

7/27/01

M

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801-4611
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

In Reply Refer To:
4400/4130 (NV-012)

H & R Livestock
c/o Kay Richins
P.O. Box 302
Henefer, UT 84033

JUL 27 2001

Dear Mr. Richins:

The Management Action Selection Report (MASR) and Proposed Multiple Use Decision (PMUD) for the Sheep Allotment Complex are enclosed.

This MASR follows the **Sheep Allotment Complex Evaluation** mailed to you in July 2000, and describes the management actions to be implemented for the Sheep Allotment Complex. This MASR also responds to significant comments made about the evaluation and discusses proposed management actions that have been modified, added and/or not selected.

The Proposed Multiple Use Decision describes the proposed management actions for wildlife, livestock, and wild horse management for the Sheep Allotment Complex. The Proposed Multiple Use Decision allows for a protest period of 15 days.

Following careful consideration of protests to the Proposed Decision, if any, a Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) will be issued to you and other interested parties to implement the selected actions as final decisions. The Final Decision will allow for an appeal period of 30 days.

If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Thompson at (775) 753-0200.

Sincerely yours,

CLINTON R. OKE,
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

Enclosure: As stated

cc. Bingham Family Ranch
Dave Morris
Stephen Richins
Jeffrey Roche

Darrel Kippens and Sons
Ely Field Office, Bureau of Land Management
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)
Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) - Elko
Nevada Cattleman's Association
Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Nevada State Division of Agriculture
Nevada State Clearinghouse Dept. Of Administration
Board of County Commissioners Elko County
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S.D.A. Service Center
FLBA of Utah, FLCA
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Wild Horse Organized Assistance
Resource Concepts, Inc.
First National Bank
Von L. Sorenson
Sierra Club
Fund for Animals, Rocky Mountain Coordinator
Fund for Animals
Colorado Wild Horse and Burro Coalition
HTT Resource Advisors
M. Jeanne Hermann
Western Watersheds Project
Committee for Idaho's High Desert

**SHEEP ALLOTMENT COMPLEX
Elko Field Office
MANAGEMENT ACTION SELECTION REPORT
July 2001**

A. INTRODUCTION

The Sheep Allotment Complex Evaluation dated July 31, 2000 analyzed monitoring data that had been collected during the evaluation period (1984 to 2000). The evaluation drew conclusions to determine whether existing management practices were meeting or making significant progress towards the standards for rangeland health and on meeting Resource Management Plan (RMP), Rangeland Program Summary (RPS), as well as allotment specific objectives. Technical Recommendations were made for establishing the Appropriate Management Level (AML) for wild horses in the Goshute and Antelope Valley Herd Management Areas (HMAs), and for terms and conditions for livestock grazing on the Leppy Hills, UT/NV North and South, Lead Hills, White Horse, Sugarloaf, Ferber Flat, West Whitehorse, and Boone Springs Allotments.

The purpose of this Management Action Selection Report (MASR) is to respond to public comment, identify changes (if any) to the evaluation based on comments received, and outline the management actions selected for the allotments which comprise the Sheep Allotment Complex.

A 30-day comment period was provided for individuals, organizations and agencies to submit written comment, information and concerns regarding the evaluation. Comments were received from the following interested publics:

- 1. Nevada Division of Wildlife (September 5, 2000)
- 2. Nevada State Clearing House (September 12, 2000)

The public involvement process and response procedure for the allotment evaluation and subsequent management actions are pursuant to guidance set forth in Instructional Memorandums NV-94-073 and NV-97-047.

Copies of the comment letters are available for review at the Elko Field Office. Comments pertinent to the issues presented and evaluated in the allotment evaluation are addressed below.

B. RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

1a. Comments submitted by the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW):

On September 5, 2000, we received comments from the NDOW regarding various aspects of the evaluation.

Comment #1 : Refers to ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, prairie falcon, northern goshawk, american kestrel, and burrowing owl habitat and objectives. *“Within the complex there are 39 bird of prey nesting territories on record within the Complex....The complex is critically important to the long term health of ferruginous hawk and golden eagle nesting populations in the area. The complex is also home to one of the largest bald eagle winter roost documented in Nevada. This allotment evaluation should address the needs of these species when assessing the impacts of annual use of pastures, especially where no rest years are built into the grazing systems.*

“The known burrowing owl resource within the complex appears to be far lower than can be expected for the area. This may be due to a lack of survey work on the species..... There is no known empirical data that would suggest a cause and effect relationship between burrowing owl nesting success and livestock use at this time. We would recommend adding the objective of maintaining a minimum number of occupied burrowing owl nesting territories for the next evaluation. The minimum number would be based on survey data, habitat availability and recommendations from the NDOW nongame biologist and the Bureau’s staff of wildlife biologists.”

Response #1 : Very little baseline data exists on the effects of grazing/resting on nesting success for raptors and burrowing owl. Moreover, the Wells Resource Management Plan does not specifically address these species. Viable management decisions can not be made until current surveys ensue.

During the next evaluation period, ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, prairie falcon, northern goshawk, american kestrel, and burrowing owl habitat base line data should be collected. Within the next 5 years, habitat objectives should be developed from this data and monitoring efforts identified. The Elko District Wildlife Biologist will work in conjunction with the NDOW to determine nesting locations, nesting status, habitat integrity, and availability for these species.

Comment #2: *Nongame wildlife is given less attention than BLM sensitive resident birds of prey. Other than the mention of a few bats and the historic peregrine falcon eyrie near Blue Lakes, nongame wildlife is for the most part left out of the document.*

Response #2: The nongame list will be attached to the Sheep Allotment Complex Allotment Evaluation. The Elko Field Office BLM mailed a letter to the interested public which included the NDOW in March 23, 1999, looking for any additional information that will help assist the Elko Field Office in completing the allotment evaluation process. Any input was to be submitted by June 26, 1999. No other additional information was provided by the interested public or the NDOW.

Comment #3: *"Aren't arbuscula and nova still two distinctive species (i.e. low sage and black sage respectively)?"*

Response #3: The current name for black sagebrush is *Artemesia arbuscula* (subspecies) *nova* as shown in the evaluation. The current name for low sagebrush is *Artemesia arbuscula* (subspecies) *arbuscula*.

Comment #4: *It is still the Division's intent to reintroduce big horn sheep to historic habitats in the allotment complex (i.e. Goshute Range) should the distribution of domestic sheep change appreciably in the future.*

Response #4: Any future reintroduction's will be subject to prior National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and approval by the Elko BLM Field Office.

Comment #5: Pages 41 & 42. *Although Page 41 describes 26 springs in the complex, we can't find a summary on the general trend of these springs.*

Response #5: Page 41 of the evaluation indicated that most of the information was limited to flow rates and water chemistry. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) assessments were conducted on **several** representative springs and seeps within the complex in 1999 by the Elko Field Office. This baseline data will be used to assess trend in the future.

Comment #6: *" The fact that 9 of the 15 key area sites showed a downward ecological trend, combined with the fact that several LUP and RPS objectives were not met does not provide a good argument for potentially increasing actual livestock use on the allotment complex. While horse numbers appear to be cut in half in the recommendations and permitted livestock AUMs appear to be cut by 28% (page 82), in reality post-evaluation permitted livestock use remains significantly higher (10,547 AUMs higher) than actual use reported through the evaluation period. If operators stocked up to these proposed levels, we would see an average annual use increase of 60% (pages 19 & 82). How does the Bureau expect to meet LUP and RPS objectives in the future when any reductions in livestock use are simply on paper and don't extend to the field?"*

Response #6: The proposed changes in management are expected to meet multiple use objectives and standards and guidelines for rangeland health. The proposed changes in management such as spring grazing systems and new utilization objectives for spring use, will help achieve multiple use objectives and standards and guidelines for rangeland health within the complex.

Our data indicates that wild horses are the causal factor in the non-attainment of the riparian PFC objectives. Because the majority of the springs are in a Wilderness Study

Area (WSA) which has strict regulations on range improvement projects, such as fencing, the only way to meet the spring PFC objectives was to reduce horse numbers. In addition to PFC objectives, we are not meeting our 10% pre-livestock turnout objective in the combined winter use areas, especially in the adjacent Big Springs Allotment. This objective was another determining factor in the final AML determination.

Comment #7: *There is a geographically isolated mountain vole in the Ferguson Spring meadows. To the extent possible, we would like to see the public land portion of these meadows fenced off to exclude livestock and horses for the purposes of protecting this isolated population of small mammals over the long term.*

Response #7: Most if not all of the meadow area is on private land. A proposed enclosure will be added to the list of proposed range improvements for the Sheep Allotment Complex. Construction and maintenance of any proposed enclosure in the Ferguson Spring area will be the NDOW's responsibility.

Comment #8: *We have seen few bird and small mammal protection ramps at watering troughs throughout the allotment complex. We would like to see these protection devices on all watering troughs and a Bureau commitment to maintenance of these structures over the long term. Sidehill spring in the UT/NV North pasture is only one example.*

Response #8: New and existing troughs at springs will have wildlife protection ramps installed. The BLM and NDOW are coordinating the installation of bird and mammal protection ramps within the complex. Sidehill Spring in the UT/NV North pasture has no trough, but an enclosure and trough are proposed as stated in the selected actions below.

1b. Comments submitted by the Nevada State Clearinghouse:

Comment #1: *All waters of the state belong to the public and may be appropriated for beneficial use pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 533 and 534 of the Nevada Revised Statutes and not otherwise. Any water wells or boreholes that may be located on either acquired or transferred lands are the ultimate responsibility of the owner of the property at the time of the transfer and must be plugged as required in Chapter 534 of the Nevada Administrative Code. If artesian water is located in any well or borehole it shall be controlled as required in NRS 534.060(3).*

Response #1: The Bureau of Land Management will continue to comply with state water regulations in ensuring the continued improvement of public watershed and riparian resources in the Elko District.

C. REVISION OF THE SHEEP ALLOTMENT COMPLEX EVALUATION

Upon further review by BLM specialists, the following changes have been made to the draft complex evaluation dated July 31, 2000:

1. **Revise the conclusions for Standard 1. Upland Sites to show attainment of this standard for the following allotments.**

Leppy Hills Allotment. Met. Data indicates that this standard is being met. Cover and ecological status shows that sufficient ground cover and vegetation are present to ensure proper soil infiltration and permeability rates appropriate to ecological sites within the allotment.

Utah/Nevada # 1 Allotment North Pasture. Met. Data indicates that this standard is being met. Cover and ecological status shows that sufficient ground cover and vegetation are present to ensure proper soil infiltration and permeability rates appropriate to ecological sites within the allotment.

Lead Hills Allotment. Met. Data indicates that this standard is being met. Cover and ecological status shows that sufficient ground cover and vegetation are present to ensure proper soil infiltration and permeability rates appropriate to ecological sites within the allotment.

White Horse Allotment. Met. Data indicates that this standard is being met. Cover and ecological status shows that sufficient ground cover and vegetation are present to ensure proper soil infiltration and permeability rates appropriate to ecological sites within the allotment.

2. Pages 82 & 83 (Section VI. 1. j. Sheep Allotment Complex Summary)

a. Revise the AML for wild horses to be managed for in the Goshute HMA to 123.

AML for the Goshute HMA			
HMA	Allotment	Initial Herd Size¹ (number of horses)	AML (number of horses)²
Goshute	Spruce	34	50h/12m
	Big Springs	84	56h/12m
	Leppy Hills	27	16h/6m or 8h/12m
	UT/NV #1 North	30	18h/6m or 9h/12m
	Lead Hills	4	2h/6m or incidental/12m
	Whitehorse	incidental	incidental
Total		178	123
¹ Initial herd size from the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment. ² As per current Washington Office direction, AML is expressed as one number but the population is taken to 40% below AML during gathers. This sets up a 4 year gather cycle.			

Rationale: The AML for the Goshute HMA would be further modified by the AML identified in the Big Springs Allotment Evaluation.

b. Modify the Sheep Allotment Complex Summary table to reflect corrected levels of livestock permitted use for several allotments shown in bold type below.

Sheep Allotment Complex Summary

Sheep Allotment Complex - Proposed Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML, and Total AUMs					
Allotment	Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
	Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) as per the Wells Amendment¹	Livestock permitted use	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs)
Leppy Hills *268	3,807	320	3,351	96	3,447
UT/NV North	4,386	363	3,704	108	3,812
UT/NV South	6,599	107	2,646	87 ²	2,733
Lead Hills *1,126	7,930	43	5,609	12	5,621
White Horse *417	7,500	incidental use	3,916	incidental use	3,916
West White Horse	670	incidental use	465	incidental use	465
Sugarloaf *169	3,105	incidental use	2,001	incidental use	2,001
Ferber Flat *224	2,735	incidental use	2,013	incidental use	2,013
Boone Springs	3,244	897	2,947	265 ³	3,212
Total	39,976	1,730	26,652	568	27,220

¹ As per the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment.
² Average actual use.
³ 10% use prior to livestock turnout was used to determined AML/AUMs
* Sheep trail AUMs incorporated.

Rationale: The Sheep Allotment Complex Evaluation included calculated carrying

capacities for the UT/NV (North and South), White Horse and Sugarloaf Allotments based on incorrect (higher) utilization objectives. Re-calculation using the correct utilization objectives resulted in further reductions in livestock permitted use as shown in the table above.

3. a. Modify the grazing system of the West White Horse Allotment to incorporate rest into the Upper Benches above BLM road 1032 (see map #18 in the PMUD). This road splits the allotment from the upper benches in the eastern portion from the lower valley (white sage dominated sites) to the west. The upper bench portion of the West White Horse Allotment will be grazed one year out of three as displayed in the table below. The valley use area may be grazed each year. Once the 50% utilization objective has been reached on key forage species, sheep will be removed from the allotment.

West White Horse Allotment

West White Horse Allotment						
Permittee	Use Area	Period of Use	Year	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Sherie R. Goring	Valley	12/01 to 2/28	1	549	100	325
	Valley	12/01 to 2/28	2	549	100	325
	Valley & Bench	12/01 to 2/28	3	786	100	465

Rationale: Resting the Bench use area for 2 out of 3 years will allow for the black sagebrush to recover from excessive use which has averaged 77% over the last 6 years. Limiting use to 50% will help maintain the health of the salt desert shrub and other plant communities within the allotment. Additional monitoring will be conducted to determine if adequate progress is being made towards attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health and make any further changes in grazing management.

b. No sheep bedding will be allowed in the Bench areas of the West White Horse Allotment.

Rationale: Resting the Bench use area will allow for the black sagebrush communities to recover from excessive use which has averaged 77% over the last 6 years. Limiting use will help maintain the health of the plant communities within the allotment. Additional monitoring will be conducted to determine if adequate progress is being made towards attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health and make any further changes in grazing management.

4. **Page 94 (Section VI. 6. Proposed Range Improvements Projects within the Sheep Complex)**

Add the following proposed project: Ferguson Spring Enclosure. Most of the meadow area is on private land, therefore maintenance of the enclosure would be NDOW's responsibility. The NDOW would coordinate with the private land owner and the BLM on this project proposal.

Rationale: The proposed project will help protect the isolated mole population.

5. **Page 94 (Section VI. Technical Recommendations)** Add the following technical recommendations to the Sheep Allotment Complex Evaluation.

a. The permittee(s) would be assigned maintenance of existing spring developments and enclosures. Maintenance responsibility for the proposed Ferguson Spring Enclosure would be assigned to the NDOW. Maintenance responsibility for other future spring developments and enclosures would be assigned to the party(s) deriving the primary benefit(s).

Rationale: It is the policy of the BLM to assign maintenance responsibility, to the extent possible, to the primary beneficiaries of improvement projects. The livestock permittees are considered the primary benefitting parties in relation to the existing spring developments and enclosures since alternatives other than fencing would be adverse to the permittee; therefore, the permittees would be assigned maintenance responsibility. Existing spring developments and enclosures within the Sheep Allotment Complex have been maintained by the BLM since construction and have shown the need for what is considered normal maintenance.

Installation of the Ferguson Spring Enclosure was proposed by the NDOW to help protect the habitat of a mountain vole. A portion of the meadow occurs on public land but most of the meadow area occurs on private land owned by the livestock permittee. The project proposal involves fencing a portion of public land as well as private lands. Since the public land associated with this proposed project receives little use by livestock and most of the benefits would accrue on private lands, it seems appropriate the NDOW be responsible for maintenance of the enclosure unless the permittee/land owner agrees to accept maintenance.

Maintenance responsibility for other new spring developments and enclosures would be assigned to the party(s) deriving the primary benefit(s) in accordance with BLM policy.

b. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use

areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

Rationale: Maintaining proper utilization on previous years growth will help maintain the health of the salt desert shrub and other communities within the complex. Additional monitoring will be conducted to determine if adequate progress is being made towards attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health and make any further changes in grazing management. This will implement Guidelines 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress towards conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, and Habitat.

6. Pages 92 & 93 (Section VI. 5) The terms and conditions on each permit within the Sheep Allotment Complex should read as follows:

Add term and condition: No water hauling or placement of troughs is allowed inside the boundaries of the Bluebell and Goshute Peak Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's).

D. ANALYSIS OF MONITORING DATA

The evaluation of existing monitoring data indicates that of the 77 RMP, RPS, and allotment specific objectives, 24 were met, 17 were partially met, 14 were not evaluated, and 22 were not met. Of the 22 that were not met 7 did not pertain to livestock.

Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health for the Northeastern Great Basin Area of Nevada were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. The Standards are expressions of levels of physical and biological condition or degree of function required for healthy, sustainable rangelands. Guidelines are types of grazing management methods and practices determined to be appropriate to ensure that standards can be met or that significant progress can be made toward meeting the standard.

Based on the conclusions presented in the Sheep Allotment Complex Evaluation, the attainment of the standards has been determined for each allotment. A summary of this assessment is presented in the following table.

Allotment	Standard #1 (Soils)	Standard #2 (Riparian)	Standard #3 (Habitat)	Standard #4 (Cultural Resources)
Leppy Hills	Met	Not Met	Some Progress	Met
UT/NV #1 North	Met	Some Progress	Some Progress	Met
UT/NV #1 South	Met	N/A	Some Progress	Met
Lead Hills	Met	Met	Some Progress	Met
White Horse	Met	N/A	Some Progress	Met
Sugarloaf	Met	N/A	Some Progress	Met
Ferber Flat	Met	N/A	Some Progress	Met
West White Horse	Some Progress	N/A	Some Progress	Met
Boone Springs	Met	Not Met	Some Progress	Met

E. SELECTED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

It has been determined that the following selected management actions are appropriate to establish and/or maintain significant progress toward the attainment of multiple use objectives for the Sheep Allotment Complex and the Standards for Rangeland Health approved for the Northeastern Great Basin Area of Nevada. These selected actions will be implemented through the issuance of a Final Multiple Use Decision.

1. Establish a separate allotment for each permittee in the UT/NV #1 Allotment. The two pastures in the UT/NV #1 Allotment are separated by over 30 miles. Robert and Jon Child will have grazing privileges in the North Pasture which will be known as the UT/NV North Allotment.

Sherie R. Goring will have grazing privileges in the South Pasture which will be known as the UT/NV South Allotment.

Rationale: Establishing individual allotments will allow grazing systems to be implemented to meet each of the permittees individual needs and be compatible with implementation of grazing systems needed to meet multiple use objectives and attainment of the standards for rangeland health.

2. Establish the total number of AUMs of permitted use for livestock and appropriate management level for wild horses for the Sheep Allotment Complex as follows:

a. Leppy Hills Allotment

Incorporate the administrative sheep trail into the Leppy Hills Allotment.

Leppy Hills Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) ²	Livestock permitted use ¹	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
3,807	320	3,351	96	3,447

¹ Includes 268 AUMs from the administrative sheep trail and 450 AUMs in the Morris Basin Spring Use area.

² The Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment established an initial herd size of 178 horses for the Goshute HMA, as modified by the Spruce FMUD. Aerial census data indicates that 15% of the Goshute herd used the Leppy Hills Allotment. 178 x 12 months = 2,136 AUMs. 15% of 2,136 AUMs = 320 AUMs.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Leppy Hills Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The carrying capacity for the Leppy Hills Allotment was determined to be 2,633 AUMs. Incorporation of the administrative sheep trail into the Leppy Hills Allotment will add an additional 268 AUMs to the Leppy Hills Allotment. An additional 450 AUMs can be found in the Morris Basin area of the Leppy Hills Allotment. The AUMs were derived from an adjudication map in the Elko Field Office. These AUMs will be available for late fall or early spring grazing. Therefore the total carrying capacity for livestock is 3,351 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 20% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use occurred in the northeastern portion of the allotment. Light use has occurred in the eastern, northern, and western portions of the allotment. With the exception of the Morris Basin area, the western two thirds of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing due to topography and vegetation suitability.

Wild horse use in the Leppy Hills Allotment is normally independent of livestock use. The majority of wild horse use occurs in the upper elevations during the summer months (23% of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the Leppy Hills Allotment during the summer months) and the majority of the wild horses winter on the west side of the Goshute Mountains in the Big Springs Allotment. However, it is not unusual to find a small number of horses wintering on the east side of the Goshute Mountains in one of the three winter sheep allotments (only 1%, on average, of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the Leppy Hills Allotment during the winter months).

It has been determined that the most important limiting factor in the Goshute HMA is the combined winter use areas on the west bench of the Goshute Mountains and in Goshute Valley. The AMLs for these winter use areas have been or will be set through the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Spruce Allotment and the Big Springs Allotment Evaluation. Census data has shown that some of the same horses that use the winter areas of the Big Springs and Spruce Allotments migrate to the summer areas of the winter sheep allotments, thus AML for the Leppy Hills Allotment was based on the AML set for the Big Springs (Shafter Pasture) and Spruce Allotments (Subunits J and C-3). The combined AML for these two pastures is 106 horses or 1272 AUMS. Because data has shown that an average of 15% of the Goshute HMA horses utilize the Leppy Hills Allotment, the AML is 16 horses ($15\% \text{ of } 106 \text{ h} = 16 \text{ h}$) for 6 months (or 8 horses for 12 months) for a total of 96 AUMS.

The Shafter Pasture of the Big Springs Allotment and sub-units J and C-3 were designated as yearlong wild horse use areas. Because it is not known exactly how many horses migrate out of these areas in the summer, or for how long, the AUMS allocated to wild horses in the summer use areas of the winter sheep allotments will be in addition to those AUMS allocated to wild horses in the Big Springs and Spruce Allotments. It is the professional opinion of the Elko Field Office that this will not cause an over-stocking of wild horses in the Shafter, C-3 and J use areas, because a small number of wild horses do winter on the east side of the Goshute Range.

The Leppy Hills Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography within the allotment.

Livestock carrying capacity will be adjusted from 3,807 AUMs to 3,351 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at 96 AUMs.

b. UT/NV North Allotment

UT/NV North Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) ¹	Livestock permitted use and Use Areas	Wild Horse AML (AUMs) ³	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
3,410	363	2,728 (A & B)		2,728
976 (cp)		976 (Morgan Basin ²)	108	1,084
Total - 4,386		3,704	108	3,812

Non-Use (cp) is voluntary non-use for conservation purposes as outlined in the 1997 grazing agreement for the North Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment.

