



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office  
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Elko, Nevada 89801-0611  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

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In Reply Refer To:  
4130 (NV-012)

NOV 12 1999

Hammond Ranches, Inc.  
c/o Roy Shurtz  
P.O. Box 2148  
Elko, NV 89803

Dear Mr. Shurtz:

Between July 8 and July 12, 1999 the Clover Fire burned approximately 4,360 acres of public land and 250 acres of private lands within the Little Humboldt Allotment. The Burned Area Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Plan (BAER Plan) outlined actions needed to restore the portion of the Clover Fire within the Little Humboldt Allotment. These steps include 1) the construction of fences creating a 4,719 acre pasture to facilitate closure of the burned area to livestock grazing, 2) treating 1,665 acres of the burned area with Oust herbicide for control of downy brome or cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) in the fall of 1999, and 3) reseeding of the treated area in the fall of 2000 to restore perennial vegetation for ground cover and to act as a fire break in the Little Humboldt Allotment (see attached maps for project location). Both the burned area and the treatment area are outside of the Little Humboldt Herd Area, and do not affect Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat.

For the use of Oust the State of Nevada, Department of Agriculture requires that the area being treated be closed from livestock grazing for one year after its application. Also, in order to allow for successful establishment of perennial vegetation after the reseeding, it is necessary that the burned area be rested from livestock grazing until rehabilitation objectives have been met. As outlined in the BAER Plan, the area would be reseeded with a grass, forb, and half-shrub mixture:

P-27 Siberian wheatgrass	4 lbs./acre
forage kochia	1 lbs./acre
western yarrow	0.1 lbs./acre

The grazing regulations require the authorized officer to consult, cooperate, and coordinate (CCC) with affected permittees, the State agencies responsible for managing resources within the area, and the interested public prior to closing allotments or portions of allotments. Furthermore, the grazing regulations state that when soil, vegetation, or other resources on the public lands require immediate protection because of fire, flood, insect infestation, or when continued grazing use poses an imminent likelihood of significant resource damage, the authorized officer, after consultation, may issue notices of closure and decisions requiring modification of authorized grazing use.

The permittees, State agencies, and the interested public are being informed that I plan to issue a Notice of Closure to livestock grazing for the portion of the Clover Fire which

occurred in the Little Humboldt Allotment. This closure would be issued as a final decision effective upon issuance.

The decision would close the burned portion of the Little Humboldt Allotment within T. 38 N., R. 45 E., Sec. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18; T.38 N., R. 44 E., Sec. 12, 13; T. 39 N., R. 44 E., Sec. 34. This closure would be effective immediately and would remain in effect until the end of the 2002 growing season.

Following the 2002 growing season, the seeding would be monitored to determine if additional growing season rest or deferment is needed to ensure successful establishment of the seeded perennial vegetation. Establishment criteria for the Sawtooth Spring Seeding are three to five seeded herbaceous plants per square meter and one seeded shrub or half-shrub per ten square feet. If the herbaceous component has been established prior to establishment of the shrubs, the Sawtooth Spring Seeding may be grazed as approved by the BLM. Timing and amount of use will be planned so that livestock use will not prevent maintenance and achievement of the primary objectives of the seeding: stabilization of the watershed, soil erosion protection, control of cheatgrass, use as a firebreak and enhancement of mule deer winter range. However the seeding will be closed for no more than four growing seasons (until August 2003).

Hammond Ranches, Inc. permitted active use for the Little Humboldt Allotment will be reduced by 472 AUMs, from 8,279 AUMs to 7,807 AUMs. These 472 AUMs will be placed in suspension for protection purposes.

Protective fences are planned for construction during the fall of 1999 to facilitate closure to livestock grazing for the purpose of treating the area with Oust in the fall of 1999 and for the subsequent reseeding effort planned for the fall of 2000. These fences will create the Sawtooth Spring Seeding within the Little Humboldt Allotment.

The Sawtooth Spring Seeding will be closed to grazing for no less than one full year following the application of Oust within the burned area as required by the special local need registration for Oust approved by the Department of Agriculture for the State of Nevada.

The Sawtooth Spring Seeding will be closed to grazing for an additional period of at least two growing seasons following the reseeding of the burned area. (Reseeding is currently scheduled for the fall of 2000.)

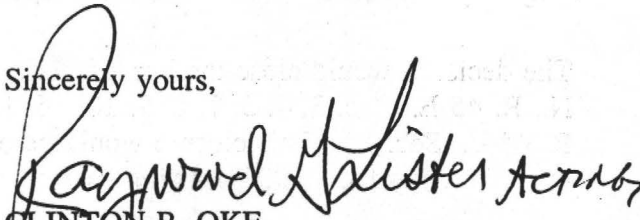
Cattle may be trailed through the Sawtooth Spring Seeding in the spring and fall during the closure period beginning in 2001. Trailing will be restricted to the area along the Midas County road with no overnight stops in the pasture.

