

United States Department of the Interior

m 6/6/01



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Return Receipt Requested
7H Ranch L.L.C.
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Currie Allotment
N. Buttz
ODGERS
Bald mtn
MAVERICK RUBY #9
MAVERICK MEDICINE

JUN -6 2001

**FINAL MULTIPLE USE DECISION
FOR THE MAVERICK/MEDICINE COMPLEX**

Dear Permittee:

On March 31, 2000, the Maverick Medicine Complex Evaluation was issued to the public for comment. That evaluation analyzed monitoring information collected between 1979 and 2000 to determine progress in meeting the multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health for the allotments in the Maverick/Medicine 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 Maverick/Medicine Complex: the Record of Decision for the Wells Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan (RMP) issued on July 16, 1985, the RMP Elk Amendment issued February 14, 1996, the RMP Wild Horse and Burro Amendment issued on August 2, 1992, the Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) issued on September 15, 1986, the Cherry Creek Habitat Management Plan (HMP) issued on September 30, 1987, and the Currie Allotment Management Plan (AMP) issued on January 20, 1987.

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 Maverick/Medicine Complex were selected. The actions selected for implementation

were described in a report issued on July 13, 2000, titled "Maverick/Medicine Complex Management Action Selection Report (MASR)". The MASR also provided responses to public comments on the evaluation and described the changes made to the evaluation and proposed management actions.

On September 8, 2000, the proposed multiple use decision (PMUD) for the Maverick/Medicine Complex was issued. No protests were received.

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 for the Maverick/Medicine 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.**

Currie Allotment

- a. Develop an AMP to be signed in FY86.

North Butte Valley Allotment

- b. Manage livestock grazing to sustain 1,645 AUMs active grazing preference.
- c. Improve livestock distribution in the Juniper Pasture.

Odgers Allotment

- d. Facilitate big game movements by fence modification, if necessary.

Rationale: Tracking of objectives that have been attained is not necessary. The Currie AMP was signed in 1987 and will be superceded by this decision.

The average actual use in the North Butte Valley Allotment during the evaluation period has been 1,975 AUMs. The new carrying capacity for the North Butte Valley Allotment can be found in this decision.

Livestock distribution in the Juniper pasture improved with the completion of the Pinyon pipeline extension in 1991.

The majority of the fences in the Odgers Allotment were built to Bureau specifications to facilitate big game movements.

2. **Modify and/or requantify the RPS and allotment specific objectives for the Maverick/Medicine 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 Maverick-Medicine 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.

As a result of the evaluation conclusions and after careful consideration of the input received from the grazing permittee (s) and the interested public, 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 for rangeland health as identified in the conclusion section (Section V) of the Maverick/Medicine 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.

In addition to the above described changes to management objectives, ***It is my final decision to implement the management actions identified below for wildlife, wild horse management, and livestock in the Maverick/Medicine Complex.*** These management actions will be effective at the end of the appeal period of this decision.

I. LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT DECISION

1. Establish the total number of AUMs of permitted livestock use for the Maverick/Medicine Complex as follows:

a. Currie Allotment

Currie Allotment - Permitted Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML					
Pasture	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)
COTTONWOOD UNIT					
Mustang Well	913	Initial stocking level for Wild Horses was not established by pasture.	638	39*	677
Currie Gardens	554		586	183	769
Cottonwood Canyon	720		450	72	522
Twin Springs Seeding	540		726	0**	726
Total (Cottonwood Unit)	2,727			2,400	294
MCDERMID UNIT					
FFR	51	Initial stocking level for Wild Horses was not established by pasture.	51	0	51
Currie Flats	454		454	0(42)**	454
Currie Hills	101		101	0 (228)**	101
Goshute Lake	467		539	114*	653
Calf/Lower McDermid Cyn.	384		369	20	389

Currie Allotment - Permitted Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML					
Pasture	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)
Upper McDermid Cyn.	619		452	0	452
Dry Canyon	101		101	0	101
McDermid Seeding	659		1,037	52	1,089
Total (McDermid Unit)	2,642		3,104	186	3,290
Total (Currie Allot.)	5,369	718	5,504	480	5,984

* AML based on 10% pre-livestock utilization for wild horses as established in the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment.
** AML set at 0 AUMs since these pastures will be managed as horse free.

Rationale: In the Currie Allotment, the permitted use for livestock in the Currie Flats, Currie Hills, and Dry Canyon pastures will remain as identified in the Currie AMP. There is insufficient data to modify permitted use for these pastures. The carrying capacity for the remainder of the Currie Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data from 1987-1999. By adjusting recorded utilization to objective levels with use of the stocking rate formula, a carrying capacity was determined for each pasture. The carrying capacity for each pasture was then allocated to livestock and to wild horses within the HMA.

The carrying capacity for livestock in the Currie Allotment will be adjusted from 5,369 AUMs to 5,504 AUMs. The AML for wild horses will be established at 480 AUMs.

b. North Butte Valley (NBV) Allotment

NBV Allotment - Permitted Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML					
Pasture	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)
Lower Seeding	311	Initial stocking level for Wild Horses was not established by pasture.	526	0*	526
Palomino Seeding	311		444	0*	444
Juniper Seeding	311		551	19	570
Spring	324		237	9	246
North	311		243	52	295
South	311		372	135	507
FFR	51		51	0*	51
Total	1,930²	164	2,424	215	2,639

¹ Initial herd size for the Maverick/Medicine HMA is 273 horses or 3,276 AUMs. 5% of the horses in the Maverick/Medicine HMA use the NBV Allotment for a total of 164 AUMs.
² Only 1,645 AUMs have been available for use since the NBV grazing agreement identified one seeding pasture for rest each year.
* AML set at 0 AUMs since these pastures will be managed as horse free.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the NBV Allotment was derived by evaluating utilization-actual use data from 1990-1999. By adjusting recorded utilization to objective levels with use of the stocking rate formula along with professional judgement, a carrying capacity was determined for each pasture. The carrying capacity of each pasture was allocated to livestock, and to wild horses within the HMA.

As explained on Page 67 of the Maverick/Medicine Complex Evaluation, the range sites within the North and Spring Pastures are becoming more shrub dominated due to the lack of frequent flooding. Although calculated capacities for these two pastures are higher than the permitted use authorized in this decision, it is wise to limit the amount of authorized use in these two pastures on the premise the carrying capacities within these pastures will decline as shrubs compete more intensely with under story forage due to the lack of frequent flooding resulting from water diversions for irrigation on private lands.

The total carrying capacity for livestock and wild horses in the NBV Allotment will be

adjusted from 2,094 AUMs to 2,639 AUMs.

The permitted use for livestock in the NBV Allotment will be adjusted from 1,645 AUMs (available due to rest in the seeding pastures) to 2,424 AUMs. The permitted use is based on annual use in all pastures. The AML for wild horses will be established at 215 AUMs.

c. Odgers Allotment

Odgers Allotment - Permitted Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML					
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) ¹	Livestock permitted use	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs)
Odgers	1,596	197	1,596 ²	197 ²	1,793

¹ Initial herd size for the Maverick/Medicine HMA is 273 horses or 3,276 AUMs. 6% of the horses in the Maverick/Medicine HMA use the Odgers Allotment for a total of 197 AUMs.

² The calculated carrying capacity for livestock and wild horses is 2,155 AUMs, however, since objectives are not being attained, the permitted use will remain at 1,596 AUMs, and the wild horse AML will remain at 197 AUMs.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Odgers Allotment was determined to be 2,155 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data indicates that although upland utilization objectives are being met, riparian objectives, and standards for rangeland health are not being met for this allotment. Therefore, livestock permitted use will remain at 1,596 AUMs. The season of use was changed from summer to winter use.

d. Bald Mountain Allotment

Bald Mountain Allotment - Permitted Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML					
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) ¹	Livestock permitted use	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs)
Bald Mountain	1,176	330	843	330	1,173

¹ Initial herd size for the Maverick/Medicine HMA is 273 horses or 3,276 AUMs. 20% of the horses in the Maverick/Medicine HMA use the Bald Mountain Allotment for (6 months 5/1 to 11/1) a total of 330 AUMs.

Rationale: The permitted use for livestock in the Bald Mountain Allotment was reduced to 843 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data indicates that utilization objectives were not being met. Allocating 843 AUMs for livestock grazing will ensure proper use of key forage species.

The livestock carrying capacity will be adjusted from 1,176 AUMs to 843 AUMs while the wild horse AML will be established at 330 AUMs.

e. Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment

Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment - Permitted Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML					
Pasture	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)
Ruby #9 (winter use area)	2,774	Initial stocking level for Wild Horses was not established by pasture.	683	150	833
Maverick (summer use area)			1,350	309	1,659
Ruby Wash (winter use area)			741	163	904
Total	2,774	622	2,774	622	3,396

¹ Initial herd size for the Maverick/Medicine HMA is 273 horses or 3,276 AUMs. 19% of the horses in the Maverick/Medicine HMA use the Maverick/Ruby # 9 Allotment for a total of 622 AUMs.

Rationale: Permitted use for livestock is determined to be 2,774 AUMs, which equals pre-evaluation permitted use. The AML for wild horses was determined to be 622 AUMs.

Carrying capacity analysis was conducted on each of the three use areas in the allotment. Key area utilization and use pattern map data in the Ruby #9 and Ruby Wash winter use areas were reflective of combined use by livestock and wild horses.

Since there was insufficient data to calculate the carrying capacity for all three use areas, it was decided that the total number of AUMs for livestock and the AML for wild horses would remain the same as those cited under the pre-evaluation carrying capacity. Therefore, after calculating the carrying capacities for the Ruby #9 and Ruby Wash areas, the remaining portion of the pre-evaluation permitted use was 1,350

AUMs which was assigned to the Maverick summer use area. The same process was applied to arrive at the wild horse AML for the Maverick summer use area arriving at the total of 622 AUMs for all three use areas within the allotment. Therefore, carrying capacities were established for these areas based on this data. Data was insufficient to determine the carrying capacity for the Maverick summer use area.

The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that satisfactory progress is being made toward the attainment of long term objectives in the allotment. Standard #2 is not being met in the Maverick summer use area due to the condition of Gardner and Tick/Cone springs, however these springs will be fenced. To ensure that the fences are constructed in a timely manner, the BLM proposes to enter into a cooperative agreement with the permittees. The BLM proposes to provide all materials while the permittee will provide the labor and maintenance. Fences will be built before the 2002 grazing season. All other standards are being attained or progress is being made toward attainment of the standards for rangeland health.

Permitted use of 2,774 AUMs for livestock grazing and 622 AUMs for the wild horse AML will ensure proper use of key forage species.

f. Maverick/Medicine Complex Summary

Maverick/Medicine Complex - Permitted 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)¹	Livestock permitted use	Wild Horse AML (AUMs)	Total Post-Eval. Carrying Capacity (AUMs)
Currie	5,369	718	5,504	480	5,984
North Butte Valley	1,645	164	2,424	215	2,639
Odgers	1,596	197	1,596	197	1,793
Bald Mountain	1,176	330	843	330	1,173
Maverick/Ruby #9	2,774	622	2,774	622	3,396
Total	12,560	2,031	13,141	1,844	14,985

¹ Initial herd sizes for the Antelope Valley and Maverick/Medicine HMA's were established in the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment. Initial stocking level by allotment was determined from the proportion of horses using each allotment as determined from aerial census data.

Rationale: The desired carrying capacity and rationale for each allotment in the Maverick/Medicine Complex are presented above. The analysis of utilization, actual

use, 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 Maverick/Medicine 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 proper stocking levels, 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 an additional 581 AUMs of livestock use is available in the Maverick/Medicine Complex. This increase above pre-evaluation permitted use is attributed to an increase of forage in crested wheatgrass seedings and native pastures and planning livestock use in every pasture within the NBV Allotment annually.

This management action 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.