¹ The Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment established an initial herd size of 178 horses for the Goshute HMA, as modified by the Spruce FMUD. Aerial census data indicates the 17% of the Goshute herd used the North Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment. 178 x 12 months = 2,136 AUMs. 17% of 2,136 AUMs = 363 AUMs.

² The Morgan Basin area carrying capacity will be established at 976 AUMs. These AUMs were derived from an adjudication map in the Elko Field Office. The Morgan Basin area will be available for late fall and early spring grazing.

³ The AML was added to the Morgan Basin use area. Horse use is confined to the Goshute Mountains with incidental use along the benches.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for UT/NV North Allotment was evaluated in 1997. In the review of carrying capacity the Elko Field Office said that it will conduct necessary monitoring studies and re-evaluate the effects of grazing in 1999.

The carrying capacity for the UT/NV North Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The carrying capacity for the UT/NV North Allotment was determined to be 2,728 AUMs. The capacity did not include the Morgan Basin use area.

The carrying capacity for the UT/NV North Allotment use areas A & B (see map 2 of the evaluation UT/NV North use areas) will adjusted to 2,728 AUMs. The Morgan Basin area carrying capacity will be established at 976 AUMs. These AUMs were derived from an adjudication map in the Elko Field Office. The Morgan Basin area will be available for late fall and early spring grazing.

During the evaluation period 8% of the UT/NV North Allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in the eastern portion of the pasture. Light use has occurred in the western portions of the pasture. With the

exception of the Morgan Basin area the western two thirds of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability.

Wild horse use in the UT/NV North Allotment is independent of livestock use. Wild horse use typically occurs in the upper elevations during the summer months (26% of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the UT/NV North Allotment during the summer months) and wild horses normally winter on the west side of the Goshute Mountains in the Big Springs Allotment (only 3% of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the UT/NV North Allotment during the winter months). It was determined that the most important limiting factor in the Goshute HMA is the combined winter use areas on the west bench of the Goshute Mountains and in Goshute Valley. The AML for the winter use areas have been or will be set through the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Spruce Allotment and the Big Springs Allotment Evaluation. Because the same horses use the winter areas and then migrate to the summer areas, AML for the UT/NV North Allotment was based on the AML for the Big Springs (Shafter Pasture), and Spruce Allotments (Subunits J and C-3), which is 106 horses or 1272 AUMS. Because data has shown that an average of 17% of the Goshute HMA horses utilize the UT/NV North Allotment, AML has been set at 18 horses (17% of 106 h = 18 h) for 6 months or 9 horses for 12 months for a total of 108 AUMS.

The Shafter Pasture of the Big Springs Allotment and sub-units J and C-3 were designated as yearlong wild horse use areas. Because it is not known exactly how many horses migrate out of these areas in the summer, or for how long, the AUMS allocated to wild horses in the summer use areas of the winter sheep allotments, will be in addition to those AUMS allocated to wild horses in the Big Springs and Spruce Allotments. It is the professional opinion of the Elko Field Office that this will not cause an over-stocking of wild horses in the Shafter, C-3 and J use areas, because a small number of wild horses do winter on the east side of the Goshute Range.

The North Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock carrying capacity will be adjusted from 4,386 AUMs to 3,704 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at 108 AUMs.

c. **UT/NV South Allotment**

UT/NV South Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs)¹	Livestock permitted use	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
6,599	107	2,646	87	2,733
¹ The Well RMP Wild Horse Amendment established an initial herd size of 299 horses for the Antelope Valley HMA, as modified by the Spruce FMUD. Aerial census data indicates that 3% of the Antelope Valley herd use the South Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment. 299 x 12 months = 3,588 AUMs. 3% of 3,588 AUMs = 107 AUMs				

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the UT/NV South Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1985-1999. The carrying capacity for the UT/NV South Allotment using key area utilization was determined to be 2,646 AUMs.

Trend is upward and the standards for rangeland health are being met or progress is being made toward attainment. The increase in ecological status can be attributed to an increase in key forage species.

During the evaluation period 55% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in eastern, central and western portions of the allotment. Light use has occurred in the southern and northern portions of the allotment.

Wild horse use within the South Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment (located in the Antelope Valley HMA) has been estimated from censuses conducted during the past several years. Data indicates that the South Pasture receives only incidental use by wild horses, with use averaging 50 to 100 AUMS, which is 8 to 16 horses for 6 winter/spring months. Due to the complete lack of water within the allotment, wild horses are only found inhabiting the area when there is snow cover or frequent rain showers to fill up potholes and troughs. AML has been established at the average actual use by wild horses at 87 AUMs or 15 horses for 6 months.

The South Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock carrying capacity will be adjusted from 6,599 AUMs to 2,646 AUMs. Wild horse AML will be established at 87 AUMs.

d. Lead Hills Allotment

Incorporate the administrative sheep trail into the Lead Hills Allotment.

Lead Hills Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) ²	Livestock permitted use ¹	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
7,930	43	5,609	12	5,621
¹ Includes 1,126 AUMs from the administrative sheep trail. ² The Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment established an initial herd size of 178 horses for the Goshute HMA, as modified by the Spruce FMUD. Aerial census data indicates the 2% of the Goshute herd uses the Lead Hills Allotment. 178 x 12 months = 2,136 AUMs. 2% of 2,136 AUMs = 43 AUMs.				

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Lead Hills Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The potential carrying capacity for livestock in the Lead Hills Allotment was determined to be 4,483 AUMs. Incorporation of the administrative sheep trail into the Lead Hills Allotment will add an additional 1,126 AUMs to the Lead Hills Allotment. The AUMs were derived from an adjudication map of the administrative sheep trail. Therefore the carrying capacity will be adjusted from 4,483 to 5,609 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 30% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in northern portion (east of the Goshute Peak WSA and north of Ferguson Mountain), and eastern portion (west of the administrative sheep trail). Light use has occurred in the eastern, northern, and western portions of the allotment.

Wild horse use in the Lead Hills Allotment is independent of livestock use. Wild horse use typically occurs in the upper elevations during the summer months (3% of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the Lead Hills Allotment during the summer months) and wild horses normally winter on the west side of the Goshute Mountains in the Big Springs Allotment (0% of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the Lead Hills during the winter months). It was determined that the most important limiting factor in the Goshute HMA is the combined winter use areas on the west bench of the Goshute Mountains and in Goshute Valley. The AML for the winter use areas have been or will be set through the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Spruce Allotment and the Big

Springs Allotment Evaluation. Because the same horses use the winter areas and then migrate to the summer areas, AML for the Lead Hills Allotment was based on the AML set for the Big Springs (Shafter Pasture) and Spruce Allotments (Subunits J and C-3), which is 106 horses or 1,272 AUMS. Because data has shown that an average of 2% of the Goshute HMA horses utilize the Lead Hills Allotment, the AML is 2 horses (2% of 106 h = 2 h) for 6 months or 12 AUMS.

The Shafter Pasture of the Big Springs Allotment and sub-units J and C-3 were designated as yearlong wild horse use areas. Because it is not known exactly how many horses migrate out of these areas in the summer, or for how long, the AUMS allocated to wild horses in the summer use areas of the winter sheep allotments, will be in addition to those AUMS allocated to wild horses in the Big Springs and Spruce Allotments. It is the professional opinion of the Elko Field Office that this will not cause an over-stocking of wild horses in the Shafter, C-3 and J use areas, because a small number of wild horses do winter on the east side of the Goshute Range.

With changes in management the livestock carrying capacity will be adjusted from 7,930 AUMs to 5,609 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at 12 AUMs.

e. White Horse Allotment

Incorporate the administrative sheep trail into the White Horse Allotment.

White Horse Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs)	Livestock permitted use ¹	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
7,500	incidental use	3,916	incidental use	3,916

¹ Includes 417 AUMs from the administrative sheep trail.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the White Horse Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The carrying capacity for the White Horse Allotment was determined to be 3,499 AUMs. Incorporation of the administrative sheep trail into the White Horse Allotment will add an additional 417 AUMs to the White Horse Allotment. The AUMs were derived from an adjudication map of the administrative sheep trail. Therefore the carrying capacity will be adjusted from 3,499 to 3,916 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 23% of the allotment showed the highest significant use.

The highest significant use has occurred in western portion of the allotment (south of the WSA and west of White Horse Pass) and central portion of the allotment (from Dead Cedar Wash south to the allotment boundary). Light use has occurred in the eastern, northern, southern (south of White Horse Pass), and western portions of the allotment. The western and southern one thirds of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability.

Census data from the past 15 years has shown that wild horses do not use the White Horse Allotment for winter or summer habitat. If horses are found within the allotment, they are usually just passing through. For this reason, AML is set at incidental use.

The White Horse Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 7,500 AUMs to 3,916 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at incidental use.

f. West White Horse Allotment

West White Horse - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs)	Livestock permitted use	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
670	incidental use	465	incidental use	465

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the West White Horse Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The carrying capacity for livestock in the West White Horse Allotment was determined to be 465 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 46% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in eastern (on the upper benches), central and western portion of the allotment. Light use has occurred in the northern, and extreme southwestern portions of the allotment. The eastern one third of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability.

Census data from the past 15 years has shown that wild horses do not use the West White Horse Allotment for winter or summer habitat. If horses are found within the

allotment, they are usually just passing through. For this reason, AML is set at incidental use.

The West White Horse Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 670 AUMs to 465 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at incidental use.

g. Sugarloaf Allotment

Incorporate the administrative sheep trail into the Sugarloaf Allotment.

Sugarloaf Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs)	Livestock permitted use ¹	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
3,105	incidental use	2,001	incidental use	2,001

¹ Includes 169 AUMs from the administrative sheep trail.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Sugarloaf Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The carrying capacity for the Sugarloaf Allotment was determined to be 1,832 AUMs. Incorporation of the administrative sheep trail into the Sugarloaf Allotment will add an additional 169 AUMs to the Sugarloaf Allotment. The AUMs were derived from an adjudication map of the administrative sheep trail. Therefore the carrying capacity will be adjusted from 1,832 AUMs to 2,001 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 54% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in east from the Goshute Mountains in the west and west from the Ferber Hills in the east. Light use has occurred in the western portion (Goshute Mountains) and eastern portion (Ferber Hills east to the sheep trail). The western one third of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability.

Census data from the past 15 years has shown that wild horses do not use the Sugarloaf Allotment for winter or summer habitat; this is most likely due to the complete lack of water within the allotment. If horses are found within the allotment, they are

usually just passing through. For this reason, AML is set at incidental use.

The Sugarloaf Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 3,105 AUMs to 2,001 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at incidental use.

h. Ferber Flat Allotment

Incorporate the administrative sheep trail into the Ferber Flat Allotment.

Ferber Flat Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs)	Livestock permitted use ¹	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
2,735	incidental use	2,013	incidental use	2,013

¹ Includes 224 AUMs from the administrative sheep trail.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Ferber Flat Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1986-1999. The carrying capacity for the Ferber Flat Allotment was determined to be 1,789 AUMs. Incorporation of the administrative sheep trail into the Ferber Flat Allotment will add an additional 224 AUMs to the Ferber Flat Allotment. The AUMs were derived from an adjudication map of the administrative sheep trail. Therefore the carrying capacity will be adjusted from 1,789 AUMs to 2,013 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 40% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred from the Upper Bench road east to the Ferber Flat Corral. Light use has occurred in the eastern and extreme western portions of the allotment. The western one third above the Upper Bench road (Goshute Mountains) of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability.

Census data from the past 15 years has shown that wild horses do not use the Ferber Flat Allotment for winter or summer habitat; this is most likely due to the complete lack of water within the allotment. If horses are found within the allotment, they are usually just passing through. For this reason, AML is set at incidental use.

The Ferber Flat Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 2,735 AUMs to 2,013 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at incidental use.

i. Boone Springs Allotment

Boone Springs Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) ¹	Livestock permitted use and Use Areas	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
3,244	897	2,000 (A use area)	265	3,212
		947 (B use area)		
		2,947	265 ²	

¹ The Well RMP Wild Horse Amendment established an initial herd size of 299 horses for the Antelope Valley HMA, as modified by the Spruce FMUD. Aerial census data indicates that 25% of the Antelope Valley herd use the Boone Springs Allotment. 299 x 12 months = 3,588 AUMs. 25% of 3,588 AUMs = 897 AUMs.

² This was determined by averaging the carrying capacity at three key areas in the Boone Springs Allotment.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Boone Springs Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1985-1999. The carrying capacity for livestock in the Boone Springs Allotment was determined to be 2,947 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 17% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in the eastern portion of the allotment (east of Alternative Highway 93). The western one third of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability. With management, 60% of the allotment will be available for livestock grazing.

The Boone Springs Allotment was identified as being a combined winter use area for wild horses and livestock. As per the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment, the carrying capacity AUMs were based on 10% use by wild horses prior to livestock turnout.

The Boone Springs Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 3,244 AUMs to 2,947 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at 265 AUMs.

The following table summarizes livestock permitted use and wild horse appropriate management levels to be implemented on the Sheep Allotment Complex:

Sheep Allotment Complex Summary

Sheep Allotment Complex - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML, and Total AUMs					
Allotment	Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
	Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) as per the Wells Amendment ¹	Livestock permitted use	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs)
Leppy Hills *268	3,807	320	3,351	96	3,447
UT/NV North	4,386	363	3,704	108	3,812
UT/NV South	6,599	107	2,646	87 ²	2,733
Lead Hills *1,126	7,930	43	5,609	12	5,621
White Horse *417	7,500	incidental use	3,916	incidental use	3,916
West White Horse	670	incidental use	465	incidental use	465
Sugarloaf *169	3,105	incidental use	2,001	incidental use	2,001
Ferber Flat *224	2,735	incidental use	2,013	incidental use	2,013
Boone Springs	3,244	897	2,947	265 ³	3,212
Total	39,976	1,730	26,652	568	27,220

¹ As per the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment.
² Average actual use.
³ 10% use prior to livestock turnout was used to determined AML/AUMs
* Sheep trail AUMs incorporated.

Rationale: The desired carrying capacity (livestock permitted use and wild horse AML) and rationale for each allotment in the Sheep Allotment Complex are presented above. The analysis of utilization, actual use, use pattern maps, and wild horse census data as well as the attainment or non-attainment of objectives and standards for rangeland health were used to determine the desired carrying capacity for the Sheep Allotment Complex.

The carrying capacities listed above reflect the proper stocking levels for livestock and the appropriate management levels for wild horses within each allotment. The derived carrying capacity, along with other management actions, will encourage attainment of land use plan objectives and the standards for rangeland health. Maintaining wild horses at the appropriate management level will result in a thriving, natural, ecological balance between horses and other resource values. Continued monitoring within the allotments will show if any adjustment in the AML or permitted levels of livestock grazing is needed.

This evaluation indicates that a decrease of 13,324 AUMs of livestock permitted use is deemed necessary to meet multiple use objectives and attainment of standards for rangeland health.

Wild horses within the complex move freely between administrative and allotment boundaries. Census data was used to derive an average percent of the Antelope Valley and Goshute herd that use each allotment. The AUMs of wild horse use which have been established for each allotment is not a future prediction of what the actual wild horse use in each allotment will be.

HMA	Recruitment Rate	AML - Range to be Managed
Antelope Valley	18%	259 ¹
Goshute	17%	123 ¹

¹ As per current Washington Office direction, AML is expressed as one number but the population is taken to 40% below AML during gathers. This sets up a 4 year gather cycle.

This will implement Guidelines 1.1, 2.1, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress toward conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, Riparian and Wetland Sites, and Habitat.

3. Implement management systems and/or establish the season of use for each allotment in the Sheep Allotment Complex as follows:

a. Leppy Hills Allotment

Leppy Hills Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
H&R	11/01 to 2/28	2,816	100	3,351
Livestock	3/01 to 4/30	2,816		

See Leppy Hills Use areas map #10 in the evaluation.

- (1) Use Area B - Use will be authorized from 11/01 to 3/31. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective is reached livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.
- (2) Use Area A - From the Playa reservoirs south to the allotment boundary and west of BLM road #1050. Use will be authorized from 4/01 to 4/30.
- (3) Morris Basin Use Area - 450 AUMs can be found in the Morris Basin Use Area. Use in Morris Basin Use Area will be authorized from 11/01 to 12/01 and from 4/01 to 4/30.

The two spring use areas described above (Area A and Morris Basin) will follow the following rest rotation schedule.

Leppy Hills Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	Morris Basin
2003	A
2004	Morris Basin
2005	A
2006	Repeat cycle

Management of spring use areas will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

b. Utah/Nevada North Allotment

Utah/Nevada North Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Robert and Jon Child	11/01 to 2/28	3,284	100	3,704
	3/01 to 4/30	3,284		

Implement the grazing system outlined below for the UT/NV North Allotment including rotations amongst the three spring use areas:(see UT/NV North Allotment Spring Use areas map #11 in the evaluation)

- (1) Authorized use from 11/01 to 3/31 will be allotment wide. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective is reached, livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.
- (2) Morgan Basin Use Area - Use in the Morgan Basin Use Area will be from 11/01 to 12/01 and from 4/01 to 4/30 (976 AUMs can be found in this use area).
- (3) Grazing use from 4/01 to 4/30 each year will be made on a rest rotation basis as follows:

UT/NV North Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	B
2003	A
2004	Morgan Basin
2005	Repeat cycle

The Oana corral is located in both A and B use areas. The permittee will be allowed to utilize the corrals each year for loading and handling in the spring.

Management of spring use areas will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

c. Utah/Nevada South Allotment

Utah/Nevada South Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Sherie R. Goring	11/15 to 2/28	2,408	100	2,646
	3/01 to 4/30	2,408		

Implement the following grazing system for the UT/NV South Allotment (see Map #12 in the allotment evaluation which shows the spring use area in the UT/NV South Allotment). The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01).

- (1) Fall and Winter Use (11/01 to 3/31) will be authorized allotment wide. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key

shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective is reached, livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

(2) Spring Use (4/01 to 4/30) - Located west of the Ferber Flat Road.

Management of the spring use area will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Sheep will be allowed in and around the Ferber Corral during shearing and loading times.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

d. Lead Hills Allotment

Lead Hills Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Thousand Peaks Ranches Inc.	11/01 to 2/28	5,105	100	5,609
	3/01 to 4/15	5,105		

Implement the following grazing system outlined below for the Lead Hills Allotment including the three spring use areas identified below (see Lead Hills Use Areas map#13 in the allotment evaluation):

- (1) Fall and Winter Use (11/01 to 3/31) will be authorized allotment wide with the exception that no grazing will be allowed in the ACEC after 3/01. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective is reached, livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days.

If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

- (2) Spring Use - Grazing use from 4/01 to 4/15 each year will be made on a rest rotation basis as follows:

Use Area A - All land to the west of Alternate Highway 93 and south of Felt Wash to the allotment boundary.

Use Area B - All land west of Alternate Highway 93 and north of Felt Wash to the allotment boundary.

Use Area C - All land on the east of Alternate Highway 93 to the Ferguson Flat Road (#1118). No grazing will be allowed in the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) after 3/1.

Lead Hills Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	A
2003	B
2004	C
2005	Repeat cycle

Management of spring use areas will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

e. White Horse Allotment

White Horse Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
L.W. Petersen, Inc.	11/15 to 2/28	3,918	100	3,916
	3/01 to 4/15	3,918		

Continue the grazing system outlined below for the White Horse Allotment.

- (1) Fall and Winter Use (11/01 to 3/31) would be authorized allotment wide. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.
- (2) Grazing use from 4/01 to 4/15 each year will be made on a rest rotation basis as follows:

Four spring use areas are identified below:(see White Horse Spring use areas map #14 in the allotment evaluation).

Use Area A - All land to the west of Alternate Highway 93 from the north boundary of the allotment south to White Horse Pass

Use Area B - From the West White Horse Allotment boundary in the south then north to 1 mile south of the Ibapah Road.

Use Area C - All land on the west side of the Goshute Mountains to the east of Antelope Valley on the upper foothills. Due to its close proximity to white sage this spring use area will be used as a last resort.

Use Area D - All land east of Alternate Highway 93 and north of the Ibapah Road to the Ferguson Flat Road (#1118) on its south and eastern boundary.

White Horse Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	A
2003	B
2004	D
2005	Repeat cycle

Management of spring use areas will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

f. Sugarloaf Allotment

Sugarloaf Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Charles and John Young	11/01 to 2/28	1,770	100	2,001
	3/01 to 4/20	1,770		

(1) Fall and Winter Use (11/01 to 3/31) will be authorized allotment wide. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

(2) Modify the spring grazing system as outlined below for the Sugarloaf Allotment.

Three spring use areas are identified below (see map #15 in the allotment evaluation)

Use Area A - All land to the west of the Ferber Flat Road. (#1025).

Use Area B - All land from the northern extent of the Ferber Hills south to the allotment boundary.

Use Area C - North of the Ferber Hills north to the Allotment Boundary and west to the Ferber Flat Road (#1025).

Grazing use from 4/01 to 4/20 each year will be made on a rest rotation basis as follows:

Sugarloaf Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	A
2003	B
2004	C
2005	Repeat cycle

Management of spring use areas will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

g. Ferber Flat Allotment

Ferber Flat Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Sherie R. Goring	11/01 to 02/28	1,950	100	2,013
	3/01 to 4/20	1,950		

- (1) Fall and Winter Use (11/01 to 3/31) would be authorized allotment wide. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for

healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

- (2) Three spring use areas (see Map #16 in the allotment evaluation) are identified below:

Use Area A - All land from the Ferber Flat Road (#1025) west to the Upper Bench Road (#1026).

Use Area B - All land to the east of the Ferber Flat Road.

Use Area C - All land from the Upper Bench Road (#1026) west to Little White Horse Pass and south to the allotment boundary.

Grazing use from 4/01 to 4/20 each year will be made on a rest rotation basis as follows:

Ferber Flat Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	A
2003	B
2004	C
2005	Repeat cycle

Management of spring use areas will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

h. West White Horse Allotment

West White Horse Allotment					
Permittee	Period of Use	Year	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Sherie R. Goring	12/01 to 2/28	1	549	100	325
	12/01 to 2/28	2	549	100	325
	12/01 to 2/28	3	786	100	465

The West White Horse Allotment has two use areas (Valley and Bench - see map #18 in the PMUD). During years 1 & 2, grazing will be authorized in the Valley use area only. During year 3 of the grazing cycle, grazing will be authorized in both use areas (Valley and Bench). When the Bench area is rested, 140 AUMs will be placed into non-use for conservation of the federal range.

The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and black sagebrush and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached on any key species, livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

No sheep bedding will be allowed in the Bench area of the West White Horse Allotment.

Rationale: Utilization on black sagebrush on the Bench areas has averaged 77% over the last 6 years. Resting this area for two out of three years will help these shrubs recover. Use so as not to exceed the utilization objectives will help maintain the health of the salt desert shrub and other communities within the allotment. Additional monitoring will be conducted to determine if progress is being made towards attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health and further changes made in grazing management, where warranted.

i. Boone Springs Allotment

Boone Springs Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Sherie R. Goring	11/01 to 2/28	2,968	100	2,947
	3/01 to 3/31	2,968		

Implement the following grazing practices for the Boone Springs Allotment.

