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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In Reply Refer To:
4130 (NV-012)

SEP - 8 2000

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PROPOSED 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 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 issued on September 15, 1986, the Cherry Creek Habitat Management Plan issued on September 30, 1987, and the Currie Allotment Management Plan 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.

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 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. It is therefore, my proposed decision to implement the management actions identified below.

I. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DECISION

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

II. WILD HORSE DECISION

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

Appropriate Management Level for the Antelope Valley HMA			
HMA	**Allotment**	**Initial Herd Size[6] (number of horses)**	**AML (number of horses)**
Antelope Valley	UT/NV #1 South[1]	9	7 (or 15 horses for 6 months)
	West Whitehorse[1]	incidental	incidental
	Whitehorse[1]	incidental	incidental
	Sugarloaf[1]	incidental	incidental
	Ferber Flat[1]	incidental	incidental
	Boone Springs[1]	74	23
	Spruce[2]	143	181
	Currie[3]	60	40
	Badlands[4]	3	incidental
	Antelope Valley[5]	10	8
Total		**299**	**131-259[7]**

1 AML established through the Sheep Complex Allotment Evaluation.
2 AML established through the Spruce Final Multiple Use Decision.
3 AML established through the Maverick Complex Allotment Evaluation and Proposed Multiple Use Decision
4 AML established through the Badlands Final Multiple Use Decision.
5 AML established through the Antelope Valley Final Multiple Use Decision.
6 Initial herd size was established in the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment, as modified by the Spruce FMUD.
7To calculate the range of AML, the following mathematical equation was used: Maximum AML/1+the recruitment rate. Horses would be gathered down to the low end of the AML and allowed to increase over a four year period to the maximum AML. Once at the maximum AML, a gather would occur.

Appropriate Management Level for the Maverick-Medicine HMA			
HMA	**Allotment**	**Initial Herd Size[1] (number of horses)**	**AML (number of horses)**
Maverick-Medicine	Spruce	104[2]	104
	Bald Mountain	55	55
	Odgers	16	20
	North Butte Valley	14	18
	Maverick/Ruby#9	52	51
	West Cherry Creek	32[3]	32
Total		**273**	**149-280[4]**

1 Initial herd size was established in the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment, as modified by the Spruce FMUD.
2 AML established through the Spruce Final Multiple Use Decision.
3 AML established through the West Cherry Creek Final Multiple Use Decision.
4 To calculate the range of AML, the following mathematical equation was used: Maximum AML/1+the recruitment rate. Horses would be gathered down to the low end of the AML and allowed to increase over a four year period to the maximum AML. Once at the maximum AML, a gather would occur.

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

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

2. Establish the Currie Hills and Currie Flats Pasture as wild horse free pastures. In the interim until horses are removed from these pastures, provide water for horses at Red Tank (Currie Flats) and Red Hill (Currie Hills) wells.

Rationale: The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is currently in the process of fencing 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 would 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. The BLM has considered several options as a solution to this problem, however, establishing the pastures as horse free area is perhaps the only long term, viable alternative. Providing water to wild horses on a year-round basis in the remotely located pastures would require constant supervision and maintenance of the pumps, solar panels and troughs. Overpasses and underpasses would most likely be unsuccessful. Leaving a gap in the fence would necessitate that NDOT put two cattleguards on the highway on either side of the gap, which when proposed to the agency was unacceptable.

The fence along both the east and west sides of Highway 93 would establish the Currie Hills and Currie Flats pastures as horse free. During the next scheduled gather in the Antelope Valley HMA, all of the horses inhabiting the Currie Hills and Currie Flats pastures would be gathered and removed. The fence in the Currie Hills would be completed, creating completely fenced pastures.

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

In accordance with 43 CFR 4770.3 (a) which states:

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

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

III. 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 - Proposed Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML		
Pasture	**Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity**	**Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)**
COTTONWOOD UNIT		
Mustang Well	913	638
Currie Gardens	554	586
Cottonwood Canyon	720	450
Twin Springs Seeding	540	726
Total (Cottonwood Unit)	**2,727**	**2,400**
MCDERMID UNIT		
FFR	51	51
Currie Flats	454	454
Currie Hills	101	101
Goshute Lake	467	539
Calf/Lower McDermid Cyn.	384	369
Upper McDermid Cyn.	619	452
Dry Canyon	101	101
McDermid Seeding	659	1,037
Total (McDermid Unit)	**2,642**	**3,104**
Total (Currie Allot.)	**5,369**	**5,504**

[1] Initial herd size for the Antelope Valley HMA is 299 horses or 3,588 AUMs. 20% of the horses in the Antelope Valley HMA use the Currie Allotment for a total of 718 AUMs.