2. Implement management systems and/or establish the season of use for each allotment in the Maverick/Medicine Complex as follows:

a. Currie Allotment

Management in the Currie Allotment will be in accordance with the Assistant Field Manager's Final Multiple Use Decision. There is an interim and long term grazing system for the Cottonwood Unit. There is a long term grazing system for the McDermid Unit, no interim system is needed. The interim and final grazing systems will be as follows:

Interim Grazing System for the Cottonwood Unit					
Pasture	Year 1	Year 2	Livestock #'s	% PL	AUMs
Mustang Well	11/1 to 2/28	11/1 to 2/28	132 C	96%	500
	3/1 to 2/28	3/1 to 2/28	12 H*		138
Currie Gardens	4/15 to 6/14	8/1 to 9/30	304 C		586
Cottonwood Canyon	6/15 to 7/15	6/15 to 7/15	460 C		450
Twin Springs Seeding	7/16 to 9/30	4/15 to 6/14 7/16 to 7/30	299 C		726
Total					2,400
Long Term Grazing System for the Cottonwood Unit					
Pasture	Year 1	Year 2	Livestock #'s	% PL	AUMs
Mustang Well	11/1 to 2/28	11/1 to 2/28	132 C	96%	500
	3/1 to 2/28	3/1 to 2/28	12 H*		138
Currie Gardens	4/15 to 6/14	8/2 to 9/30	304 C		586
Cottonwood Canyon	6/15 to 7/15	6/15 to 7/15	294 C		294
Phalen Pasture	7/16 to 8/01	7/16 to 8/01	294 C		156
Twin Springs Seeding	8/02 to 9/30	4/15 to 6/14	299 C		726
Total					2,400
McDermid Unit					
Pasture	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	% PL	AUMs	
FFR	3/1 to 3/31	50 C	100%	51	
Currie Hills	11/1 to 2/28	27 C	96%	101	
Goshute Lake (Bald Mt. and Dry Cyn. herds)	5/1 to 6/30	145 C		298	
Calf/Lower McDermid Cyn. and Upper McDermid Cyn.	5/1 to 7/15	342 C		821	
Dry Canyon	7/1 to 9/15	42 C		101	
McDermid Seeding	5/1 to 5/15	275 C		136	
	7/16 to 10/14	225 C		660	
Total				2,168	
*Horse use will be confined to that portion of the Mustang Well Pasture east of Lear Ranches hay fields and west of highway 93. This portion of the Mustang Well Pasture is fenced and is located outside of the HMA.					

McDermid Unit Indian Creek Ranch				
Pasture	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	% PL	AUMs
Currie Flats	1/01 to 2/28	244 C	100%	454
Goshute Lake	12/1 to 12/31	244 C		241
McDermid Seeding	11/1 to 11/30	244 C		241
Total				936

Special grazing stipulations:

1. Livestock will be moved in accordance with the dates outlined in the grazing system. No flexibility will be allowed for ending dates in the Cottonwood or McDermid/Calf Canyon Pastures.
2. In the Lower/Upper McDermid Canyon Pastures gates will be left open. Cattle will be turned in the Calf/Lower McDermid Canyon Pasture and allowed to drift up.
3. The permittee will have 5 days flexibility at the end of the authorized period of use in each pasture with the exception of Cottonwood and McDermid/Calf Canyon pastures.

Rationale: Implementation of the proposed grazing systems outlined above will enhance riparian areas and crucial deer winter habitat in the McDermid, Calf, and Cottonwood Canyons by reducing the duration of hot season grazing in these pastures and changing the period of use to spring/early summer. The seasons of use and/or duration of use outlined for the grazing systems will also ensure progress toward proper functioning condition of the riparian resources in these areas.

The proposed grazing systems limit use of native uplands during the critical growing season by allowing growing season deferment annually or every other year in the Mustang Well, Currie Gardens, Twins Springs Seeding, Currie Flats, Currie Hills, and McDermid Seeding pastures. Annual growing season use is being implemented in the Cottonwood, Goshute Lake, Calf, Upper and Lower McDermid Creek, and Dry Canyon Pastures in order to improve riparian resources and mule deer winter range. Proper stocking levels and reduced duration of use will ensure that use in these pastures during the critical growing season will not prevent attainment of resource objectives and progress towards the standards for rangeland health.

Seeded pastures will be used more to minimize impacts to riparian areas and wildlife habitat while providing livestock grazing consistent with other uses.

Salt desert shrub and saline meadow complexes 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 as well as proper stocking levels will prevent overuse of these areas.

This grazing system was designed in cooperation with Kay and Mary Lear for the purpose of attaining land use plan objectives and the standards for rangeland health in the Currie Allotment.

b. North Butte Valley Allotment

Modify the current grazing system as outlined in the North Butte Valley grazing agreement signed in 1990 to be as follows:

North Butte Valley Grazing System					
Pasture	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	AUMs
Lower Seeding	8/11 to 8/22	6/21 to 8/10	4/15 to 6/20	Repeat Cycle	526
Palomino Seeding	4/15 to 6/20	8/11 to 8/22	6/21 to 8/10		444
Juniper Seeding	6/21 to 8/10	4/15 to 6/20	8/11 to 8/22		551
Spring	8/23 to 9/10	11/1 to 12/22	9/16 to 10/31		237
North	11/1 to 12/22	9/16 to 10/31	8/23 to 9/15		243
South	9/11 to 10/31	8/23 to 9/15	11/1 to 12/22		372

Rationale: Through evaluation of the data, it has been determined that the existing grazing system on the North Butte Valley has allowed for the attainment of long term objectives in the seedings and in the South Pasture. Ecological status objectives for the North and Spring native pastures have not been met, however this is not due to livestock use. Trends at the key areas in the North and Spring Pastures are downward due to lack of frequent flooding from water diversions for irrigation on private lands.

It has been determined that livestock grazing is not a causal factor in the non-attainment of the standards for rangeland health. Livestock grazing has occurred after seed ripe and following the critical growing season for grasses in the native pastures. Annual growing season deferment in the North and Spring pastures should encourage the attainment of utilization objectives and proper use of these pastures by livestock. The duration of use specified in the grazing system should prevent excessive and/or repeated utilization by livestock in these pastures.

The proposed grazing system will allow for the continued improvement in the seedings

as well as the South Pasture by applying grazing treatments which are similar to pre-evaluation management. Livestock grazing in the North and Spring Pastures will continue to occur after seed ripe and following the critical growing season for key herbaceous species.

c. Odgers Allotment

Modify the season of use for the Odgers Allotment to read as follows:

Odgers Allotment			
Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
10/1 to 12/31	533C	100	1,596

Rationale: Modifying the grazing treatment for the Odgers Allotment will allow for a change in season of use and/or stocking levels that will improve forage diversity and ensure attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health in the Odgers Allotment. Eliminating hot season use along Odgers Creek will provide for sufficient herbaceous growth necessary to improve plant vigor, restore riparian habitat and provide streambank protection. The current grazing system has failed to achieve riparian/stream objectives.

The uplands will improve with rest during the critical part of the growing season each year.

d. Bald Mountain Allotment

Maintain the current season of use for the Bald Mountain Allotment as follows:

Bald Mountain Allotment				
Permittee	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Kay and Mary Lear	6/15 to 9/15	102C	100	312
TLA vacant permit	6/15 to 9/15	174C	100	531

Rationale: Existing management has allowed for the attainment of multiple use objectives and the standards for rangeland health. Permitted use on the allotment was reduced from 1,176 to 843. This reduction was the result of existing management failing to meet key area utilization objectives. No change in the season of use is being proposed since long term data indicate an upward trend and improvement in ecological status at the key area.

e. **Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment**

Interim Grazing System for the Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment				
Use Area	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Ruby #9	11/1 to 3/31	136 C	100	683
Ruby Wash	11/1 to 3/31	147 C	100	741
Maverick	7/01 to 10/31	334 C	100	1,350

Long Term Grazing System for the Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment (effective upon completion of the identified range improvement projects).				
Use Area	Period of Use	Livestock #'s	PPL	AUMs
Ruby #9	11/1 to 3/31	136 C	100	683
Ruby Wash	11/1 to 3/31	147 C	100	741
Proposed Seeding	4/1 to 6/30	134 C	100	400
Maverick	7/1 to 10/31	235 C	100	950

The carrying capacity will remain as outlined above until monitoring data supports an adjustment in AUMs.

Grazing in the Maverick summer use area will not be authorized following the 2001 grazing season until Gardner and Tick/Cone Springs have been fenced. These enclosures will be constructed by the permittee prior to the 2002 grazing season.

Special grazing stipulations:

1. Wells will not be operated in the Ruby Wash or Ruby #9 areas from 4/1 to 10/31.
2. The permittee will be required to ensure that livestock do not graze the Ruby Wash and Ruby #9 use areas outside of the authorized period of use.

Rationale: The Ruby Wash and Ruby #9 use areas will be grazed from 11/1 to 3/31 annually. Grazing during the dormant season will ensure that salt desert shrub communities will continue to be maintained.

The proposed seeding will allow for some livestock use during the critical growing season. Deferment of the native upland range in the Maverick use area until 7/01 annually will improve the ecological status and vigor of native upland forage species.

These action will implement Guidelines 1.1, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 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.

3. Award the Permitted Use in Odgers and Bald Mountain Allotments, previously held by the TeMoak Livestock Association, to a qualified applicant.

Rationale: The TeMoak Livestock Association's grazing preference and permit for the Odgers and Bald Mountain Allotments were canceled in 1999. The permit will be awarded to a qualified applicant under the terms and conditions outlined above.

4. Construct the following range improvement projects within the Maverick/Medicine Complex: (See the enclosed map for locations)

Proposed Range Improvements for the Maverick/Medicine Complex		
Project	Allotment	Units
Dry Canyon Boundary fence	Currie	2 miles
Dry Canyon Spring enclosure	Currie	1
Augustine Spring enclosure	Currie	1
Twin Springs Pipeline Reconstruction and Extension	Currie	12 miles
Phalen Creek fence	Currie	0.75 miles
Twins Springs Seeding fence extension	Currie	1 mile
McDermid Canyon Pasture fence extension	Currie	0.25 miles
McCeeCee Gap fences	Currie	4.5 miles
Currie Hills Fence Extension	Currie	3 miles
Spring Pasture Well storage tank	North Butte Valley	1
Mud Spring enclosure	Odgers	1
Odgers Spring Complex North enclosure	Odgers	1
N. Fork Odgers Creek headwater spring complex enclosure	Odgers	1
Maverick Water Catchment	Maverick/Ruby #9	1

Proposed Range Improvements for the Maverick/Medicine Complex		
Project	Allotment	Units
Maverick Seeding and fence	Maverick/Ruby #9	2,500 acres
Maverick Well	Maverick/Ruby #9	3
Maverick/Ruby #9 boundary fence extension and cattleguard	Maverick/Ruby #9	0.5 miles & 1 cg
Gardner Spring enclosure	Maverick/Ruby #9	1
Tick/Cone Spring enclosure	Maverick/Ruby #9	1

Rationale: The spring enclosures are intended to protect riparian areas while providing water outside for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses. The fences are intended to help facilitate livestock management and drift within the complex. The proposed seeding will allow for some livestock use during the critical growing season. Deferment of the native upland in the Maverick use area until 7/01 annually will improve the ecological status and vigor of native upland forage species. This will also help eliminate use during the growing season on the white sage plant communities.

The proposed well will provide water in the proposed seeding and outside the seeding for wildlife and wild horses.

The Maverick water catchment will provide water and improve wild horse distribution in the Maverick Mountains.

Completion of these projects will help achieve multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health in the Maverick/Medicine Complex.

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

Priority for construction of range improvement will be completed in close consultation, coordination, and cooperation with the livestock permittee and other interested publics.

Vegetation Treatments

Currie Allotment:

Prescribed Fire or Mechanical Treatment of shrubs in the Calf Canyon/Lower McDermid Canyon Pasture in sites representative of key area CU-16.

Rationale: Bitterbrush plants are old and decadent and need to be reduced to allow

establishment of young plants to improve the age diversity of the bitterbrush stand, and allow desirable understory perennial grasses to increase in the community. These changes in the plant community will create a better balance in attributes desirable for multiple uses.

Prescribed Fire or Mechanical Treatment of shrubs in the Cottonwood Canyon Pasture in sites representative of key area CU-22.

Rationale: Mountain big sagebrush (ARTRV) dominates this site. Reductions of ARTRV are needed to allow desirable understory perennial grasses to increase in the community. These changes in the plant community will create a better balance in attributes desirable for multiple uses.

North Butte Valley Allotment:

Herbicide or Mechanical Treatment of Shrubs in the site(s) represented by key areas L004 and L005.

Rationale: Dry meadow sites associated with Odgers Creek within the North Butte Valley Allotment are dominated by rubber rabbitbrush (CHNA). Reductions in CHNA are necessary to allow for desirable under story grasses to increase. These changes in the plant community will create a better balance in attributes desirable for multiple uses.

Odgers Allotment:

Herbicide or Mechanical Treatment of Shrubs in the site(s) represented by key area 1010.

Rationale: Dry meadow sites associated with Odgers Creek are dominated by rubber rabbitbrush (CHNA). Reductions in CHNA are necessary to allow for desirable understory grasses to increase. These changes in the plant community will create a better balance in attributes desirable for multiple uses.

Required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation will be completed prior to implementation of the proposed vegetation treatments.

This management action will implement Guidelines 1.1, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 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.

5. The terms and conditions on each term grazing permit within the Maverick/Medicine 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 pasture will be turned in within 15 days after completing annual use.
- (e) 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/cooperative agreements.
- (f) 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.
- (g) 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. 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.
- (h) 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.