- (1) The Boone Springs Allotment will have two defined use areas. The description of these use areas, as well as livestock permitted use within each use area, is as follows:

The grazing system outlined below will allow for deferment of areas that have historically received the most significant use and allow for grazing in areas that have historically received light use.

Two use areas are identified below (see Map #17 in the allotment evaluation):

Use Area A - North and west of Alternate Highway 93. This area has the capacity to support 947 AUMs.

Use Area B - South and east of Alternate Highway 93. The area has the capacity to support 2,000 AUMs.

When Use Area A is grazed, permitted use will be 947 AUMs. When Use Area B is grazed, permitted use will be 2,000 AUMs. The permittee will limit use so as not to exceed permitted use within each use area. The permittee will submit a grazing application to the Elko Field Office prior to the start of grazing each year describing use within each use area. Planned use will be reviewed in relation to permitted use.

- (2) The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrubs and other communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and black sagebrush, and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

Rationale: Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to

the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities.

This will implement Guidelines 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress towards conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, and Habitat.

4. Annual utilization on current years growth in spring use areas will not exceed 30% on salt desert shrubs or other key shrub species and 50% (moderate) on key herbaceous species. If utilization is exceeded in two consecutive years, the scheduled off date will be adjusted to 3/31.

Rationale: Light utilization on current years growth in spring use areas will help maintain the health of the salt desert shrub and other communities within the complex. Additional monitoring will be conducted to determine if progress is being made towards attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health, and further changes made in grazing management, where warranted.

This will implement Guidelines 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress towards conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, and Habitat.

5. Annual utilization on previous years growth in winter use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs or other key shrub species and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached on any key species, livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

Rationale: Maintaining proper utilization on previous years growth will help maintain the health of the salt desert shrub and other communities within the complex. Additional monitoring will be conducted to determine if progress is being made towards attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health, and further changes made in grazing management, where warranted.

This will implement Guidelines 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress towards conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, and Habitat.

6. Vacate the UT/NV #1 Allotment Management Plan (AMP) approved on November 8, 1972.

Rationale: Grazing in the UT/NV North and South Allotments will be in accordance with the Sheep Allotment Complex Final Multiple Use Decision.

7. The terms and conditions on each term grazing permit within the Sheep Allotment Complex will read as follows:

- (a) Authorized grazing use will be in accordance with the Assistant Field Manager's Final Multiple Use Decision dated _____.
- (b) Payment of grazing fees will be made prior to livestock turnout.
- (c) Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral, and/or protein supplements in block, granular or liquid form. Such supplements will be placed at least 1/4 mile from live waters (springs, streams, and troughs), wet or dry meadows, and aspen stands.
- (d) An actual use report (Form 4130-5) showing use by use area within the allotment will be turned in within 15 days after completing annual use.
- (e) No Sheep Camps will be located in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) or Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).
- (f) No water hauling or placement of troughs is allowed inside the boundaries of the Bluebell and Goshute Peak WSAs.
- (g) All range improvements will be maintained/repared by the permittee prior to livestock turn out and throughout the grazing season in accordance with range improvement authorization permits.
- (h) All riparian exclosures, including spring development exclosures, are closed to livestock use unless specifically authorized in writing by the Assistant Field Manager for Renewable Resources.
- (i) The numbers of livestock to be grazed will remain flexible according to the needs of the permittee. The grazing system is based on the number of AUMs that may be removed from each pasture/use area. Livestock numbers and periods of use will be applied for on an annual basis. Deviations beyond the flexibility described above may be allowed to meet the needs of the resources and the permittee as long as these deviations are consistent with multiple use objectives. Deviations beyond the limits of the flexibility outlined above, including deviations in the turnout date, increases in livestock numbers and deviation from

the grazing system, will require an application, and written authorization from the Assistant Field Manager for Renewable Resources prior to grazing use.

(j) All hay for the use in and around sheep camps must be certified weed free prior to livestock turnout.

(k) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and protect it from your activities for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

These terms and conditions will implement Guidelines 1.1, 2.1, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress towards conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, Riparian and Wetland Sites, and Habitat.

8. Construct the following range improvement projects within the Sheep Allotment Complex:

Proposed Range Improvements for the Sheep Allotment Complex			
Project	Allotment	Units	Inside WSA
Rock Spring enclosure and trough	Leppy Hills	1	yes
Leppy Hills Well	Leppy Hills	1	no
Side Hill enclosure and trough	UT/NV North	1	yes
Morgan Basin Spring enclosure and trough	UT/NV North	1	yes
Spring Gulch Spring enclosure and trough	UT/NV North	1	no
Felt Spring enclosure and trough	Lead Hills	1	no
Ferguson Spring enclosure	Lead Hills	1	no
Perkins Spring enclosure and trough	Boone Springs	1	no

Rationale: The spring enclosures are intended to protect riparian areas while providing water outside for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses. The well is intended to provide water for livestock and wildlife in areas where there is no perennial water. Completion of these projects will help achieve multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health in the Sheep Allotment Complex.

Required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation will be completed prior to authorization of the proposed projects.

These management actions will implement Guidelines 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 3.4, and 3.6 which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress toward conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, Riparian and Wetland Sites, and Habitat.

9. The permittee(s) will be assigned maintenance of existing spring developments and exclosures. Maintenance responsibility for the proposed Ferguson Spring Exclosure will be assigned to the NDOW. Maintenance responsibility for other future spring developments and exclosures will be assigned to the party(s) deriving the primary benefit(s).

Rationale: It is the policy of the BLM to assign maintenance responsibility, to the extent possible, to the primary beneficiaries of improvement projects. The livestock permittees are considered the primary benefitting parties in relation to the existing spring developments and exclosures since alternatives other than fencing would be adverse to the permittee; therefore, the permittees will be assigned maintenance responsibility. Existing spring developments and exclosures within the Sheep Allotment Complex have been maintained by the BLM since construction and have shown the need for what is considered normal maintenance.

Installation of the Ferguson Spring Exclosure was proposed by the NDOW to help protect the habitat of a meadow vole. A portion of the meadow occurs on public land but most of the meadow area occurs on private land owned by the livestock permittee. The project proposal involves fencing a portion of public land as well as private lands. Since the public land associated with this proposed project receives little use by livestock use and most of the benefits would accrue on private lands, it seems appropriate the NDOW be responsible for maintenance of the exclosure unless the permittee/land owner agrees to accept maintenance.

Maintenance responsibility for other new spring developments and exclosures will be assigned to the party(s) deriving the primary benefit(s) in accordance with BLM policy.

10. Construct wildlife water catchment projects within the Sheep Allotment Complex as outlined in EA BLM/EK/PL-97/018.

Rationale: Completion of these projects will enhance habitat for various wildlife species within the Sheep Allotment Complex and allow increased beneficial use of available habitat.

11. Implement the Sheep Allotment Complex Fire Management Plan (see appendix 5 of the evaluation).

Rationale: The 1998 Elko Field Office Fire Management Plan identified fire and fuels management goals and objectives for the Elko District. The Sheep Allotment Complex Fire Management Plan is tiered off the Field Office Plan and identifies site specific fire suppression, prescribed fire and fuels management goals and objectives for the public lands within this complex. The Sheep Allotment Complex Fire Management Plan is required to effectively implement the goals and objectives of the Elko Field Office Fire Management Plan within the Sheep Allotment Complex.

12. Modify and/or requantify the allotment specific and key area objectives for the Sheep Allotment Complex to read as described in Appendix 1 in the PMUD. The objectives include upland, riparian and wild horse objectives. The general land use plan objectives and Standards for rangeland health developed for the Northeastern Great Basin Area remain unchanged.

Rationale: The Record of Decision for the Wells Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Resource Management plan (RMP) was issued on July 16, 1985. These documents established the multiple use goals and objectives which guide management of the public lands in the Sheep Allotment Complex. The Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) was issued on September 15, 1986. This document further identified the allotment specific objectives for these allotments. The allotment specific objectives which were analyzed in the allotment evaluation were formulated based on management issues which existed in 1986 when the RPS was published.

Monitoring was established on the allotments within the Sheep Allotment Complex to determine if existing grazing uses were consistent with attainment of the multiple use objectives established by the Wells RMP and RPS. Monitoring data were analyzed through the allotment evaluation process, to determine progress in meeting multiple use objectives and to determine what changes in existing grazing management, if any, are required.

The Sheep Allotment Complex Allotment Evaluation summarized current grazing management, determined whether or not progress was being made toward attainment of the multiple use objectives, and the standards for rangeland health, and provided recommendations for future management. Based on monitoring data and conclusions presented in the allotment evaluation, it is necessary to modify and/or requantify the allotment specific objectives to address the following resource issues:

- upland range conditions
- lentic riparian conditions
- wildlife habitat conditions
- wild horse management

11. Implement the Sheep Allotment Complex Fire Management Plan (see appendix 5 of the evaluation).

Rationale: The 1998 Elko Field Office Fire Management Plan identified fire and fuels management goals and objectives for the Elko District. The Sheep Allotment Complex Fire Management Plan is tiered off the Field Office Plan and identifies site specific fire suppression, prescribed fire and fuels management goals and objectives for the public lands within this complex. The Sheep Allotment Complex Fire Management Plan is required to effectively implement the goals and objectives of the Elko Field Office Fire Management Plan within the Sheep Allotment Complex.

12. Modify and/or requantify the allotment specific and key area objectives for the Sheep Allotment Complex to read as described in Appendix 1 attached. The objectives include upland, riparian and wild horse objectives. The general land use plan objectives and Standards for rangeland health developed for the Northeastern Great Basin Area remain unchanged.

Rationale: The Record of Decision for the Wells Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the Resource Management plan (RMP) was issued on July 16, 1985. These documents established the multiple use goals and objectives which guide management of the public lands in the Sheep Allotment Complex. The Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) was issued on September 15, 1986. This document further identified the allotment specific objectives for these allotments. The allotment specific objectives which were analyzed in the allotment evaluation were formulated based on management issues which existed in 1986 when the RPS was published.

Monitoring was established on the allotments within the Sheep Allotment Complex to determine if existing grazing uses were consistent with attainment of the multiple use objectives established by the Wells RMP and RPS. Monitoring data were analyzed through the allotment evaluation process, to determine progress in meeting multiple use objectives and to determine what changes in existing grazing management, if any, are required.

The Sheep Allotment Complex Allotment Evaluation summarized current grazing management, determined whether or not progress was being made toward attainment of the multiple use objectives, and the standards for rangeland health, and provided recommendations for future management. Based on monitoring data and conclusions presented in the allotment evaluation, it is necessary to modify and/or requantify the allotment specific objectives to address the following resource issues:

- upland range conditions
- lentic riparian conditions
- wildlife habitat conditions
- wild horse management

13. Inventory, identify and eliminate existing wire hazards. Clean up and dispose of old wire, especially where it creates a significant hazard to wild horses.

Rationale: Wild horses have become tangled in old barbed wire particularly in old spring enclosures and wild horse traps. Entanglement in barbed wire causes extensive injuries and in some cases the need for the animal to be destroyed.

14. Continue to collect combined use utilization data and collect wild horse use only utilization data.

Rationale: Collection of utilization data is necessary to determine if management practices are meeting objectives and will indicate management changes needed in response to climatological changes, such as drought, etc.

15. Continue to collect seasonal distribution data on the Antelope Valley and Goshute HMAs.

Rationale: In 1991, intensive seasonal distribution flights were begun within the Elko District. These census flights have provided valuable information on horse movements and should continue until monitoring data indicates that the appropriate management level has been attained in all HMAs.

16. Establish new key areas in the Sheep Allotment Complex in the following locations.

Leppy Hills Allotment - Within the Pilot Burn

White Horse Allotment - Within the Ferguson Burn

UT/NV South Allotment - On the white sage flats near Ferber.

UT/NV South Allotment - Northwest portion of the allotment.

Boone Springs Allotment - Within crucial antelope winter habitat.

Future locations will be determined on an as needed basis.

17. Administer all grazing and any developments or projects within the Goshute Peak and Bluebell Wilderness Study Areas in full compliance with the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review.

Rationale: The BLM is mandated by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to manage Wilderness Study Areas until Congressional decisions are made so as not to impair the suitability of each area for preservation as wilderness. This is

generally referred to as the "non-impairment criteria." General policies and specific guidance, which need to be followed are detailed in the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP), BLM Manual Handbook H-8550-1. As part of the NEPA review process for any new range development project or wildlife water catchment, all groups on the wilderness CCC list will be consulted.

18. Within the Sheep Allotment Complex, treat invasive and noxious weeds in a manner that is most appropriate to the weed species and degree of infestation. Treatment will be in accordance with the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States, the Programmatic Environmental Assessment of Integrated Weed Management on Bureau of Land Management Lands, and Elko Field Office site-specific Invasive-nonnative vegetation treatment environmental assessment. See Appendix 7 of the allotment evaluation for a list of weed species, their potential habitat and proposed treatment.

Rationale: The BLM is mandated to manage vegetation on public lands. The BLM must control noxious weeds and undesirable plants to maintain or improve the quality of forests and rangeland for all multiple resources. Controlling noxious weeds within the Sheep Allotment Complex will result in a more diverse plant community and therefore will improve wildlife habitat, soil stability and forage plant diversity.

This will implement Guidelines 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, and 3.4, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress toward conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, riparian and wetland sites, and Habitat.

19. Manage sage grouse habitat (i.e. leks, nesting, brooding, and summer and winter habitats) consistent with the Western States Sage Grouse Guidelines, as adapted for use in Nevada.

Rationale: Sage grouse is a BLM sensitive species with a high probability of becoming a nationally threatened or endangered species. Maintaining and improving sage grouse habitat will assist in maintaining or increasing populations within the Sheep Allotment Complex and may form a basis for future habitat conservation plans.

20. Continue to conduct necessary monitoring studies and periodically evaluate the effects of grazing to determine if progress is being made in meeting the multiple use objectives. The Sheep Allotment Complex will be re-evaluated in accordance with priorities established in the Elko Field Office Monitoring and Evaluation schedule. If monitoring studies indicate a need to bring grazing use in line with capacity, necessary adjustments will be made. Studies will be conducted in accordance with BLM policy manual guidance as outlined in the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook and will include, but are not limited, to

the following:

Uplands:

- forage production
- ecological condition
- frequency trend
- utilization
- actual use
- Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM TR 1734-6)
- Ecological Site Inventory
- Cover

Riparian:

- Proper Function Condition Assessments (BLM TR 1737-16, 1999)

Wildlife Habitat:

- habitat condition studies, Cole browse, utilization, condition studies, (BLM Manual 6630)
- wildlife population census/updated maps (NDOW)

Wild Horses:

- wild horse population census
- wild horse utilization data

Rationale: Additional monitoring and analysis will be required to determine whether objectives are being met and determine any necessary changes in grazing management.

F. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) REVIEW

The selected management actions for the Sheep Allotment Complex conform with the environmental analysis described in the Final Wells Environmental Impact Statement dated July 17, 1985. The Environmental Impact Statement and Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) are on file at the Elko Field Office, 3900 E. Idaho St., Elko, Nevada 89801.

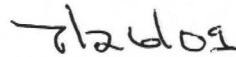
G. FUTURE MONITORING AND GRAZING ADJUSTMENTS

The Elko Field Office will continue to conduct necessary monitoring studies and periodically evaluate the effects of grazing to determine if progress is being made in meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health and the multiple use objectives for the Sheep Allotment Complex. ~~The Complex~~ will be re-evaluated in accordance with the priorities established by the Elko Field Office. The Elko Field Office will evaluate with the use of an interdisciplinary team to determine if significant progress is being made through the implementation of these decisions.

These re-evaluations are necessary to determine if the Standards for Rangeland Health and the allotment specific objectives are being met under management strategies to be implemented through the Sheep Allotment Complex Final Multiple Use Decision.



CLINTON R. OKE, Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources



Date

7/27/01

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office
3900 E. Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801

In Reply Refer To:
4130 (NV-012)

CERTIFIED MAIL: 7000 0520 0020 5845 3829
Return Receipt Requested
H & R Livestock
c/o Kay Richins
P.O. Box 302
Henefer, UT 84033

JUL 27 2001

PROPOSED MULTIPLE USE DECISION FOR THE SHEEP ALLOTMENT COMPLEX

Dear Permittee:

On July 31, 2000, the Sheep Allotment Complex Evaluation was issued to the public for comment. That evaluation analyzed monitoring information collected between 1983 and 2000 to determine progress in meeting the multiple use objectives for the allotments in the Sheep Allotment Complex, and to determine what changes in existing management may be required to meet those objectives.

The following documents established the multiple use objectives which guide management of the public lands within the Sheep Allotment Complex: the Record of Decision for the Wells Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan (RMP) issued on July 16, 1985, the Rangeland Program Summary issued on September 15, 1986, and the RMP Wild Horse and Burro Amendment issued on August 2, 1992.

In accordance with the grazing regulations the Secretary of the Interior approved standards and guidelines for rangeland health for the Northeastern Great Basin Area of Nevada on February 12, 1997. These standards and guidelines reflect the stated goals of improving rangeland health while providing for the viability of the livestock industry.

Following the 30 day public comment period for the evaluation, the Elko Field Office carefully considered the comments received which prompted changes to the evaluation and proposed management actions. Upon completion of these changes, the management actions to be implemented on each allotment within the Sheep Allotment Complex were selected. The actions selected for implementation are described in the "Sheep Allotment Complex Management Action Selection Report (MASR)". The MASR also provides responses to public comments on the evaluation and describes the changes made to the evaluation and proposed management actions.

Through the consultation, coordination, and cooperation process (CCC), your input, as well as input from the interested public, has been considered in the allotment evaluation process. As a result of the evaluation conclusions and after consideration of input received through the CCC process, it has been determined that: 1) some of the multiple use objectives and Standards for Rangeland Health for the Sheep Allotment Complex are not being met, 2) changes in current livestock grazing management and wild horse management are required, 3) existing management of wildlife has not contributed to non-attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health, and 4) deletions, modifications, and/or requantification of some allotment multiple use objectives are required as follows:

1. **The following RPS objectives will no longer be evaluated as they have been attained and/or it is unnecessary to continue monitoring achievement of these objectives at this time.**

Leppy Hills Allotment

- a. Consider allotment boundary adjustment between the Pilot Allotment because of Interstate-80.
- b. If necessary adjust season of use on white sage areas.

White Horse Allotment

- c. If necessary adjust season of use on white sage areas.
- d. Implement a grazing system.

Sugarloaf Allotment

- e. If necessary adjust season of use on white sage areas.
- f. Implement a grazing system.

West White Horse Allotment

- g. If necessary adjust season of use on white sage areas.

Sheep Allotment Complex

- h. Maintain roads for access.
- i. Coordinate sheep trail use with Utah BLM.

Rationale:

Leppy Hills Allotment

The Leppy Hills allotment boundary objective has been met through adjustment of the allotment boundaries by range line agreement dated 2/16/88 and construction of the Pilot-State line fence.

Little use occurs on white sage areas after 4/01. The permittee has cooperated with the BLM in deferring use of salt desert shrub communities after 4/01 since 1991. Grazing use between 4/01 and 4/30 is specifically defined in this decision.

White Horse Allotment

The current season of use in the White Horse Allotment ends on 4/15. The White Horse grazing agreement provides for deferment of white sage areas after 4/01.

The grazing system for the White Horse allotment was signed and implemented in 1987.

Sugarloaf Allotment

The current season of use ends on 4/20. The Sugarloaf Allotment grazing agreement provides for deferment of white sage areas after 4/01.

The Sugarloaf Allotment Grazing system was signed and implemented in 1986.

West White Horse Allotment

Current livestock use on the allotment terminates in February, which is prior to the start of the growing season for white sage.

Sheep Allotment Complex

Roads within the Sheep Allotment Complex are currently maintained by the BLM on a priority-rotation basis.

The administrative sheep trail will be incorporated into allotments therefore eliminating the sheep trail. The Elko Field Office will continue to coordinate with the Utah BLM on any trailing that involves the Utah BLM.

- 2. Modify and/or requantify the RPS and allotment specific objectives for the Sheep Allotment Complex. General land use plan objectives and Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health for Northeastern Nevada Great Basin Area will remain unchanged. Modification and/or requantification of objectives will allow for consolidation of objectives that are similar. Refer to Appendix 1 for a complete list of the multiple use objectives to be evaluated at the next scheduled evaluation.**

Rationale: The Sheep Allotment Complex Allotment Evaluation summarized current grazing management, determined whether or not progress was being made toward attainment of the multiple use objectives, and provided recommendations for future management. The allotment specific objectives which were analyzed in the allotment evaluation were formulated based on management issues which existed in 1986 when the RPS was published. Based on monitoring data and conclusions presented in this allotment evaluation, it is necessary to modify and/or requantify the allotment specific objectives to address the following resource issues:

- upland range conditions
- lotic and lentic riparian conditions
- wildlife habitat conditions
- wild horse management

Monitoring studies will continue to be conducted and the effects of grazing will be evaluated periodically to determine if progress is being made in meeting the multiple use objectives and significant progress is being made toward attainment of the standards for rangeland health.

It has been determined that some of the multiple use objectives were not met and that livestock grazing and wild horse use on the public lands are significant factors in failing to achieve the standards and conform with the guidelines as identified in the conclusion section (Section V) of the Sheep Allotment Complex Evaluation.

In order to ensure progress towards and achieve the standards for rangeland health and multiple use objectives, changes in current livestock and wild horse use are required. **Therefore, my proposed decision is to implement the management actions identified below for wildlife, livestock, and wild horse management in the Sheep Allotment Complex.** These management actions will become effective upon issuance of the Final Multiple Use Decision and subsequent appeal period.

I. LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT DECISION

1. Establish a separate allotment for each permittee in the UT/NV #1 Allotment. The two pastures in the UT/NV #1 Allotment are separated by over 30 miles. Robert and Jon Child will have grazing privileges in the North Pasture which will be known as the UT/NV North Allotment.

Sherie R. Goring will have grazing privileges in the South Pasture which will be known as the UT/NV South Allotment.

Rationale: Establishing individual allotments will allow grazing systems to be implemented to meet each of the permittees individual needs and be compatible with implementation of grazing systems needed to meet multiple use objectives and attainment of the standards for rangeland health.

2. Establish the total number of AUMs of permitted use for livestock and appropriate management level (AML) for wild horses for the Sheep Allotment Complex as follows:

a. Leppy Hills Allotment

Incorporate the administrative sheep trail into the Leppy Hills Allotment.

