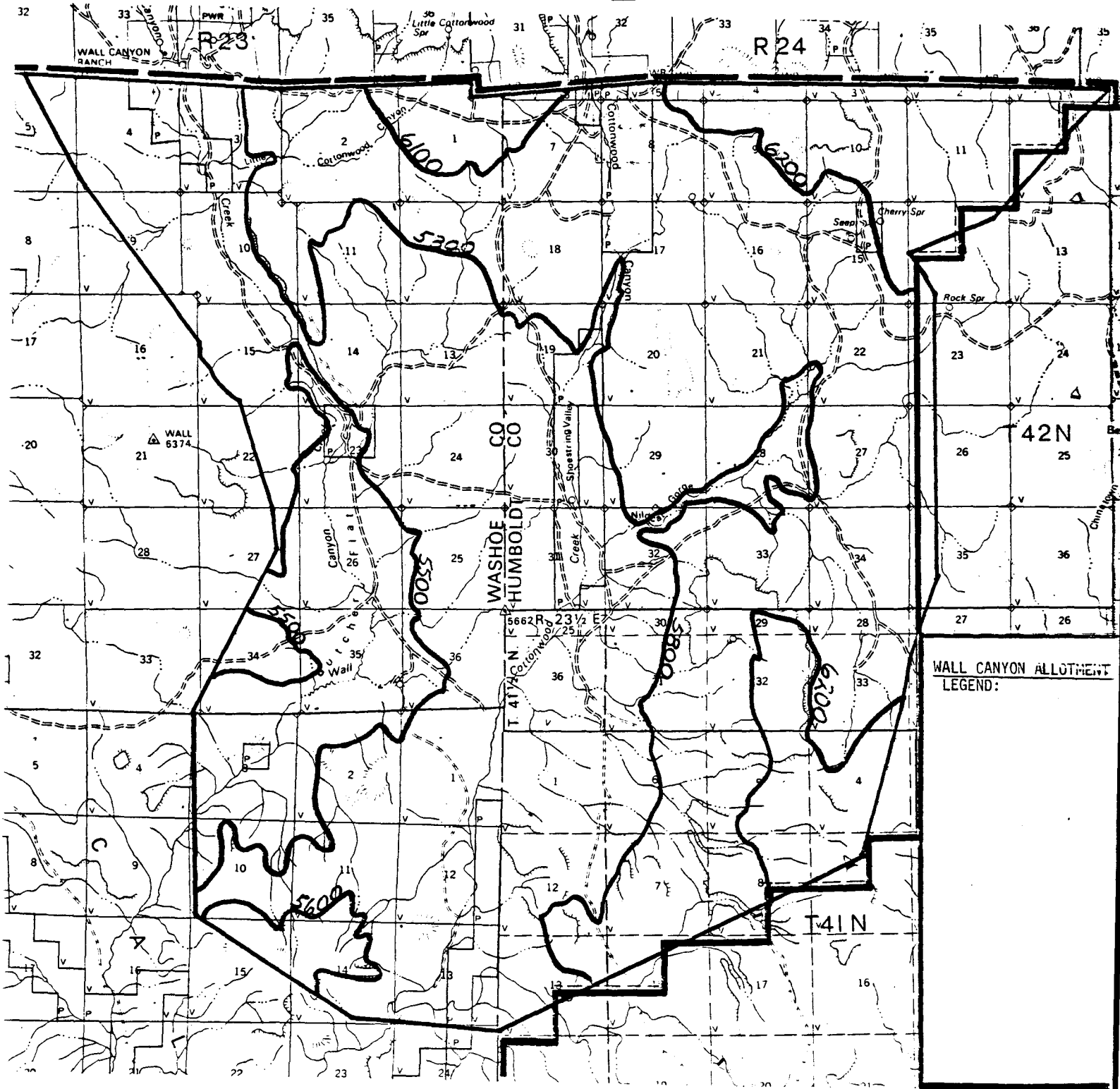
LAND STATUS



WALL CANYON ALLOTMENT LEGEND:

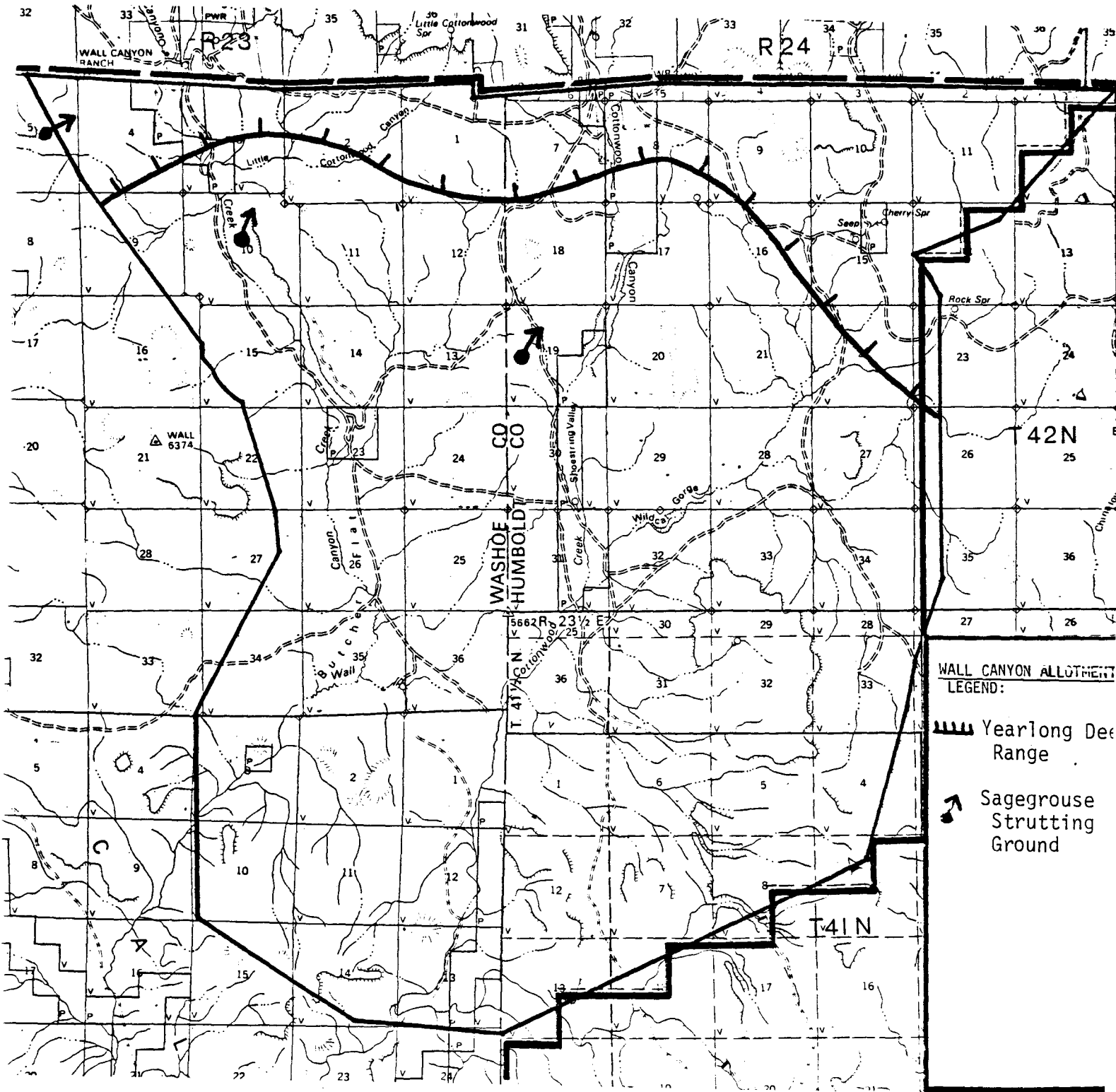
- HUSSA
- HUSSA/WEBER
- HERYFORD
- REFUGE
- BLM
- OTHER PVT.