Rationale: This management action 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.

6. 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.

7. Establish new key areas in the Maverick/Medicine Complex in the following locations.

Currie Allotment

The slopes of Lower McDermid Canyon - Livestock
Dry Canyon Pasture - Livestock
McDermid Seeding - Livestock
The Currie Hills area - Livestock and Wild horses

North Butte Valley Allotment

Spring pasture - Livestock and Wild horses (Identify and locate a new key area site).

Odgers Allotment

Northern portion of the allotment - Livestock and Wild horses
Western portion of the allotment - Livestock and Wild horses
Southern portion of the allotment - Livestock and Wild horses

Bald Mountain Allotment

High Bald Peaks area - Wild horses

Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment

On the west slopes of the Medicine Range - Wild horses
Southeast of the Hot Springs - Livestock and Wild horses

Future locations will be determined on an as needed basis.

Rationale: The proposed key areas in L. McDermid Canyon, Dry Canyon, and the McDermid Seeding will help monitor livestock utilization. The proposed key area in the Currie Hills will be used to gather both short and long-term monitoring data for the Currie Hills area as well as monitor utilization by wild horses.

The proposed key area in the North Butte Valley Allotment will help monitor both short and long-term objectives in the Spring pasture.

The proposed key areas in the Odgers Allotment will help monitor both short and long-term objectives in the southern, northern, and western portions of the allotment.

The proposed key areas in the Bald Mountain Allotment will monitor utilization by wild horses.

The proposed key area on the west slopes of the Medicine range will monitor utilization by wild horses. The key area southeast of the Hot Springs will monitor utilization by livestock and wild horses.

This management action will 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, Riparian and Wetland Sites, and Habitat.

8. 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 multiple use objectives. The Maverick/Medicine 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
- trend frequency
- utilization
- actual use
- Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM TR 1734-6)
- Ecological Site Inventory
- Cover

Riparian:

- stream inventory (BLM Manual 6720-1, BLM Manual 6671)
- fish population surveys
- 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 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, 4160.3, 4160.4, 4180.1, and 4180.2.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final livestock grazing portion of this decision may file an appeal and petition for stay of the decision pending final determination on appeal. The appeal and petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer as noted above, within 30 days following receipt of the final decision.

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

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

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

As noted above, the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer.

II. Other Management Actions**1. Forest Products**

Continue to implement the planned actions identified in the Cherry Creek 10-year sale plan for forest products.

Rationale: The Cherry Creek 10-year sale plan outlines sustained yield harvests of the various forest products within the Cherry Creek Range and the silvicultural systems designed to maintain/improve the forest sites while providing for other resource uses

such as increased forage for big game habitat.

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

2. Fire Management Plan

Implement the Maverick/Medicine 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 Field Office. The Maverick/Medicine Complex Fire Management Plan is tiered off the Field Office plan and identifies site specific fire suppression, prescribed fire, and mechanical fuel treatments goals and objectives for the public lands in this complex. The Maverick/Medicine Complex Fire Management Plan is required to effectively achieve the goals and objectives for Elko Field Office Fire Management Plan within the Maverick/Medicine Complex.

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

Summary:

1. Create a wildland fire use area on the Cherry Creek Mountains from the 7,500 foot elevation level up.
2. Reduce white fir and sagebrush encroachment on 500 to 1,000 acres of aspen stands.
3. Initiate an aggressive prescribed fire and mechanical fuels plan to treat 75 to 100 percent of the over-mature mixed conifer stands within 10 years.
4. Use prescribed fire and mechanical thinning to open up 10 to 50 acre blocks in the pinyon-juniper stands to benefit wildlife and wild horses.
5. Use prescribed fire in mature to over-mature/decadent mountain big sagebrush and Wyoming big sagebrush stands to increase herbaceous diversity for wildlife benefit.

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

3. Noxious Weeds

Within the Maverick/Medicine 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 Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States and the Elko District Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Treatment of Noxious Weeds. See Appendix 7 (in the Maverick/Medicine Complex 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 Maverick/Medicine Complex will result in a more diverse plant community and therefore will improve wildlife habitat, soil stability and forage plant diversity.

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

4. Sage Grouse

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 and endangered species. Maintaining and improving sage grouse habitat will assist in maintaining or increasing populations within the Maverick/Medicine Complex and may form a basis for future habitat conservation plans.

These management actions will implement Guidelines 1.2 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.

III. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DECISION

Existing management of wildlife has not contributed to the non-attainment of multiple use objectives and standards for rangeland health; therefore, no management changes are warranted.

1. Continue to implement the planned actions identified in the Cherry Creek Habitat Management Plan (HMP).

Rationale: Completion of these planned actions within the Maverick/Medicine Complex will help achieve the multiple use objectives outlined in the Wells RPS, and the Cherry Creek HMP.

This management action 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.

IV. WILD HORSE DECISION

1. Establish and maintain an appropriate management level (AML) for wild horses within the Maverick/Medicine Complex as described below:

The following tables display the AML for wild horses in the Antelope Herd Management Area (HMA) and the Maverick/Medicine HMA. The grazing allotments involved in the Maverick/Medicine Complex evaluation have their names shown in bold type. Additional details regarding the allocation of grazing capacity to wild horses, as well as livestock, are described in the Livestock Grazing Management above.

Appropriate Management Level for the Antelope Valley HMA			
HMA	Allotment	Initial Herd Size⁶ (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 ^{1c}	74	23
	Spruce ²	143	181
	Currie³	60	40
	Badlands ⁴	3	incidental
	Antelope Valley ⁵	10	8
Total		299	259⁷
<p>1 AML proposed through the Sheep Complex Allotment Evaluation. 2 AML established through the Spruce Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD). 3 AML established through the Maverick Medicine Complex Allotment Evaluation and Final 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>			

Appropriate Management Level for the Maverick-Medicine HMA			
HMA	Allotment	Initial Herd Size¹ (number of horses)	AML (number of horses)
Maverick-Medicine	Spruce	104 ²	104 ²
	Bald Mountain	55	55
	Odgers	16	16
	North Butte Valley	14	18
	Maverick/Ruby#9	52	51
	West Cherry Creek	32 ³	32
Total		273	276⁴
<p>1 Initial herd size was established in the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment, as modified by the Spruce and West Cherry Creek FMUDs. 2 AML established through the Spruce Final Multiple Use Decision. 3 AML established through the West Cherry Creek Final Multiple Use Decision. 4 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>			

Rationale: Maintaining wild horses at 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.

Currie Allotment

The Antelope Valley HMA wild horse initial herd size was established at 299 horses x 12 months = 3,588 AUMs, as per the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment as amended by the Spruce FMUD. Census data indicates that 20% of the horses in the Antelope Valley HMA utilize the Currie Allotment (20% x 3,588 AUMs = 718 AUMs). 718 AUMs represent 12% of the total pre-evaluation permitted use (718 AUMs / 6,254 AUMs = 12%), therefore wild horses were given 12% of the post-evaluation carrying capacity AUMs. These AUMs were proportioned in those pastures which receive wild horse use based on aerial census data. The AML in the Currie Allotment was further reduced due to construction of the Highway 93 fence making the Currie Hills and Currie Flats portion of the HMA as incidental use.

The 10% pre-livestock utilization objective for combined winter use areas applied to the Mustang Well, Currie Flats, Currie Hills, and a portion of the Goshute Lake pastures. Pre-livestock utilization data was collected from 1994 to 1998. Census data has shown a great amount of movement between the fore-mentioned pastures, therefore utilization was averaged between key areas in the Mustang Well, Currie Flats, and Goshute Lake pastures. Total AUMs for wild horses in these pastures were used in calculating the

carrying capacity using the 10% pre-livestock objective.

North Butte Valley Allotment

The Maverick/Medicine HMA wild horse initial herd size was established at 273 horses x 12 months = 3,276 AUMs, as per the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment as amended by the Spruce and West Cherry Creek FMUD's. Census data indicates that 5% of the horses in the Maverick/Medicine HMA utilize the North Butte Valley Allotment (5% x 3,276 AUMs = 164 AUMs). 164 AUMs represent 8% of the total pre-evaluation permitted use (164 AUMs / 2,094 AUMs = 8%) , therefore wild horses were given 8% of the post-evaluation carrying capacity AUMs. These AUMs were proportioned in those pastures which receive wild horse use based on aerial census data.

Odgers Allotment

The Maverick/Medicine HMA wild horse initial herd size was established at 273 horses x 12 months = 3,276 AUMs, as per the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment as amended by the Spruce and West Cherry Creek FMUD's. Census data indicates that 6% of the horses in the Maverick/Medicine HMA utilize the Odgers Allotment (6% x 3,276 AUMs = 197 AUMs). 197 AUMs represent 11% of the total pre-evaluation permitted use (197 AUMs / 1,793 AUMs = 11%). Because wild horse use is a causal factor in the non-attainment of the standards for rangeland health the wild horse AML will remain at the initial stocking level of 197 AUMs.

Bald Mountain Allotment

The Maverick/Medicine HMA wild horse initial herd size was established at 273 horses. Census data has shown that 20% of the wild horses in the Maverick/Medicine HMA use the Bald Mountain Allotment for 6 months a year (5/1 to 11/01), hence 20% of 273 horses x 6 months = 330 AUMs, as per the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment as amended by the Spruce and West Cherry Creek FMUD's. Wild horse use in the Bald Mountain Allotment is independent of livestock use. Wild horse use occurs in the upper elevations during the summer months. Livestock use does not occur in these areas due to the lack of water and topography.

Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment

Wild horse census and utilization studies indicate that use on some of the springs (Cherry Springs) in the Maverick use area has been made primarily by horses. Setting AML and removing excess horses in the Maverick/Medicine Complex will reduce impacts to riparian areas and allow for improved conditions.

The Maverick/Medicine HMA wild horse initial herd size was established at 273 horses x 12 months = 3,276 AUMs, as per the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment as amended by the Spruce and West Cherry Creek FMUD's. Census data indicates that 19% of the horses in the Maverick/Medicine HMA utilize the Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment (19% x 3,276 AUMs = 622 AUMs). 622 AUMs represent 18% of the total pre-evaluation and post permitted use (622 AUMs / 3,396 AUMs = 18%). Therefore, wild horses received

18% of the total post-evaluation carrying capacity AUMs. These AUMs were proportioned to each use area.

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 Maverick/Medicine 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 ¹
Antelope Valley	18%	259 ²
Maverick-Medicine	17%	276

¹As 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.

²The Antelope Valley HMA AML is not completely set. With the completion of the Sheep Allotment Complex Evaluation, this AML will be set.

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

The AML for the Antelope Valley HMA presented in this final multiple use decision is different from that which was presented in the Maverick/Medicine Complex Allotment Evaluation. This is because at the time the Maverick Complex Allotment Evaluation was issued to the public, the Sheep Allotment Complex Evaluation was not completed. Several of the allotments which make up the Antelope Valley HMA are contained in the Sheep Allotment Complex. With the completion of the Sheep Allotment Complex Evaluation, a final AML for the Antelope Valley HMA will be determined.

2. AML in the Currie Hills and Currie Flats Pastures of the Currie Allotment will be at incidental use.

Rationale: The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) has fenced Highway 93. The purpose of this fence is to prevent motor vehicles from striking wild horses and domestic livestock. The fence is needed to increase public safety when traveling this highway. There have also been several occurrences of wild horses being struck by vehicles and becoming so gravely injured that humane destruction was the only alternative.

Unfortunately, the fence will prevent wild horses which occupy the Currie Hills and Currie Flats pastures access to water in the Goshute Lake vicinity and there is no permanent

water within these pastures. For this reason, AML is set at incidental use.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Continue to collect seasonal distribution data on the Antelope Valley and Maverick/Medicine HMAs.

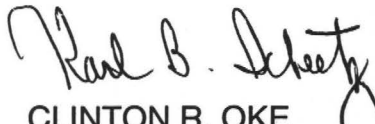
Rationale: In 1991, intensive seasonal distribution flights were begun within the Elko District. These census flights have provided valuable information on horse movements and should continue until monitoring data indicates that the appropriate management level has been attained in all HMAs.

Authority for the actions described in this final decision regarding wild horses 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.

Within 30 days of receipt of this decision, you have the right to appeal to the Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR 4.4. If an appeal is taken, you must follow the procedures outlined in the enclosed Form NV 1840-2, "Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals". Please also provide this office with a copy of your Statement of Reasons. An appeal should be in writing and specify the reasons, clearly and concisely, as to why you think the decision is in error.