Leppy Hills Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) ²	Livestock permitted use ¹	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
3,807	320	3,351	96	3,447

¹ Includes 268 AUMs from the administrative sheep trail and 450 AUMs in the Morris Basin Spring Use area.
² The Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment established an initial herd size of 178 horses for the Goshute HMA, as modified by the Spruce FMUD. Aerial census data indicates that 15% of the Goshute herd used the Leppy Hills Allotment. 178 x 12 months = 2,136 AUMs. 15% of 2,136 AUMs = 320 AUMs.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Leppy Hills Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The carrying capacity for the Leppy Hills Allotment was determined to be 2,633 AUMs. Incorporation of the administrative sheep trail into the Leppy Hills Allotment will add an additional 268 AUMs to the Leppy Hills Allotment. An additional 450 AUMs can be found in the Morris Basin area of the Leppy Hills Allotment. The AUMs were derived from an adjudication map in the Elko Field Office. These AUMs will be available for late fall or early spring grazing. Therefore the total carrying capacity for livestock is 3,351 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 20% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use occurred in the northeastern portion of the allotment. Light use has occurred in the eastern, northern, and western portions of the allotment. With the exception of the Morris Basin area, the western two thirds of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing due to topography and vegetation suitability.

The Leppy Hills Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography within the allotment.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 3,807 AUMs to 3,351 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at 96 AUMs.

b. UT/NV North Allotment

UT/NV North Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) ¹	Livestock permitted use and Use Areas	Wild Horse AML (AUMs) ³	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
3,410	363	2,728 (A & B)	incidental use	2,728
976 (cp)		976 (Morgan Basin ²)	108	1,084
Total - 4,386		3,704	108	3,812

Non-Use (cp) is voluntary non-use for conservation purposes as outlined in the 1997 grazing agreement for the North Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment.

¹ The Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment established an initial herd size of 178 horses for the Goshute HMA, as modified by the Spruce FMUD. Aerial census data indicates the 17% of the Goshute herd used the North Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment. 178 x 12 months = 2,136 AUMs. 17% of 2,136 AUMs = 363 AUMs.

² The Morgan Basin area carrying capacity will be established at 976 AUMs. These AUMs were derived from an adjudication map in the Elko Field Office. The Morgan Basin area will be available for late fall and early spring grazing.

³ The AML was added to the Morgan Basin use area. Horse use is confined to the Goshute Mountains with incidental use along the benches.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for UT/NV North Allotment was evaluated in 1997. In the review of carrying capacity the Elko Field Office said that it will conduct necessary monitoring studies and re-evaluate the effects of grazing in 1999.

The carrying capacity for the UT/NV North Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The carrying capacity for the UT/NV North Allotment was determined to be 2,728 AUMs. The capacity did not include the Morgan Basin use area.

The carrying capacity for the UT/NV North Allotment use areas A & B (see map 2 of the evaluation UT/NV North use areas) will adjusted to 2,728 AUMs. The Morgan Basin area carrying capacity will be established at 976 AUMs. These AUMs were derived from an adjudication map in the Elko Field Office. The Morgan Basin area will be available for late fall and early spring grazing.

During the evaluation period 8% of the UT/NV North Allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in the eastern portion of the pasture. Light use has occurred in the western portions of the pasture. With the exception of the Morgan Basin area the western two thirds of the allotment is unsuitable

for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability.

The North Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 4,386 AUMs to 3,704 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at 108 AUMs.

c. UT/NV South Allotment

UT/NV South Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) ¹	Livestock permitted use	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
6,599	107	2,646	87	2,733

¹ The Well RMP Wild Horse Amendment established an initial herd size of 299 horses for the Antelope Valley HMA, as modified by the Spruce FMUD. Aerial census data indicates that 3% of the Antelope Valley herd use the South Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment. 299 x 12 months = 3,588 AUMs. 3% of 3,588 AUMs = 107 AUMs

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the UT/NV South Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1985-1999. The carrying capacity for the UT/NV South Allotment using key area utilization was determined to be 2,646 AUMs.

Trend is upward and the standards for rangeland health are being met or progress is being made toward attainment. The increase in ecological status can be attributed to an increase in key forage species.

During the evaluation period 55% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in eastern, central and western portions of the allotment. Light use has occurred in the southern and northern portions of the allotment.

The South Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 6,599 AUMs to 2,646 AUMs. Wild horse

AML will be established at 87 AUMs.

d. Lead Hills Allotment

Incorporate the administrative sheep trail into the Lead Hills Allotment.

Lead Hills Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) ²	Livestock permitted use ¹	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
7,930	43	5,609	12	5,621
¹ Includes 1,126 AUMs from the administrative sheep trail. ² The Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment established an initial herd size of 178 horses for the Goshute HMA, as modified by the Spruce FMUD. Aerial census data indicates the 2% of the Goshute herd uses the Lead Hills Allotment. 178 x 12 months = 2,136 AUMs. 2% of 2,136 AUMs = 43 AUMs.				

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Lead Hills Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The potential carrying capacity for livestock in the Lead Hills Allotment was determined to be 4,483 AUMs. Incorporation of the administrative sheep trail into the Lead Hills Allotment will add an additional 1,126 AUMs to the Lead Hills Allotment. The AUMs were derived from an adjudication map of the administrative sheep trail. Therefore the carrying capacity will be adjusted from 4,483 to 5,609 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 30% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in northern portion (east of the Goshute Peak WSA and north of Ferguson Mountain), and eastern portion (west of the administrative sheep trail). Light use has occurred in the eastern, northern, and western portions of the allotment.

With changes in management the livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 7,930 AUMs to 5,609 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at 12 AUMs.

e. White Horse Allotment

Incorporate the administrative sheep trail into the White Horse Allotment.

White Horse Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs)	Livestock permitted use ¹	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
7,500	incidental use	3,916	incidental use	3,916

¹ Includes 417 AUMs from the administrative sheep trail.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the White Horse Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The carrying capacity for the White Horse Allotment was determined to be 3,499 AUMs. Incorporation of the administrative sheep trail into the White Horse Allotment will add an additional 417 AUMs to the White Horse Allotment. The AUMs were derived from an adjudication map of the administrative sheep trail. Therefore the carrying capacity will be adjusted from 3,499 to 3,916 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 23% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in western portion of the allotment (south of the WSA and west of White Horse Pass) and central portion of the allotment (from Dead Cedar Wash south to the allotment boundary). Light use has occurred in the eastern, northern, southern (south of White Horse Pass), and western portions of the allotment. The western and southern one thirds of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability.

The White Horse Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 7,500 AUMs to 3,916 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at incidental use.

f. West White Horse Allotment

West White Horse - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs)	Livestock permitted use	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
670	incidental use	465	incidental use	465

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the West White Horse Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The carrying capacity for livestock in the West White Horse Allotment was determined to be 465 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 46% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in eastern (on the upper benches), central and western portion of the allotment. Light use has occurred in the northern, and extreme southwestern portions of the allotment. The eastern one third of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability.

The West White Horse Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 670 AUMs to 465 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at incidental use.

g. Sugarloaf Allotment

Incorporate the administrative sheep trail into the Sugarloaf Allotment.

Sugarloaf Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs)	Livestock permitted use ¹	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
3,105	incidental use	2,001	incidental use	2,001

¹ Includes 169 AUMs from the administrative sheep trail.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Sugarloaf Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1987-1999. The carrying capacity for the Sugarloaf Allotment was determined to be 1,832 AUMs. Incorporation of the administrative sheep trail into the Sugarloaf Allotment will add an additional 169 AUMs to the Sugarloaf Allotment. The AUMs were derived from an adjudication map of the administrative sheep trail. Therefore the carrying capacity will be adjusted from 1,832 AUMs to 2,001 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 54% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in east from the Goshute Mountains in the west and west from the Ferber Hills in the east. Light use has occurred in the western portion (Goshute Mountains) and eastern portion (Ferber Hills east to the sheep trail). The western one third of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability.

The Sugarloaf Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 3,105 AUMs to 2,001 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at incidental use.

h. Ferber Flat Allotment

Incorporate the administrative sheep trail into the Ferber Flat Allotment.

Ferber Flat Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs)	Livestock permitted use¹	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
2,735	incidental use	2,013	incidental use	2,013

¹ Includes 224 AUMs from the administrative sheep trail.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Ferber Flat Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1986-1999. The carrying capacity for the Ferber Flat Allotment was determined to be 1,789 AUMs. Incorporation of the administrative sheep trail into the Ferber Flat Allotment will add an additional 224 AUMs to the Ferber Flat Allotment. The AUMs were derived from an adjudication map of the administrative sheep trail. Therefore the carrying capacity will be adjusted from 1,789 AUMs to 2,013 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 40% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred from the Upper Bench road east to the Ferber Flat Corral. Light use has occurred in the eastern and extreme western portions of the allotment. The western one third above the Upper Bench road (Goshute Mountains) of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability.

The Ferber Flat Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 2,735 AUMs to 2,013 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at incidental use.

i. Boone Springs Allotment

Boone Springs Allotment - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML				
Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) ¹	Livestock permitted use and Use Areas	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs) (LVST & WH)
3,244	897	2,000 (A use area)	265	3,212
		947 (B use area)		
		2,947	265 ²	

¹ The Well RMP Wild Horse Amendment established an initial herd size of 299 horses for the Antelope Valley HMA, as modified by the Spruce FMUD. Aerial census data indicates that 25% of the Antelope Valley herd use the Boone Springs Allotment. 299 x 12 months = 3,588 AUMs. 25% of 3,588 AUMs = 897 AUMs.

² This was determined by averaging the carrying capacity at three key areas in the Boone Springs Allotment.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Boone Springs Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data and weighted average utilization data from 1985-1999. The carrying capacity for livestock in the Boone Springs Allotment was determined to be 2,947 AUMs.

During the evaluation period 17% of the allotment showed the highest significant use. The highest significant use has occurred in the eastern portion of the allotment (east of Alternative Highway 93). The western one third of the allotment is unsuitable for winter sheep grazing, due to topography and vegetation suitability. With management, 60% of the allotment will be available for livestock grazing.

The Boone Springs Allotment was historically over adjudicated. The AUMs adjudicated were based on vegetation whether it was available or not and did not consider the topography.

Livestock permitted use will be adjusted from 3,244 AUMs to 2,947 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at 265 AUMs.

The following table summarizes livestock permitted use and wild horse appropriate management levels to be implemented on the Sheep Allotment Complex:

Sheep Allotment Complex Summary

Sheep Allotment Complex - Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML, and Total AUMs					
Allotment	Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
	Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs) as per the Wells Amendment ¹	Livestock permitted use	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs)
Leppy Hills *268	3,807	320	3,351	96	3,447
UT/NV North	4,386	363	3,704	108	3,812
UT/NV South	6,599	107	2,646	87 ²	2,733
Lead Hills *1,126	7,930	43	5,609	12	5,621
White Horse *417	7,500	incidental use	3,916	incidental use	3,916
West White Horse	670	incidental use	465	incidental use	465
Sugarloaf *169	3,105	incidental use	2,001	incidental use	2,001
Ferber Flat *224	2,735	incidental use	2,013	incidental use	2,013
Boone Springs	3,244	897	2,947	265 ³	3,212
Total	39,976	1,730	26,652	568	27,220

¹ As per the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment.
² Average actual use.
³ 10% use prior to livestock turnout was used to determined AML/AUMs
* Sheep trail AUMs incorporated.

Rationale: The desired carrying capacity (livestock permitted use and wild horse AML) and rationale for each allotment in the Sheep Allotment Complex are presented above.

The analysis of utilization, actual use, use pattern maps, and wild horse census data as well as the attainment or non-attainment of objectives and standards for rangeland health were used to determine the desired carrying capacity for the Sheep Allotment Complex.

The carrying capacities listed above reflect the proper stocking levels for livestock and the appropriate management levels for wild horses within each allotment. The derived carrying capacity, along with other management actions, will encourage attainment of land use plan objectives and the standards for rangeland health. Maintaining wild horses at the appropriate management level will result in a thriving, natural, ecological balance between horses and other resource values. Continued monitoring within the allotments will show if any adjustment in the AML or permitted levels of livestock grazing is needed.

This evaluation indicates that a decrease of 13,324 AUMs of livestock permitted use is deemed necessary to meet multiple use objectives and attainment of standards for rangeland health.

This will implement Guidelines 1.1, 2.1, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress toward conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, Riparian and Wetland Sites, and Habitat.

3. Implement management systems and/or establish the season of use for each allotment in the Sheep Allotment Complex as follows:

a. Leppy Hills Allotment

Leppy Hills Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
H&R	11/01 to 2/28	2,816	100	3,351
Livestock	3/01 to 4/30	2,816		

See Leppy Hills Use areas map #10 attached.

- (1) Use Area B - Use will be authorized from 11/01 to 3/31. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective is reached livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment

within 5 days.

- (2) Use Area A - From the Playa reservoirs south to the allotment boundary and west of BLM road #1050. Use will be authorized from 4/01 to 4/30.
- (3) Morris Basin Use Area - 450 AUMs can be found in the Morris Basin Use Area. Use in Morris Basin Use Area will be authorized from 11/01 to 12/01 and from 4/01 to 4/30.

The two spring use areas described above (Area A and Morris Basin) will follow the following rest rotation schedule.

Leppy Hills Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	Morris Basin
2003	A
2004	Morris Basin
2005	A
2006	Repeat cycle

Management of spring use area will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

b. Utah/Nevada North Allotment

Utah/Nevada North Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Robert and Jon Child	11/01 to 2/28	3,284	100	3,704
	3/01 to 4/30	3,284		

Implement the grazing system outlined below for the UT/NV North Allotment, including

rotations amongst the three spring use areas as follows:(see UT/NV North Allotment Spring Use areas map #11 attached)

- (1) Authorized use from 11/01 to 3/31 will be allotment wide. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective is reached, livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.
- (2) Morgan Basin Use Area -Use in the Morgan Basin Use Area will be from 11/01 to 12/01 and from 4/01 to 4/30 (976 AUMs can be found in this use area).
- (3) Grazing use from 4/01 to 4/30 each year will be made on a rest rotation basis as follows:

UT/NV North Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	B
2003	A
2004	Morgan Basin
2005	Repeat cycle

The Oana corral is located in both A and B use areas. The permittee will be allowed to utilize the corrals each year for loading and handling in the spring.

Management of spring use area will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

c. Utah/Nevada South Allotment

Utah/Nevada South Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Sherie R. Goring	11/15 to 2/28	2,408	100	2,646
	3/01 to 4/30	2,408		

Implement the following grazing system for the UT/NV South Allotment (see Map #12 attached which shows the spring use areas in the UT/NV South Allotment). The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01).

- (1) Fall and Winter Use (11/01 to 3/31) will be authorized allotment wide. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective is reached, livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.
- (2) Spring Use (4/01 to 4/30) - Located west of the Ferber Flat Road.

Management of spring use area will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Sheep will be allowed in and around the Ferber Corral during shearing and loading times.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

d. Lead Hills Allotment

Lead Hills Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Thousand Peaks Ranches Inc.	11/01 to 2/28	5,649	100	5,609
	3/01 to 4/15	5,649		

Implement the following grazing system outlined below for the Lead Hills Allotment including the three spring use areas are identified below (see Lead Hills Use Areas map#13 attached):

(1) Fall and Winter Use (11/01 to 3/31) will be authorized allotment wide with the exception that no grazing will be allowed in the ACEC after 3/01.. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective is reached, livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

(2) Spring Use - Grazing use from 4/01 to 4/15 each year will be made on a rest rotation basis as follows:

Use Area A - All land to the west of Alternate Highway 93 and south of Felt Wash to the allotment boundary.

Use Area B - All land west of Alternate Highway 93 and north of Felt Wash to the allotment boundary.

Use Area C - All land on the east of Alternate Highway 93 to the Ferguson Flat Road (#1118). No grazing will be allowed in the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) after 3/1.

Lead Hills Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	A
2003	B
2004	C
2005	Repeat cycle

Management of spring use area will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

e. White Horse Allotment

White Horse Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
L.W. Petersen, Inc.	11/15 to 2/28	3,918	100	3,916
	3/01 to 4/15	3,918		

Continue the grazing system outlined below for the White Horse Allotment.

- (1) Fall and Winter Use (11/01 to 3/31) will be authorized allotment wide. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

Grazing use from 4/01 to 4/15 each year will be made on a rest rotation basis as follows:

Four spring use areas are identified below:(see White Horse Spring use areas map #14 attached).

Use Area A - All land to the west of Alternate Highway 93 from the north boundary of the allotment south to White Horse Pass

Use Area B - From the West White Horse Allotment boundary in the south then north to 1 mile south of the Ibapah Road.

Use Area C - All land on the west side of the Goshute Mountains to the east of Antelope valley on the upper foothills. Due to its close proximity to white sage this spring use area will be used as a last resort.

Use Area D - All land east of Alternate Highway 93 and north of the Ibapah Road to the Ferguson Flat Road (#1118) on its south and eastern boundary.

White Horse Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	A
2003	B
2004	D
2005	Repeat cycle

Management of spring use area will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

f. West White Horse Allotment

West White Horse Allotment					
Permittee	Period of Use	Year	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Sherie R. Goring	12/01 to 2/28	1	549	100	325
	12/01 to 2/28	2	549	100	325
	12/01 to 2/28	3	786	100	465

The West White Horse Allotment has two use areas (Valley and Bench - see attached Map #18). During years 1 & 2, grazing will be authorized in the Valley use area only). During year 3 of the grazing cycle, grazing will be authorized in both use areas (Valley and Bench). When the Bench area is rested, 140 AUMs will be placed into non-use for conservation of the federal range.

The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and black sagebrush and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached on any key species, livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

No sheep bedding will be allowed in the Bench areas of the West White Horse Allotment.

Rationale: Utilization on black sagebrush on the Bench areas has averaged 77% over the last 6 years. Resting this area for two out of three years will help these shrubs recover. Use so as not to exceed the utilization objectives will help maintain the health of the salt desert shrub and other communities within the allotment. Additional monitoring will be conducted to determine if progress is being made towards attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health and further changes made in grazing management, where warranted.

g. Sugarloaf Allotment

Sugarloaf Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Charles and John Young	11/01 to 2/28	1,770	100	2,001
	3/01 to 4/20	1,770		

(1) Fall and Winter Use (11/01 to 3/31) will be authorized allotment wide. The

livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

- (2) Modify the spring grazing system outlined below for the Sugarloaf Allotment.

Three spring use areas are identified below (see map #15 attached)

Use Area A - All land to the west of the Ferber Flat Road. (#1025).

Use Area B - All land from the northern extent of the Ferber Hills south to the allotment boundary.

Use Area C - North of the Ferber Hills north to the Allotment Boundary and west to the Ferber Flat Road (#1025).

Grazing use from 4/01 to 4/20 each year will be made on a rest rotation basis as follows:

Sugarloaf Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	A
2003	B
2004	C
2005	Repeat cycle

Management of spring use area will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being proposed, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these

areas.

h. Ferber Flat Allotment

Ferber Flat Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Sherie R. Goring	11/01 to 02/28	1,950	100	2,013
	3/01 to 4/20	1,950		

(1) Fall and Winter Use (11/01 to 3/31) will be authorized allotment wide. The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrub communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

(2) Three spring use areas (see Map #16 attached) are identified below:

Use Area A - All land from the Ferber Flat Road (#1025) west to the Upper Bench Road (#1026).

Use Area B - All land to the east of the Ferber Flat Road.

Use Area C - All land from the Upper Bench Road (#1026) west to Little White Horse Pass and south to the allotment boundary.

Grazing use from 4/01 to 4/20 each year will be made on a rest rotation basis as follows:

Ferber Flat Allotment Spring Use Areas	
Year	Use Area
2002	A
2003	B
2004	C
2005	Repeat cycle

Management of spring use area will allow for a maximum utilization of 30% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species and other key shrubs (such as black sage),

and 50% on key herbaceous species. When either utilization objective has been reached, livestock will be removed within 5 days.

Rationale: The grazing system will allow for rest of salt desert shrub communities during the growing season (after 4/01). Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities. Where growing season use is being authorized, limited duration of use, proper stocking levels, and utilization objectives will prevent overuse of these areas.

i. Boone Springs Allotment

Boone Springs Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Sherie R. Goring	11/01 to 2/28	2,968	100	2,947
	3/01 to 3/31	2,968		

Implement the following grazing practices for the Boone Springs Allotment.

- (1) The Boone Springs Allotment will have two defined use areas (see Map #17 attached). The description of these use areas, as well as livestock permitted use within each use area, is as follows:

The grazing system outlined below will allow for deferment of areas that have historically received the most significant use and allow for grazing in areas that have historically received light use.

Two use areas are identified below (see Map #17 attached):

Use Area A - North and west of Alternate Highway 93. This area has the capacity to support 947 AUMs.

Use Area B - South and east of Alternate Highway 93. The area has the capacity to support 2,000 AUMs. The permittee will submit an application to graze in each use area.

When Use Area A is grazed, permitted use will be 947 AUMs. When Use Area B is grazed permitted use will be 2,000 AUMs. The permittee will limit use so as not to exceed permitted use within each use area. The permittee will submit a grazing application to the Elko Field Office prior to the start of grazing each year describing use within each use area. Planned use will be reviewed in relation to permitted use.

- (2) The livestock permittee is expected to move their livestock so as not to exceed established utilization objectives for late fall and winter use, which will allow for healthy salt desert shrubs and other communities. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs and black sagebrush, and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

Rationale: Salt desert shrub and other communities will be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use will minimize grazing impacts to the vegetation, thereby promoting the productivity of these plant communities.

This will implement Guidelines 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress towards conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, and Habitat.

4. Annual utilization on current years growth in spring use areas will not exceed 30% on salt desert shrubs or other key shrub species and 50% (moderate) on key herbaceous species. If utilization is exceeded in two consecutive years, the scheduled off date will be adjusted to 3/31.

Rationale: Light utilization on current years growth in spring use areas will help maintain the health of the salt desert shrub and other communities within the complex. Additional monitoring will be conducted to determine if progress is being made towards attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health, and further changes made in grazing management, where warranted.

This will implement Guidelines 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress towards conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, and Habitat.

5. Annual utilization on previous years growth in use areas will not exceed 50% on salt desert shrubs or other key shrub species and 60% on key herbaceous species. When the utilization objective is reached on any key species, livestock will be removed from the use area within 5 days. If utilization is exceeded in all use areas, then livestock will be removed from the allotment within 5 days.

Rationale: Maintaining proper utilization on previous years growth will help maintain the health of the salt desert shrub and other communities within the complex. Additional monitoring will be conducted to determine if progress is being made towards attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health, and further changes

made in grazing management, where warranted.

This will implement Guidelines 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress towards conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, and Habitat.

6. Vacate the UT/NV #1 Allotment Management Plan (AMP) approved on November 8, 1972.

Rationale: Grazing in the UT/NV North and South Allotments will be in accordance with this Sheep Allotment Complex Final Multiple Use Decision.