TOPOGRAPHY



WALL CANYON ALLOTMENT
LEGEND:

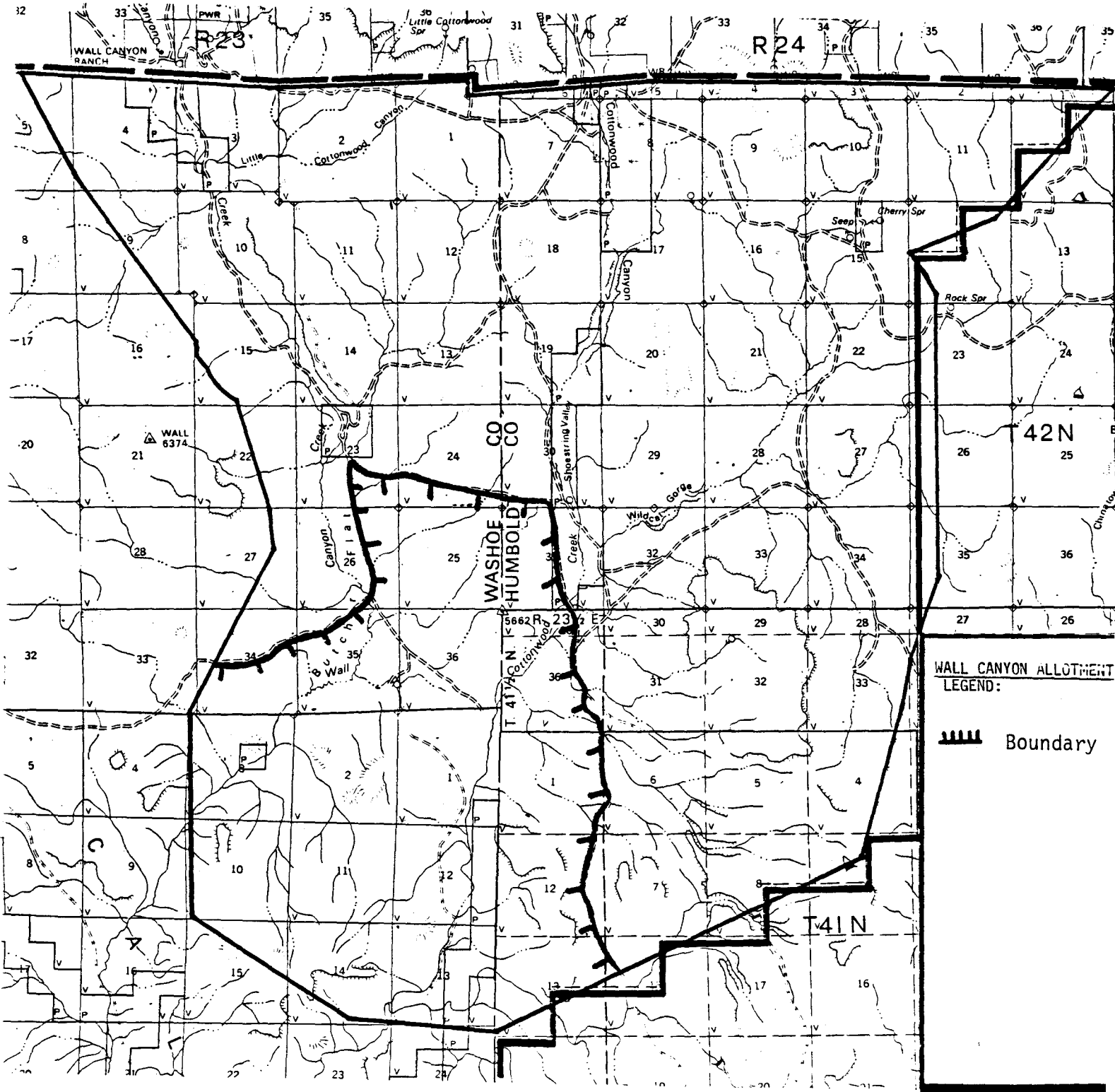
WILDLIFE AND WILDHORSE VALUES



Entire allotment is yearlong antelope range.