* 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 are being proposed as horse free (refer to Technical Recommendation #3 pg.84).

Rationale: In the Currie Allotment the carrying capacity 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 carrying capacity for these pastures. The carrying capacity for 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 year that data was recorded.

The carrying capacity for livestock in the Mustang Well pasture was determined to be 638 AUMs, a reduction of 275 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are not being met, long term objectives and standards for rangeland health are being met for this pasture. The total livestock carrying capacity for the Mustang Well pasture would be set 677 AUMs. Adjustments in livestock carrying capacity may be made when monitoring data indicates additional AUMs are available upon the attainment of long term objectives.

The carrying capacity analysis indicates that 769 AUMs are available for livestock and wild horses in the Currie Gardens pasture. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are not being met, long term objectives and standards for rangeland health are being met for this pasture. Livestock carrying capacity would increase from 554 AUMs to 586 AUMs.

The total carrying capacity for livestock and wild horses in the Cottonwood Canyon pasture was determined to be 522 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that utilization objectives, long term objectives, big game habitat objectives, and standards for rangeland health are not being met for this pasture. Therefore, the livestock carrying capacity for the Cottonwood Canyon pasture would be adjusted to 450 AUMs while 72 AUMs would be allocated to wild horse use.

The carrying capacity analysis indicates that 769 AUMs are available for livestock and wild horses in the Twin Springs Seeding pasture. The evaluation of existing data indicates that although, utilization objectives being partially met, long term production objectives and standards for rangeland health are being met for this pasture. Therefore, the total carrying capacity for the Twin Springs pasture would be adjusted from 540 AUMs to 726 AUMs total use. No AUMs are allocated to wild horses in this fenced pasture.

The carrying capacity for the Calf/Lower McDermid Canyon pasture was determined to be 389 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are being met, long term objectives, big game habitat objectives, riparian objectives and standards for rangeland health are not being met for this pasture. Therefore, the livestock carrying capacity for the Calf/Lower McDermid Canyon pasture would be adjusted to from 384 AUMs 369 AUMs. A total of 20 AUMs would be allocated to wild horse use in the pasture.

The total carrying capacity for livestock and wild horses in the Upper McDermid Canyon pasture was determined to be 452 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are being met, long term objectives, big game habitat objectives, riparian objectives and standards for rangeland health are not being met for this pasture. Therefore, the livestock carrying capacity for the Upper

McDermid Canyon pasture would be adjusted from 619 AUMs to 452 AUMs. No AUMs are allocated to wild horses in this pasture.

The carrying capacity analysis indicates that 1,089 AUMs are available for livestock and wild horses in the McDermid Seeding pasture. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are being partially met, long term objectives and standards for rangeland health are being met for this pasture. Therefore, the livestock carrying capacity for the McDermid Seeding pasture would be adjusted from 659 AUMs to 1,037 AUMs. A total of 52 AUMs would be allocated to wild horse use in the pasture.

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 13% 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 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 (see Appendix 3 for summary of AML).

The carrying capacity for livestock in the Currie Allotment would be adjusted from 5,369 AUMs to 5,504 AUMs. The AML for wild horses would be established at 750 AUMs.

b. North Butte Valley Allotment

Table 41. North Butte Allotment - Proposed 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 (315)[3]	9	246
North	311		243 (342)[4]	52	295
South	311		372	135	507
FFR	51		51	0	51
Total	**1,930[2]**	**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.

3 The calculated carrying capacity for livestock is 315 AUMs, however, since objectives are not being attained, the carrying capacity would remain at the average actual use of 237 AUMs.

4 The calculated carrying capacity for livestock is 342 AUMs, however, since objectives are not being attained, the carrying capacity would remain at the average actual use of 243 AUMs.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the North Butte Valley 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, a carrying capacity was determined for each year that data was recorded.