In addition, within 30 days or receipt of this decision you have a right to file a petition for a stay (suspension) of the decision together with your appeal in accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 4.21. The petition must be served upon the same parties identified in items 2, 3, and 4 of the enclosed form titled "Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals". The appellant has the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Sincerely,


CLINTON R. OKE
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

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

Appendix 2 - Maverick/Medicine Complex Fire Management Plan

Map of Proposed Range Improvements Maverick/Medicine Complex

Form 1840-2 Information on Taking Appeals to the Interior Board of Land Appeals

cc: Nevada Cattlemen's Assoc.
Nevada Division of Wildlife - Elko
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Wild Horse Organized Assistance (WHOA)
Nevada State Division of Agriculture
Nevada State Clearinghouse
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Elko Board of County Commissioners
White Pine - Board of County Commissioners
Resource Concepts Inc.
Bureau of Land Management, Ely Field Office
HTT Resource Advisors
M. Jeanne Hermann
Sierra Club
Committee for Idaho's High Desert
Western Watersheds Project
William and Elizabeth Dickinson

Appendix 1

Upland/Desired Plant Community (DPC)/ Wild Horse/Riparian Objectives

Maverick/Medicine Complex Upland Objectives

A. Short term objectives:

1. Maximum utilization of 50% of current year's growth on key native perennial grasses by the end of the grazing season.
2. Maximum utilization of 65% of current year's growth on Crested wheatgrass by the end of the grazing season.
3. Maximum utilization of 60% of current year's growth on key perennial grasses by the end of the winter grazing season.
4. Maximum utilization of 50% of previous year's growth on salt desert shrub species by the end of the winter grazing season.
5. Maximum utilization of 25% by livestock on current year's growth on bitterbrush in crucial mule deer habitat and 45% by livestock on bitterbrush in remainder of the complex, as measured at the end of the grazing season.
6. Allow for a maximum of 10% utilization by wild horses prior to livestock turnout in the winter combined use areas.

Maverick/Medicine 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 Maverick/Medicine Complex.
3. Adjust the appropriate management level if continued monitoring and evaluation of data shows a need.
4. Manage the wild horses within the Maverick/Medicine Complex in a manner that maintains their wild free-roaming characteristics.
5. Improve the distribution of wild horses within the Maverick/Medicine Complex by developing reliable water sources. Emphasis and priority should be given to the Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment. Ensure the year-long habitat requirements of wild horses.
6. Allow for a maximum of 10% utilization by wild horses prior to livestock turnout in the winter combined use areas.

Long Term Objectives Maverick/Medicine Complex

Key Area Allotment and Pasture	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
	Grass	Grass	Grass		
CU-01 Currie Currie Flats Pasture	Grass ORHY - 13% SIHY - 1%	Grass 14%	Grass 10 - 20% Manage for 2 or more perennial grass species	Maintain frequency of ORHY	Maintain existing communities.
	Forbs ASTRA - T PPFF - 1%	Forbs 1%	Forbs T- 5% Manage for 2 or more perennial forb species		
	Shrubs ARARN - 18% CHVI8 - 23% EULA5 - 7% GRSP - 1% ATCO - 36%	Shrubs 85%	Shrubs 75 - 85% Manage existing shrub composition.	Maintain	

Values/Issues: Antelope and livestock winter use habitat area. The expectation is that this site will be maintained under the current grazing system. 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 % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
	Grass	Grass	Grass		
CU-02 Currie Mustang Well Pasture	Grass ORHY - 25% SIHY - 4%	Grass 29%	Grass 25 - 35% Manage for 2 or more species	Maintain frequency of ORHY	Maintain existing communities.
	Forbs SPCO - T PENST - T PPFF - T	Forbs T	Forbs Manage for 2 or more perennial forb species		
	Shrubs CHVI8 - 4% EULA5 - 1% ARSP5 - 3% ATCO - 63%	Shrubs 71%	Shrubs 65 - 75% Manage existing shrub composition.	Maintain	

Values/Issues: Antelope and livestock winter use habitat area. The expectation is that this site will be maintained under the current grazing system. 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 % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
CU-09 - Currie Currie Gardens Pasture	Grass ORHY - 1% SIHY - 39% POSE - T BRTE - 6%	Grass 40%	Grass 35 - 50% Manage for 2 or more perennial grass species.	Increase % frequency of ORHY	Maintain antelope habitat and sage grouse habitat.
	Forbs	Forbs 0%	Forbs T - 5%		
	Shrubs CHV18 - 6% ARSP5 - 6% ATCO - 42%	Shrubs 54%	Shrubs 45 - 60% Manage for 3 or more shrub species.	Maintain	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong habitat, sage grouse winter habitat, wild horse, and livestock grazing. 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 % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
CU-16 Currie Calf Cyn/Lower McDermid Cyn Pasture	Grass PONE - T POSE - T AGSP - 1% STCO4 - 1% BRTE - T	Grass 2%	Grass 30 - 40% Manage for 3 or more perennial grass species.	Statistically significant increase AGSP and STCO4	Maintain existing PUTR2 component, increase age diversity. Thin woodland component.
	Forbs ASTRA - 1% PPFF - T% COPA - T LUPIN - 1% PENST - T PHLO2 - T HAPA - T ERIOG - T CASTI2 - T	Forbs 2%	Forbs T - 5%		
	Shrubs ARTRV - 18% CHV18 - 4% PUTR2 - 72% SYOR - T% PIMO - 1%	Shrubs 95%	Shrubs 60 - 70%	Statistically significant increase PUTR2 seedlings	

Values/Issues: Crucial deer winter range, sage grouse summer habitat, wild horse and livestock grazing. Pinion/juniper are encroaching. PUTR2 plants are old and decadent. Needs age diversity. Site not expected to change without treatment. Prescribed fire or mechanical treatment necessary. 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 % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
	Grass	Grass	Grass		
CU-17 Currie Upper McDermid Cyn Pasture	Grass ORHY - T% SIHY - 1% AGSP - 10% POSE - 2% AGDA - 1% STCO4 - 5% BRTE - T	Grass 19%	Grass 15 - 25% Manage for 4 or more perennial grass species.	Maintain frequency of AGSP.	Maintain existing PUTR2 component, increase age diversity.
	Forbs ASTRA - 2% PPF - T% CIRSI - T PENST - 4% PHLO2 - 1% CREPI - 1% COPA - T CANU3 - T HACKE - T BRASS2 - T	Forbs 8%	Forbs 5 - 10%	Maintain existing frequency of all forbs.	
	Shrubs PUTR2 - 17% CHV18 - 3% ARTRV - 51% SYMPH - 2%	Shrubs 73%	Shrubs 65 - 80%	Statistically significant increase PUTR2 seedlings	

Values/Issues: Crucial deer winter range, sage grouse summer habitat, wild horse and livestock grazing. PUTR2 plants are old and decadent. Needs age diversity. Achievement of objectives is expected through changes in grazing management. 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 % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
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CU-22 Currie Cottonwood Cyn Pasture	Grass AGSM - 1% SIHY - T% ELCI2 - 5% STCO4 - T PONE - T POA+ - T BRTE - T	Grass 6%	Grass 40 - 50% Manage for 4 or more perennial grass species.	Increase % frequency of perennial grass species.	Improve sage grouse summer habitat and deer summer range.
	Forbs PHLO2 - T HAPA - T LUPIN - 1% CANU3 - T COPA - T CASTI2 - T	Forbs 1%	Forbs T - 10%		
	Shrubs ARTRV - 84% CHV18 - 3% SYOR - 5%	Shrubs 92%	Shrubs 40 - 50%	Significant decrease of ARTRV.	

Values/Issues: Sage grouse summer habitat, deer summer range, wild horse and livestock summer use. Site not expected to change without treatment. Prescribed fire or mechanical treatment necessary. Site is proposed for prescribed fire (Knob Hill prescribed fire). 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 % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
L003 North Butte Valley South Pasture	Grass SPAI - 8% DIST - T ELTR3 - 7% ELCI2 - 47% SIHY - 1% JUBA - T	Grass 63%	Grass 55 - 70% Manage for 4 or more perennial grass species.	Maintain existing frequency of all perennial grass species.	Maintain sage grouse summer habitat and antelope yearlong habitat.
	Forbs IVAX - T SUAED - 1%	Forbs T%	Forbs T - 5%		
	Shrubs SAVE4 - 36% CHNA - 1%	Shrubs 37%	Shrubs 35 - 40%	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component.	

Values/Issues: Sage grouse summer habitat, antelope yearlong, wild horse and livestock grazing. 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 Allotment and Pasture	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
L004 North-Butte Valley North Pasture	Grass SPAI - 12% ELCI2 - 1% SIHY - 6% POA+ - T	Grass 19%	Grass 55 - 70% Manage for 3 or more perennial grass species.	Increase % frequency of all perennial grass species	Improve sage grouse summer habitat and antelope yearlong habitat.
	Forbs IVAX - T ORTHO - T AAFF - T	Forbs T	Forbs T - 5%		
	Shrubs SAVE4 - 35% CHNA - 46%	Shrubs 81%	Shrubs 30 - 40%	Significant decrease % frequency	

Values/Issues: Sage grouse summer habitat, antelope yearlong, wild horse and livestock grazing. Due to lack of frequent flooding (caused by a man made diversion of water), this site will continue towards a more xeric site. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. Without treatment the site would remain dominated by ASAVE4 and CHNA. Achievement of objectives is expected with treatment. 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 % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
L005 North Butte Valley Spring Pasture	Grass ELCI2 - 11% ORHY - T MURI - 1%	Grass 12%	Grass 55 - 70% Manage for 2 or more perennial grass species.	Increase % frequency of all perennial grass species	Improve sage grouse summer habitat and antelope yearlong habitat
	Forbs IVAX - T ORTHO - T PPFF - T	Forbs T%	Forbs T - 5%		
	Shrubs ARTR2 - 49% CHNA - 39%	Shrubs 88%	Shrubs 30 - 40%	Significant decrease % frequency	

Values/Issues: Sage grouse summer habitat, antelope yearlong, wild horse and livestock grazing. Due to lack of frequent flooding this site will continue towards a more xeric site. Without treatment the site would remain dominated by ARTR2 and CHNA. Achievement of objectives is expected with treatment. 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	Current Composition % Dry Weight	Desired Composition % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
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1010 Odgers	Grass DIST - T% SPAI - 1 SIHY - 1% JUBA - 1% AGDA - T	Grass 3%	Grass 55 - 70% Manage for 3 or more perennial grass species.	Significant increase % frequency of all perennial grass species.	Improve sage grouse summer habitat and antelope
	Forbs PPFF - T	Forbs T	Forbs T - 5%		
	Shrubs CHNA - 97%	Shrubs 97%	Shrubs 30 -40%	Significant decrease % frequency	

Values/Issues: Sage grouse summer habitat, antelope yearlong, wild horse and livestock grazing. Without treatment the site would remain dominated by CHNA. Achievement of objectives is expected with treatment and through positive control of livestock. 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	Current Composition % Dry Weight	Desired Composition % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives	
1009 Bald Mt.	Grass ORHY - 1% POSE - 4% AGSP - 13% BRTE - T	Grass 18%	Grass 15 -25% Maintain or increase ORHY and AGSP	Maintain existing frequency of all perennial grass species.	Maintain deer habitat.
	Forbs ASTRA - T CRAC2 - 3% CRYPT - 6% PHHO - T LINIUM - T SENECIO - 2% PHLO2 - T PENST - T CASTI2 - T	Forbs 11%	Forbs 5 - 15%	Maintain existing frequency of perennial forb species.	
	Shrubs ARARN - 23% CHV18 - 3% ARTRV -25% AMUT - 1% PUTR2 - 2% TECA2 - 19%	Shrubs 73%	Shrubs 65 - 75%	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component.	

Values/Issues: Deer summer range, wild horse and livestock grazing. 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 Allotment & Use Area	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
4323-01 Mav/Ruby #9 Ruby Wash	Grass ORHY - 1% SIHY - 2%	Grass 3%	Grass T -10% Manage for 2 or more perennial grass species.	Maintain or increase % frequency of ORHY	Maintain antelope habitat.
	Forbs	Forbs 0%	Forbs T - 5%		
	Shrubs EULA5 - 89% ARSP5 - 4% ATCO - 4%	Shrubs 97%	Shrubs 75 - 99% Maintain EULA5	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component.	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong habitat, wild horse and livestock grazing. 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 & Use Area	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
4323-02 Mav/Ruby #9 Ruby #9	Grass ORHY - 34% SIHY - 13%	Grass 47%	Grass 45 - 55% Manage for 2 or more perennial grass species.	Maintain existing frequency of all perennial grass species.	Maintain antelope habitat.
	Forbs LEPU - T BRASS2 - T RATE - 3	Forbs 0%	Forbs T - 5%		
	Shrubs EULA5 - 39% ATRIP - 9% ARSP5 - 2%	Shrubs 51%	Shrubs 45 - 55% Manage for 3 or more shrub species.	Maintain existing frequency of shrub component.	