Entire allotment is Wall Canyon Wildhorse HMA.

WILDERNESS



PROPOSED GRAZING SYSTEM
ALTERNATIVE 6 COWHEAD/MASSACRE FEIS

Year 1

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>Season</u> ^{1/}	<u>AUMs</u> ^{1/}
Wall Canyon (BLM)	1817 Cattle	05/01-06/24	3277
Basin (FWS)	135 Cattle	09/01-10/15	200
Badger Flat (FWS)	1682 Cattle	09/01-10/15	2500
Fish Creek Mtn. (FWS)	1442 Cattle	07/20-08/30	1920
Badger Mtn. (FWS)	1817 Cattle	06/25-07/20	1700
Mahogany Mtn. (FWS)	375 Cattle	07/20-08/30	500

Year 2

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>Season</u> ^{1/}	<u>AUMs</u> ^{1/}
Wall Canyon (BLM)	1817 Cattle	08/25-10/15	2870
Basin (FWS)	135 Cattle	05/01-06/15	200
Badger Flat (FWS)	1682 Cattle	05/01-06/15	2725
Fish Creek Mtn. (FWS)	1817 Cattle	06/16-07/20	2000
Badger Mtn. (FWS)	1400 Cattle	07/21-08/24	1700
Mahogany Mtn. (FWS)	417 Cattle	07/21-08/24	500

1/ Dates and total AUMs for each pasture are approximate.