The total carrying capacity for the Lower Seeding pasture was determined to be 526 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are being partially met (utilization objective was exceeded once during the evaluation period), long term objectives and standards for rangeland health are being met for this pasture. The monitoring data supports an increase from the average actual use of 355 AUMs to 526 AUMs total permitted use. No AUMs were allocated to wild horses in this pasture.

The carrying capacity for the Palomino Seeding pasture was determined to be 444 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that utilization objectives, long term objectives and standards for rangeland health are being met for this pasture.

The monitoring data supports an increase from the average actual use 322 AUMs to 444 AUMs total permitted use. No AUMs were allocated to wild horses in this pasture.

The total carrying capacity for livestock and wild horses the Juniper Seeding pasture was determined to be 570 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are being partially met, long term objectives and standards for rangeland health are being met for this pasture. The monitoring data supports an increase in the livestock carrying capacity from the average actual use 282 AUMs to 551 AUMs. A total of 19 AUMs were allocated to wild horse use in the pasture.

The total carrying capacity livestock and wild horses in the Spring pasture was determined to be 246 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are being partially met, long term objectives and standards for rangeland health are not being met for this pasture. Because long term objectives and standards for rangeland health are not being met, and increases in grazing use would further prevent the attainment of these objectives, the livestock carrying capacity would remain at the average actual use of 237 AUMs. Livestock grazing in the Spring Pasture would continue to occur following seed ripe of key forage plants. Adjustments in livestock carrying capacity may be increased to the desired carrying capacity if monitoring data indicates that objectives and standards for rangeland health are being attained. 9 AUMs were allocated to wild horse use in the pasture.

The total carrying capacity for livestock and wild horses in the North pasture was determined to be 295 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are being partially met, long term objectives and standards for rangeland health are not being met for this pasture. Because long term objectives and standards for rangeland health are not being met, and increases in grazing use would further prevent the attainment of these objectives, the livestock carrying capacity would remain at the average actual use of 243 AUMs. Livestock grazing in the North Pasture would continue to occur following seed ripe of key forage plants. Adjustments in livestock carrying capacity may be increased to the desired carrying capacity if monitoring data indicates that management is effective in attaining resource objectives and standards for rangeland health.

The total carrying capacity for livestock and wild horses in the South pasture was determined to be 510 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are being partially met, long term objectives and standards for rangeland health are being met for this pasture. The monitoring data supports an increase in livestock carrying capacity from the permitted use of 311 AUMs to 375 AUMs. A total of 135 AUMs would be allocated to wild horse use in this pasture.

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 13% of the total pre-evaluation permitted use (164 AUMs / 1,421 AUMs = 12%). The 1,792 AUMs represents permitted use in those pastures that receive use by wild horses, therefore wild horses were given 13% 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 total carrying capacity (livestock and wild horses in the North Butte Valley Allotment would be adjusted from 2,094 AUMs to 2,632 AUMs.

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

c. Odgers Allotment

Table . Odgers Allotment - Proposed Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML

	Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Allotment	**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 (1,932)[2]	239	1,835

[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 is 1,932 AUMs, however, since objectives are not being attained, the carrying capacity would remain at the average actual use of 1,596 AUMs.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for the Odgers allotment was determined to be 2,151 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are being met, long term objectives, riparian objectives, and standards for rangeland health are not being met for this allotment. Therefore, the carrying capacity would remain at the average actual use 1,596 AUMs.

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%). While this is an increase over the initial stocking level it has been determined that current wild horse use is a casual factor in the non-attainment of the standards for rangeland health. Establishing wild horse AML at 239 AUMs would be a decrease from their average actual use of 350 AUMs.

Livestock carrying capacity would remain at 1,596 AUMs while wild horse AML would be adjusted from 350 AUMs (average actual use for wild horses) to 239 AUMs.

d. Bald Mountain Allotment

Table 44. Bald Mountain Allotment - Proposed Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML

	Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
Allotment	**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 328 AUMs.

Rationale: The carrying capacity for livestock in the Bald Mountain allotment was determined to be 843 AUMs. The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that utilization objectives are not being met. Frequency of key forage species has declined over the evaluation period. Although, overall trend is stable to upward and the standards for rangeland health are being met, adjustments in grazing use levels are deemed necessary. The increase in ecological status is attributable to increases shrub species. The desired carrying capacity of 843 AUMs livestock grazing would ensure proper use of key forage species.