Values/Issues: Antelope yearlong habitat, wild horse and livestock grazing. 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 & Use Area	Current Composition % Dry Weight		Desired Composition % Dry Weight	Frequency Trend Objectives	Wildlife Habitat Objectives
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4323-03 Mav/Ruby #9 Cherry Springs	Grass POSE - 6% AGSP - 3% SIHY - 7% STTH2 - 1%	Grass 17%	Grass 10 - 30% Manage for 4 or more perennial grass species.	Maintain existing frequency of all perennial grass species.	Maintain deer habitat
	Forbs ASTRA - 20% LUPIN - 5% PHHO - 4% CRYPT - 2% ARARBI2 - T PHLO2 - T	Forbs 31%	Forbs 5 to 30%	Maintain existing frequency of forbs.	
	Shrubs ARTRW - 32% CHV18 - 10% TECA2 - 10%	Shrubs 52%	Shrubs 50 - 85%	Maintain existing frequency of shrubs	

Values/Issues: Deer and Elk summer habitat, wild horse use, and incidental livestock 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.

**Maverick/Medicine Complex
Crested Wheatgrass Seeding Objectives**

Key Area, Allotment, and Pasture	Current Production (AGCR) ¹	Production lbs/ac (AGCR)
CU-28, 29, 30 Currie Allotment Twin Springs Seeding	CU-28 - 606 lbs/ac CU-29 - 467 lbs/ac CU-30 - 441 lbs/ac	700
¹ Current production represents conditions during a wet cycle. Values/Issues: Incidental Deer and Elk use, incidental wild horse use, and livestock use. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. 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.		
CU-30, 31 Currie Allotment McDermid Seeding	CU-31 - 1,228 lbs/ac CU-32 - 1,228 lbs/ac	1,200
¹ Current production represents conditions during a wet cycle. Values/Issues: Incidental Deer and Elk use, incidental wild horse use, and livestock use. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. 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.		
L001 North Butte Valley Allotment Lower Seeding	L001 - 1,058 lbs/ac	1,000
¹ Current production represents conditions during a wet cycle. Values/Issues: Incidental Deer and Antelope use and livestock use. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. 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.		
L002 North Butte Valley Allotment Palomino Seeding	L002 - 609 lbs/ac	600
¹ Current production represents conditions during a wet cycle. Values/Issues: Incidental Deer and Elk use, and livestock use. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. 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.		
L006 North Butte Valley Allotment Juniper Seeding	L006 - 662 lbs/ac	700
¹ Current production represents conditions during a wet cycle. Values/Issues: Incidental Deer and Elk use, wild horse use, and livestock use. Current composition represents conditions during a wet cycle. 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.		

**MAVERICK/MEDICINE COMPLEX,
RIPARIAN HABITAT, MEASUREMENT OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, AND OBJECTIVES**

Data will be collected using methodology outlined in Nevada BLM Manual 6671- Stream Surveys including supplements or updates; BLM Technical Reference 1737-15, 1998, "A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas" for streams; and BLM Technical Reference 1737-16 1999 "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.

CURRIE ALLOTMENT				
Location	Baseline Data	Time Frame and Parameters		
		2 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	4 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	Desired Condition 2010
Calf Canyon Creek (perennial upper reach) T27N R63E Sec. 22	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	Based on site potential for this portion of Calf Canyon Creek, the stream banks are medium to heavily covered with willows, chokecherry, and aspen. Banks have no more than one continuous 10-foot opening of tall shrubs or trees in 100 foot of bank are considered medium dense. In addition to one 10 foot opening, there may be several smaller openings less than 10 feet in length. At least two ages classes are expected of aspen and willow.

CURRIE ALLOTMENT

Location	Baseline Data	Time Frame and Parameters		
		2 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	4 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	Desired Condition 2010
<p>Corral Canyon Creek T27N R63E Sec. 35</p>	<p>Functional at risk, trend not apparent</p> <p>Banks are medium covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants. The average distance between riparian plants is less than the average height of plants. Moderate erosion and bank sloughing taking place.</p>	<p>Functional at risk upward trend</p> <p>Banks are medium covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these plants. The average distance between riparian plants is less than the average height of plants. Moderate erosion and bank sloughing taking place.</p>	<p>PFC</p> <p>Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.</p>	<p>Based on site potential for this portion of McDermid Creek, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. Scattered willows are also a vegetative component. Some erosion may be present, but is associated with high flows with banks recovering naturally.</p>
<p>Creeks in Cottonwood Canyon Pasture</p>	<p>Functional at risk trend not apparent or downward</p> <p>Banks are low to medium covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants. The average distance between riparian plants is less than the average height of plants. Moderate erosion and bank sloughing taking place.</p>	<p>Functional at risk upward trend</p> <p>Banks are medium covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants. The average distance between riparian plants is less than the average height of plants. Moderate erosion and bank sloughing taking place.</p>	<p>PFC</p> <p>Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.</p>	<p>Based on site potential for creeks in this pasture, the stream banks are medium to heavily covered with willows, chokecherry, and aspen. Banks have no more than one continuous 10-foot opening of tall shrubs or trees in 100 foot of bank are considered medium dense. In addition to one 10 foot opening, there may be several smaller openings less than 10 feet in length. At least two ages classes are expected of aspen and willow.</p>

CURRIE ALLOTMENT

Location	Baseline Data	Time Frame and Parameters		
		2 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	4 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	Desired Condition 2010
<p>McDermid Creek Reach 1, 2 T26N R63E Sec. 10 Stream Survey Stations 1,2, 3</p>	<p>Functional at risk trend not apparent or downward</p> <p>Banks are medium covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants. The average distance between riparian plants is less than the average height of plants. Moderate erosion and bank sloughing taking place.</p>	<p>Functional at risk upward trend</p> <p>Banks are medium covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants. The average distance between riparian plants is less than the average height of plants. Moderate erosion and bank sloughing taking place.</p>	<p>PFC</p> <p>Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.</p>	<p>Based on site potential for this portion of McDermid Creek, the stream banks are medium to heavily covered with willows, chokecherry, and aspen. Banks have no more than one continuous 10-foot opening of tall shrubs or trees in 100 foot of bank are considered medium dense. In addition to one 10 foot opening, there may be several smaller openings less than 10 feet in length. At least two ages classes are expected of aspen and willow.</p>
<p>McDermid Creek Reach 3 T27N R63E Sec. 35 Stream Survey Station 5</p>	<p>Nonfunctional</p> <p>Banks are covered with scattered low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants, or is exposed. The average distance between riparian plants is greater than the average height of plants. Heavy erosion and bank sloughing is occurring on most of the streambank length.</p>	<p>Functional at risk upward trend</p> <p>Banks are medium covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants. The average distance between plants is less than the average height of plants. Moderate erosion and bank sloughing taking place.</p>	<p>PFC</p> <p>Banks are heavily covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.</p>	<p>Based on site potential for this portion of McDermid Creek, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. Scattered willows are also a vegetative component. Some erosion may be present, but is associated with high flows with banks recovering naturally.</p>

CURRIE ALLOTMENT				
Location	Baseline Data	Time Frame and Parameters		
		2 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	4 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	Desired Condition 2010
McDermid Creek Reach 4 T27N R63E Sec. 26 Stream Survey Station 8	Functional at risk upward trend Banks are medium covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants. The average distance between riparian plants is less than the average height of plants. Moderate erosion and bank sloughing taking place.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	Based on site potential for this portion of McDermid Creek, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. Scattered willows are also a vegetative component. Some erosion may be present, but is associated with high flows with banks recovering naturally.
Seeps/Springs	See baseline PFC data portrayed in Appendix 5.	Functional at risk upward trend.	PFC	Based on site potential of the seeps/springs, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. If aspen or willow are components, at least two ages classes are expected.

ODGERS ALLOTMENT

Location	Baseline Data	Time Frame and Parameters		
		2 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	4 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	Desired Condition 2010
Odgers Creek (Portion inside exclosure) Stream Survey Stations 6,7,SC1, SD1	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	Based on site potential for this portion of Odgers Creek, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. Some erosion may be present, but is associated with high flows with banks recovering naturally.
Seeps/ Springs	See baseline PFC data portrayed in Appendix 5.	Functional at risk upward trend.	PFC	Based on site potential of the seeps/springs, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. If aspen or willow are components, at least two ages classes are expected.

ODGERS ALLOTMENT				
Location	Baseline Data	Time Frame and Parameters		
		2 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	4 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	Desired Condition 2010
Taylor Canyon Creek (in enclosure) Stream Survey Station 8	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	Based on site potential for this portion of Taylor Canyon Creek, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. Some erosion may be present, but is associated with high flows with banks recovering naturally.
Odgers Creek (Portion outside enclosure) Stream Survey Stations 8 thru 14	Functional at risk, trend downward or nonfunctional. Banks are covered with scattered low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants, or is exposed. The average distance between riparian plants is greater than the average height of plants. Moderate to heavy erosion and bank sloughing taking place.	Functional at risk upward trend Banks are medium covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants. The average distance between riparian plants is less than the average height of plants. Moderate erosion and bank sloughing taking place.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	Based on site potential for this portion of Odgers Creek, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. Some erosion may be present, but is associated with high flows with banks recovering naturally.

NORTH BUTTE VALLEY ALLOTMENT

Location	Baseline Data	Time Frame and Parameters		
		2 years after grazing changed & AML reached	4 years after grazing changed & AML reached	Desired Condition 2010
Seeps/ Springs	Data will be collected during 2002.	<p>Functional at risk upward trend.</p> <p>At the end of the grazing season or growing season, whichever occurs later, grazing is such that at least 4" stubble height or greater of riparian herbaceous plants remain; 35% utilization or less on riparian woody species remain; and less than 20% hummocking and hoof action of the surface area, with recovery occurring after a season of rest.</p>	<p>PFC</p> <p>At the end of the grazing season or growing season, whichever occurs later, grazing is such that at least 4" stubble height or greater of riparian herbaceous plants remain; 35% utilization or less on riparian woody species remain; and less than 20% hummocking and hoof action of the surface area, with recovery occurring after a season of rest.</p>	<p>Based on site potential of the seeps/springs, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. If aspen or willow are components, at least two ages classes are expected.</p> <p>At the end of the grazing season or growing season, whichever occurs later, grazing is such that at least 4" stubble height or greater of riparian herbaceous plants remain; 35% utilization or less on riparian woody species remain; and less than 20% hummocking and hoof action of the surface area, with recovery occurring after a season of rest.</p>

MAVERICK/RUBY #9 ALLOTMENT

Location	Baseline Data	Time Frame and Parameters		
		2 years after grazing changed & AML reached	4 years after grazing changed & AML reached	Desired Condition 2010
Seeps/ Springs	Nonfunctional	<p>Functional at risk upward trend.</p> <p>At the end of the grazing season or growing season, whichever occurs later, grazing is such that at least 4" stubble height or greater of riparian herbaceous plants remain; 35% utilization or less on riparian woody species remain; and less than 20% hummocking and hoof action of the surface area, with recovery occurring after a season of rest.</p>	<p>PFC</p> <p>At the end of the grazing season or growing season, whichever occurs later, grazing is such that at least 4" stubble height or greater of riparian herbaceous plants remain; 35% utilization or less on riparian woody species remain; and less than 20% hummocking and hoof action of the surface area, with recovery occurring after a season of rest.</p>	<p>Based on site potential of the seeps/springs, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. If aspen, willow, or chokecherry are components, at least two ages classes are expected.</p> <p>At the end of the grazing season or growing season, whichever occurs later, grazing is such that at least 4" stubble height or greater of riparian herbaceous plants remain; 35% utilization or less on riparian woody species remain; and less than 20% hummocking and hoof action of the surface area, with recovery occurring after a season of rest.</p>

APPENDIX 2
Maverick/Medicine Complex Fire Management Plan

ODGERS ALLOTMENT

Location	Baseline Data	Time Frame and Parameters		
		2 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	4 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	Desired Condition 2010
Taylor Canyon Creek (in enclosure) Stream Survey Station 8	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	Based on site potential for this portion of Taylor Canyon Creek, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. Some erosion may be present, but is associated with high flows with banks recovering naturally.
Odgers Creek (Portion outside enclosure) Stream Survey Stations 8 thru 14	Functional at risk, trend downward or nonfunctional. Banks are covered with scattered low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants, or is exposed. The average distance between riparian plants is greater than the average height of plants. Moderate to heavy erosion and bank sloughing taking place.	Functional at risk upward trend Banks are medium covered with low shrubs, forbs, or grasses, or a combination of these riparian plants. The average distance between riparian plants is less than the average height of plants. Moderate erosion and bank sloughing taking place.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	Based on site potential for this portion of Odgers Creek, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. Some erosion may be present, but is associated with high flows with banks recovering naturally.