Any applicant, permittee or other person whose interest would be adversely affected by the decision would have the opportunity to file an appeal and petition for stay for the decision pending final determination on appeal under 43 CFR 4160.3 and 4160.4.

If you wish to provide comments relating to this action, they must be received in writing by this office no later than November 19, 1999. If you have any questions concerning this

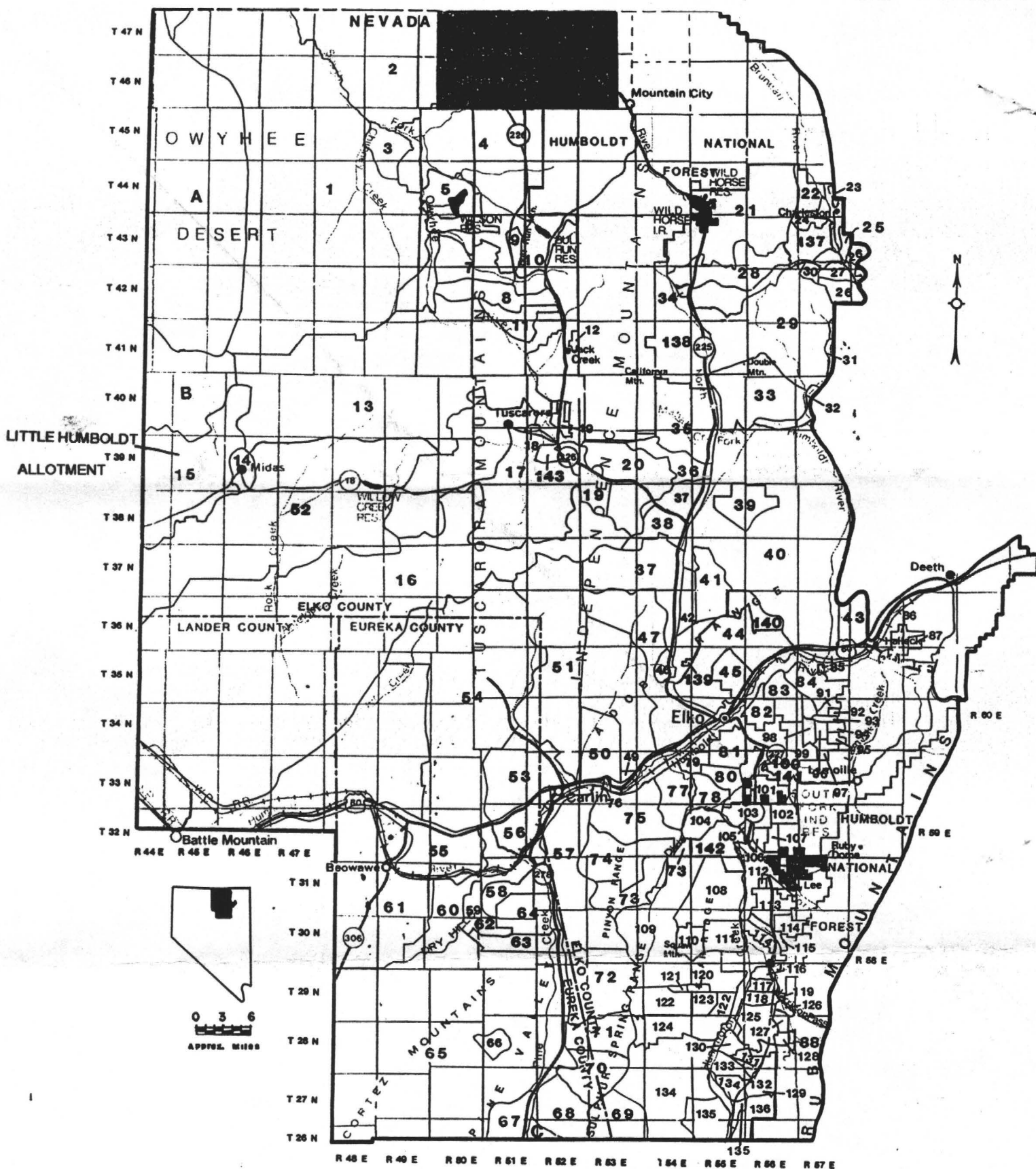
matter, please contact Michael Jensen, Rangeland Management Specialist of my staff at (775) 753-0357.