Fish Creek Mtn.
S H #90720a0

SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 15

JULY 20 - AUGUST 30

Badger Flat
30,225 ac

A N T E L O P

SEPT 1 - OCT 15

JUNE 25 - JULY 20

JULY 20 - AUGUST 30

Basin
8,620 ac

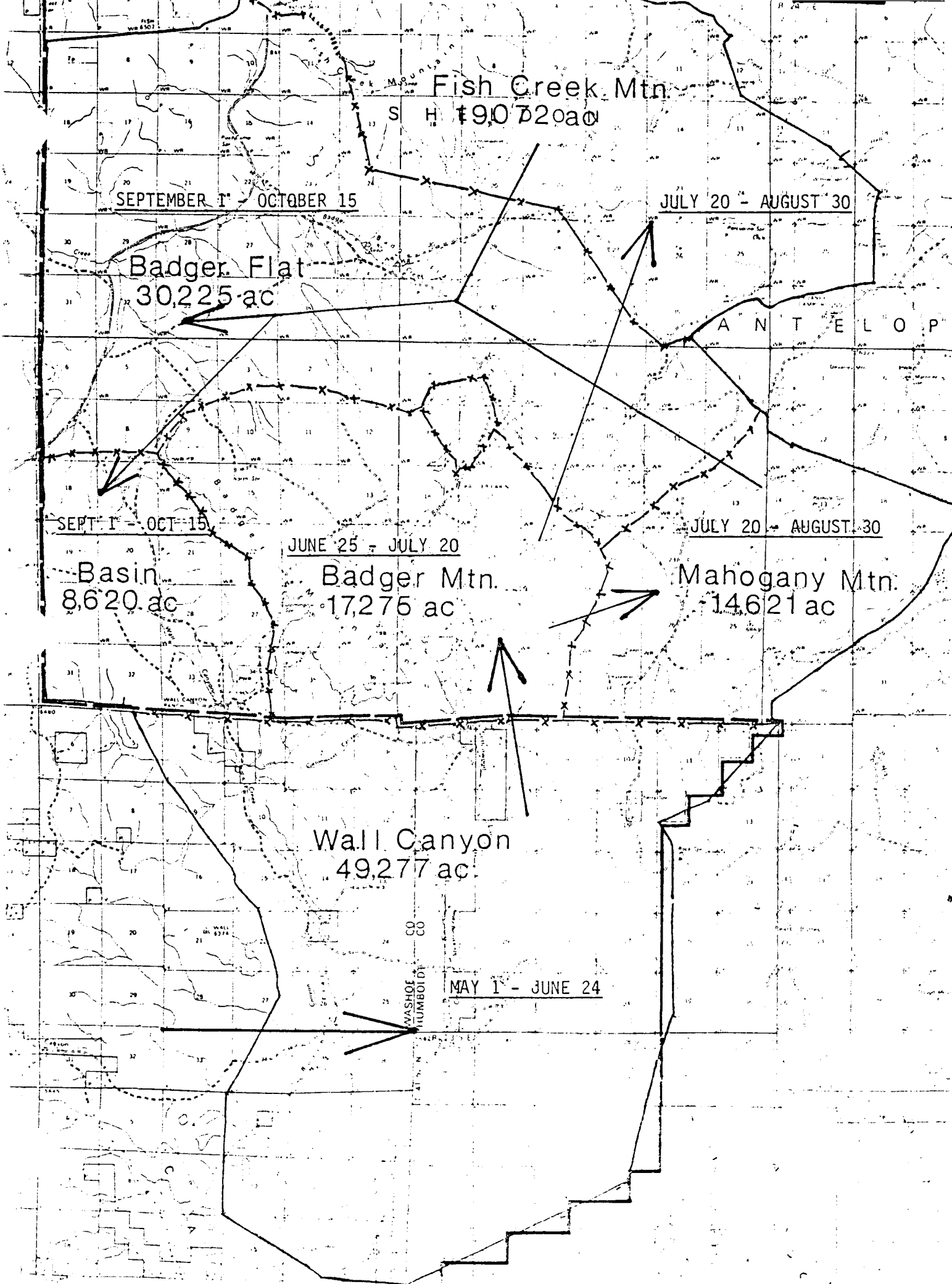
Badger Mtn.
17,275 ac

Mahogany Mtn.
14,621 ac

Wall Canyon
49,277 ac

MAY 1 - JUNE 24

WASHOE
TUMBOI ON



Fish Creek Mtn.