ODGERS ALLOTMENT

Location	Baseline Data	Time Frame and Parameters		
		2 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	4 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	Desired Condition 2010
Odgers Creek (Portion inside enclosure) Stream Survey Stations 6,7,SC1, SD1	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	PFC Banks are heavily covered with low riparian shrubs, forbs, or grasses. Some moderate erosion and bank sloughing, mostly natural.	Based on site potential for this portion of Odgers Creek, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. Some erosion may be present, but is associated with high flows with banks recovering naturally.
Seeps/ Springs	See baseline PFC data portrayed in Appendix 5.	Functional at risk upward trend.	PFC	Based on site potential of the seeps/springs, a riparian herbaceous community composed primarily of sedges and rushes is expected. If aspen or willow are components, at least two ages classes are expected.

APPENDIX 2
Maverick/Medicine Complex Fire Management Plan

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Introduction:

In 1998 the Elko Field Office prepared a new district-wide fire management plan, that encompasses all BLM administered public lands within the Elko District boundaries. This plan was prepared as per national direction and went through public review and internal review. This plan was approved at the national level in 1999. This plan defines the goals and general objectives for fire suppression, prescribed fire and fuels management for the District.

This site specific plan tiers off the Field Office plan and sets specific objectives for this area in the areas of prescribed fire fuels management. The wildland fire suppression objectives remain consistent with the Field Office plan. The site specificity of this plan will assist in meeting the goals and objectives of Elko Field Office Plan.

Background Information:

The Field Office fire management plan differentiated fire management goals and objectives by area and vegetation type. These areas (polygons) are the basis for all fire management activity within the district. The Maverick/Medicine Complex and the West Cherry Creek Allotment Fire Management Plan has six (6) of these areas located within its scope.

These areas (Map 1) and their descriptions are as follows:

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 with much higher 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-5 Ruby Marshes, Franklin Lake and Snow Water Lake

Current Condition - For the most part, the primary vegetation types do not have fire as part of their ecology. Vegetation is dominated by greasewood, shadscale and white sagebrush. Some inclusions of black sagebrush and pinyon-juniper woodlands exist in the higher elevations east of the Ruby Marshes. Some lower elevation sagebrush conversions to crested wheatgrass also exist. Primary management objectives for this area are to preserve sensitive cultural resources and to maintain the native vegetation for wildlife and livestock forage.

Future Desired Condition - Maintain native vegetation diversity.
Reduce/prevent annual and non-native vegetation invasion.

Constraints - The main damage to the cultural sites does not come from the fire itself but from suppression activities. No mechanized equipment is to be used. An archaeologist needs to be on-site during suppression activities. Fire history in this area is minimal with an occasional small fire of less than one acre.

Appropriate Fire Management Response - Hold unplanned ignitions to 2,000 or less at least 90 percent of the time. Use MIST in desert shrub areas. At low fire activity levels (Manning Class 1 and 2) monitor unplanned ignitions in desert shrub if this will cause less resource damage than suppression. At higher fire activity levels (Manning Class 3 or higher) suppress all unplanned ignitions using MIST. Fire history for these areas show an average of 0.6 fires per year burning 0.2 acres.

Prescribed Fire/Fuels Management Opportunities - Prescribed fire can be considered as a management tool in portions of this area. Use prescribed fire in sagebrush and woodlands to accomplish specific management objectives. 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-6 Low Sagebrush & Desert Shrub

Current Condition - These areas are dominated by plant communities that do not have fire as part of their natural ecology. Vegetation types are dominated by desert shrub and low sage communities with varying degrees of perennial grasses and forb composition. Management objectives in these areas are to maintain the native community, to provide for livestock and wildlife forage. Some of the areas are important for winter antelope habitat.

Future Desired Condition - Prevent annual vegetation or non-native plant incursions into this vegetation type resulting from disturbance of the existing community. Maintain native vegetation composition.

Constraints - Low vegetation response potential, limited precipitation and fragile soils mean that mechanized equipment will scar the land and make rehabilitation expensive. Engine usage should be the preferred alternative since most of the fires occur next to roads.

Appropriate Fire Management Response - Hold unplanned ignitions to 100 acres at least 90 percent of the time. All human caused fires will be fully suppressed using minimal impact suppression techniques (MIST). At low fire activity levels, natural ignitions may be monitored if this will cause less ecological impact than suppression. All fires will be fully suppressed using MIST. Ely Field Office has an acreage target for unplanned ignitions of 50 acres for adjacent areas (Steptoe Valley) in the same vegetative community. Elko Field Office will suppress all fires within two (2) miles of the boundary to the higher Ely standard. Fire history in these areas show an average of 6.5 fires per year burning.

Prescribed Fire/Fuel Treatment Opportunities - Prescribed fire should be a very minor component in these areas; used to achieve only site specific resource objectives within the context of the larger area.

B-7 Big Sagebrush Areas with Low to Moderate Response Potential

Current Condition - The vegetation in these areas is dominated by big sagebrush and perennial grasses with bitterbrush on higher elevation sites. The management objectives in these areas are to maintain and improve the native vegetation conditions while protecting critical watersheds and providing forage for livestock and wildlife. These areas occur in lower precipitation zones (primarily 8-10"/year). The response potential following wildfire is limited due to current ecological conditions. This means that most wildfires in these areas will need rehabilitation to restore the native community and ground cover.

Future Desired Condition - Maintain and improve the native vegetation and species diversity. Increase perennial grass production. Improve riparian areas to make fully functioning.

Constraints - The low to moderate response potential of these sites means that mechanized equipment will leave long-term scars on the land and will increase the rehabilitation costs. Therefore, mechanized equipment should be used only to protect areas of high resource concerns or values, such as critical watersheds or streams and intermixed private property. The critical watersheds in this polygon are lower Marys River, North Fork Humboldt River, Pie, Jakes, Dry, Maggie, Indian, Susie, and Odgers Creeks.

Appropriate Fire Management Response - Hold unplanned ignitions to 300 acres or less at least 90 percent of the time. Minimize disturbance and retardant use in critical watersheds. Fire history in these areas is moderate with most fires being limited to one to 100 acres but 10-15 percent of the ignitions burn from 500 to 5,000+ acres. These areas also contain intermingled private property. Fire history for these areas show an average of 11.3 fires per year burning 2,894 acres.

Prescribed Fire/Fuel Management Opportunities - Prescribed fire may be used in limited areas to achieve specific management goals. 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.

C-2 Mixed Conifer

Current Condition - These are high elevation areas with the predominant vegetation type being white fir, limber pine, bristlecone pine and spruce. These stands isolated on the tops of the higher elevation mountain ranges in the eastern part of the district. Because of the lack of disturbance most of these stands are becoming even aged stands and are dominated by dead standing and down trees. There is a heavy fuel load associated with these areas, making them more susceptible to a large stand replacing fire. Desired management for this area is to restore the health of the forest community. Some areas are also crucial big game habitat (Cherry Creek Mountains).

Future Desired Condition - Healthy mosaic of uneven aged conifer stands with reduced fuel loadings.

Constraints - Limited access into these areas makes aerial delivery of resources the most effective tool. The critical watershed in this polygon is upper Taylor Creek in the Cherry Creek Mountains.

Appropriate Fire Management Response - Hold unplanned ignitions to 100 acres at least 90 percent of the time. Fire history in these areas is that of occasional very small (0-1 acre) fires. The present stand composition would make any large wildfire (unplanned ignition) a lethal, stand replacement fire. Ely and Elko Districts will coordinate fire activity on the Cherry Creek Mountains. The districts will do a joint EFSA if a wildfire may cross jurisdictional boundaries. The Districts will also coordinate prescribed fire activities to cross district boundaries whenever appropriate. Fire history for these areas show an average of 1.1 fires per year burning 0.3 acres.

Prescribed Fire/Fuels Management Opportunities - Prescribed fire should play a large part in this process. Because of the fuel build-up in these areas, a series of low-intensity prescribed fires should be done to reduce fuel loadings, to open up mineral soil for seedling germination, to increase nutrient recycling and to create a mosaic of uneven aged pockets within the stand while avoiding total destruction of the stand as a whole. Prescribed fire can be used in conjunction with thinning projects to reduce the number of stems per acre. Planned ignitions will be used in these areas to meet the management objective of maintaining a healthy stand. Planned ignitions will be low-intensity surface fires with allowable torching of pockets of heavy fuels and will be planned in cycles (five years prior to reentry) to gradually reduce fuel loadings and create a mosaic of different aged stands. The entire polygon will be put into a planned ignition plan. The decadal burn target of approximately 23,500 acres is based on burning one half of the area once with low-intensity fire. 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 the decadal acreage target.

U-1 Small Towns, Mining Operations and Recreation Sites -Urban Interface (Currie & Odgers Ranch)

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.

Prescribed Fire/Fuels Management Opportunities - Use planned ignitions to reduce fuel loadings. Most of the mining areas (Carlin Trend) and urban interface are within Nevada Division of Forestry protection zones. Work with NDF and the mining companies to do hazard fuel reduction (either mechanical or planned ignitions) around critical sites. Area also has great potential for green stripping projects to create buffers around critical areas.

Fire History

The Maverick-Medicine Complex and West Cherry Creek allotments have a moderate wildland fire occurrence. In the period from 1980 to 1996 there are 35 documented wildland fires. There is no easily accessible date for 1997 to 1999, but based on prior history, there are probably an additional 6 to 10 wildland fires. Approximately 66 percent of the wildland fires occur within the pinyon-juniper woodlands. The rest of the area has a very low fire occurrence. Most of these fires have been small, averaging less than ½ acre, with only two occurrences of large fires, a 650 acre fire in 1988 and a 2100 acre fire in 1986. Site visits to the mixed conifer and pinyon-juniper areas in the Cherry Creeks have found a large number of historic undocumented fire scars from fires that occurred prior to 1980.

Table 1. Documented Fire History by Polygon

Polygon	Number of Fires	False Alarms	Largest Fire Size and Year	Total Acres
B4 Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands	23	2	2100 - 1986*	2,805.6
B5 Ruby Marsh Area	2	1	.1 - 1985 & 1987	.2
B6 Low Sagebrush & Desert Shrub	5	2	5 - 1986	5.8
B7 Big Sagebrush	5	1	.1 - all 1981-1992	.5
C2 Mixed Conifer	0	1	N/A	0
U1 Urban Interface	0	0	N/A	0
Totals	35	7		2,812.1

* Includes acres burnt in B7 and C2 polygons.

Recorded fire occurrence sites are found on Map 1.