Sincerely yours,

*for*   
CLINTON R. OKE  
Assistant Field Manager  
Renewable Resources

Enclosure(s): As stated above

cc: LaVaca Cattle Company  
Bottari & Associates Realty  
HTT Resource Advisors  
Elko County Conservation Assoc.  
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses  
Wild Horse Organized Assistance  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Friends of Nevada Wilderness  
Nevada Cattlemen's Assoc. & Land Action Assoc.  
Barrick Goldstrike Mines Inc.  
Federal Land Bank of Sacramento  
Nevada Division of Wildlife  
Elko County, Board of County Commissioners  
Kenneth Buckingham  
Ellison Ranching Company  
Resource Concepts, Inc.  
Nevada First Corporation  
Farm Credit Services  
Carl Hammond  
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection



## GENERAL VICINITY MAP

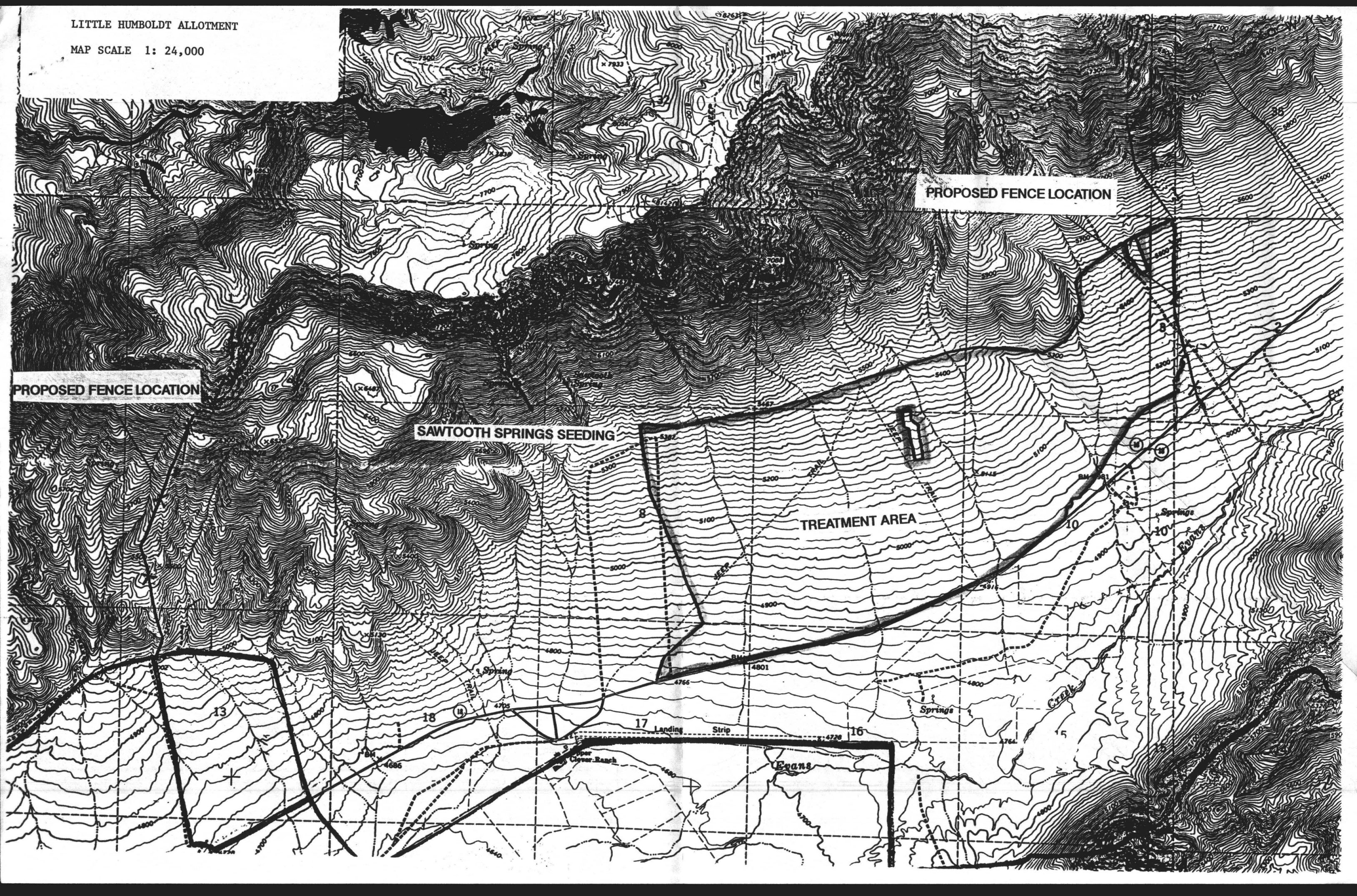
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ELKO RESOURCE AREA

ALLOTMENT BOUNDARIES

LITTLE HUMBOLDT ALLOTMENT

MAP SCALE 1: 24,000



PROPOSED FENCE LOCATION

PROPOSED FENCE LOCATION

SAWTOOTH SPRINGS SEEDING

TREATMENT AREA

17 Landing Strip

Evans

13

18

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