



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Elko Field Office
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada 89801-4611

In Reply Refer To:
4130 (NV-012)

Kenneth Jones
HC 30 Box 530
Lamoille, NV 89828

MAR 4 1999

Dear Mr. Jones:

In reviewing the Final Multiple Use Decision (FMUD) for the Spruce Allotment issued on January 30, 1998, we discovered that we needed to adjust the grazing systems outlined for the Valley Mountain winter grazing operation. In order to continue the rotation of spring use on alternate years between Subunits A-1 and A-2 and Subunits B-1 and B-2, the grazing schedule outlined in the FMUD needs to be switched.

During the 1997-1998 grazing season, Subunits B-1 and B-2 received spring use. Therefore, during the 1998-1999 grazing season, Subunits A-1 and A-2 should be scheduled for spring use during the Interim Schedule. The interim grazing system outlined in the FMUD indicates that Subunits B-1 and B-2 should receive the spring use. This is incorrect and it should read A-1 and A-2. Switching the schedules in the FMUD so that the 1998 schedule becomes the 1999 schedule and vice versa, will prevent Subunits B-1 and B-2 from receiving spring use two years in a row.

The grazing system proposed for after completion of the seedings will also need to be changed to allow for the continued rotation between Subunits A-1/A-2 and B-1/B-2.

Therefore, the grazing systems pertaining to the Valley Mountain Allotment outlined in Appendix 2 of the FMUD (pages 2-4 and 2-5) will be modified to reflect the above change. **All other sections of the multiple use decision will remain unchanged.** See Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 for the changes.

If you have any questions, please contact Leticia Lister of my staff at (775) 753-0200.

Sincerely yours,

CLINTON R. OKE,
Assistant Field Manager
Renewable Resources

Enclosures. As stated above.

cc: See attached list.

Mailing List:

Wild Horse Organized Assistance
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
HTT Resources Advisors
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Resource Concepts, Inc.
Nevada Division of Wildlife - Elko
Elko Board of County Commissioners
Nevada State Clearinghouse
Nevada Division of Agriculture
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros
Von L. Sorensen

B. Grazing Systems

1. Valley Mountain Allotment - Winter Cattle Operation with Proposed Seedings and Reduced Use on Native Winter Range.

The grazing system outlined in Table 2-1 allows for livestock grazing use from 11/1 to 5/15 annually with a maximum of 703 head of cattle and 4,532 AUMs.

Approximately 4,200 acres of seeding would be developed for spring use from 4/1-5/15.

Table 2-1 (modified). Grazing system for the Valley Mountain Allotment (winter cattle operation with proposed seedings and reduced use on the native).					
Subunit	Maximum AUMs Allowed	Stockwater Facilities to be used	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
A-1	1,851	Butte Valley Road Well	11/1-11/15	11/1-1/19	R e p e a t C y c l e
A-2		Little Ruby Well	1/26 - 3/31		
K-2		Murphy Well			
		Christiansen Well			
B-1	1,641	Frenchy Well	11/16-1/25	1/20-3/31	
		Quilici Spring (private)			
		Basque Well			
		Medicine Spring (private)			
B-2	1,641	Ruby Wash Well	4/1 - 5/15	4/1 - 5/15	
Proposed Seedings		Proposed water development			
	Total		4,532		

The grazing system allows for rotation of calving on the east and west sides of Highway 93. Spring use would be on the proposed seedings from 4/1 - 5/15 annually.

Additional acres of seeding may be developed if future analysis determines it is necessary to ensure progress towards attainment of multiple use objectives.

The grazing system provides for reduced livestock numbers and reduced use on the salt-desert shrub winter range. The reduced use on the native range would allow for multiple use objectives to be attained sooner and allow for improved plant vigor. The

drought that has affected this area since about 1987 has contributed to poor plant vigor and reduced species diversity (professional judgement).

Interim Schedule

The grazing system outlined in Table 2-2 allows for livestock grazing use from 11/1 - 5/15 within a maximum of 703 head of cattle and 4,532 AUMs. This grazing system is an interim schedule that would be used while the proposed seedings are being developed.

Table 2-2 (modified). Grazing system for the Valley Mountain Allotment winter cattle operation (interim Schedule).					
Subunit	Maximum AUMs Allowed	Stockwater Facilities to be used:	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
A-1	2,404	Butte Valley Road Well Little Ruby Well Murphy Well Christiansen Well Frenchy Well Quilici Spring (private) Basque Well Medicine Spring (private) Ruby Wash Well	11/1-11/15	11/1-2/6	R e p e a t C y c l e
A-2			2/16-5/15	5/10-5/15	
K-2					
B-1	2,128	South Spruce Well Gulf Well East Railroad Well Cordano Well	11/16-2/15	2/7-5/9	
B-2					
Total	4,532				

This grazing system would allow for spring use by cattle from 4/1 - 5/15 on the native salt-desert shrub communities until the proposed seedings are developed. Upon developing the seedings there is a two year period to allow the seedings to establish. During the interim, spring use on the native salt-desert shrub winter range would be alternated between Ruby Valley (Subunits A-1, A-2, and K-2) and Steptoe Valley (Subunits B-1 and B-2).