7. The terms and conditions on each term grazing permit within the Sheep Allotment Complex will read as follows:

- (a) Authorized grazing use will be in accordance with the Assistant Field Manager's Final Multiple Use Decision dated _____.
- (b) Payment of grazing fees will be made prior to livestock turnout.
- (c) Supplemental feeding is limited to salt, mineral, and/or protein supplements in block, granular or liquid form. Such supplements will be placed at least 1/4 mile from live waters (springs, streams, and troughs), wet or dry meadows, and aspen stands.
- (d) An actual use report (Form 4130-5) showing use by use area within the allotment will be turned in within 15 days after completing annual use.
- (e) No Sheep Camps will be located in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) or Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).
- (f) No water hauling or placement of troughs is allowed inside the boundaries of the Bluebell and Goshute Peak WSAs.
- (g) All range improvements will be maintained/repared by the permittee prior to livestock turn out and throughout the grazing season in accordance with range improvement authorization permits.
- (h) All riparian exclosures, including spring development exclosures, are closed to livestock use unless specifically authorized in writing by the Assistant Field Manager for Renewable Resources.
- (i) The numbers of livestock to be grazed will remain flexible according to the

needs of the permittee. The grazing system is based on the number of AUMs that may be removed from each pasture/use area. Livestock numbers and periods of use will be applied for on an annual basis. Deviations beyond the flexibility described above may be allowed to meet the needs of the resources and the permittee as long as these deviations are consistent with multiple use objectives. Deviations beyond the limits of the flexibility outlined above, including deviations in the turnout date, increases in livestock numbers and deviation from the grazing system, will require an application, and written authorization from the Assistant Field Manager for Renewable Resources prior to grazing use.

(j) All hay for the use in and around sheep camps must be certified weed free prior to livestock turnout.

(k) Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4 (c) and (d), you must stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery and protect it from your activities for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

These terms and conditions will implement Guidelines 1.1, 2.1, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress towards conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, Riparian and Wetland Sites, and Habitat.

8. Construct the following range improvement projects within the Sheep Allotment Complex (see locations on map attached):

Proposed Range Improvements for the Sheep Allotment Complex			
Project	Allotment	Units	Inside WSA
Rock Spring enclosure and trough	Leppy Hills	1	yes
Leppy Hills Well	Leppy Hills	1	no
Side Hill enclosure and trough	UT/NV North	1	yes
Morgan Basin Spring enclosure and trough	UT/NV North	1	yes
Spring Gulch Spring enclosure and trough	UT/NV North	1	no
Felt Spring enclosure and trough	Lead Hills	1	no
Ferguson Spring enclosure	Lead Hills	1	no

Proposed Range Improvements for the Sheep Allotment Complex			
Project	Allotment	Units	Inside WSA
Perkins Spring enclosure and trough	Boone Springs	1	no

Rationale: The spring enclosures are intended to protect riparian areas while providing water outside for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses. The well is intended to provide water for livestock and wildlife in areas where there is no perennial water. Completion of these projects will help achieve multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health in the Sheep Allotment Complex.

Required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation will be completed prior to authorization of the proposed projects.

These management actions will implement Guidelines 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 3.4, and 3.6 which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress toward conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, Riparian and Wetland Sites, and Habitat.

9. The permittee(s) will be assigned maintenance of existing spring developments and enclosures. Maintenance responsibility for the proposed Ferguson Spring Enclosure will be assigned to the NDOW. Maintenance responsibility for other future spring developments and enclosures will be assigned to the party(s) deriving the primary benefit(s).

Rationale: It is the policy of the BLM to assign maintenance responsibility, to the extent possible, to the primary beneficiaries of improvement projects. The livestock permittees are considered the primary benefitting parties in relation to the existing spring developments and enclosures since alternatives other than fencing would be adverse to the permittee; therefore, the permittees will be assigned maintenance responsibility. Existing spring developments and enclosures within the Sheep Allotment Complex have been maintained by the BLM since construction and have shown the need for what is considered normal maintenance.

Installation of the Ferguson Spring Enclosure was proposed by the NDOW to help protect the habitat of a mountain vole. A portion of the meadow occurs on public land but most of the meadow area occurs on private land owned by the livestock permittee. The project proposal involves fencing a portion of public land as well as private lands. Since the public land associated with this proposed project receives little use by livestock use and most of the benefits would accrue on private lands, it seems appropriate the NDOW be responsible for maintenance of the enclosure unless the permittee/land owner agrees to accept maintenance.

Maintenance responsibility for other new spring developments and exclosures will be assigned to the party(s) deriving the primary benefit(s) in accordance with BLM policy.

10. Establish new key areas in the Sheep Allotment Complex in the following locations.

Leppy Hills Allotment - Within the Pilot Burn

White Horse Allotment - Within the Ferguson Burn

UT/NV South Allotment - On the white sage flats near Ferber.

UT/NV South Allotment - Northwest portion of the allotment.

Boone Springs Allotment - Within crucial antelope winter habitat.

Future locations will be determined on an as needed basis.

This management action would implement Guidelines 1.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress toward conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, and Habitat.

11. Continue to conduct necessary monitoring studies and periodically evaluate the effects of grazing to determine if progress is being made in meeting the multiple use objectives. The Sheep Allotment Complex will be re-evaluated in accordance with priorities established in the Elko Field Office Monitoring and Evaluation schedule. If monitoring studies indicate a need to bring grazing use in line with capacity, necessary adjustments will be made. Studies will be conducted in accordance with BLM policy manual guidance as outlined in the Nevada Rangeland Monitoring Handbook and will include, but are not limited, to the following:

Uplands:

- forage production
- ecological condition
- frequency trend
- utilization

- actual use

- Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM TR 1734-6)

- Ecological Site Inventory

- Cover

Riparian:

Proper Function Condition Assessments (BLM TR 1737-16, 1999)

Wildlife Habitat:

habitat condition studies, Cole browse, utilization, condition studies, (BLM Manual 6630)

wildlife population census/updated maps (NDOW)

Wild Horses:

wild horse population census

wild horse utilization data

Rationale: Additional monitoring and analysis will be required to determine whether objectives are being met and determine any necessary changes in grazing management.

Authority for the actions contained in this proposed decision is found in 43 CFR 4100.0-8, 4110.2-2, 4110.3, 4110.3-1, 4110.3-2, 4110.3-3, 4120.2 (c), (d), and (e), 4120.3-1, 4130.2 (b), (d), (e), and (f), 4130.3, 4130.3-1, 4130.3-2, 4130.3-3, 4160.1, 4160.2, 4180.1, and 4180.2.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest the livestock grazing portion of this Proposed Decision under 43 CFR 4160.1 and 4160.2 in person or in writing, to Clinton R. Oke, Assistant Field Manager of Renewable Resources, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada, 89801 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.

Subsequent to the protest period, a final multiple use decision will be issued specifying the appeal procedures.

II. Other Management Actions**1. Implement the Sheep Allotment Complex Fire Management Plan (see Appendix 2).**

Rationale: The 1998 Elko Field Office Fire Management Plan identified fire and fuels management goals and objectives for the Elko District. The Sheep Allotment Complex Fire Management Plan is tiered off the Field Office Plan and identifies site specific fire suppression, prescribed fire and fuels management goals and objectives for the public lands within this complex. The Sheep Allotment Complex Fire Management Plan is required to effectively implement the goals and objectives of the Elko Field Office Fire Management Plan within the Sheep Allotment Complex.

A summary of the planned actions is provided below. Specific details can be found in the Fire Management Appendix.

Summary:

1. Create natural ignition areas in the Bluebell and Goshute Peak WSAs and in the higher elevation areas of the Kinsley, Sugarloaf and White Horse Mountains. This is to re-introduce fire into these areas based on the prescriptive parameters listed in the plan to improve vegetative diversity and reduce fuel loadings.
2. Use prescribed fire in the two WSAs to reduce fuel loadings and create a more natural mosaic of vegetative growth and successional stages.
3. Use prescribed fire on a limited basis on the sagebrush alluvial fans of Kinsley, Sugarloaf and White Horse Mountains (600 acres total) to increase herbaceous growth, eliminate patches of over-mature sagebrush and create uneven-aged sagebrush stands for wildlife purposes.
4. Use prescribed fire and mechanical thinning above 6,500 feet in the Antelope Range (300 to 500+ acres) and in the Dolly Varden Mountains (5-100 acres) to open up closed canopy pinyon-juniper stands to improve herbaceous vegetation and to re-create natural fire mosaics improving wildlife and wild horse forage.
5. Re-evaluate the low desert shrub area (polygon) along Alternate 93A to see if this area should be changed to a cheatgrass polygon with increased fire suppression requirements to limit the spread of cheatgrass.

Required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation will be completed for specific project proposals.

2. Administer all grazing and any developments or projects within the Goshute Peak and Bluebell Wilderness Study Areas in full compliance with the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review.

Rationale: The BLM is mandated by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to manage Wilderness Study Areas until Congressional decisions are made so as not to impair the suitability of each area for preservation as wilderness. This is generally referred to as the "non-impairment criteria." General policies and specific guidance, which need to be followed are detailed in the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP), BLM Manual Handbook H-8550-1. As part of the NEPA review process for any new range development project or wildlife water catchment, all groups on the wilderness CCC list will be consulted.

3. Within the Sheep Allotment Complex, treat invasive and noxious weeds in a manner that is most appropriate to the weed species and degree of infestation. Treatment will be in accordance with the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States, the Programmatic Environmental Assessment of Integrated Weed Management on Bureau of Land Management Lands, and Elko Field Office site-specific Invasive-nonnative vegetation treatment environmental assessment. See Appendix 7 of the allotment evaluation for a list of weed species, their potential habitat and proposed treatment.

Rationale: The BLM is mandated to manage vegetation on public lands. The BLM must control noxious weeds and undesirable plants to maintain or improve the quality of forests and rangeland for all multiple resources. Controlling noxious weeds within the Sheep Allotment Complex will result in a more diverse plant community and therefore will improve wildlife habitat, soil stability and forage plant diversity.

This will implement Guidelines 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, and 3.4, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress toward conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, riparian and wetland sites, and Habitat.

4. Manage sage grouse habitat (i.e. leks, nesting, brooding, and summer and winter habitats) consistent with the Western States Sage Grouse Guidelines, as adapted for use in Nevada.

Rationale: Sage grouse is a BLM sensitive species with a high probability of becoming a nationally threatened or endangered species. Maintaining and improving sage grouse habitat will assist in maintaining or increasing populations within the Sheep Allotment Complex and may form a basis for future habitat conservation plans.

III. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DECISION

Existing management of wildlife has not contributed to the non-attainment of multiple use objectives; therefore, no management changes are recommended.

1. Construct wildlife water catchment projects within the Sheep Allotment Complex as outlined in EA BLM/EK/PL-97/018.

Rationale: Completion of these projects will enhance habitat for various wildlife species within the Sheep Allotment Complex and allow increased beneficial use of available habitat.

IV. WILD HORSE DECISION

1. Establish and maintain an appropriate management level (AML) for wild horses within the Sheep Allotment Complex as follows:

Appropriate Management Level for the Antelope Valley HMA			
HMA	Allotment	Initial Herd Size ⁶ (number of horses)	AML (number of horses)
Antelope Valley	UT/NV #1 South ¹	9	7 (or 15 horses for 6 months)
	West Whitehorse ¹	incidental	incidental
	Whitehorse ¹	incidental	incidental
	Sugarloaf ¹	incidental	incidental
	Ferber Flat ¹	incidental	incidental
	Boone Springs ^{1'}	74	23
	Spruce ²	143	181
	Currie ³	60	40
	Badlands ⁴	3	incidental
	Antelope Valley ⁵	10	8
Total		299	259⁷
<p>1 AML established through the Sheep Allotment Complex Evaluation. 2 AML established through the Spruce Final Multiple Use Decision. 3 AML established through the Maverick Complex Allotment Evaluation and Proposed Multiple Use Decision 4 AML established through the Badlands Final Multiple Use Decision. 5 AML established through the Antelope Valley Final Multiple Use Decision. 6 Initial herd size was established in the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment, as modified by the Spruce FMUD. 7 As per current Washington Office direction, AML is expressed as one number but the population is taken to 40% below AML during gathers. This sets up a 4 year gather cycle.</p>			

AML for the Goshute HMA			
HMA	Allotment	Initial Herd Size ¹ (number of horses)	AML (number of horses) ²
Goshute	Spruce	34	50h/12m
	Big Springs	84	56h/12m
	Leppy Hills	27	16h/6m or 8h/12m
	UT/NV #1 North	30	18h/6m or 9h/12m

AML for the Goshute HMA			
HMA	Allotment	Initial Herd Size¹ (number of horses)	AML (number of horses)²
	Lead Hills	4	2h/6m or incidental/12m
	Whitehorse	incidental	incidental
Total		178	123
¹ Initial herd size from the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment. ² As per current Washington Office direction, AML is expressed as one number but the population is taken to 40% below AML during gathers. This sets up a 4 year gather cycle.			

Leppy Hills

Wild horse use in the Leppy Hills Allotment is normally independent of livestock use. The majority of wild horse use occurs in the upper elevations during the summer months (23% of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the Leppy Hills Allotment during the summer months) and the majority of the wild horses winter on the west side of the Goshute Mountains in the Big Springs Allotment (only 1%, on average, of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the Leppy Hills Allotment during the winter months). However, it is not unusual to find a small number of horses wintering on the east side of the Goshute Mountains in one of the three winter sheep allotments.

It has been determined that the most important limiting factor in the Goshute HMA is the combined winter use areas on the west bench of the Goshute Mountains and in Goshute Valley. The AMLs for these winter use areas have been or will be set through the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Spruce Allotment and the Big Springs Allotment Evaluation. Census data has shown that some of the same horses that use the winter areas of the Big Springs and Spruce Allotments migrate to the summer areas of the winter sheep allotments, thus AML for the Leppy Hills Allotment was based on the AML set for the Big Springs (Shafter Pasture) and Spruce Allotments (Subunits J and C-3). The combined AML for these two pastures is 106 horses or 1272 AUMS. Because data has shown that an average of 15% of the Goshute HMA horses utilize the Leppy Hills Allotment, the AML is 16 horses (15% of 106 h = 16 h) for 6 months (or 8 horses for 12 months) for a total of 96 AUMS.

The Shafter Pasture of the Big Springs allotment and sub-units J and C-3 were designated as yearlong wild horse use areas. Because it is not known exactly how many horses migrate out of these areas in the summer, or for how long, the AUMS allocated to wild horses in the summer use areas of the winter sheep allotments will be in addition to those AUMS allocated to wild horses in the Big Springs and Spruce Allotments. It is the professional opinion of the Elko Field Office staff that this will not cause an over-stocking of wild horses in the Shafter, C-3 and J use areas, because a small number of wild horses do winter on the east side of the Goshute Range.

UT/NV North

Wild horse use in the UT/NV North Allotment is independent of livestock use. Wild horse use typically occurs in the upper elevations during the summer months (26% of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the UT/NV North Allotment during the summer months) and wild horses normally winter on the west side of the Goshute Mountains in the Big Springs Allotment (only 3% of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the UT/NV North Allotment during the winter months). It was determined that the most important limiting factor in the Goshute HMA is the combined winter use areas on the west bench of the Goshute Mountains and in Goshute Valley. The AML for the winter use areas have been or will be set through the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Spruce Allotment and the Big Springs Allotment Evaluation. Because the same horses use the winter areas and then migrate to the summer areas, AML for the UT/NV North Allotment was based on the AML for the Big Springs (Shafter Pasture), and Spruce Allotments (Subunits J and C-3), which is 106 horses or 1272 AUMS. Because data has shown that an average of 17% of the Goshute HMA horses utilize the UT/NV North Allotment, AML has been set at 18 horses (17% of 106 h = 18 h) for 6 months or 9 horses for 12 months for a total of 108 AUMS.

The Shafter Pasture of the Big Springs allotment and sub-units J and C-3 were designated as yearlong wild horse use areas. Because it is not known exactly how many horses migrate out of these areas in the summer, or for how long, the AUMS allocated to wild horses in the summer use areas of the winter sheep allotments will be in addition to those AUMS allocated to wild horses in the Big Springs and Spruce Allotments. It is the professional opinion of the Elko Field Office staff that this will not cause an over-stocking of wild horses in the Shafter, C-3 and J use areas, because a small number of wild horses do winter on the east side of the Goshute Range.

UT/NV South

Wild horse use within the South Pasture of the UT/NV #1 Allotment (located in the Antelope Valley HMA) has been estimated from censuses conducted during the past several years. Data indicates that the South Pasture receives only incidental use by wild horses, with use averaging 50 to 100 AUMS, which is 8 to 16 horses for 6 winter/spring months. Due to the complete lack of water within the allotment, wild horses are only found inhabiting the area when there is snow cover or frequent rain showers to fill up potholes and troughs. AML has been established at the average actual use by wild horses at 87 AUMs or 15 horses for 6 months.

Lead Hills

Wild horse use in the Lead Hills Allotment is independent of livestock use. Wild horse use typically occurs in the upper elevations during the summer months (3% of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the Lead Hills Allotment during the summer months) and wild horses normally winter on the west side of the Goshute Mountains in the Big Springs Allotment (0% of the Goshute HMA herd can be found in the Lead Hills during the winter months). It was determined that the most important limiting factor in the Goshute HMA is the combined winter use areas on the west bench of the Goshute

Mountains and in Goshute Valley. The AML for the winter use areas have been set through the Final Multiple Use Decision for the Spruce Allotment and the Big Springs Allotment Evaluation. Because the same horses use the winter areas and then migrate to the summer areas, AML for the Lead Hills Allotment was based on the AML set for the Big Springs (Shafter Pasture) and Spruce Allotments (Subunits J and C-3), which is 106 horses or 1,272 AUMS. Because data has shown that an average of 2% of the Goshute HMA horses utilize the Lead Hills Allotment, the AML is 2 horses (2% of 106 h = 2 h) for 6 months or 12 AUMS.

The Shafter Pasture of the Big Springs allotment and sub-units J and C-3 were designated as yearlong wild horse use areas. Because it is not known exactly how many horses migrate out of these areas in the summer, or for how long, the AUMS allocated to wild horses in the summer use areas of the winter sheep allotments will be in addition to those AUMS allocated to wild horses in the Big Springs and Spruce Allotments. It is the professional opinion of the Elko Field Office staff that this will not cause an over-stocking of wild horses in the Shafter, C-3 and J use areas, because a small number of wild horses do winter on the east side of the Goshute Range.

White Horse

Census data from the past 15 years has shown that wild horses do not use the White Horse Allotment for winter or summer habitat. If horses are found within the allotment, they are usually just passing through. For this reason, AML is set at incidental use.

West White Horse

Census data from the past 15 years has shown that wild horses do not use the West White Horse Allotment for winter or summer habitat. If horses are found within the allotment, they are usually just passing through. For this reason, AML is set at incidental use.

Sugarloaf

Census data from the past 15 years has shown that wild horses do not use the Sugarloaf Allotment for winter or summer habitat; this is most likely due to the complete lack of water within the allotment. If horses are found within the allotment, they are usually just passing through. For this reason, AML is set at incidental use.

Ferber Flat

Census data from the past 15 years has shown that wild horses do not use the Ferber Flat Allotment for winter or summer habitat; this is most likely due to the complete lack of water within the allotment. If horses are found within the allotment, they are usually just passing through. For this reason, AML is set at incidental use.

Boone Springs

The Boone Springs Allotment was identified as being a combined winter use area for wild horses and livestock. As per the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment, the carrying capacity AUMs were based on 10% use by wild horses prior to livestock turnout.

The AML for the Goshute HMA will be further modified by the AML identified in the Big Springs Allotment Evaluation.

Wild horses within the complex move freely between administrative and allotment boundaries. Census data was used to derive an average percent of the Antelope Valley and Goshute herd that use each allotment. The AUMs of wild horse use which have been established for each allotment is not a future prediction of what the actual wild horse use in each allotment will be.

HMA	Recruitment Rate	AML - To be Managed
Antelope Valley	18%	259 ¹
Goshute	17%	123 ¹

¹ As per current Washington Office direction, AML is expressed as one number but the population is taken to 40% below AML during gathers. This sets up a 4 year gather cycle.

Rationale: The AML is the upper threshold, in numbers of adult animals, the range can sustain before deterioration of the thriving natural ecological balance begins.

Maintaining wild horses within the range of the appropriate management level will result in a thriving, natural, ecological balance between wild horse and other resource values. Continued monitoring within the complex will show if any adjustment in the AML is needed.

2. Inventory, identify and eliminate existing wire hazards. Clean up and dispose of old wire, especially where it creates a significant hazard to wild horses.

Rationale: Wild horses have become tangled in old barbed wire particularly in old spring enclosures and wild horse traps. Entanglement in barbed wire causes extensive injuries and in some cases the need for the animal to be destroyed.

3. Continue to collect combined use utilization data and collect wild horse use only utilization data.

Rationale: Collection of utilization data is necessary to determine if management practices are meeting objectives and will indicate management changes needed in response to climatological changes, such as drought, etc.

4. Continue to collect seasonal distribution data on the Antelope Valley and Goshute HMAs.

Rationale: In 1991, intensive seasonal distribution flights were begun within the Elko District. These census flights have provided valuable information on horse movements

and should continue until monitoring data indicates that the appropriate management level has been attained in all HMAs.

Authority for the actions described in this proposed decision is found in Section 3(a) and (b) of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, as amended, and 43 CFR Parts 4700.0-6(a) and (d), 4710.1, 4710.4, and 4720.1.

43 CFR 4770.3 (a) states:

"Any person who is adversely affected by a decision of the authorized officer in the administration of these regulations may file an appeal. Appeals and petitions for stay of a decision of the authorized officer must be filed within 30 days of receipt of the decision in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4."

Although these regulations do not provide for a protest, for the purpose of consistency, this Multiple Use Decision is issued as a Proposed Decision. Subsequent to the protest period (15 days from receipt of the proposed decision), a Final Decision will be issued. Therefore, should you wish to protest this decision, you are allowed fifteen (15) days, from receipt, to file your reasons as to why the proposed decision is in error with the Bureau of Land Management, Clinton R. Oke, Assistant Field Manager for Renewable Resources, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada, 89801.