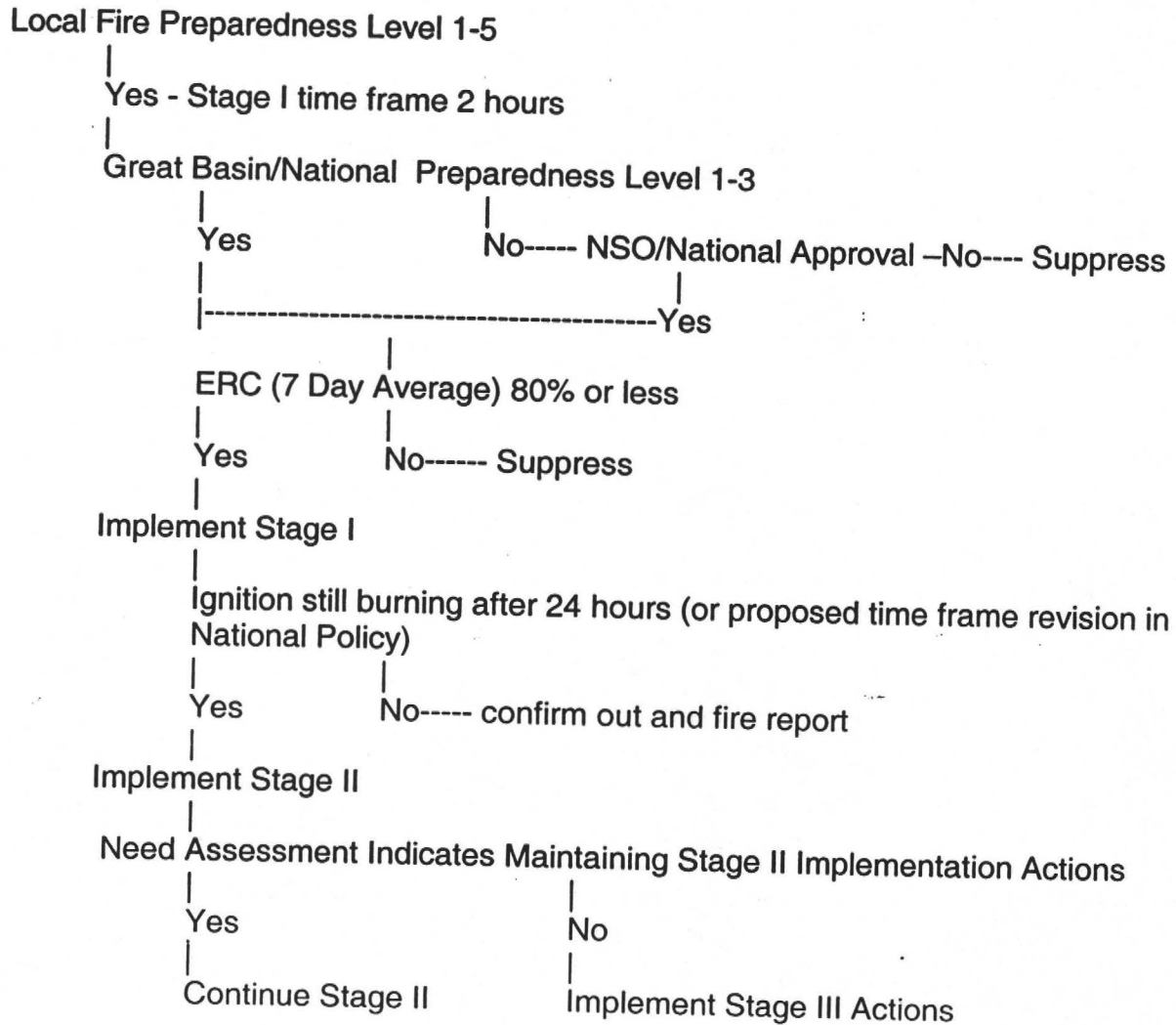
Map 1. Maverick/Medicine & West Cherry Creek Allotments Fire History and Fire Polygons

Table 2. Dispatch Run Card for Cherry Creek Wildland Fire Use Area

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. Cherry Creek Mountains Wildland Fire Implementation Plan Flow Chart



Wildland Fire Suppression Tactics

- A. Recommendation:** Maintain the suppression strategies described in the 1998 Elko Field Office Fire Management Plan for 'polygons" B4, B5, B6, B7, and U1.

Rationale: The fire management plan takes into account fire occurrence, 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:** Create Wildland Fire Use Area on the Cherry Creek Mountains above the approximate 7,500 foot elevation (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.).

Prescriptive Parameters:

1. Remote Area Weather Station (RAWS) to be used is Spruce Mountain for National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) fuel models F (pinyon-juniper) and G (mixed Conifer).
2. Local Fire Preparedness Levels: 1 to 5
3. Great Basin and/or National Preparedness Levels : 1 to 5. At levels 4 and 5 State and/or National Concurrence is needed.

4. Energy Release Component (ERC) of appropriate fuel model (F or G) as calculated as a seven day average of a maximum of 80%.

Rationale: Allowing natural ignitions within defined prescription parameters would allow for fire to start assuming its natural role in the higher elevation mixed conifer, aspen and sagebrush communities on the Cherry Creek Mountains. The use of natural ignitions in conjunction with prescribed fire and mechanical treatments will maintain the vegetative communities above 7,500 feet.

Prescribed Fire and Fuels Management Objectives (See Map 2 for locations):

For an in-depth discussion of fire effects on fire dependent vegetation types, see "Vegetation Treatment by fire" Environmental assessment BLM/EK/PL-98/026.

This fire management plan establishes baseline/minimum prescribed fire and fuels management goals for this complex. Other projects may be incorporated into this plan at a future date depending on additional resource needs.

A. Mixed Conifer Sites on the Cherry Creek Mountains

Recommendation: Initiate an aggressive prescribed burn program to reduce fuel loadings and to reduce stand density. Use fire to create uneven-aged stands to reduce the possibility of large stand replacement fires. Concentrate management ignited fire in areas of white fir invasion in limber pine stands to eliminate disease problems (ingraver beetle) and to open up mineral soil for pine seedling establishment. Use natural ignitions in conjunction with this to allow fire to re-establish itself as part of a naturally functioning ecosystem. Mechanical treatments should also be used in the mixed conifer. These treatments can consist of 1- Thinning from below and either piling or lopping of slash accumulation; 2- Burning of thinning piles after thinning; 3- Using commercial harvest for wood products (this may be difficult without an established logging economy). The target goal is to treat 75 to 100 percent of the mixed conifer stands within the next 10 years. Allotments with this vegetation type are Currie, West Cherry Creek and North Butte Valley.

Rationale: The mixed conifer on the Cherry Creeks Mountains is a remnant forest. The current conditions are such that a stand replacement fire could eliminate portions of the forest. An aggressive fuels management program through mechanical treatments (thinning) prescribed fire and natural fire would reduce fuel loadings, create uneven aged stands and reduce the amount of disease (ingraver beetle) within the stands. These objectives would increase the health of the stands and reduce the size of stand replacement events (crown fires). The goal of maintaining these remnant stands in a healthy condition and as a viable part of the ecosystem would be met.

B. Aspen Sites in the Cherry Creek Mountains

Recommendations: Use management ignited fire to reduce encroachment by white fir and sagebrush and to regenerate decadent aspen stands. Fencing or other grazing modifications need to be done to allow the aspen to reach 8-12 feet in height. There is approximately 500 to 1,000 acres of aspen within this allotment evaluation that could be treated with prescribed fire. Allotments with this vegetation type are Currie, West Cherry Creek and North Butte Valley.

Rationale: Aspen is a fire dependent species, that requires disturbance by fire to re-generate. Aspen stands within the Inter-Mountain West normally reach maturity at 80 to 100 years then begin to decline and die. Aspen stands are one organism that may be up to several thousand years old. Without disturbance these clones shrink in size and die as other vegetation invades their site. There is extensive sagebrush and white fir invasion of aspen stands in the Cherry Creek Mountains. Without treatment these stands will all eventually decline and die.

C. Pinyon-Juniper

- 1. Recommendations:** Use prescribed fire in conjunction with mechanical treatments to open up 10-50 acre openings for wildlife. Much of the Pinyon-Juniper on the Maverick range, especially on the western slopes, occur on soil with a high component of desert pavement. Most of this probably didn't burn on a regular basis and should not be treated with prescribed fire. The Medicine range has a much higher sagebrush and grass component. Within this type there is potential for prescribed-fire to be used for wildlife and wild horse benefit. Working in small blocks, there is 500 to 700 acres that could benefit from prescribed fire. Allotments with this vegetation type are Bald Mountain and Odgers.

Rationale: The pinyon-juniper stands occurring on rocky soils did not have wildfire as a large component of natural ecosystem. Fires in this vegetation type are normally one or two tree fires. There is an occasional (every 200-300 year) stand replacement crown fire when the canopies closed in and there is a significant wind event to carry the fire. Within these areas, prescribed fire should not be used. On deeper soils where there is (or was) a predominance of herbaceous and shrub vegetation fire played an active role in limiting the numbers of pinyon-juniper. Normally, wildfires had a relatively frequent return interval (from 10 to 70 years). Wildfires in these areas created an open savanna with scattered pinyon-juniper or maintained a grass/shrub community without trees. Without disturbance the sagebrush/grass communities with juniper encroachment will become closed canopy woodlands. This will cause a long-term loss of vegetative diversity as the trees out-compete the shrubs, forbs and

grasses. Prescribed fire will create openings for wildlife, increase the herbaceous and shrub component.

2. **Recommendation:** Use prescribed fire to open up closed canopy juniper and pinyon stands in the following areas: North of Cottonwood Canyon (approximately 640 acres total), and the area between Calf and Corral Canyons (approximately 1,000 acres total). Use prescribed fire to create a mosaic within the larger identified areas by burning approximately 50 percent of the total acres listed. Seed the areas as necessary for big game habitat improvement.

Rationale: These areas were identified for burning in the approved Cherry Creek Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (HMP) of 1987. They were identified as the crucial portions of the Cherry Creek deer winter range which needed treatment to improve the deer winter range. They are identified as prescribed fire and re-seeding areas. This was to have been done in conjunction with thinning projects. The western slope prescribed fire project was accomplished in 1987, the others have not been done to date. These projects would benefit deer by opening up the tree canopies and allowing for the establishment of favored browse and herbaceous species and allow for attainment of big game objectives found within the HMP.

D. Sagebrush

Recommendation: The low sagebrush areas that occur in the area did not have fire as part of their ecology and should not be burnt. Much of the Wyoming big sagebrush is within the lower precipitation zones and also have a high cheatgrass component. Most of the drainages on the west side of the Maverick range has heavy sagebrush and juniper encroachment into the drainage/riparian areas. These could be treated with prescribed fire to re-establish the grass vegetation in these areas, if determination is made that there is a significant source of native grass seed and the cheatgrass component is low enough so it will not become the dominant vegetation. There are areas of Wyoming big sagebrush on High Bald Peaks and the Cherry Creek Mountains that have higher components of perennial native grass vegetation that are becoming closed canopy mature to decadent sagebrush stands and/or being invaded by juniper that could benefit from prescribed fire to increase the herbaceous component. It is estimated that approximately 1,000 acres could be treated in these areas. Allotment with low sage and no prescribed fire recommendations are Ruby 9 and Currie. Those with prescribed fire recommendations are Odgers, Bald Mountain, Maverick and West Cherry Creek.

There are large areas of high elevation mountain big sagebrush on the Cherry Creek range and High Bald Peaks. It is recommended that at least 4,000 acres of this vegetation type be treated by prescribed fire to increase the species

diversity and grass production that is currently being lost. Allotments with this vegetation type are Currie, West Cherry Creek, North Butte Valley and Bald Mountain.

Rationale: The mountain big sagebrush areas on the Cherry Creeks and the High Bald Peaks have sagebrush production rates in excess of 9,000 pounds per acre. Traditionally this sagebrush had fire return intervals of from 11 to 40 years. These locations are becoming a monoculture of mountain big sagebrush, encroaching on high meadow areas and significantly reducing the herbaceous understory. The mountain big sagebrush is also encroaching on aspen stands. Changing management practices in these areas will not change this conversion to a sagebrush monoculture. Using prescribed fire to create a mosaic pattern in these areas will accomplish several objectives. Herbaceous vegetation will increase in burned areas; a mosaic of burned and unburned areas will create ecotones for the benefit of non-game wildlife species; leks may be created (or improved) for sage grouse habitat and the edge effect and regrowth of mountain big sagebrush will create food sources lower in mono-terpenes that are preferred by sage grouse.

The Wyoming big sagebrush has fire return intervals of 25 to 100 years. The lower lying areas in this complex that are dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush also have a high percent composition of cheatgrass in some areas. The use prescribed fire in the areas not dominated by cheatgrass will create a mosaic pattern of grass and sagebrush. This will increase herbaceous vegetation and create mixed age classes of sagebrush.

E. Riparian Areas

Recommendation: Taylor Creek Canyon was surveyed. There the sagebrush and juniper is encroaching on the riparian area and aspen groves. It is recommended that this area should be burnt in blocks to eliminate sagebrush encroachment and rejuvenate the riparian vegetation. The allotment with this area is West Cherry Creek.

Rationale: The upper reaches of Taylor Creek Canyon has significant sagebrush and juniper encroachment into riparian vegetation. Using prescribed fire within these areas would allow the riparian vegetation to maintain itself and expand. The lower reach of the creek, that is predominately private land, also has significant sagebrush and juniper encroachment. The Coordination of prescribed fire with the private landowner could restore the riparian vegetation in this canyon to it's historic boundaries. This would create a green strip of riparian vegetation to protect against future wildland fires. The vegetative community in this area consists of aspen, wild rose, willow, current, Kentucky bluegrass, sedges, and Great Basin wild rye. All these plant species are all well adapted to

fire and would have a good response to burning.

F. Mountain Mahogany Stands

Recommendations: Prescribed fire should not be used in the old growth stands on rocky soils. In areas that have encroachment by conifers prescribed fire can be used to decrease competition and increase mineral soil seedbeds (see mixed conifer technical recommendations). Isolated plants and small clumps of curleaf mountain mahogany within sagebrush dominated communities can be burnt to meet those communities' vegetative goals. In these areas prescribed fire should be in a mosaic pattern to avoid concentrations of curleaf mountain mahogany. Allotments with the largest concentrations of this vegetation type are Bald Mountain, West Cherry Creeks, Odgers and North Butte Valley.