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.

Livestock carrying capacity would adjusted from 1,176 AUMs to 843 AUMs while wild horse AML would be established at 330 AUMs.

e. Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment

Table 45. Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment - Proposed 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	296	1,646
Ruby Wash (winter use area)			741	163	904
Total		**622**	**2,774**	**609**	**3,383**

[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 624 AUMs.

Rationale: The desired carrying capacity for livestock is determined to be 2,774 AUMs, which equals pre evaluation permitted use. The AML for wild horses was determined to be 782 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. Therefore, carrying capacities were established for these areas which were based on this data. Data was insufficient to determine carrying capacity and AML for the Maverick summer use area. Since objectives and standards being attained (the non-attainment of standard 2 in the Maverick summer use area is addressed in Technical Recommendation 2 and 6), the carrying capacity for livestock would remain unchanged from the pre evaluation permitted use.

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.

The evaluation of existing data collected indicates that although utilization objectives are

being partially met, 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 are being proposed for fencing. To ensure that the fences are constructed in a timely manner, the BLM proposes to enter into a co-operative agree with the permittees. The BLM proposes to provide all materials while the permittee would provide the labor and maintenance. Fences would be built before the 2001 grazing season. All other standards are being attained or progress is being made toward attainment of these standards.

The desired carrying capacity of 2,774 AUMs livestock grazing and 609 AUMs of wild horse AML would ensure proper use of key forage species.

f. Maverick/Medicine Complex Summary

Table 46. Maverick/Medicine Complex - Proposed Livestock AUMs and Wild Horse AML, and Total AUMs

Allotment	Pre-Evaluation Carrying Capacity		Post-Evaluation Desired Carrying Capacity (CC)		Total Post-Evaluation CC
	Livestock permitted use (AUMs)	Wild Horse Initial Stocking Level (AUMs)[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	239	1,835
Bald Mountain	1,176	330	843	330	1,173
Maverick/Ruby #9	2,774	624	2,774	609	3,383
Total	**12,560**	**2,034**	**13,141**	**1,873**	**15,014**

[1] Initial herd size for the Antelope Valley and Maverick/Medicine HMA's was 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 derived carrying capacity, along with other technical recommendation objectives, 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 700 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.

Furthermore, this evaluation establishes an AML for the Maverick/Medicine Complex which is 154 AUMs above the initial herd size outlined in the Wells RMP Wild Horse Amendment. 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 - Range to be Managed[1]
Antelope Valley	18%	119-231[2]
Maverick-Medicine	17%	149-280

[1]To calculate the range of AML, the following mathematical equation was used: Maximum AML/1+the recruitment rate.

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

The maximum AML is the upper threshold, in numbers of adult animals, the range can sustain before deterioration of the thriving natural ecological balance begins. The minimum AML is lowest number of adult animals allowed to graze on the range and considers genetics (herd viability), gather/removal cycles, and minimum disturbance to the herd by using as long a gather cycle as possible. Removals would never remove animals below this level except in extreme emergency.

This technical recommendation would 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 Maverick/Medicine Complex Evaluation and the subsequent Assistant Field Manager's Final Multiple Use Decision. The interim and final grazing systems would be as follows:

Interim Grazing System for the Cottonwood Unit				
Pasture	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Livestock #'s**	**AUMs**
Mustang Well	11/1 to 2/28 3/1 to 2/28	11/1 to 2/28 3/1 to 2/28	132 C 12 H*	500 138
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**	**AUMs**
Mustang Well	11/1 to 2/28 3/1 to 2/28	11/1 to 2/28 3/1 to 2/28	132 C 12 H*	500 138
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**	**AUMs**
FFR	3/1 to 3/31	50 C	51
Currie Hills	11/1 to 2/28	27 C	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 7/16 to 10/14	275 C 225 C	136 660
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 Antelope Valley HMA.

McDermid Unit Indian Creek Ranch			
Pasture	**Period of Use**	**Livestock #'s**	**AUMs**
Currie Flats	1/01 to 2/28	244 C	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 would be moved in accordance with the dates outlined in the grazing system. No flexibility would be allowed for ending dates in the Cottonwood or McDermid/Calf Canyon Pastures.