Sincerely,



CLINTON R. OKE,
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

enclosures: Appendix 1 - Upland/Desired Plant Community (DPC)/Wild Horse/Riparian Objectives

Appendix 2 - Sheep Allotment Complex Fire Management Plan

Maps 10 -18 Sheep Allotment Complex Use Areas

Map of Proposed Range Improvements in the Sheep Allotment Complex

cc: Bingham Family Ranch
Dave Morris
Stephen Richins
Jeffrey Roche
Darrel Kippens and Sons

Ely Field Office, Bureau of Land Management
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)
Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) - Elko
Nevada Cattleman's Association
Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Nevada State Division of Agriculture
Nevada State Clearinghouse Dept. Of Administration
Board of County Commissioners Elko County
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S.D.A. Service Center
FLBA of Utah, FLCA
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Wild Horse Organized Assistance
Resource Concepts, Inc.
First National Bank
Von L. Sorenson
Sierra Club
Fund for Animals, Rocky Mountain Coordinator
Fund for Animals
Colorado Wild Horse and Burro Coalition
HTT Resource Advisors
M. Jeanne Hermann
Western Watersheds Project
Committee for Idaho's High Desert

Appendix 1

**Upland/Desired Plant Community (DPC)/
Wild Horse/Riparian/
Wilderness/Recreation/ACEC Objectives**

Long Term Objectives Sheep Allotment Complex

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
1007 Leppy Hills	Grass ORHY - 15% POSE - 9% SIHY - 1% BRTE - 43%	Grass 25%	Grass 24 - 45% Manage for 3 or more perennial grass species	Increase % frequency of ORHY	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs ASTER - T	Forbs T	Forbs T- 5% Manage for 1 or more perennial forb species	Increase frequency of forb species	
	Shrubs CHVI8 - 5% EULA5 - 5% ARSP5 - 13% ATCO - 9%	Shrubs 32%	Shrubs 30 - 50% Manage existing shrub composition.	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component.	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong habitat and livestock winter use. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. Cheatgrass (BRTE) is expected to remain a component of the site. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
1008 Leppy Hills	Grass ORHY - 7% POSE - 3% SIHY - T BRTE - 6%	Grass 10%	Grass 25 - 35% Manage for 3 or more species	Increase % frequency of ORHY	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs PENST - T ASTER - T ERIOG - T ASTRA - T	Forbs T	Forbs Manage for 3 or more perennial forb species	Increase frequency of forb species	
	Shrubs CHVI8 - 3% EULA5 - T ARSP5 - T ATCO - 4% ARARN - 77%	Shrubs 84%	Shrubs 65 - 75% Manage existing shrub composition.	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong habitat and livestock winter/spring use. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area Allotment and Pasture	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
1001 UT/NV North	Grass ORHY - 7% POSE - 1% PONE - T SIHY - 2% BRTE - T	Grass 10%	Grass 10 - 25% Manage for 3 or more perennial grass species.	Increase % frequency of ORHY	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs AAFF - 3% HACKE - 1%	Forbs 0%	Forbs 0 - 5%		
	Shrubs ARARN - 66% ATCO - 19%	Shrubs 85%	Shrubs 60 - 70% Manage for 2 or more shrub species.	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong habitat, deer year long habitat, wild horse, and livestock winter/spring use. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
1000 UT/NV South	Grass ORHY - 35% SIHY - 1%	Grass 36%	Grass 30 - 40% Manage for 2 or more perennial grass species.	Maintain frequency of ORHY.	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs ASTRA - T PHHO - 7%	Forbs 7%	Forbs 4 - 10%	Maintain existing frequency of all forbs.	
	Shrubs CHV18 - 9% ARARN - 27% TETRA3 - 5% ATCO - 16%	Shrubs 57%	Shrubs 50 - 70%	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong, wild horse and livestock winter/spring use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight	Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
------------------------	----------------------------------	--	----------------------------	-----------------------------

1013 Lead Hills	Grass ORHY - 5% POSE - 4% SIHY - 4% BRTE - 1%	Grass 13%	Grass 10 - 20% Manage for 3 or more perennial grass species.	Increase % frequency of ORHY.	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs ASTRA - 1% PENST - T% PHHO - 9% CRYPT - T% DELPH - T ARARBI2 - 1% ERCA8 - T AAFF - T	Forbs 11%	Forbs 5 - 11%	Maintain existing frequency of all forbs.	Manage upland habitat for possible Big horn sheep reintroduction
	Shrubs CHVI8 - 16% ARARN - 46% EULA5 - 1% KOAM - 1% ATCO - 12%	Shrubs 76%	Shrubs 70 - 85%	Maintain existing frequency of shrubs.	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong, incidental wild horse use and livestock winter/spring use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
1014 Lead Hills	Grass ORHY - 1% POSE - 1% SIHY - 1% STTH2 - T HIJA - 3% BLKI - T BRTE - 90%	Grass 6%	Grass 45 - 55% Manage for 5 or more perennial grass species.	Maintain % frequency of perennial grass species.	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs SPCO - T HACKE - T OTHRO - T AAFF - T	Forbs T	Forbs T - 5%	Maintain frequency of forb species.	Manage upland habitat for possible Big horn sheep reintroduction
	Shrubs CHVI8 - 18% EULA5 - T% ARSP5 - 9% TESP2 - 9%	Shrubs 4%	Shrubs 35 - 45%	Maintain % frequency of shrub species.	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong and livestock winter/spring use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. Objectives are based on BRTE at approximately 10%. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. In 1988, data on percent composition were initially collected at this key area. This was during a drought and the composition of cheatgrass, an *annual*, was only 10%. The current composition column above is derived from data collected in 1999 which shows that 90% of the dry weight consisted of cheatgrass (BRTE). Cheatgrass achieved this high percent composition by 1999 due to a string of above normal moisture years which allowed the cheatgrass to produce abundant seed and vegetative matter. These sorts of fluctuations in percent composition will continue to occur with variations in available moisture and can frustrate the analysis of changes in perennial species.

The desired plant community (DPC) objectives are directed at maintaining the composition and frequency of *perennial* species. In order to compare apples to apples (the status of perennial species between years), we need to stabilize the percent composition for cheatgrass so that it doesn't skew the data interpretations. Therefore, the DPC objectives developed for this key area assume the percent composition of cheatgrass will be 10% with the perennials making up the remaining 90%. The 10% value for cheatgrass is similar to what was found in 1988 when below normal moisture prevented dramatic increases in cheatgrass production. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
1003 White Horse	Grass ORHY - 4% POSE - 8% SIHY - 1% BRTE 1%	Grass 13%	Grass 15 - 25% Manage for 3 or more perennial grass species.	Increase % frequency of perennial grass species.	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs ERIOG - 3% PHHO - 1% CASTI2 - T	Forbs 4%	Forbs T - 5%	Maintain existing frequency of all forbs.	Manage upland habitat for possible Big horn sheep reintroduction
	Shrubs CHVI8 - 3% ARARN - 59% ATCO - 20%	Shrubs 82%	Shrubs 70 - 80%	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong, Deer yearlong, incidental wild horse use and livestock winter/spring use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
------------------------	----------------------------------	--	--	----------------------------	-----------------------------

1004 White Horse	Grass ORHY - 7% SIHY - 7% BRTE - 23%	Grass 14%	Grass 20 - 30% Manage for 2 or more perennial grass species.	Increase % frequency of perennial grass species.	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife. Manage upland habitat for possible Big horn sheep reintroduction
	Forbs ASTER - T SPHAE - 3% HAGL - 1%	Forbs 3%	Forbs T - 5%	Maintain or increase existing frequency of all forbs.	
	Shrubs CHVI8 - 32% EULA5 - T KOAM - 15% ARSP5 - 1 ATCO - 10%	Shrubs 58%	Shrubs 50 - 70%	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong, incidental wild horse use and livestock winter/spring use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
1005 Sugarloaf	Grass ORHY - 32% POSE - 2% SIHY - 1% STCO4 - 1% BRTE - 2%	Grass 36%	Grass 30 - 40% Manage for 4 or more perennial grass species.	Maintain existing frequency of all perennial grass species.	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs ASTRA - T PHHO - 3% MERTE - T CRYPT - T PPFF - 1%	Forbs 4%	Forbs T - 5%	Maintain or increase existing frequency of all forbs.	
	Shrubs CHVI8 - 19% ARARN - 23% EULA5 - T ATCO - 19%	Shrubs 61%	Shrubs 55 - 65%	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong, Deer yearlong, incidental wild horse use and livestock winter/spring use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives

1006 Sugarloaf	Grass ORHY - 18% POSE - T SIHY - 13% BRTE - T	Grass 31%	Grass 25 - 40% Manage for 3 or more perennial grass species.	Maintain existing frequency of all perennial grass species.	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs SPCO - 2% ERIOG - T ASTER - T	Forbs 2%	Forbs T - 5%	Maintain or increase existing frequency of all forbs.	
	Shrubs EULA5 - 1% ARSP5 - 1% ATCO - 63%	Shrubs 65%	Shrubs 55 - 70%	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong, incidental wild horse use and livestock winter/spring use. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
FF-01 Ferber Flat	Grass ORHY - 12% POSE - 2% SIHY - 4% STCO4 - 3% BRTE - 1%	Grass 21%	Grass 20 -25% Maintain or increase ORHY	Increase frequency of all perennial grass species.	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs ASTER - 6% SPHAE - 1% CRYPT - T PPFF - 4%	Forbs 11%	Forbs 5 - 15%	Maintain existing frequency of all forbs.	
	Shrubs CHVI8 - 23% ARARN - 9% EULA5 - 3% ATCO - 30%	Shrubs 65%	Shrubs 65 - 75%	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope and Deer yearlong, incidental wild horse use and livestock winter/spring use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
---------------------------------------	---	--	---	---------------------------------------	--

WW-01 West White Horse	Grass ORHY - 1% POSE - 54% BRTE - T	Grass 55%	Grass 45 - 50% Manage for 2 or more perennial grass species.	Maintain or increase frequency on ORHY	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs	Forbs 0%	Forbs 0 - 5%		
	Shrubs EULA5 - 45%	Shrubs 45%	Shrubs 45 - 55% Maintain EULA5	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong habitat, incidental wild horse and livestock winter use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
WW-02 West White Horse	Grass ORHY - 5% POSE - 19% SIHY - 2% STCO4 - 9%	Grass 35%	Grass 30 - 40% Manage for 4 or more perennial grass species.	Increase % frequency of perennial grass species.	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs ASTRA - T ASTER - 2% ERIOG - T PHHO - T ARARBI2 - 2% PPFF - T	Forbs 4%	Forbs T - 5%	Maintain or increase existing frequency of all forbs.	
	Shrubs CHVI8 - 24% ARARN - 11% EULA5 - 15% ATCO - 10%	Shrubs 60%	Shrubs 55 - 70% Manage for 3 or more shrub species.	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong habitat, incidental wild horse and livestock winter use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight	Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
---------------------------------------	---	---	---------------------------------------	--

BO-01 Boone Springs	Grass ORHY - 14% POSE - 25% SIHY - 1% STIPA - 1% BRTE - 1%	Grass 41%	Grass 35 - 45% Manage for 4 or more perennial grass species.	Maintain existing frequency of all perennial grass species.	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife and sage grouse strutting habitat.
	Forbs ASTRA - T ASTER - 3% ERIOG - 1% PHHO - 3% PHLO2 - 9% COPA - 1%	Forbs 16%	Forbs 10 - 15%	Maintain existing frequency of all forbs.	
	Shrubs CHV18 - 2% ARARN - 37% OPUNT - T	Shrubs 39%	Shrubs 40 - 55% Manage for 2 or more shrub species.	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope crucial winter habitat, sage grouse strutting habitat, wild horse and livestock winter use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
BO-02 Boone Springs	Grass ORHY - 6%	Grass 6%	Grass 5 - 10% Maintain or increase % ORHY.	Increase percent frequency of ORHY	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife.
	Forbs	Forbs 0%	Forbs T - 2%	Increase existing frequency of all forbs.	
	Shrubs EULA5 - 94%	Shrubs 94%	Shrubs 85 - 95%	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong use, wild horse use, and livestock winter use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Key Area and Allotment	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition of Perennials (% Dry Weight)	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
---------------------------------------	---	--	---	---------------------------------------	--

BO-03 Boone Springs	Grass ORHY - 3% POSE - 7%	Grass 10%	Grass 5 - 30% Manage for 2 or more perennial grass species.	Increase % frequency of perennial grass species.	Manage rangeland habitat to provide forage for wildlife and sage grouse winter habitat
	Forbs PHHO - T% ARARBI2 - 1%	Forbs 1%	Forbs T to 5%	Maintain or increase existing frequency of all forbs.	
	Shrubs CHVI8 - 13% ARARN - 61% GRSP - 12% EPHED - 4%	Shrubs 90%	Shrubs 65 - 95%	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong habitat, sage grouse winter habitat, wild horse, and livestock winter use. Continue current management and monitor. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. The range in percentage of desired composition is intended to portray natural fluctuations over dry precipitation and wet precipitation cycles. The objectives are based on a 20 year time frame from implementation of the grazing plan, or 20 yrs following completion of necessary vegetation treatments.

Sheep Allotment Complex Upland Objectives

A. Short term objectives:

1. Maximum utilization of 60% of previous year's growth on key herbaceous species by the end of the grazing season.
2. Maximum utilization of 50% of previous year's growth on salt desert shrub and other key shrubs (such as black sage), by the end of the grazing season.
3. Maximum utilization of 30% on of current year's growth on salt desert shrub and other key shrubs (such as black sage), and 50% on key herbaceous species in spring use areas.
4. Allow for a maximum of 10% utilization by wild horses prior to livestock turnout in the winter combined use areas.

Sheep Allotment Complex Wild Horse Objectives

1. Remove sufficient wild horses to attain the appropriate management level and maintain populations at a level which maintain a thriving natural ecological balance consistent with other resource values.
2. Maintain a healthy, viable population of wild horses within the Sheep Allotment Complex.
3. Adjust the appropriate management level if continued monitoring and evaluation of data shows a need.
4. Manage the wild horses within the Sheep Complex in a manner that maintains their wild free-roaming characteristics.
5. Improve the distribution of wild horses within the Sheep Complex by developing reliable water sources. Emphasis and priority should be given to the Boone Springs Allotment. Ensure the year-long habitat requirements of wild horses are met.

**Sheep Allotment Complex,
Riparian Habitat And Objectives**

Data will be collected using methodology outlined in BLM Technical Reference 1737-16, 1998, "A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and the Supporting Science for Lentic Areas" for seeps/springs. Functional condition assessment is relative to capability and potential. Measurements and objectives are for public land only.

Location	Allotment	Baseline Data	Trend	Long Term Objectives
Tunnel Spring	Leppy Hills	Functional at Risk	Not Apparent	PFC
Rock Spring	Leppy Hills	Non-Functional		PFC
Spring Gulch	UT/NV North	PFC		PFC
Sidehill Spring	UT/NV North	Functional at Risk	Downward	PFC
Blue Lakes (pond)	Lead Hills	PFC		PFC
Little Mud Spring	Lead Hills	PFC		PFC
Felt Spring	Lead Hills	Functional at Risk	Upward	PFC
Serviceberry Spring	Lead Hills	Dry		
Perkins Springs	Boone Springs	Functional at Risk	Downward	PFC

Sheep Allotment Complex Wilderness Objectives

1. Manage as wilderness those portions of the Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) which are manageable as a wilderness area and for which wilderness values is considered the best use of the lands (Wells RMP objective).
2. Manage and protect those public lands which are under wilderness review, in such a manner so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness, until they are designated by Congress as wilderness, or until they are released from further wilderness consideration (IMP objective).

**Sheep Allotment Complex
Recreation Objective**

1. Provide a wide range of recreation opportunities (Wells RMP objective).

**Sheep Allotment Complex
ACEC Objective**

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

1. Protect and maintain the existing habitat in its present condition, to ensure the area's continued occasional use and future suitability to support the reestablishment of falcons, either by natural expansion of the peregrine population that may frequent the area or by artificial releases conducted in cooperation with the Peregrine Fund.

Appendix 2

Sheep Allotment Complex Fire Management Plan

Table of Contents

Introduction	-1-
Background Information	-1-
B-3 District-wide Areas of Annual Vegetation Invasion	-1-
B-4 Woodlands	-2-
B-6 Low Sagebrush & Desert Shrub	-2-
C-1 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's)	-3-
U-1 Small Towns, Mining Operations and Recreation Sites - Urban Interface	-4-
Fire History	-5-
Table 1. Sheep Complex Fire History Table	-5-
Map 1. Sheep Complex Fire History & Fire Polygons	-6-
Wildland Fire Suppression Tactics	-7-
Table 2. Dispatch Run Card for Wildland Fire Use Areas	-9-
Table 3. Goshute Peak, Bluebell WSAs, Sugar Loaf, White Horse and Kinsley Mountains Wildland Fire Implementation Plan Flow Chart	-9-
Prescribed Fire and Fuels Management Objectives (See Map 2 for locations):	-10-
Goshute and Bluebell WSAs	-10-
White Horse Mountain/Sugar Loaf Peak	-10-
Kinsley Mountains	-10-
Antelope Range	-11-
Dolly Varden Mountains	-11-
Monitoring and Evaluation	-12-
Map 2. Sheep Complex Fire Management Plan Wildland Fire Use & Fuels Treatment Areas	-13-

colonize the burned areas in the year after the fire. Fire history for this area shows an average of 21 fires per year burning 12,149 acres.

Prescribed Fire/Fuels Management Opportunities - Prescribed fire is to be used in a selective manner in these areas, usually in conjunction with mechanical or chemical treatments. Planned ignitions can be used in a limited way to accomplish specific management objectives within areas of native vegetation. Chainings and seedings within this polygon will be maintained through the use of planned ignitions. These ignitions will not be considered part of the decadal burn targets since they are maintenance of existing developments.

B-4 Woodlands

Current Condition - The primary vegetation type in these polygons is woody vegetation dominated by Utah juniper, pinyon pine, bitterbrush and mountain mahogany with associated perennial grasses and shrubs. Management objectives are for woodland products and big game habitat.

Future Desired Condition - Maintain woodlands.

Constraints - None, unless archaeological sites are present. The critical watershed in this polygon is Taylor Canyon in the Cherry Creek Mountains.

Appropriate Fire Management Response - Fire Management Direction - Hold unplanned ignitions to 300 acres at least 90 percent of the time. The Battle Mountain and Ely Field Offices adjacent pinyon-juniper areas are in "C" polygons that have much higher allowable acreage totals (ranging from 1,000 to 5,000 acres) to hold unplanned ignitions to. The Elko District will be responsible for suppression costs of fires occurring within two miles of the District boundary that will cross boundaries. Fire history in these polygons is that of isolated small (0-10 acres) fires. The vegetation type is conducive to large wind-driven or plume-dominated fires that can burn 500 to 5,000 acres in one to two burning periods. Fire history for these areas show an average of 4.5 fires per year burning 175 acres.

Prescribed Fire/Fuels Management Opportunities - Mechanical vegetation treatments are preferred to change the vegetation age structure and composition. Prescribed fire should be used in a limited role to accomplish wildlife habitat goals while maintaining the woodland resources. When mechanical treatments cannot meet wildlife habitat management goals, use prescribed fire to create openings of 10 to 50 acres.

B-6 Low Sagebrush & Desert Shrub

on the land" techniques.

Appropriate Fire Management Response - Hold unplanned ignitions to 2,000 acres or less at least 90 percent of the time. The fire histories in these areas range from low to high with most being small (0-10 acres). Occasional large (10,000+ acres) fires have occurred in some areas. Both planned and unplanned ignitions can be managed to maintain fire as part of the natural ecology, to reduce fuel loadings and to meet specific management objectives. Fire history for these areas show an average of 3.2 fires per year burning 66 acres.

Prescribed Fire/Fuels Management Opportunities - Use planned ignitions to reintroduce fire into the ecology of the areas. Develop and apply fire prescription guidelines to allow for management of unplanned ignitions through monitoring and/or minimal suppression efforts in these areas if prescription guidelines are met. Planned ignitions will be curtailed if unplanned ignitions meet management objectives. Use MIST in all suppression actions.

U-1 Small Towns, Mining Operations and Recreation Sites - Urban Interface

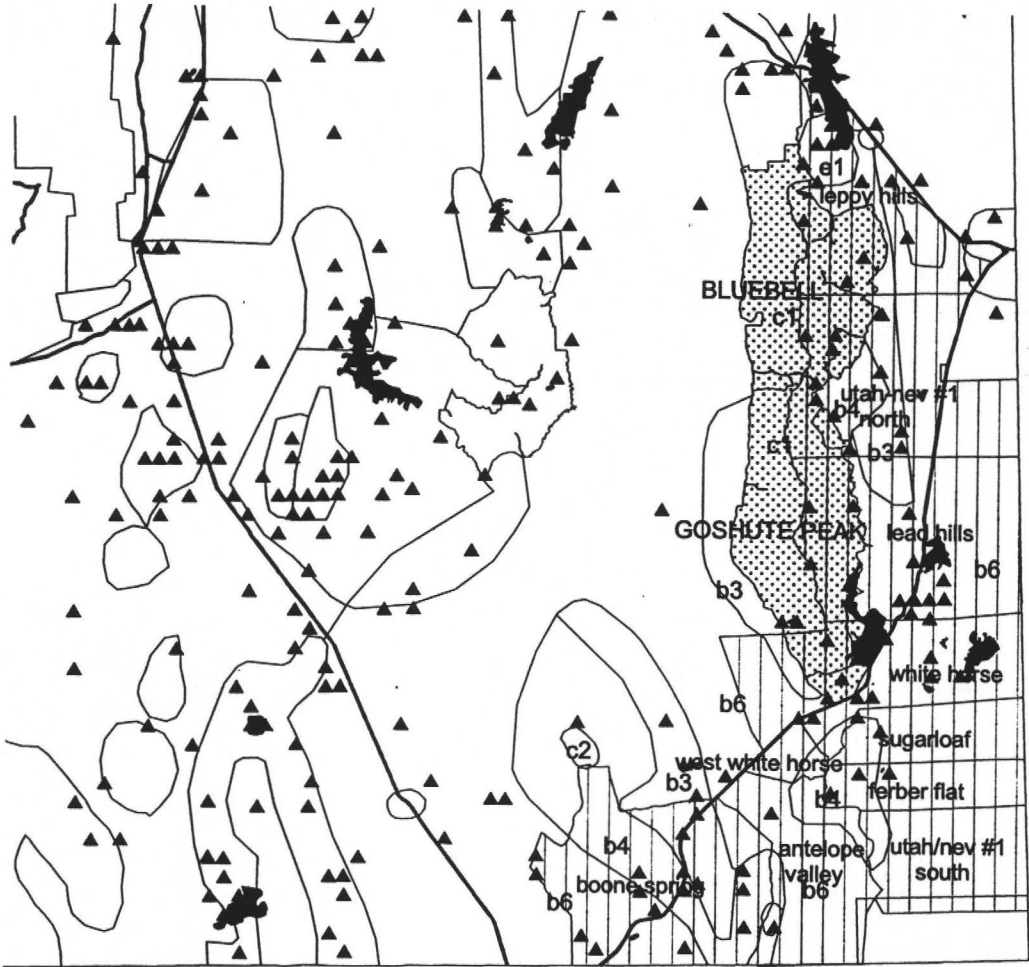
Current Condition - The primary vegetation type around these areas is sagebrush and perennial grasses with intrusions of cheatgrass and other annual vegetation. The management objective for these areas is to preserve and protect the developed features, life and property. This area also includes the rapidly growing urban interface around Elko and Spring Creek Recreation sites may be developed or undeveloped, but are moderately to heavily used during the summer and fall months.







Future Desired Condition - Maintain or improve the native vegetation in the area. Use vegetation manipulation to create buffer areas around critical developed sites to provide for public safety.

Constraints - Construction of fire line within the recreation sites should be avoided. If necessary, the minimum line needed should be located outside of developed sites, areas of concentrated use or Special Recreation Management Areas. Efforts should be made to keep unplanned ignitions from reaching these areas. Powerlines, communication sites and other critical sites within the mining and oil/gas sites need full protection. Problems associated with these areas include powerlines and arcing and chemical and explosive storage areas. Fire history for these areas shows an average of 9.4 fires per year burning 2,901 acres.

Appropriate Fire Management Response - Hold unplanned ignitions to minimal acreage within this polygon. Fire history is minimal because of their size, however, many can be easily threatened by wildfire. In particular, the towns of Midas and Tuscarora have been threatened in the past.