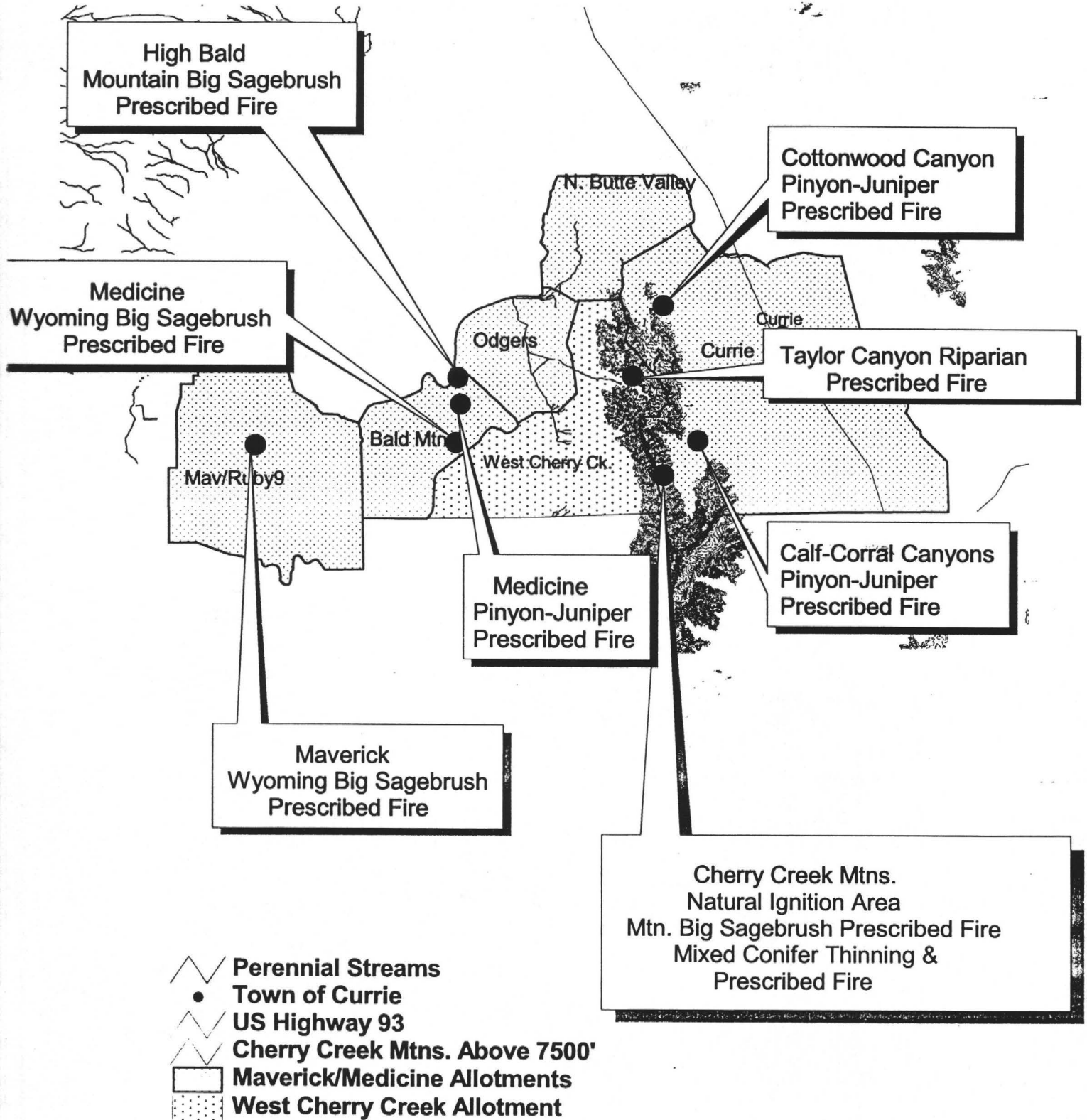
Rationale: Wildland fire was not a major component of the old growth vegetation on rocky sites, so it should not be introduced. Wildland fire had a role in maintaining areas that have curleaf mountain mahogany as a minor component of the vegetative community. Curleaf mountain mahogany survived within this community by establishing itself on exposed mineral soil after a fire. In areas where curleaf mountain mahogany has been encroached upon by conifers, unless the overstory is removed and bare soil exposed the curleaf mountain mahogany will disappear from the community without fire as a disturbance.

Monitoring and Evaluation

All prescribed fires and fuels treatment projects will be monitored. Plots will be established prior to the treatment. The plots will be read pre-treatment and post-treatment to ascertain if project objectives were met. Wildland fire suppression activity will be evaluated periodically to ensure that suppression objectives are being met. This information will be used in modifying future objectives.

Sites with mechanical thinning and/or natural ignition plans will have a cultural inventory meeting the standards as outlined in the 1999 State Protocol Agreement between the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the BLM. All mixed conifer and aspen sites will be inventoried to obtain accurate data on stand size and location and fire history.

**Map 2
Maverick/Medicine Complex
& West Cherry Creek Allotments
Prescribed Fire & Fuels Management**



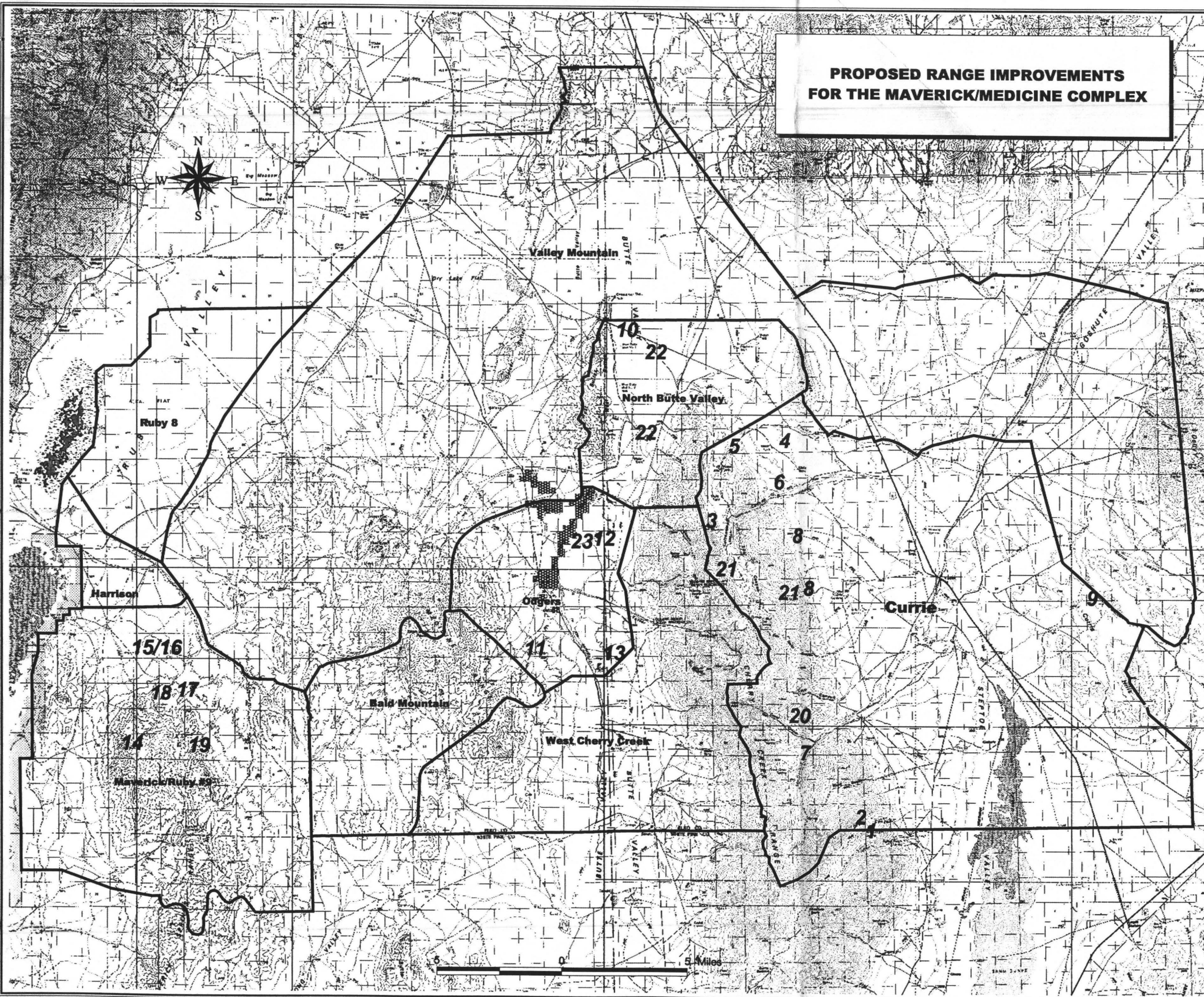
LEGEND

-  Allotment
-  Land Status
 -  Public (Administered by BLM)
 -  U.S. Forest Service
 -  Private
 -  Native American Reservation

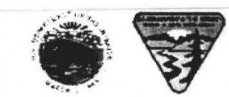
KEY TO IMPROVEMENTS

- 1 Dry Canyon Boundary Fence
- 2 Dry Canyon Spring Excl.
- 3 Augustine Spring Excl.
- 4 Twin Springs Pipeline Reconstruction and Extension
- 5 Phalen Creek Fence
- 6 Twin Springs Seeding Fence Ext.
- 7 McDermid Canyon Pasture Fence Ext.
- 8 McCeeCee Gap Fences
- 9 Currie Hills Fence Extension
- 10 Spring Pasture Well Storage Tank
- 11 Mud Spring Excl.
- 12 Odgers Spring Complex North Excl.
- 13 N. Fork Odgers Creek Headwater Spring Complex Excl.
- 14 Maverick Water Catchment
- 15 Maverick Seeding and Fence
- 16 Maverick Well
- 17 Maverick/Ruby #9 boundary fence extension/cattleguard
- 18 Gardner Spring Excl.
- 19 Tick/Cone Spring Excl.
- 20 Calf Canyon/Lower McDermid Canyon Pasture RX Fire or Mechanical Treatment
- 21 Cottonwood Canyon Pasture RX Fire or Mechanical Treatment
- 22 N. Butte Valley Herbicide or Mechanical Treatment
- 23 Odgers Herbicide or Mechanical Treatment

PROPOSED RANGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE MAVERICK/MEDICINE COMPLEX



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



05-07-01
by KMD
Elko Field Office

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



INFORMATION ON TAKING APPEALS TO THE BOARD OF LAND
APPEALS

DO NOT APPEAL UNLESS

1. This decision is adverse to you AND 2. You believe it is incorrect

IF YOU APPEAL, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES *MUST* BE FOLLOWED:

1. NOTICE OF APPEAL:

Within 30 days file a *NOTICE OF APPEAL* in the office which issued this decision (SEE CFR SECS. 4.411 AND 4.413). You may state your reasons for appealing, if you desire.

2. WHERE TO FILE NOTICE OF APPEAL:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ELKO FIELD OFFICE
3900 E. IDAHO STREET
ELKO, NV 89801

and a copy to

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
SALT LAKE CITY FIELD OFFICE
6201 FEDERAL BUILDING
125 SOUTH STATE STREET
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84138

3. STATEMENT OF REASONS:

Within 30 days after filing the *NOTICE OF APPEAL*, file a *COMPLETE* statement of the reasons why you are appealing. This must be filed with the:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, BOARD OF LAND APPEALS
4015 WILSON BLVD.,
ARLINGTON, VA 22203

(SEE 43 CFR SEC. 4.412 AND 4.413). If you fully stated your reasons for appealing when filing the *NOTICE OF APPEAL*, no additional statement is necessary. **ALSO SEND A COPY TO REGIONAL SOLICITOR.**

4. ADVERSE PARTIES:

Within 15 days after each document is filed, each adverse party named in the decision and the Regional Solicitor must be served with a copy of:

- A. THE *NOTICE OF APPEAL*
- B. THE STATEMENT OF REASONS, AND
- C. ANY OTHER DOCUMENT FILED (SEE 43 CFR SEC. 4.413).

5. PROOF OF SERVICE:

Within 15 days after any document is served on an adverse party, file proof of that service with the BOARD OF LAND APPEALS, at the above address. This may consist of a certified or registered mail "return receipt card" signed by the adverse party (SEE 43 CFR SEC. 4.401(C)(2)).

UNLESS THESE PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED YOUR APPEAL WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISMISSAL (SEE 43 CFR SEC. 4.402): Be certain that all communications are identified by serial number of the case being appealed.

NOTE: A DOCUMENT IS NOT FILED UNTIL IT IS ACTUALLY RECEIVED IN THE PROPER OFFICE (SEE CFR SEC. 4.401(A))