S H 190 720 ac

JUNE 16 - JULY 20

MAY 1 - JUNE 15

Badger Flat
30,225 ac

A N T E L O P

JULY 21 - AUGUST 24

JULY 21 - AUGUST 24

Basin
8,620 ac

Badger Mtn.
17,275 ac

Mahogany Mtn.
14,621 ac

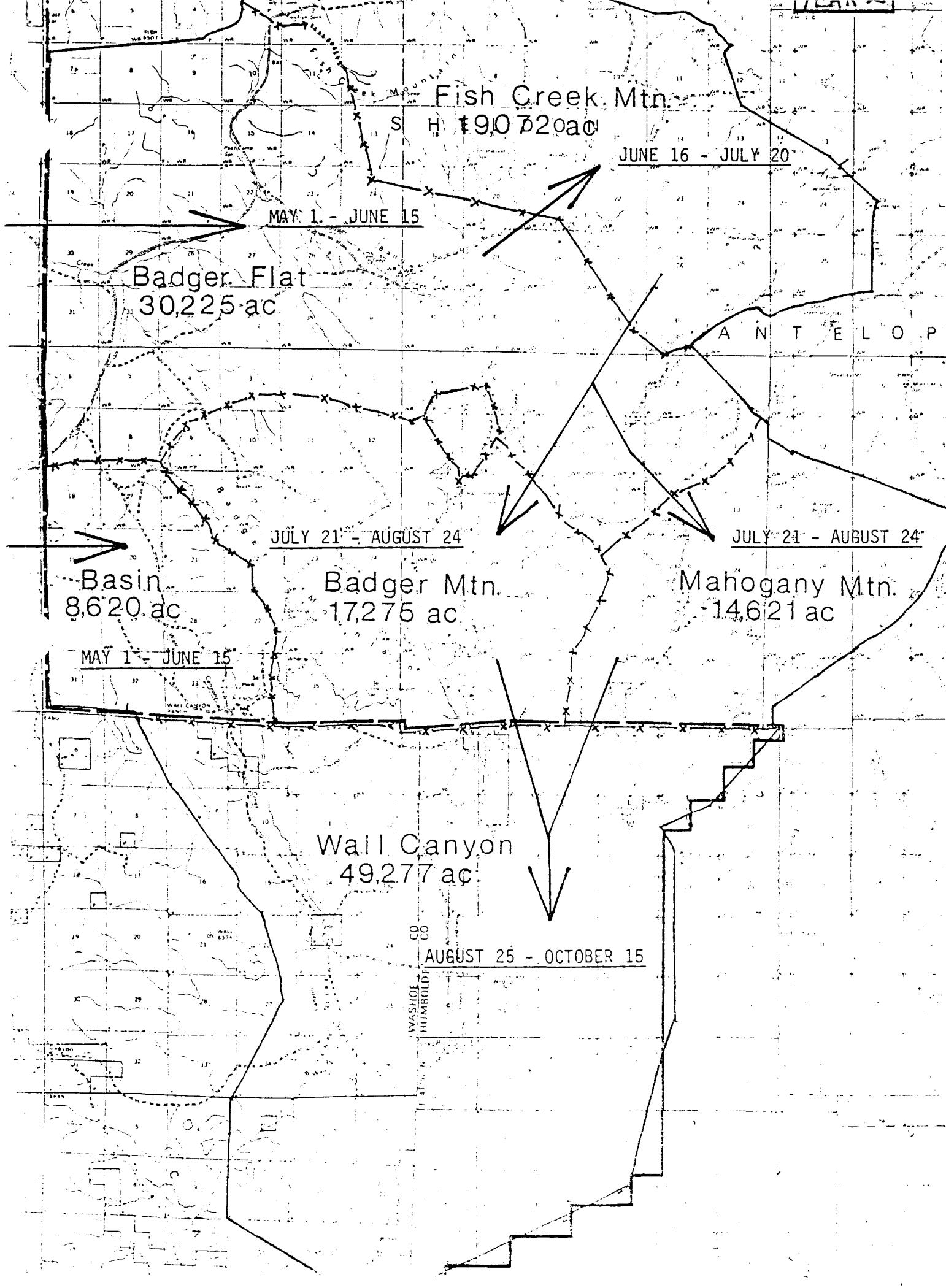
MAY 1 - JUNE 15

Wall Canyon
49,277 ac

80

AUGUST 25 - OCTOBER 15

WASHOE
HUMBOLDT



MODOC/WASHOE EXPERIMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 460
CEDARVILLE, CA 96104

DOCUMENTATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

Name of Subcommittee/Task Force Wall Canyon Technical Review Team

Chairperson _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Date of Report _____

The purpose of this report is (1) to document the process of our decision making for the annual reports, and (2) to keep all Committee members fully informed of Subcommittee actions.

Distribution: Give (send) one copy to Documentation/Reporting Subcommittee Chairman, Curtis Spalding, 720 Washoe, Susanville, CA 96130

Content of report:

Please include issues, alternatives, recommendations, etc.

Please attach agendas, notes, memos, supporting documents, etc.

Please cite the goals the Subcommittee recommendation or action meets:

- (1) Land use objectives from EIS,
- (2) objectives from Instructional Memo 80-90, Enclosure 1,
- (3) purposes from Stewardship Committee by-laws,
- (4) objectives from Stewardship Committee Role Statement.

Summary:

2/19/80 - Cowhead/Massacre Draft ES completed.

9/19/80 - Cowhead/Massacre Final ES completed.

6/4/81 - TOUR

6/5/81 - Technical Team Review Report

WALL CANYON

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REVIEW

AREA DESCRIPTION

Vegetative Types

1. Low Sagebrush - 5800' - 6200' elevation

This area makes up about 10% of the Allotment. Condition ranges from poor to good on this type.

The dominant grass species is Sandberg's bluegrass. Other perennial species increase will be slow on this site. Improved vigor on this site will increase overall productivity.

The area can best be used by grazing animals in spring (May-June) and fall (Sept.-Oct.).

2. Big Sagebrush - below 5800' elevation

This area makes up about 50% of the Allotment. Condition is variable throughout the area, poor to fair.