2. The permittee would 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 would 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 proposed grazing system would also ensure progress toward proper functioning condition of the riparian resources in these areas.

The proposed grazing systems limits 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 Hills, and McDermind Seeding pastures. Annual growing season use is being proposed in the Cottonwood, Goshute Lake, Upper and Lower McDermid Creek, and Dry Canyon Pasures in order to improve riparian resources and mule deer winter range. Proper stocking levels and reduced duration of use would ensure that use in these pastures during the critical growing season would not prevent attainment of resource objectives and progress towards the standards for rangeland health.

Seeded pastures would 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 would be grazed primarily during the winter dormant period each year. This period of use would 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 would 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. Trend at the key areas in the North and Spring Pastures are downward. Utilization objectives for the allotment have been partially met.

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. Although utilization objectives have only been partially met, the average utilization of key species in the North and Spring pastures is 43% and 46% respectively. 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 would continue to occur after seed ripe and following the critical growing season for key herbaceous species. Carrying capacity analysis resulted in increased carrying capacity in livestock grazing for the North and Spring pastures. Since range conditions in these pastures fall short of those described by allotment specific and key area objectives, increases in livestock grazing use in conjunction with the proposed grazing system would not be implemented at this time.

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 would 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 would 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 would remain as outlined above until monitoring data supports an adjustment in AUMs.

Special grazing stipulations:

1. Wells would not be operated in the Ruby Wash or Ruby #9 areas from 3/1 to 10/31.

2. The permittee would 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 would be grazed from 11/1 to 3/31 annually. Grazing during the dormant season would ensure that salt desert shrub communities would continue to be maintained.

The proposed seeding would allow for the deferment of the native upland range in the Maverick use area and most importantly, would prevent use during the growing season on the white sage plant communities.

Summer use in the Maverick use area would be limited to use after 7/15 in the interim grazing system. Upon completion of the proposed seeding, use in the Maverick use area would be authorized from 7/1 to 10/31. This evaluation proposes to construct exclosures around Gardner and Tick/Cone springs in the interim.

Grazing in the Maverick summer use area would not be authorized following the 2000 grazing season until Gardner and Tick Springs have been fenced. These exclosures would be constructed by the permittee prior to the 2001 grazing season.

Use in the seeding would occur from 4/1 to 6/30 annually. This would improve the ecological status and the vigor of upland herbaceous species.

This grazing system was designed in cooperation with Jack Bowers and Craig Kolvet for the purpose of attaining land use plan objectives and the standards for rangeland health on the 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 would reduce impacts to riparian areas and allow for improved conditions.

The technical recommendation of establishing the season of use and grazing systems outlined above would 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 Odgers and Bald Mountain permit to a qualified applicant.

Rationale: The Temoke Livestock Association's grazing preference and permit for the Odgers and Bald Mountain Allotments was canceled in 1999. The permit would award the permit to a qualified applicant under the terms and conditions outlined above.

4. Modify and/or requantify the allotment specific and key area objectives for the Maverick/Medicine Complex to read as described in Appendix 6. The objectives includes upland, riparian and wild horse objectives. The general land use plan objectives and Standards for rangeland health developed for the Northeastern Great Basin Area remain unchanged (see attached DPC and Allotment objectives).

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

Monitoring was established on the allotments within the Maverick-Medicine Complex to determine if existing grazing uses were consistent with attainment of the multiple use objectives established by the Wells RMP and RPS. Monitoring data were analyzed through the allotment evaluation process, to determine progress in meeting multiple use

objectives and to determine what changes in existing grazing management, if any, are required.

The 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 recommendation 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

This technical recommendation would also 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. Construct the following range improvement projects within the Maverick/Medicine Complex:

Proposed Range Improvements for the Maverick/Medicine Complex		
Project	**Allotment**	**Units**
Dry Canyon Boundary fence	Currie	2 miles
Dry Canyon Spring exclosure	Currie	1
Augustine Spring exclosure	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
Spring Pasture Well storage tank	North Butte Valley	1
Mud Spring exclosure	Odgers	1

Proposed Range Improvements for the Maverick/Medicine Complex		
Project	**Allotment**	**Units**
Odgers Spring Complex North exclosure	Odgers	1
N. Fork Odgers Creek headwater spring complex exclosure	Odgers	1
Currie Hills Fence Extension	Currie	3 miles
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 exclosure	Maverick/Ruby #9	1
Cone Spring exclosure	Maverick/Ruby #9	1

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

Required NEPA documentation would be completed prior to construction of the proposed projects.