Map 1
Fire History & Fire Polygons
Sheep Complex Evaluation



-  Fire Polygons
-  Highways
-  Wildland Fire Ignitions 1980-96
-  Large Wildfires 1980-96
-  Large Fires 1999
-  WSA Boundaries
-  Allotment



Wildland Fire Suppression Tactics:

- A. **Recommendation:** Maintain the current suppression strategies as called for in the 1998 Elko Field Office Fire Management Plan for "polygons" B3, B4, B5, and U1.

Rationale: The fire management plan takes into account fire occurrence and size and location of suppression resources to achieve the "Most Effective Level" of fire suppression for the district in its entirety. The effectiveness of suppression is monitored through periodic evaluations.

- B. **Recommendation:** Evaluate the B6 "polygon" for a possible change to B3 Cheatgrass "polygon" based on documented large fire occurrence. If the change is made, then redo Interagency Initial Attack Analysis (IIAA) to re-validate suppression requirements in the area.

- C. **Recommendation:** Create Wildland Fire Use Areas on the Goshute Peak and Bluebell WSAs (entire areas), and Sugar Loaf, White Horse and Kinsley Mountains from 6,560 feet (2000 meters) up (Map 2). Allow fire to be re-introduced into the ecosystem to assist in maintaining the remnant mixed conifer forests and their associated aspen stands, grass and sage "balds" and associated brush species. This phase will include the cultural inventories necessary under the 1999 State Protocol Agreement between the BLM and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office.

Wildland Fire Use Areas will follow the guidelines described in Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy, Implementation Procedures Guide of August 1998 and future revisions. This includes:

1. Stage I: Initial Fire Assessment and Go-No-Go decision within two (2) hours of discovery.
2. Stage II: Short-Term Implementation Actions within 24 hours (currently under revision)
3. Stage III: Long Term Implementation Actions if periodic Fire Assessment indicates need.

Fires occurring in these areas may go through one or more of the above stages dependent on fire size, complexity and longevity. Stage 1 is the initial Go-No-Go decision. Stages II and III represent tactical implementation plans which include fire behavior, risk assessment, overall objectives and mitigation plans (holding, limited suppression actions, closures, etc.).

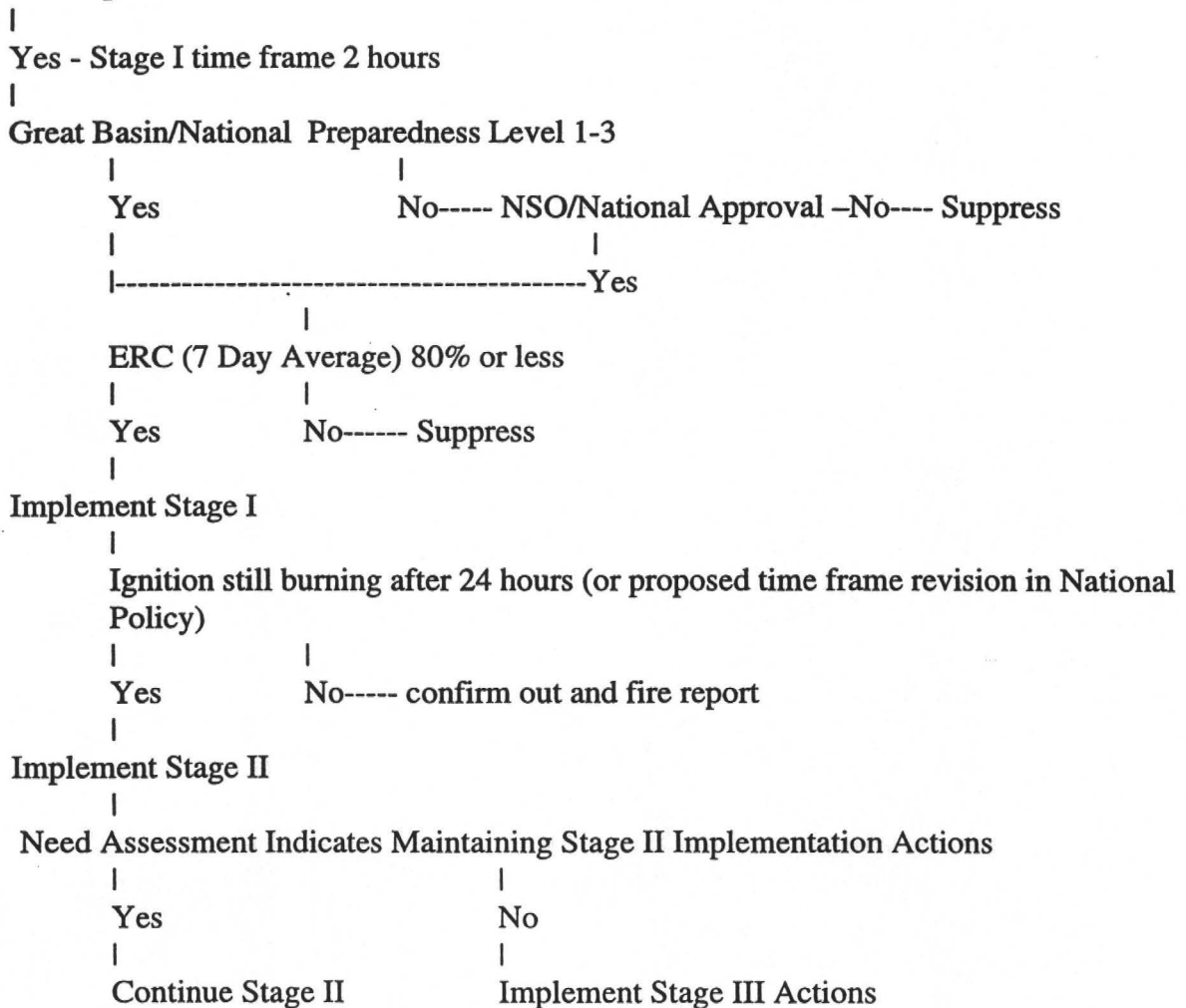
Table 2. Dispatch Run Card for Wildland Fire Use Areas

Unit Priority	Staffing Class	#Units
E-1W*	1-5	1 engine for monitoring purposes or aerial recon Based on Duty Officer Decision. Immediately start WFIP process.

NOTE : USE SPRUCE MOUNTAIN RAW S SITE FOR ERC CALCULATIONS

**Table 3. Goshute Peak, Bluebell WSAs, Sugar Loaf, White Horse and Kinsley Mountains
Wildland Fire Implementation Plan Flow Chart**

Local Fire Preparedness Level 1-5



Rationale: There is pinyon-juniper encroachment on the alluvial fans. In areas where cheatgrass is limited, prescribed fire could be used to open up these areas and re-establish the grass forb and shrub components to increase the forage diversity for wildlife and livestock. It is estimated that from 300 to 600 acres could be treated with prescribed fire in this range. The lack of road accessibility greatly limits the possibility of mechanical or fuel wood cutting options to reduce pinyon-juniper encroachment.

D. Antelope Range

Recommendation: Use prescribed fire and/or mechanical thinning from the 6500 foot elevation level up to re-create the natural fire occurrence by creating openings of from 1 to 50 acres in the pinyon-juniper.

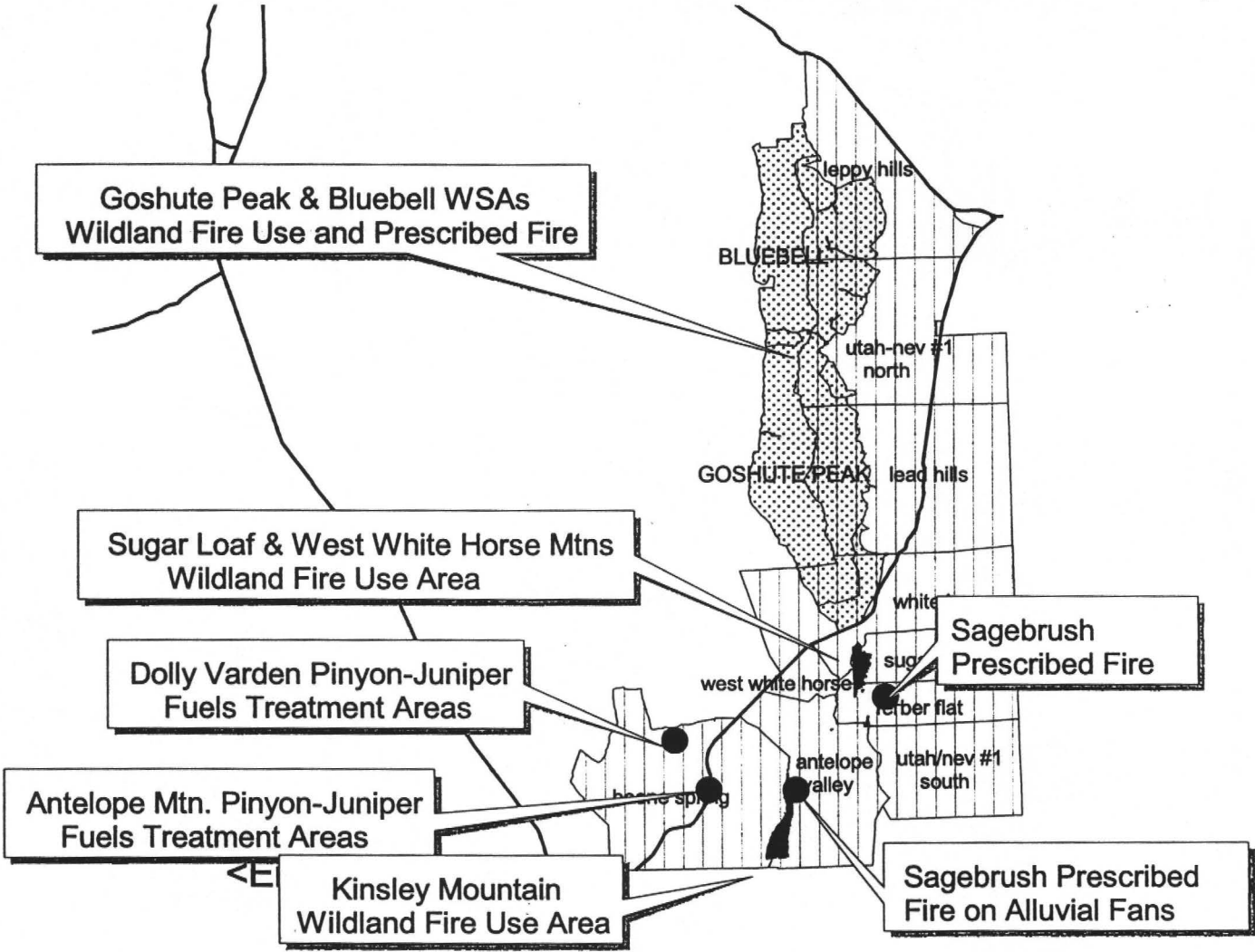
Rationale: From the 6500 foot elevation up the area is dominated by closed canopy pinyon-juniper. In the rocky soils this is probably the climax community. In the deeper soils, the fire seral community should be dominated by sagebrush and perennial grasses. The use of prescribed fire would re-create the natural fire occurrence in this vegetation type and create openings for wildlife species and wild horses to utilize for forage. Vegetative species diversity would increase within the burned areas, improving forage for deer, antelope, wild horses and non-game species while maintaining more than adequate thermal and hiding cover. It is estimated that 300 to 500+ acres could be treated by prescribed fire in this area. The lack of road access seriously limits the possibility of mechanical or fuel wood cutting options to open up these stands.

E. Dolly Varden Mountains

Recommendation: Use prescribed fire and/or mechanical thinning from the 6500 foot elevation level up to re-create the natural fire occurrence by creating openings of from 1 to 50 acres in the pinyon-juniper.

Rationale: Only a small part of these mountains is within the Sheep Complex Allotment Evaluation. Most of the area covered is within the pinyon-juniper vegetation type. There are areas from the 6500 feet elevation and above that could benefit from the same prescribed fire treatment as detailed in the Antelope Range discussion. It is estimated that approximately 5-100 acres within this area could be treated by prescribed fire. The area above 6500 feet is dominated by closed canopy pinyon-juniper. In rocky soils this is probably the climax community. In the deeper soils, the fire seral community should be dominated by sagebrush, perennial grasses and forbs. Prescribed fire would re-create the natural fire occurrence; create openings for wildlife species and wild horses, maintain the important tree thermal and hiding cover; and increase grass and forb diversity. The lack of road access in these areas reduce the viability of mechanical fuels projects such as woodcutting and thinning to create these openings for wildlife.

Map 2.
Sheep Complex Fire Management Plan
Wildland Fire Use and Fuels Treatments

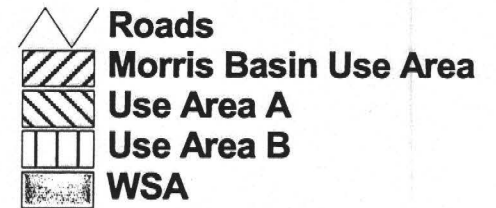
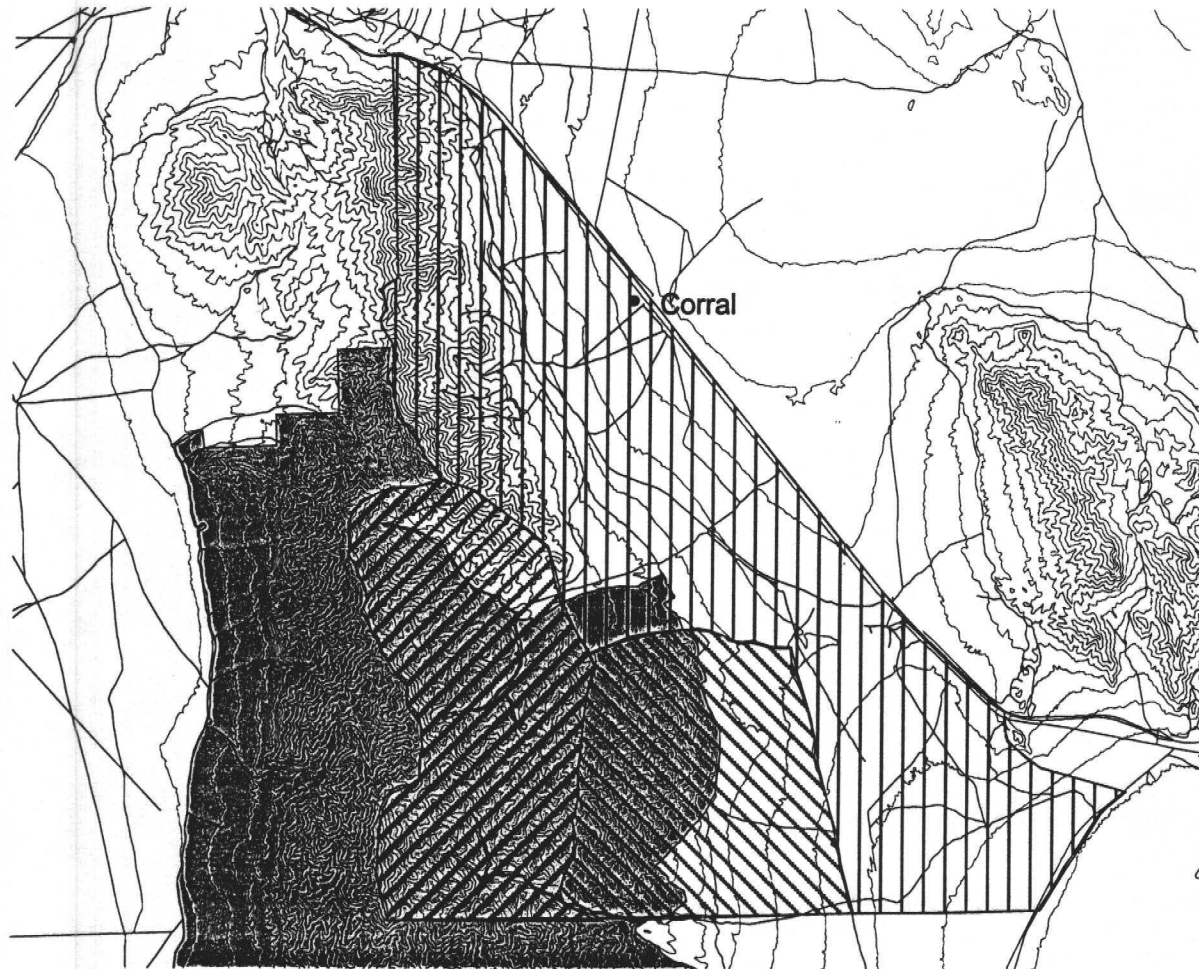


-  Sugar Loaf & West White Horse Wildland Fire Use Area
-  Kinsley Mtn Wildland Fire Use Area
-  Highways
-  WSA Boundaries
-  Allotment



Map 10







Leppy Hills Allotment Use Areas



Map 11

UT/NV North Allotment Use Areas

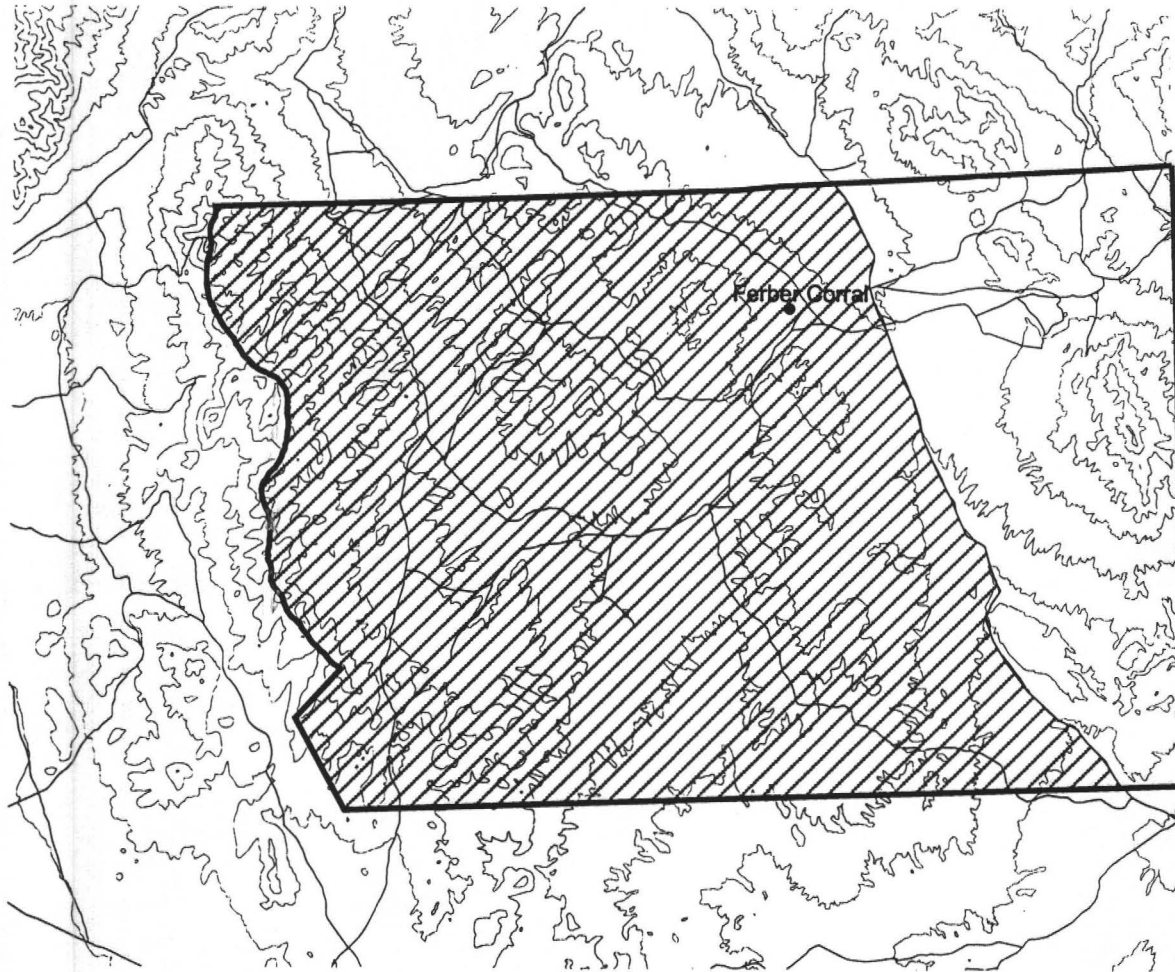


-  Roads
-  Department of Defense
-  Use Area A
-  Use Area B
-  Morgan Basin
-  WSA



Map 12

UT/NV South Allotment Use Areas



 **Spring Use Roads**

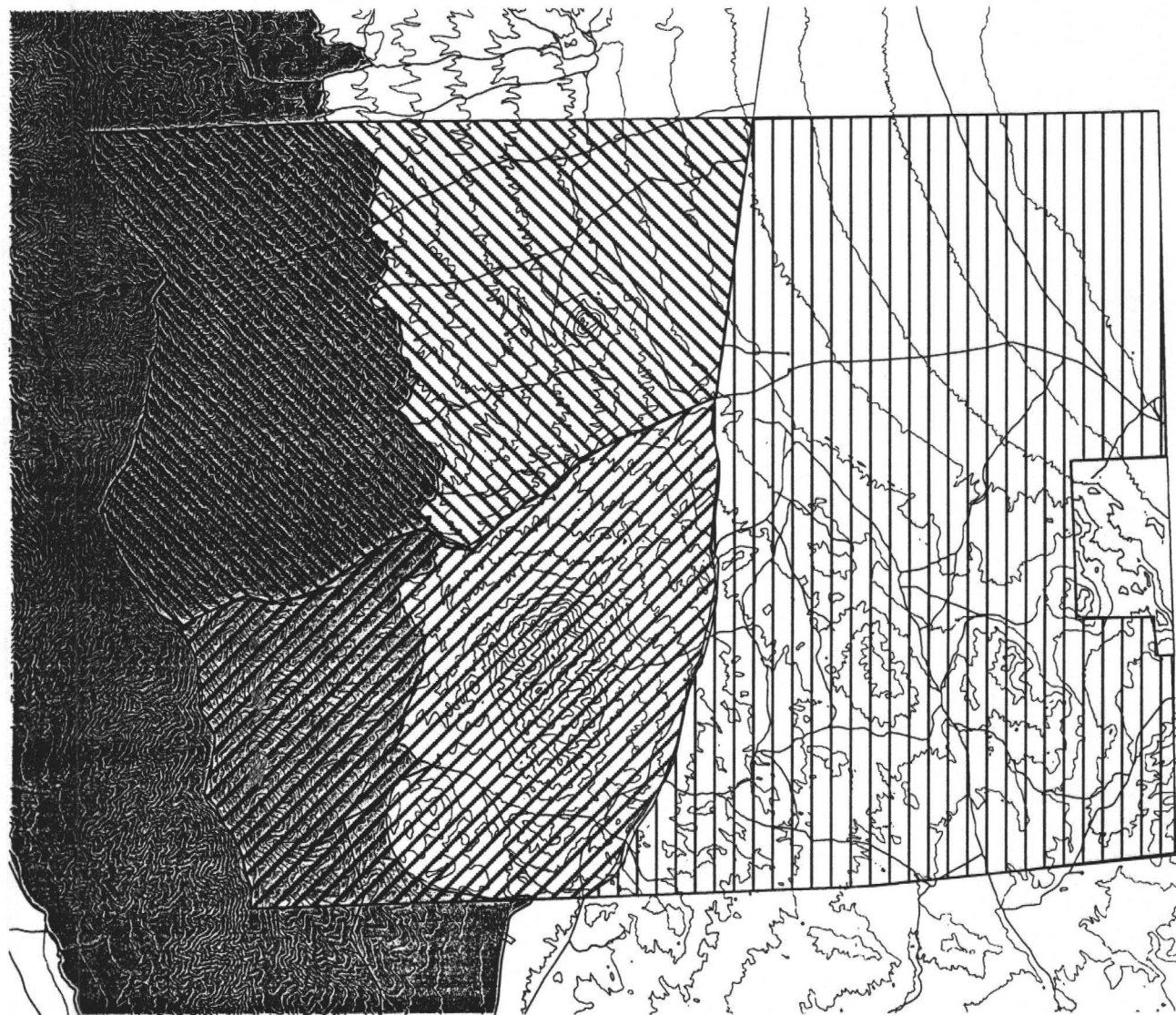





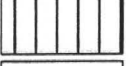
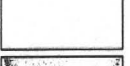