The dominate grass species in this area is squirreltail and needlegrass.

Some portions of this area are suitable for vegetative treatment, brush removal and seeding.

The area is suited for spring, summer, and fall grazing.

3. Big Sagebrush - above 5800' elevation

This area makes up about 25% of the Allotment. The condition ranges from fair to good with a capability for rapid response.

The dominate grass species on this site are needlegrass, Idaho fescue, and bluebunch wheatgrass. Improved plant vigor will increase the overall productivity of this site.

This has the longest potential grazing period of all the sites (spring, summer, and fall).

4. Big Sagebrush/Bitterbrush

This area makes up 10-15% of the Allotment. The area is in fair-good condition and is capable of rapid response.

The key species on this site are Idaho fescue and bitterbrush.

The area is suitable for grazing in the summer and fall.

5. Dry Meadows

This area makes up less than 5% of the Allotment. Areas are in poor to fair condition, but still have potential to recover.

The dominant species on the site should be basin wildrye and squirreltail.

Some areas brush removal and erosion control structures may be necessary to rehabilitate these sites.

With management these areas could be grazed at anytime of the year.

Geographic Area

The Allotment is characterized by rolling hills and plateaus dissected by several creeks.

1. Creeks and Bottoms are in very poor to poor range condition. Erosion problems are evident.
2. Creeks - 5800' are in poor to fair condition.
3. Creeks - 5800' and above in fair to good condition.

Present Grazing System

The existing grazing system is in the third year of a five year plan. The Allotment is being rested totally this year. The fourth and fifth years will be early season (May-June) and late season (August-October) grazing treatments, respectively.

Wildlife

Deer - Allotment sets on the borderline of a deer migration route. Bitterbrush in this area is not limiting for deer.

Antelope - Winter use areas are critical to antelope in the Dave's Ridge and Ramshead Ridge.

Summer use varies, moderate importance.

Sage Grouse - Several key areas found throughout the Allotment.

Raptors - Found throughout the Allotment's rocky rims (golden eagles, falcons).

Wild Horses

Presently there are 36 horses in this Allotment. The horses stay in the east half of the Allotment. Horses winter on the southeast coern of Allotment (Dave's Ridge). The horses summer on the northeast corner of the Allotment.

It is believed that horses migrate back and forth across the Winnemucca/Susanville District boundary.

Precipitation - 7" - 12" annually

Lower elevations below 5800 feet receive 7-8 inches. The areas above 5800 feet range from 8-12 inches.

Erosion - Moderate to critical along the creeks and drainages.

Wilderness - A portion Wilderness Study Area 914 exists in the southwest corner of Allotment.

Livestock Water

The Allotment on the average is poorly watered.

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ - Early water is good. Good distribution patterns. Late water is fair. Fair distribution patterns.

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - Early water is fair; poor distribution. Late water is poop; poor distribution.

S $\frac{1}{2}$ - Early water is fair; poor distribution patterns. Late water is poor; poor distribution patterns.

RECOMMENDATION FOR WALL CANYON

June 4 - 5, 1981

1. Develop and implement Coordinated Plan with Sheldon.
2. Investigate feasibility of land treatment for the purpose of reducing early season grazing pressure on native range (seeding/brush removal). Exclude WSA 914 - modifies MFP-3 #14.
3. Develop water in those areas with fair/good condition range. (priority for development by 1983).
4. Continue present grazing system until 1983. Re-evaluate and adjust as necessary.
5. Monitoring system will be developed and implemented for Wall Canyon Allotment during the next two years.
6. Accept all MFP-3 decision applicable to Sub Unit 2

#1 - Intensive grazing system

#4 - Allocation

#5 - Good condition

#6 - Utilization limits (moderate (40-60%) grass and light (20-40%) PUTR)

#7 - Bitterbrush (two growing season rest)

We will achieve objectives by a different means than the rest periods described in the MFP.

#8, #9 - Reasonable numbers

#12 - Cultural resources

#15 -

#16 -

7. Explore feasibility of rehabilitating gullies in the Wall Canyon Allotment.