The technical recommendation would 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.

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

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.

7. The terms and conditions on each term grazing permit within the Maverick/Medicine Complex should read as follows:

(1) Authorized grazing use will be in accordance with the Maverick/Medicine Complex Evaluation and the Assistant Field Manager's Final Multiple Use Decision dated _____.

(2) Payment of grazing fees will be made prior to livestock turnout.

(3) 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.

(4) An actual use report (Form 4130-5) showing use by pasture will be turned in within 15 days after completing annual use.

(5) All range improvements will be maintained/repaired by the permittee prior to livestock turn out and throughout the grazing season in accordance with range improvement authorization permits.

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

(8) Pursuant 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 technical recommendation would implement Guidelines 1.1, 2.1, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, which have been developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council of Nevada to establish significant progress towards conformance with the Standards for Rangeland Health for Upland Sites, Riparian and Wetland Sites, and Habitat.

8. 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.

9. Continue to implement the planned actions identified in the Cherry Creek 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 technical recommendation would 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.

10. 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 would help monitor livestock utilization. The proposed key area in the Currie Hills would 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 would help monitor both short and long-term objectives in the Spring pasture.

The proposed key areas in the Odgers Allotment would 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 would monitor utilization by wild horses.

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

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

11. 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 would 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 of for the Treatment of Noxious Weeds. See Appendix 7 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 would result in a more diverse plant community and therefore would improve wildlife habitat, soil stability and forage plant diversity.

This technical recommendation would 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.

12. Implement Maverick/Medicine Complex Fire Management Plan.

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 (Appendix 5) 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.

13. Manage sage grouse habitat (i.e. leks, nesting, brooding, and summer and winter habitats) consistant 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.

14. Continue to conduct necessary monitoring studies and periodically evaluate the effects of grazing to determine if progress is being made in meeting the multiple use objectives. The 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
Upland Proper Functioning Condition Assessment
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 proposed decision is found in 43 CFR 4100.0-8, 4110.2-2, 4110.3, 4110.3-1, 4110.3-2, 4110.3-3, 4120.2 (c), (d), and (e), 4120.3-1, 4130.2 (b), (d), (e), and (f), 4130.3, 4130.3-1, 4130.3-2, 4130.3-3, 4160.1, 4160.2. 4180.1, and 4180.2.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other interested public may protest the livestock grazing portion of this Proposed Decision under 43 CFR 4160.1 and 4160.2 in person or in writing, to Clinton R. Oke, Assistant Field Manager of Renewable Resources, 3900 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada, 89801 within 15 days after receipt of the decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the Proposed Decision is in error.

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

Sincerely,

CLINTON R. OKE, Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

enclosures: DPC Objectives
Allotment Objectives

cc: Nevada Cattlemen's Assoc.
Nevada Division of Wildlife
Commission for the Preservation if 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
Carol Sherman
M. Jeanne Hermann
Sierra Club

Maverick/Medicine Complex Upland Objectives

A. Short term objectives:

1. Maximum utilization of 50% of current year's growth on key herbaceous species by the end of the grazing season.

2. Maximum utilization of 45% of current year's growth on salt desert shrub species by the end of the grazing season.

3. Maximum utilization of 25% of current year's growth on bitterbrush on crucial mule deer winter habitat by livestock and 45% utilization by livestock of bitterbrush in the remainder of the complex, as measured at the end of the livestock grazing season.