3 0 3 6 Miles

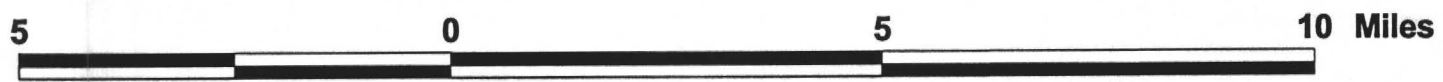


Map 13

Lead Hills Allotment Use Areas

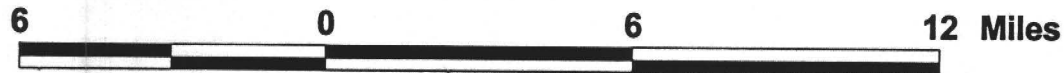
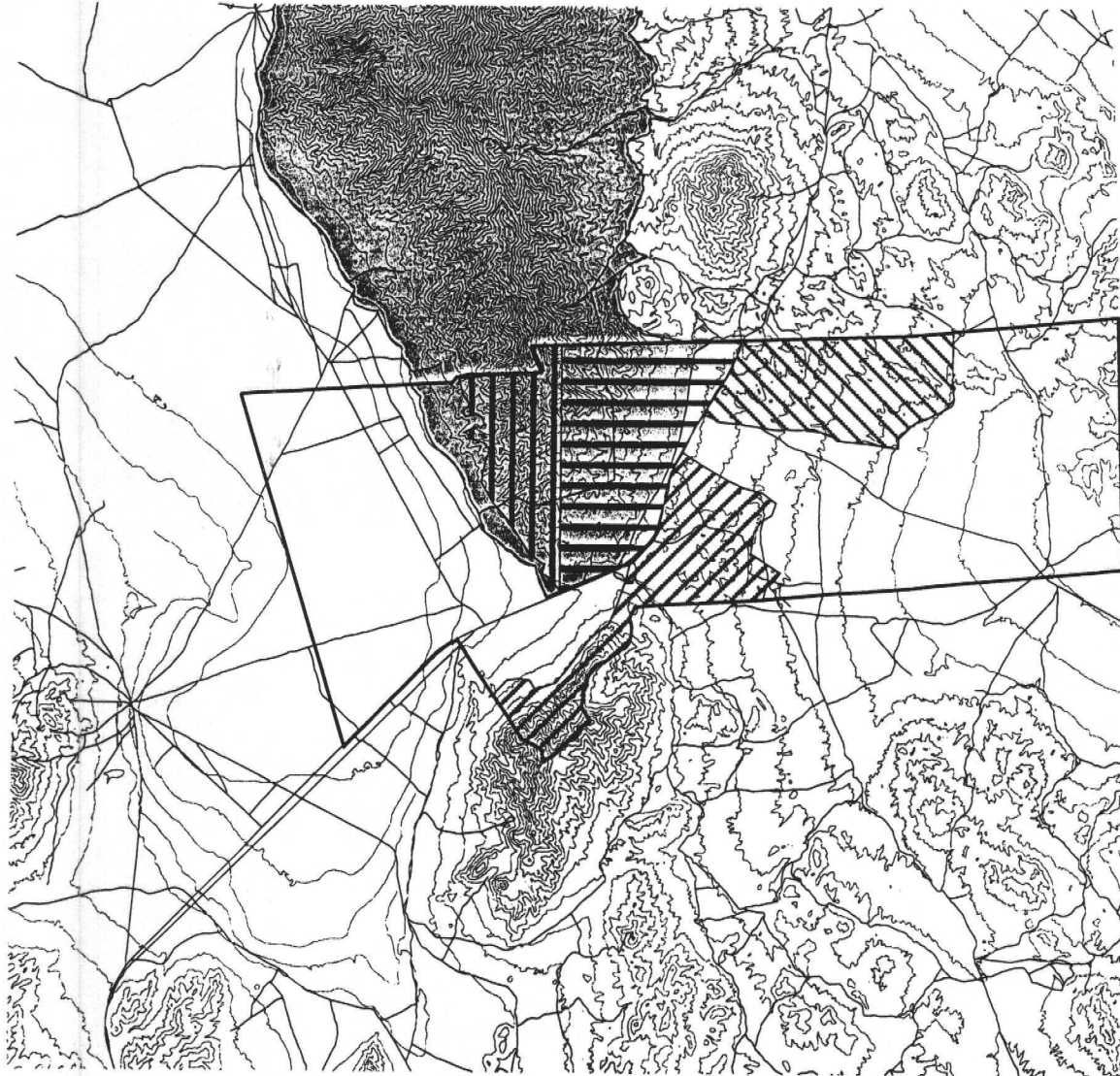


-  Roads
-  Use Area A
-  Use Area B
-  Use Area C
-  ACEC
-  WSA



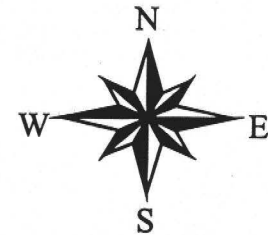
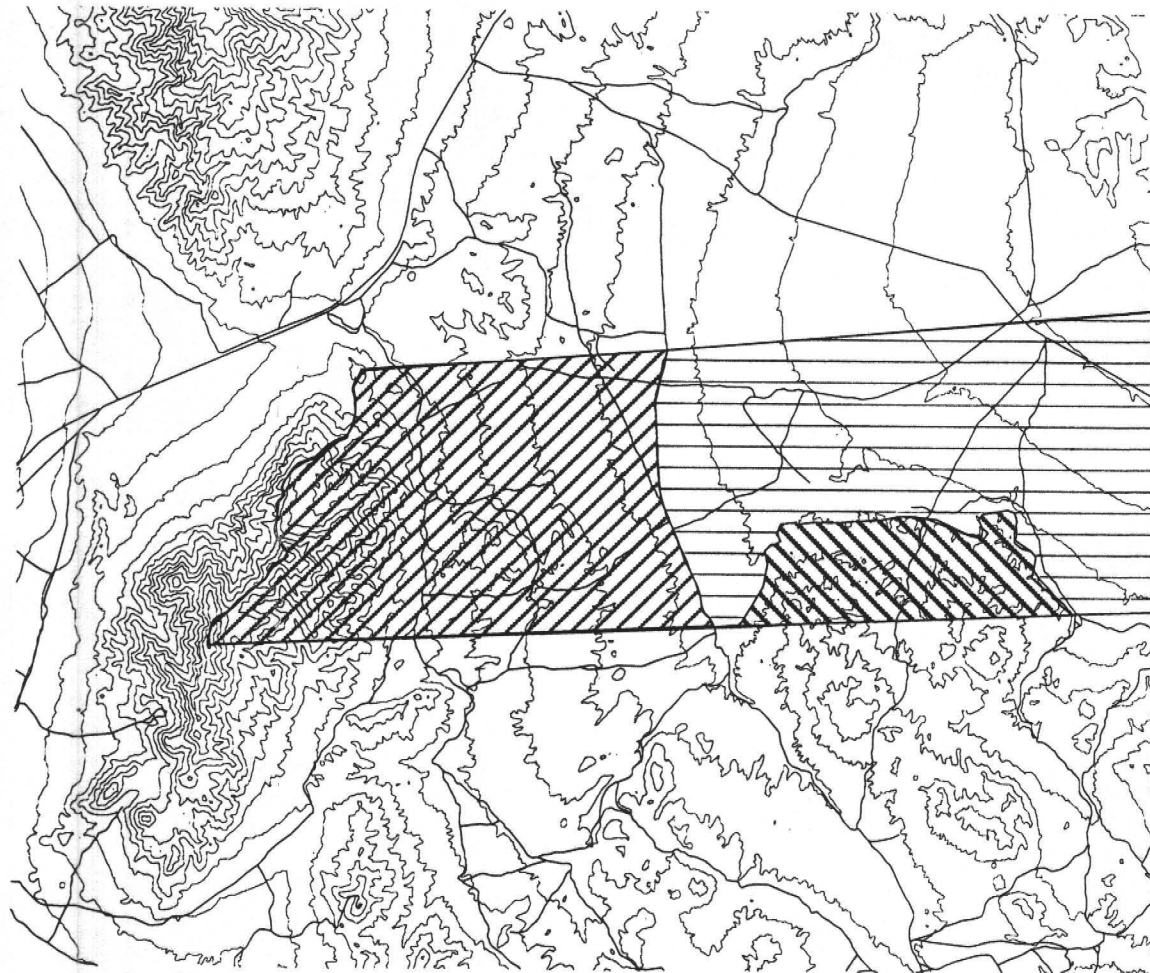
Map 14

Whitehorse Allotment Use Areas



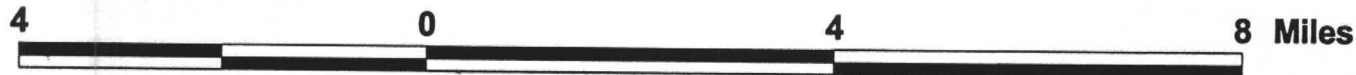
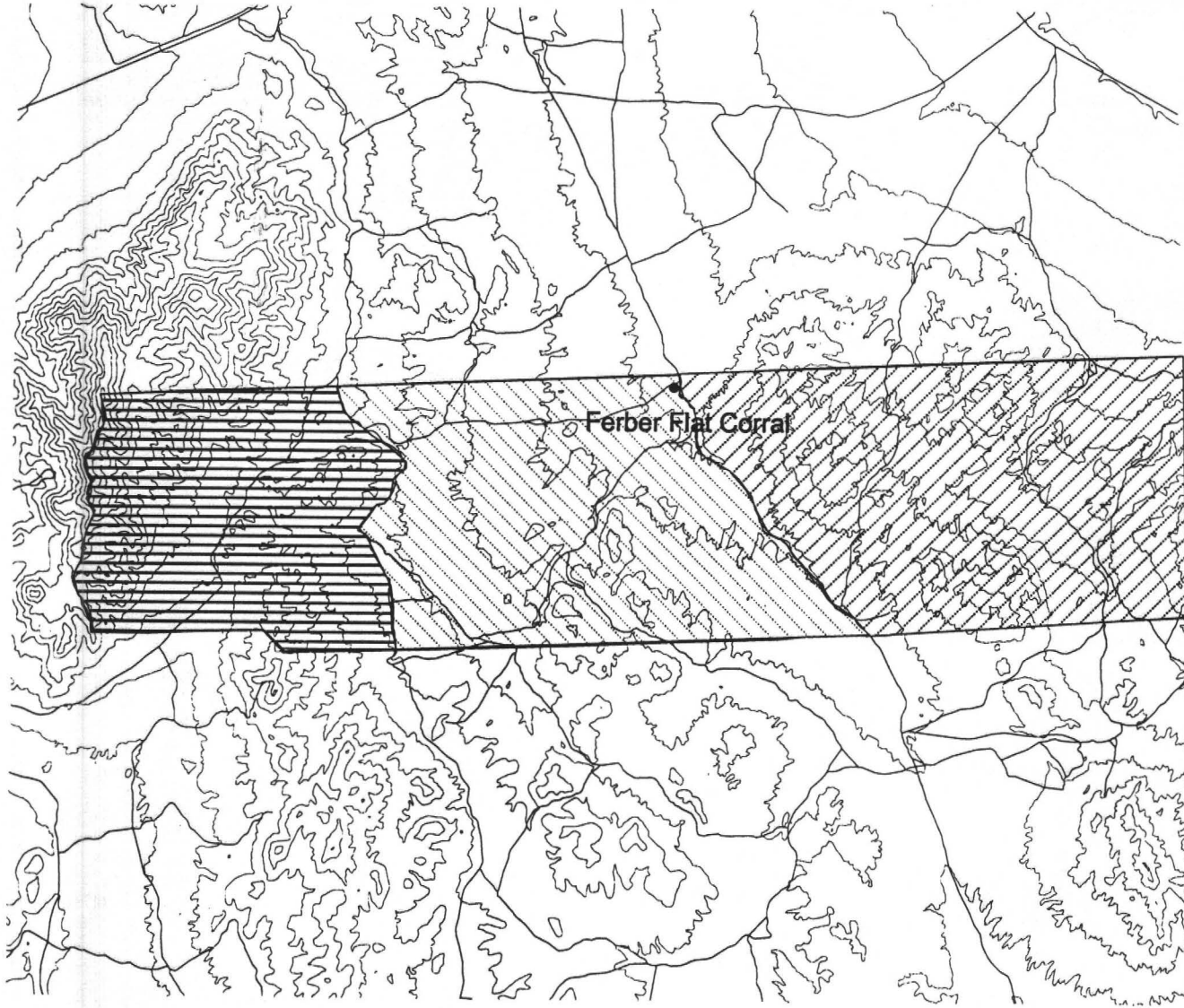
Map 15

Sugarloaf Use Areas



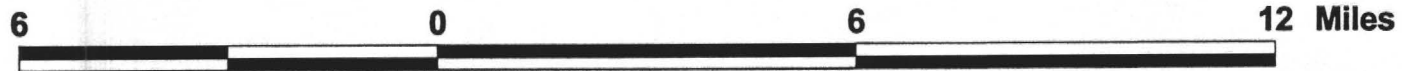
Map 16

Ferber Flat Use Areas



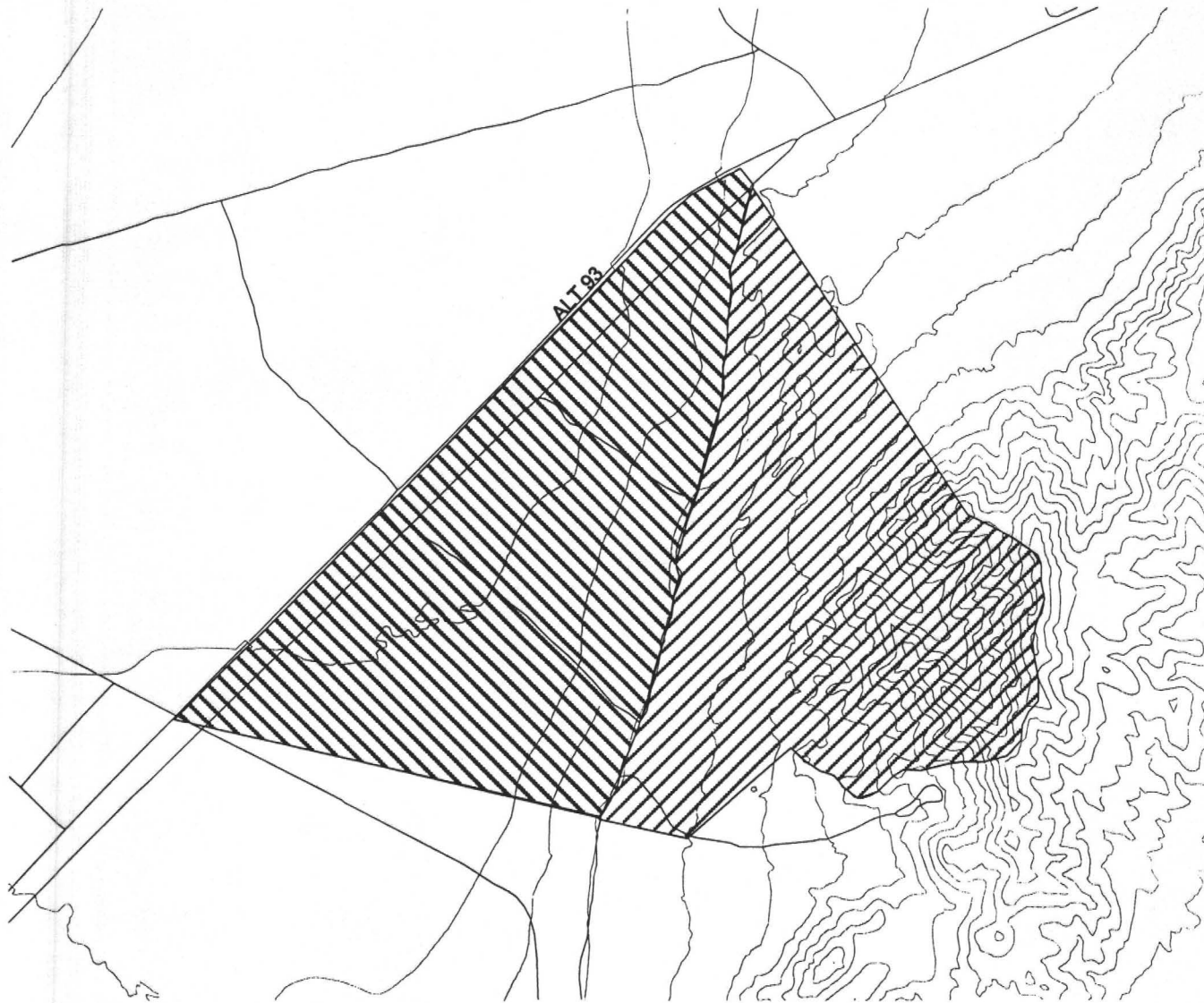
Map 17

Boone Springs Use Areas



Map 18

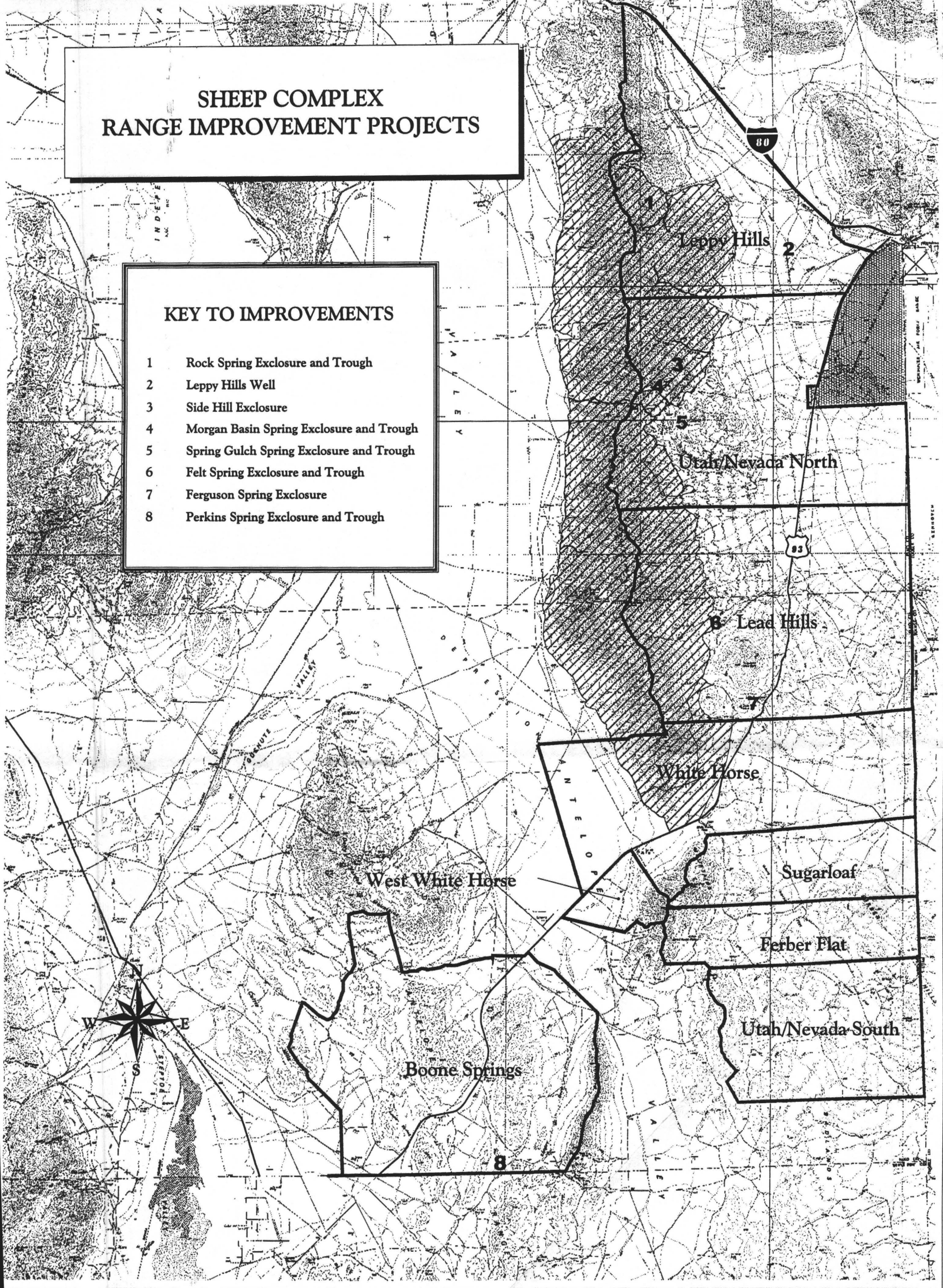
West Whitehorse Allotment Use Areas



SHEEP COMPLEX RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

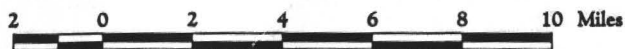
KEY TO IMPROVEMENTS

- 1 Rock Spring Exclosure and Trough
- 2 Leppy Hills Well
- 3 Side Hill Exclosure
- 4 Morgan Basin Spring Exclosure and Trough
- 5 Spring Gulch Spring Exclosure and Trough
- 6 Felt Spring Exclosure and Trough
- 7 Ferguson Spring Exclosure
- 8 Perkins Spring Exclosure and Trough



LEGEND

- Major Roads
- Allotment Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area
- Land Status**
- Public (Admin. by BLM)
- Department of Defense
- Native American Reservation
- Private



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO FIELD OFFICE



NO WARRANTY IS MADE BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AS TO THE ACCURACY, RELIABILITY, OR COMPLETENESS OF THESE DATA FOR INDIVIDUAL USE OR AGGREGATE USE WITH OTHER DATA.