4. Allow for a maximum of 10% utilization by wild horses prior to turnout of livestock in the winter combined use areas.

B. Long term objectives: Desired Plant Community (DPC):

Key Area	Current Status (% allowable composition)		Desired Plant Community (% allowable composition)	
CU-01/Currie Allotment Shallow Calcareous Loam 8-12"p.z.	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 14 : 1 : 32	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 40-50 : 3-5 : 40-45
CU-02/Currie Allotment Shallow Calcareous Loam 8-12"p.z.	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 29 : T : 43	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 40-50 : 3-5 : 40-45
CU-09/Currie Allotment Shallow Calcareous Loam 8-12"p.z.	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 6 : 0 : 46	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 40-50 : 3-5 : 40-45
CU-16/Currie Allotment Shallow Loam 10-14"p.z.	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 2 : 2 : 31	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 50-60 : 5-10 : 30-35
CU-17/Currie Allotment Shallow Loam 16"+	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 14 : 6 : 26	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 60-75 : 5-10 : 25-30
CU-22/Currie Allotment Loamy 12-16"p.z.	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs/trees	: 6 : 1 : 31	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs/trees	: 40-50 : 5-10 : 30-40
CU-28-30/Currie Allotment Crested wheat seeding	Production lbs/ac (AGCR)	: 504 (average)	Production lbs/ac (AGCR)	: 600 (average)
CU-31-32/Currie Allotment Crested wheat seeding	Production lbs/ac (AGCR)	: 1,169 (average)	Production lbs/ac (AGCR)	: 1,200 (average)
L001/North Butte Valley Allotment Crested wheat seeding	Production lbs/ac (AGCR)	: 609	Production lbs/ac (AGCR)	: 700
L002/North Butte Valley Allotment Crested wheat seeding	Production lbs/ac (AGCR)	: 1,058	Production lbs/ac (AGCR)	: 1,100

Key Area	Current Status (% allowable composition)		Desired Plant Community (% allowable composition)	
L003/North Butte Valley Allotment Saline bottom	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 62 : T : 16	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 60-80 : T-5 : 15-20
L004/North Butte Valley Allotment Saline bottom	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 13 : T : 20	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 60-80 : T-5 : 15-20
L006/North Butte Valley Allotment Crested wheat seeding	Production lbs/ac (AGCR) : 662		Production lbs/ac (AGCR) : 700	
KA-01/Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment Silty 8-10" p.z.	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 3 : 0 : 56	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 20-30 : 2-5 : 60-70
KA-02 /Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment Course silty 6-8" p.z.	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 39 : 0 : 34	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 50-55 : 2-8 : 30-40
KA-03 /Maverick/Ruby #9 Allotment Loamy 10-12" p.z.	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs/trees	: 11 : 7 : 31	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs/trees	: 30-40 : 10-15 : 40-50
1009/Bald Mountain Allotment Shallow loam 10-14" p.z.	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 18 : 6 : 34	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 40-60 : 5-15 : 30-40
1010/Odgers Allotment Saline bottom	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 3 : T : 5	Perennial Grasses Perennial Forbs Perennial Shrubs	: 60-80 : 2-5 : 15-20

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 and Bald Mountain Allotments. Ensure the year-long habitat requirements of wild horses are met.

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				
		Time Frame and Parameters		
Location	Baseline Data	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				
		Time Frame and Parameters		
Location	Baseline Data	2 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	4 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	Desired Condition 2010
Corral Canyon Creek T27N R63E Sec. 35	Functional at risk, trend not apparent 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.	Functional at risk upward trend 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.	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 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.
Creeks in Cotton-wood Canyon Pasture	Functional at risk trend not apparent or downward 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.	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 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.

CURRIE ALLOTMENT				
		Time Frame and Parameters		
Location	Baseline Data	2 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	4 Years After Change To No Hot Season Grazing	Desired Condition 2010
McDermid Creek Reach 1, 2 T26N R63E Sec. 10 Stream Survey Stations 1,2, 3	Functional at risk trend not apparent or downward 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.	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 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.
McDermid Creek Reach 3 T27N R63E Sec. 35 Stream Survey Station 5	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. Heavy erosion and bank sloughing is occurring on most of the streambank length.	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 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.	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.

CURRIE ALLOTMENT				
		Time Frame and Parameters		
Location	Baseline Data	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.

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	Functional at risk upward trend. 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.	PFC 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.	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. 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.

NORTH BUTTE VALLEY ALLOTMENT				
		Time Frame and Parameters		
Location	**Baseline Data**	**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.	Functional at risk upward trend. 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.	PFC 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.	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. 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.

ODGERS ALLOTMENT				
		Time Frame and Parameters		
Location	Baseline Data	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 exclosure) 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 exclosure) 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				
		Time Frame and Parameters		
Location	Baseline Data	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.